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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Senator from the State of Vermont.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, who rules the raging of the sea in a world facing hurt and pain, help us also to see the beauty of Your creative power. Enable the Members of this body to sense the transcendence in the beauty of the Earth and the glory of the skies.

Lord, help our Senators to hear Your music in the symphony of the seasons, in the whispering of the wind, and in the constellations of the night. May the sounds of nature's music lead our lawmakers to place greater trust in the movement of Your prevailing providence.

Lord, give them spiritual power so that they will do your will on Earth even as it is done in Heaven.

We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 25, 2024.

To the Senate:

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

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

FILIBUSTER

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, "I am prepared to get rid of the filibuster to pass a Green New Deal."

"I think we should eliminate the filibuster for Roe."

These are the words of the Vice President of the United States and the Democratic nominee for President.

Her willingness to shatter the institution of the Senate is not unique. Nearly every single one of our Democratic colleagues was willing to do it 2 years ago, and they would have succeeded had two Members of their own caucus not stood in breach.

Nor is this campaign to rip up precious safeguards for political minorities confined here to the Senate. From a sitting President all the way down to grassroots activists, Democrats have made smashing institutions a core pillar of their party's platform.

The Vice President's latest comments are not novel, but they are shocking, no less so than the votes our colleagues cast here on January 19, 2022. There is nothing normal or rational about blowing up the dam holding back simple majority rule, and the fact that a major political party has welcomed this shortsighted radicalism into the mainstream will be to their eternal shame.

To lean on today's "fill in the blank" justification is to miss entirely what is at stake. The Senate's protections against the vacillations of simple majority rule are bigger than Washington Democrats' policy preferences. They are bigger than my own. A Senate that can steamroll a legislative minority to codify Roe v. Wade or enshrine the lunacy of the Green New Deal into law is a Senate that will drive a stake through liberal hopes as soon as the political winds change.

To gamble the guardrails that make the Senate what it is—to short-circuit the process by which dissenting views are guaranteed a hearing—ought to be disqualifying by itself. Then again, so should the Vice President's record on these issues. In November, the Democratic nominee will own the worst border crisis in American history and the broken policies that invited it. She will own the worst inflation in 40 years and the reckless spending and tie-breaking votes that enabled it.

The American people may well worry, like I do, about the future of an

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



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GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I have good news this morning. Before the day is done, the Senate will pass a temporary extension of government funding, avoiding a painful and unnecessary shutdown next week. The agreement we locked in last night allows for no poison pill amendments.

Americans can breathe easy that because both sides have chosen bipartisanship, Congress is getting the job done. We will keep the government open. We will prevent vital government services from needlessly coming to a halt. We will give appropriators more time to fully fund the government before the end of the year. And I am especially pleased we are getting the job done with some time to spare.

Now, none of this would have happened without bipartisan cooperation.

For the information of my colleagues, later today, the House is expected to take up the CR and pass it on suspension. Once the Senate receives the House bill, we will immediately move to its consideration. We hope to vote early this evening, with final passage set at 60 votes. So if all goes well in the House, the Senate should be sending President Biden a bill before the end of today.

This is a good outcome for the country. There will be no shutdown because, finally, at the end of the day, our colleagues in the House decided to work with us.

So thank you to my colleagues on both sides for their work. We aren't quite done, but we are now on a clear glidepath to getting the CR across the finish line.

I hope the House will have learned its lesson that, once again, listening to the hard right on these vital issues, funding the government, avoiding default, cannot lead to anything that is useful or constructive. In fact, I hope this positive outcome of bipartisanship can set the tone for more constructive bipartisan work when we return in the fall.

SENATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mr. President, now on the Senate session, a little over a month from now, the American people will exercise the most precious right that could ever exist in a free society. I will not get into the back-and-forth of campaigns here on the Senate floor, but as we prepare to depart for October, let us take a moment to look back at the work of the Senate these last few months and these last few years—last 2 years.

We had lots of obstacles to getting things done this year. The Republican House was replete with disarray throughout the last 2 years, almost paralyzed. And there was much Republican intransigence in both Houses on issue after issue that prevented many good proposals from moving forward, despite our offers for compromise. Despite that, there is still a good amount we have gotten done.

First, Senate Democrats continue to bring balance back to the Federal

institution designed to be the world's greatest deliberative body, but, more than that, they worry about keeping their families safe and putting food on the table, and I expect they will vote accordingly.

CHINA

Mr. President, on another matter, I have spoken frequently about the welcome signs that America's European allies are waking up to the strategic challenge posed by the PRC and to the dangers of predatory Chinese influence in their own backyards.

Like America, our allies are watching the flaws of the Chinese statist economic model laid bare. They are increasingly wary to hitch their wagons to a totalitarian system that stifles innovation, discourages free thought, and complicates free enterprise.

They are hesitant to take risks in a system where the rule of law is trampled by the whims of the State and assets are subject to expropriation by the regime.

Encouraging progress, like a German security strategy that explicitly recognizes the Chinese threat, and efforts across the EU to reduce reliance on Chinese technologies, presents opportunities for the West to work closer together to secure supply chains and to lower barriers to cooperation among allies.

Unfortunately, this progress is not across-the-board. China may not be a safe business partner, but it is still an enticing one for far too many in economies, including, believe it or not, within the NATO alliance.

I have spoken before about Hungary's decade-long drift into the orbit of the West's most determined adversaries. It is an alarming trend. And nobody—certainly not the American conservatives who increasingly form a cult of personality around Prime Minister Viktor Orban—can pretend not to see it. Hungary's leaders are cozying up to Moscow, Beijing, and Tehran in private. They are doing it publicly and vocally as well.

The Orban government has welcomed China's view of a "European bridgehead" in Hungary as the perfect complement to its own declared policy of an "opening to the East," and it hasn't been shy about turning words into actions.

When Chinese state enterprise has said jump, Hungarian officials have asked, how high?

As European allies began to heed warnings from the Trump administration to reduce reliance on Chinese industry and technology, Budapest repeatedly blocked EU progress and welcomed a geyser—a literal geyser—of the Chinese Belt and Road investment. Included in the torrent of PRC influence was 500 million euros from a Chinese electric vehicle manufacturer to build a new facility on Hungarian soil and another 7 billion euro investment in a new EV battery plant.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister of a former vassal of Russian communism

has nothing but praise for the neo-Soviet imperialist responsible for the first major land war in Europe since 1945.

Viktor Orban describes the regime that has sacrificed tens, if not hundreds of thousands, of Russian lives and more than \$200 billion in military force for its unprovoked—and thus far unsuccessful—aggression against Ukraine as "hyper-rational." But this NATO Prime Minister doesn't just admire Putin, he helps him. His government runs interference for Moscow, gumming up European and trans-Atlantic efforts to combat Russia's unlawful aggression at every turn.

European allies are providing more assistance to Ukraine than the United States is, but Americans who complain the EU isn't doing more to help Ukraine should look no further than to Budapest's efforts to block additional EU assistance for the answer.

Then there is Budapest's relationship with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Hungary's Foreign Minister has bemoaned that ongoing international sanctions make it "really challenging to build effective economic and trade cooperation" with the world's most active state sponsor of terror.

I have little sympathy for Hungarian companies that struggle to profit from their ties to the genocidal regime in Tehran. Of course, that hasn't stopped Hungarian firms from committing tens of millions of dollars to financing joint nuclear projects with Iran.

It didn't stop a national Hungarian university from inviting a former Iranian President to a conference on—listen to this—"common values in the global environment."

"Common values" with Tehran? And here I thought it was American conservatives who claimed shared values with Hungary's ruling party. Has the Orban government forgotten its adoring fans on this side of the Atlantic?

No, Hungary's leaders have made no secret of their conviction that the future is one of American decline. The future is one of American decline—that is the Hungarian view. They are not hiding the ways they are preparing for American weakness and betting on our failure.

There is nothing tough about bowing to autocrats, and there is nothing for American leaders to gain by praising those who do. Subservience to revanchist powers is not an American value. But far more importantly, it is not in America's interests.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

bench by confirming over 210 judges to lifetime appointments. These judges are the most diverse group of nominees the bench has ever seen. Nearly two-thirds are women, two-thirds are people of color. And we have confirmed more Hispanic, Asian, and Native women and more LBGTQ judges to the Federal bench than under any other President's full time in office.

These judges come with many backgrounds, not just partners in big law firms or prosecutors—as worthy as those professions may be. They come with civil rights backgrounds, public defender backgrounds, and more.

We also passed a landmark national security supplemental package to protect America's interests around the world, to stand up to Putin in Ukraine, to help Israel defend itself, and to provide humanitarian assistance for innocent civilians around the world.

The Senate provided this historic funding to help Ukraine defend their homeland with more ammo and javelins and stinger missiles and more equipment for training. And we made clear to the world that in the fight between freedom and autocracy, America will never forget where she stands—on the side of freedom.

Despite, again, a lot of standing in the way because of extraneous amendments proposed by some of our Republican colleagues, it took longer than it should have, but the most important fact is that it got done.

I am proud that the Senate stepped up at this historic moment and thank Leader McCONNELL for joining me in that regard.

Tomorrow, Leader McCONNELL and I will proudly welcome Ukrainian's President Zelenskyy to a meeting here at the U.S. Capitol to reaffirm our support and hear from him what his country may need in the future.

Separately, we also worked to keep our kids safe online by passing KOSA and COPPA with overwhelming bipartisan support. I thank my Republican colleagues for working with us on these landmark bills. They would be the first major updates to kids' safety on the internet in decades, and I am proud to have joined with parents and families of deceased loved ones to get it done. I urge Speaker JOHNSON in the House to get KOSA and COPPA done as soon as possible.

Finally, despite the hard right's intransigence, we prevented the government from defaulting last year. That would have been catastrophic. And then several times this year, as well as last, we prevented the government from shutting down, as I said, despite rightwing wishes that it happen.

And on the nonlegislative front, we have continued implementing our accomplishments of the last 2 years to help lower costs. This isn't legislation but rather working with executive Agencies to implement our policies, and that has continued to lower costs. Democrats in the Senate caucus spent a lot of time with Cabinet Secretaries

and others making sure that the bills have been implemented, and they are showing great results from one end of the country to the other.

Around the country, Senate Democrats have been hard at work turning our bills into action, implementing our agenda through new bridges in States like Pennsylvania and Ohio, high-speed rail in Nevada, and never-before-seen investments in chip manufacturing in New York, Arizona, Ohio, and elsewhere. These are creating jobs. These are lowering costs. These are helping America get prosperous.

Now, there are a lot of things we tried to get done this year but couldn't because of Republican intransigence, such as protecting a woman's right to choose and reproductive freedoms, securing our southern border, and expanding the child tax credit. So we will keep working when we return. It has been a difficult road in divided government, but progress is possible. We have made that clear again and again and again throughout this 118th Congress.

BUFFALO NITE

Mr. President, now, another thing: Buffalo Nite. Tonight is one of my favorite nights on Capitol Hill—Buffalo Nite, when Western New York comes to share wings, beef on weck, sponge candies, and, of course, especially after Monday night, nonstop talk about the Buffalo Bills. But this year is special. Tonight, we will honor Buffalo News's own Jerry Zremski with the Charging Buffalo Award.

I have known Jerry for decades. Rain or shine, tragedy or triumph, Jerry has been through it all with Western New York. Jerry's reporting and investigative journalism has touched the lives of tens of thousands in Western New York and millions across America. His work has shaped legislation, exposed wrongdoing, and given a voice to the voiceless.

It is no secret that I know a lot of reporters. So trust me when I say that Jerry Zremski has always been one of the best in the business. What a great guy. And he is such a decent, caring human being as well.

Western New York can be very proud to call Jerry one of their own, and I am very proud to have gotten to know Jerry over the many years. Jerry's indelible legacy is sewn into the very fabric of New York, and we are all eternally grateful for his great work.

I look forward to celebrating Buffalo Nite with Jerry and so many others from Western New York this evening.

Finally, and most importantly: "Go Bills!" Maybe we will win the Super Bowl this year.

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. 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.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, when the history of the Biden-Harris administration is written, I suspect it will be defined by the historic inflation crisis that has characterized almost all 4 years of this Presidency. And it started almost right away. Eager to begin implementing their big spending visions, Democrats seized on COVID as an excuse for a massive, partisan \$1.9 trillion spending spree, the so-called American Rescue Plan Act.

Democrats were warned by Democratic economists that their bill ran the risk of setting off "inflationary pressures of a kind we have not seen in a generation." But they proceeded anyway. Vice President HARRIS cast the deciding, tie-breaking vote in the Senate to ensure that this massive government boondoggle would become law.

And within weeks of its passage, inflation began climbing—and kept climbing and climbed more and more. By 2022, inflation had reached its highest level in 40 years—40 years—and Americans felt the consequences. As the price of everything from gas to groceries shot up, Americans dipped into their savings to make ends meet or put essential items on their credit cards. They took on second jobs. They visited food banks. They put off home repairs or family vacations. They skipped necessary medical care.

And even as the rate of inflation has finally—and I say "finally"—slowed, Americans continue to suffer as prices remain elevated. Today, Americans are paying 21 percent more for groceries than they were when President Biden and Vice President HARRIS took office. They are paying 37 percent more for energy, 45 percent more for gasoline, 22 percent more for shelter—and the list goes on.

Today, a typical family needs to spend an additional \$13,202 per year to maintain the same standard of living it enjoyed when President Biden and Vice President HARRIS took office—\$13,202 per year. Just think about that for a minute. How many lower and middle-income families do you know that can easily absorb an extra \$13,000 a year? How many families out there have had to lower their standard of living as a result of the Biden-Harris administration's policies? How many missed vacations or missed braces or missed extracurricular activities or missed car repairs or home projects does that \$13,000 represent?

And in addition to the staggering price hikes of the past few years, Americans have had to contend with additional economic pain as a result of the rate hikes the Federal Reserve was forced to impose to deal with the Biden-Harris inflation crisis. Those rate hikes drove up credit card interest rates. They drove up rates for car loans. They drove up mortgage rates. And so Americans who, for example, have had to charge things to their credit cards to deal with high food or energy prices are now facing increased challenges in paying off that debt.

A September Wall Street Journal article noted:

Around 9.1% of credit-card balances turned delinquent over the past year, the highest rate in over a decade, according to an August report from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Other Americans are finding the American dream of owning your own home to be increasingly out of their reach as they face elevated mortgage rates on top of staggering housing prices.

President Biden has talked a lot about building an economy from the bottom up and the middle out, but it is lower and middle-income Americans who have suffered the most in the Biden-Harris economy. And if Vice President HARRIS becomes President and Democrats take control of Congress, the next few years aren't likely to look too good for lower and middle-income Americans either.

It has already become clear that Vice President HARRIS intends to continue with the tax-and-spend agenda that she and President Biden have worked to impose. And if she is elected, Americans should brace for more economic pain.

The need is great. Costs are still high. Gas prices are high. Owning a home is a struggle. Every time I look at my bank account, it's always going down.

That is what one American had to say about the economic situation earlier this year, and it has been the story for too many Americans in the Biden-Harris economy. We can only hope that they don't have to deal with another 4 years of it.

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.

Mrs. BRITT. 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.

LULU'S LAW

Mrs. BRITT. Mr. President, Lulu Gribbin, a 15-year-old from Mountain Brook, AL—that is who I am here to talk about today.

She is a high school student who loves basketball, volleyball, and golf. She is one of four siblings. She is actually a twin. Lulu loves to spend time at the lake with her brothers and sisters. Her favorite color is purple.

On June 7, her life changed forever. That was the day she was on the beach enjoying the best of summer with her family and friends. She was looking for sand dollars in the ocean with a friend, and that is when a shark attacked.

What happened next is nothing short of a miracle. It was a miracle because on that day, by the grace of God, there were doctors, nurses, EMTs, and other Good Samaritans who were there on that same beach who immediately jumped into action to help Lulu. These

incredible men and women undoubtedly saved her life. But Lulu's resiliency and strength certainly was a dominating factor, not just in her survival but in her incredible recovery.

Though the shark took her left hand and her right leg, it did nothing but strengthen her spirit. When Lulu woke up from surgery and got taken off the ventilator, do you know what her first words were?

I made it.

As a mom, I can't even begin to imagine how powerful that moment was for her parents, how incredible it was to hear her say those words:

I made it.

The road home was not easy for Lulu, with surgeries and rehabilitation, but 3 months after the shark attack, y'all, she is already back home. In fact, she is back in action, showing up other golfers on the driving range.

Lulu is an inspiration. She shows all of us that when you get knocked down, you don't wait to get pulled back up. You fight, and you fight with a resolve and a determination that will carry you through even the hardest of moments.

Her grace, her faith, her strength, her perseverance, all in the face of the unimaginable, make her a hero to all of us. It is sometimes hard to remember that she is just 15 years old. Her story is hard to tell, not just because I can't imagine having to see a child go through that but also to think that there is something that could have prevented her from having to go through this tremendous fight.

Ninety minutes before Lulu was attacked and only a few miles away, another woman was attacked by a shark. Elisabeth Foley, a mother of three from Virginia, tragically lost her left hand in a shark attack.

After I heard Lulu's story and about the prior attack, I immediately thought, what could have been done differently? It turns out Lulu's parents were thinking the exact same thing. There has to be a better way to get information into the hands of beachgoers, of parents, of families if a shark attack has happened in their vicinity. That is why I introduced Lulu's Law.

This is a bipartisan bill which Congressman GARY PALMER is leading in the House, and I am so proud that everyone in the Alabama delegation has signed on. It would give local authorities the confidence that they are authorized to issue a wireless emergency alert to warn beachgoers of potential shark attacks. This doesn't impose any kind of mandate on local officials; it simply empowers them to help beachgoers stay safe through the existing wireless emergency alert system.

Although this is a small change in statute, it would enable local leaders to put information into the hands of families faster, which, as we can see, could make a world of difference.

This is the kind of commonsense work I came to do in the U.S. Senate.

My priority has always been fighting for children and families from the great State of Alabama and across this Nation and protecting children and their families from harm. That is an important part of it.

With Lulu's Law, we can empower beachgoers with information that will ultimately keep them safe.

To Lulu's parents Joe and Anne Blair Gribbin, the strength that you have shown and the way you have galvanized not just Alabama but people across our entire country to rally behind your daughter is nothing short of amazing.

To Lulu, I want to thank you for your bravery and determination. You are truly an inspiration. I wish you could see this because we have Senate pages down here shaking their heads. We are so proud of you, and we look forward to turning this bill into law to protect kids and honor the extraordinary person that you are.

To my colleagues watching from the Cloakroom, the Chamber, or back in your office, now is the time to act. Let's get this done, and let's deliver a win for the American people, for Alabama, and for Lulu. Add your name to the cosponsor list, and help us get this done. This is clearly something all of us can rally behind. Let's do it for Lulu. Let's do it for her legacy. Let's keep others safe, and let's inspire others with Lulu's story.

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

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, I applaud my fellow Senator from Alabama on this very important legislation that we need to work not just for the State of Alabama but all over the country.

Thank you very much.

UKRAINE

Mr. President, I rise today to talk about the unwinnable war in Ukraine, which has already cost American taxpayers billions of dollars.

Anyone who dares question the uniparty's narrative on the war in Ukraine is obviously going to get criticized. That is OK. The media has been complicit in pushing this narrative. Think about it. When was the last time you saw live footage on the ground in Ukraine? It is rare because Ukraine is losing and it is losing badly. This comes after we just gave Ukraine \$60 billion more of taxpayer money earlier this year to prolong this war.

I see President Zelenskyy—a uniparty puppet—is here begging—begging—for more money on the campaign trail with KAMALA HARRIS. It feels like he is here every other month, demanding more and more taxpayer money. That is because he knows that the money spigot will cut off if KAMALA HARRIS doesn't win in November.

Look, this subject is too important to go unaddressed. Over the last several months, I have asked multiple high-ranking members of the Biden-Harris administration to articulate

what it is trying to accomplish in Ukraine. Just tell us. Tell us what it will cost and how we plan to achieve these results. Basically, I am asking, what is our game plan? Not one official in this administration has answered my questions clearly—not one.

One of the most interesting responses I received was from Secretary Austin himself, Secretary of Defense. He said: [W]e want to see Ukraine remain a sovereign, independent, and democratic state, that has the ability to defend its . . . territory and deter aggression.

OK.

Secretary Austin continued, stating that it is the administration's goal to bring Ukraine into NATO, while simultaneously blaming Russia for NATO's past expansion.

Here is when the DC establishment really, really gets upset. I am going to review a few undeniable facts about NATO's history. Predictably, the uniparty will accuse me of spewing Russian propaganda, but these are the facts, and that is what we have to go by. We can't shy away from them.

NATO was formed 75 years ago, in 1949, as a defensive alliance to counter the communist Soviet Union. It was wildly successful in that it maintained peace through deterrence throughout the Cold War. NATO helped us win the Cold War and dissolve communist Soviet Union.

When the Cold War ended in 1991, Ukraine instantly became the world's third largest nuclear power—Ukraine. Following a series of negotiations, Ukrainians agreed to give up their nuclear weapons in exchange for security guarantees from both Russia and NATO—territorial integrity and political independence.

These efforts were successful because they included assurances by many, many heads of state, including our own, that no eastward expansion of NATO toward Russia would ever happen. It was over. At that time, there were 16 NATO members. Today, 33 years later, after this agreement, there are 32 NATO members, even though in 1991 we agreed to no more eastward expansion. We broke the agreement—we—NATO and the United States.

NATO has expanded eastward seven times since that agreement in 1991. The largest expansion in 2004 included two countries that share a border with Russia—Estonia and Latvia. Today, NATO includes three countries that border Russia. Six NATO members are former Warsaw Pact members. The bulk of this expansion happened before Russia annexed Crimea and invaded part of Ukraine in 2014.

Again, these are all the facts. All play a part in the NATO story and Russia's response to it.

Here is another fact: NATO's expansion was on NATO's terms, separate and apart from any Russian input or activity. Let me read that again. NATO's expansion was on NATO's terms, separate and apart from any Russian input or activity—contrary to Secretary Austin's claims.

Ask yourself, how would the United States react if China or Russia entered a mutual defense organization with Mexico or Canada? How would we react? What if they started basing troops or participating in military exercises just miles from our homeland?

Having covered a brief history of NATO, let's ask logical followup questions that we should always ask before involving ourselves in any armed conflict.

First, how far are we willing to take this proxy war with Russia? How far are we? Did we think about that before we got into this? Are we committed to winning, as Russia's President is, Vladimir Putin? Are we committed to winning? What happens if the momentum turns? What happens if it turns against Ukraine and Russia starts making real gains, as it appears is happening today? Will the United States send more taxpayer money? more weapons? Will NATO send troops? Will the United States send troops? What is the plan?

War is a serious business. We should understand that by now. You don't half-ass your way into one, and you certainly don't half-ass your way getting out of one. That doesn't seem to resonate around here.

Since the Russian offensive began, we have sent more than \$174 billion taxpayer dollars to Ukraine—one of the most corrupt countries in the world.

Recently, the Biden-Harris administration announced their intent to send an additional \$700 million taxpayer dollars to Ukraine in cash. Are you kidding me? Why on Earth would we give cash to the most corrupt country on the face of the planet?

So after all that, after the last 2½ years of funding billions of taxpayer dollars, getting hundreds of thousands of people killed, what do we have to show for it? The war has only gotten worse. Hundreds of thousands are dead. Ukraine is becoming more desperate as its forces are experiencing widespread insubordination and even mass desertion. We don't hear that on TV. We don't hear that in this propaganda media. Over 6 million Ukrainians have fled the country, have run, have left their country.

Ukraine is playing with fire, now seeking to conduct offensive operations deep inside Russia. Why? You can't win.

Most recently, Ukraine launched a drone attack that struck in Moscow. What are we trying to do—start World War III? Most recently, Ukraine launched a drone attack that struck several other office buildings in Moscow.

Adding to the uncertainty of this situation, this administration's current policy towards Ukraine has all the hallmarks of every Biden-Harris foreign policy decision that has preceded it—weak planning, disastrous results, zero leadership.

This administration never considered the consequences of Ukraine losing.

How can that ever happen? This is really sad. It is sad for the United States of America, it is sad for the taxpayers, it is sad for our military, it is sad for our allies, and it is sad for NATO.

Some of his Democratic colleagues have said that Joe Biden never made a correct decision on foreign policy in 40 years. Well, he hasn't broken that.

The Biden-Harris administration has dumped billions of dollars also into the lap of Iran; removed the "terrorist" designation from the Houthis, who, by the way, we are fighting against right now, but they are not terrorists; alienated one of our most important friends, Saudi Arabia; and executed a disastrous Afghanistan withdrawal that unnecessarily cost the lives of Americans.

All this weakness was a direct signal to our adversaries: Now is the time to make your move.

And that is exactly what our adversaries—China, Iran, Russia, and North Korea—are doing.

China, today, is testing another ballistic missile into the Pacific Ocean. They are preparing.

Russia now has pounced on Ukraine. Whatever you hear in the media is not true. It is a slaughter.

Iran has released its proxies and terrorized the Middle East.

Our ally Israel is fighting for its life against Hamas, following the gruesome October 7 attack, almost a year ago.

The Houthis—the Houthis are a bunch of people that live in the mountains—have been emboldened to attack ships, which has negatively impacted global trade.

We can't even beat the Houthis, and we are trying to create more wars.

China stepped up its aggression in the China Sea.

We are losing influence across the globe, especially in South America and Africa, where the Chinese and the Russians are taking over. We are leaving leaps and bounds.

So let's be very clear. Despite the administration's incompetence, I still believe Putin was wrong to invade Ukraine. I think we all do. He should have withdrawn his forces immediately after it started. Putin is responsible for his actions, and he has made no secret of the fact that he sees Ukraine as, historically, a part of Russia.

At the same time, I do not think that Ukraine's border is more important than ours, not even close, which we have been completely neglecting and neglecting the last 3½ years. We have been overrun—the southern border, the northern border, and from airplanes all over the world flying into our cities. It is an embarrassment.

We do not need the administration to enable Ukraine to use offensive weapons and strike deep into Russia. That cannot happen. We are on the cusp of a nuclear war. Nobody seems concerned. It won't happen.

Yes, it will happen. Putin has told us: It will happen if you continue this.

This would only escalate this conflict to an entirely—entirely—new level

that none of us can ever imagine. Do you think this offensive would convince Putin to come to the table and negotiate a peace agreement? Well, I would hope that we would go, but we do not seem to want to make a peace agreement. We had better, and we had better do it in the very near future.

This will provoke him to even more deadly weapons if they continue to attack them within their borders, costing more and more lives. NATO and the United States would be forced to respond as a result.

We are trying to create a war. We must consider these questions thoroughly before we involve ourselves in another one of these crazy conflicts that should never happen.

Improvising won't cut it. Now is the time for the United States to lead and negotiate a peace to the end of this bloody war.

I keep hearing people say: Well, we are building equipment for our military—yes, right—or our men and women are not losing their lives.

We are getting close to it. We are getting very close.

Now, look, I come from a military State in the State of Alabama. We build everything. We have thousands of troops. I want it to be well funded and well equipped if we ever have to fight a war. We need a lethal killing machine to deter other aggression. That is what a military is about.

This is not about defunding our military. I want our military laser-focused on protecting Americans and not woke DEI initiatives.

And it is not about abandoning our allies either. We need to support our allies.

It is about this administration's funding a proxy war with no plan—zero—no plan on how to stop it or how to win it.

The Biden-Harris administration needs to negotiate a peace agreement now, immediately, or there will be huge disastrous consequences coming in the very near future.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

DISASTER RELIEF

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, it is good that the Senate and the House are working on a bipartisan basis to pass a short-term spending bill to keep the government open. But make no mistake, our work is not over, because, once again, we are leaving town, for a long period of time, not having passed disaster aid to help survivors on Maui and elsewhere.

Over the past 13 months, since tragic fires tore down the town of Lahaina and claimed 102 lives, I have been here on the floor repeatedly pressing for urgent disaster relief, and in that time, more disasters have devastated communities all over the country.

So many people on Maui and in Texas and Vermont and New Mexico and California and Iowa and Florida and in 20 States total and, unfortunately, ris-

ing—they are waiting for help, and the Federal Government has not come to their aid yet. They have lost loved ones. They have lost homes. They have lost businesses. They have lost livelihoods. And all they want is help and a little bit of hope to get their lives back to something close to normal.

What are we doing as a Congress if we can't even deliver help to our fellow Americans when disaster strikes?

So when we return in November, passing disaster aid has to be the top priority of the U.S. Congress. There is no excuse not to do this.

What is being asked of us is what Congress always does. We simply need to do the thing that we have always done, which is to show up for disaster survivors and get them the help that they need.

And if you are a Member that represents any of the 20-odd States that need this help, we need your help. And if you are a Member from one of the other 30 States, there but for the grace of God go I. It will always come around. Everyone needs disaster help. So consider it your priority, even if your State, thank God, hasn't been hit this year or last—even if you don't have 20 or 30,000 victims waiting for help.

This is an American priority, and we cannot close up shop for this Congress, leaving all these Americans behind.

TRIBUTE TO DABNEY HEgg

Mr. President, this week caps a remarkable 28-year run in the U.S. Senate for Dabney Hegg, the Democratic clerk and staff director for the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development, which I chair.

A career in public service spanning nearly three decades is extraordinary by any measure, but it is all the more impressive considering its trajectory, which began when Dabney was an intern in the office of her home State Senator, the late Senator Fritz Hollings of South Carolina. She worked her way up in his office to become a legislative assistant and went on to serve him and my great and heroic predecessor Senator Daniel K. Inouye on the Commerce Committee.

She ultimately joined the Appropriations Committee in 2010 and has been the Democratic clerk of the T-HUD Subcommittee for nearly a decade, beginning under the leadership of Senator JACK REED.

Dabney is everything you want in a public servant—smart, relentless, passionate, and loyal—and she is an appropriator's appropriator. What does that mean? She always gets to yes, and she always gets everyone else to yes. And the reason for that is evident from the first interaction with her. She is clear about what is important, and she is not afraid to fight for it.

As appropriators, we are the ones that are supposed to cut deals and shake hands, but, on some level, that is the easy part. Then it is on the clerks, like Dabney, to scrap it out down to

the last dime and get the bill written and over the finish line.

And they do it away from the spotlight and without much fanfare, burying themselves in spreadsheets and statutes, toiling over every last digit and decimal, and rising above the partisan bickering to deliver more homes and better roads and safer transportation.

Dabney has had a hand in just about every major funding accomplishment in recent memory. Through appropriations, she has helped deliver record funding for Native housing and Tribal transportation, as well as our first-of-its-kind “Yes In My Backyard” grant program to get more homes built across the country.

And beyond that, she has been a key partner in advancing priorities through major bills like the IIJA, the American Rescue Plan, and even the FAA reauthorization.

For Hawaii, Dabney has always been a friend and an advocate, helping to secure funding for the HART rail system and the Honoapiilani Highway realignment, among many other projects.

And this past year, after the devastating fires on Maui, she made it her mission to get survivors relief, much as she has done for so many communities struck by disaster.

But that is just who she is. She understands that behind the numbers and the estimates and the stipulations that we deal with every day, there are real people and real communities whose lives stand to be materially improved by the work that we do. And that is a valuable reminder for all of us, whether you have worked here for 30 years or 3 months.

And so I want to sincerely thank Dabney for her years of partnership and her decades of service to the Senate, to the country, and the State of Hawaii.

We all wish her and her family nothing but the best in the future.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

ANNIVERSARY OF ROUTE 91 HARVEST FESTIVAL SHOOTING

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, this year will mark 7 years since my community of Las Vegas was forever changed on October 1, 2017.

On that night, we experienced a tragedy on a scale far worse than anyone could have ever imagined. Ten minutes—10 minutes—is all it took for a gunman to open fire on an unsuspecting crowd at a music festival, killing 58 innocent lives, injuring thousands, and leaving a permanent scar on our State.

Sadly, in the years since, two more victims of that night's attack died because of injuries they received during the shooting, bringing the death toll to 60. It remains the deadliest mass shooting in American history.

The families of the victims of that tragedy had their world shattered that day, their lives forever changed—the

families who didn't get to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, holidays; and the families who never got to say goodbye to their loved ones.

That night also changed the lives in our city—people who were attending or working at the Route 91 Harvest Festival, the first responders who ran toward danger to save lives. And in the following days, we saw lines of people, lines of people around entire blocks willing to donate blood, willing to help in any way they could.

This kind of selflessness embodies the incredible spirit of our community. It showed the country why we are Vegas Strong. And as we remember and as we reflect on this tragedy, we must also commit ourselves to action so that no community has to experience the pain and suffering like we did.

The 1 October shooter was able to inflict as much pain and carnage as he did by using bump stocks. This dangerous modification allowed his weapon to fire more bullets faster as a way to inflict the most amount of pain on our city. Over 1,000 bullets—1,000 bullets—in just a matter of minutes.

And it was in response to this carnage that then-President Donald Trump issued a Federal rule banning bump stocks. It helped save lives from these deadly modifications.

But, unfortunately, the Supreme Court overturned this commonsense Federal ban, allowing bump stocks to flow into our streets once again. This shameful decision—shameful decision—by the Supreme Court will put more lives at risk, which is why I joined bipartisan legislation to restore this commonsense Federal ban on bump stocks.

And when Members of this Chamber tried to pass this bipartisan legislation, extremists in this body, what did they do? They blocked us. And some even had the audacity to say: This legislation was trying to solve a fake problem—a fake problem.

Should we tell the families who lost a loved one at the hands of a firearm using a bump stock on October 1 that it is a fake problem? A fake problem that they are sad at every holiday and every meal and every Thanksgiving table that their loved one is missing? A fake problem? Their grief is real; their loss is real; and their loss is forever. This is not a fake problem; it is a very real problem. And there are real solutions. But once again, Congress has failed year after year to act.

Las Vegas knows what the real threat of bump stocks are and why we must act. And as we approach the seventh anniversary of this unthinkable tragedy, I ask all my colleagues in this Chamber to remember and to honor the memories of the victims, to honor their families, to honor everyone whose lives are forever changed from the night and the shooting on October 1, 2017.

I also ask that we come together, Republicans and Democrats, in a bipartisan way to save lives by just passing commonsense legislation to ban bump stocks.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I rise today, along with my colleague from Nevada Senator JACKY ROSEN to commemorate 7 years since the deadliest mass shooting in America's recent history. And as you can see from her previous comments, she is always, always fighting for Nevadans, working to protect our families in Nevada. And I am just so proud to be able to work alongside her representing the great State of Nevada.

As you have heard, 7 years ago, people from across the country gathered in Las Vegas for the Route 91 Harvest music festival. These were 3 days of live performances and dancing and fun. My niece was there. And October 1, what was supposed to be a joyous conclusion to the festival turned into a complete nightmare. In just 10 minutes from the window of a nearby hotel, a gunman fired more than 1,000 shots into the festival crowd.

Mr. President, 58 people were killed, and 2 more died later from their injuries. More than 800 were wounded, and thousands of families were forever changed.

Now, I remember sitting with some of them at the reunification center, hoping and praying that their loved ones would return to them. I will tell you what, though, some prayers were never answered, and that was heart-breaking.

But as the city of Las Vegas mourned, we also came together. Neighbors reached out to one another and helped each other heal. Programs were created to help our city cope and move forward. We were resilient because we are "Vegas Strong."

Out of tragedy and suffering, there was hope. Let me tell you about something that gives me hope: 3 weeks after the events of October 1, the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada and Clark County set up the Vegas Strong Resiliency Center as a resource for the survivors of the Route 91 Harvest festival and their families.

After a tragedy like a mass shooting, the families, the victims, and survivors alike have to adjust to a new normal. Imagine living through the horrors of that October night and learning to heal from those injuries or grieving the loss of a loved one whose life was taken so suddenly by a senseless act of violence.

Then imagine, after you have been left with all of that trauma, that you are now faced with the complexity of paying medical bills or dealing with insurance companies. It is overwhelming. And where do you even begin? How are you going to navigate it all through your own emotional stress?

The Vegas Strong Resiliency Center was designed to ensure that families didn't have to go through that process alone. The center brought community partners with different resources to the table to deliver anything that the survivors might need from support groups,

to mental health services, to financial advice.

And I have seen some of their great work myself. Their incredible executive director Tennille Pereira shared this story of a survivor of October 1, who, after recovering from being shot that night, could no longer make her way up the stairs to reach her apartment. In response to that, her landlord threatened to evict her. So she got in touch with Vegas Strong Resiliency Center. The center contacted her landlord, got the landlord to back down, and then helped her move to another apartment that was accessible to her.

This is what happens when the community comes together to help each other. The Resiliency Center connected survivors with the resources they need right when they need them. It gave survivors hope, and it helped them find light in the darkness.

In the 7 years since its establishment, the center not only helped survivors of the Route 91 Harvest Festival, but through the lessons learned from that crisis, it actually improved services for victims of violent crime throughout Southern Nevada, and that includes human trafficking survivors, domestic abuse survivors, and even first responders who have post-traumatic stress.

And when Las Vegas was struck by another tragedy last year after a gunman killed three people at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, the staff at the Resiliency Center were able to immediately respond, providing resources and programs for students, families, faculty, and staff.

In January of this year, the Vegas Strong Resiliency Center was renamed the Resiliency and Justice Center, and its mission expanded to serve all survivors of violent crime in Southern Nevada.

They are continuing to grow their staff and their resources, and they are even getting ready to expand their offices. I am so proud to support the work of the Resiliency and Justice Center. At a time when our city was truly shaken to its core, they were there to help us get back on our feet, to help us remember that life goes on after loss, to help us find the strength to rebuild as a community.

And now as we mark 7 years since that terrible evening at the Route 91 Harvest Festival, we also mark 7 years of hope and resilience in the city of Las Vegas.

We hold the victims and their families in our hearts forever, and we remain Vegas Strong.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

MOTION TO PROCEED—S. CON. RES. 41

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to modify the order of September 24 so that following my allotted time, Senator WHITEHOUSE be permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes, followed by myself for an additional 5 minutes, prior to being recognized to

make the motion to proceed to S. Con. Res. 41.

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

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, this year the United States will spend over \$6 trillion while only bringing in \$4 trillion in revenue. That is a profound gap; \$2 trillion will be borrowed this year.

To add insult to injury, Congress spends like drunken sailors without even bothering to pass a budget. There is no budget. The Democrats have passed no budget in the Senate, and the Republicans have passed no budget in the House.

We are going to spend \$6 trillion without anybody even thinking about where the money comes from out of budget to afford a \$6 trillion government.

In fact, over the past 20 years, Congress has passed a budget less than half of the time. So today, I will attempt to do what both parties have failed to do; and that is, pass a budget.

They didn't ask me to do this. In fact, they would probably prefer I not introduce a budget because it embarrasses the status quo of both parties.

I am only allowed to introduce this budget because they didn't do their job, and once upon a time, someone wrote privileged rules into the Senate that say: If the parties fail to produce a budget, anyone can. So I have leapt at the chance because I think the American people would like to see us do something responsible, like balancing our budget.

The penny plan that I offer today will balance the budget in 5 years. The Federal Government passed an ignominious landmark this year. Our national debt now stands at \$35 trillion and grows with each passing second.

To put that in perspective, each taxpayer's share of the debt is about \$270,000. The government now spends more on interest to service our Federal debt than it spends on our national defense.

While we spend about 850 billion on the military, we will spend about 890 billion on interest.

We should heed this fact as a warning. As historian Niall Ferguson points out that "any great power that spends more on debt service than on defense will not stay great for . . . long."

We must act now if America is to once again be a rising nation.

Well, we are currently on a path toward decline. Right now, we spend nearly \$2 trillion more per year than we bring in in revenue. This level of spending imposes a tax on every American. This tax is called inflation. When we borrow \$2 trillion, somebody has got to buy it. Someone buys the debt.

When the Federal Reserve buys the debt, they create currency, create new money, out of thin air, which, when it begins to circulate, causes your prices to rise. This is the tax of inflation.

And Americans have felt the pain of inflation tax significantly over the last 4 years. Every day for the last 4 years,

American people's purchasing power has decreased for even the most basic items. Since this administration took office, prices have risen nearly 22 percent, and feeding and providing for a family has become more expensive. For example, the price of bacon and eggs increased by nearly 30 percent. If you would like some toast with your breakfast, bread will cost you 11 percent more since the Biden-Harris administration took office. The price of butter is up by 30 percent. When Biden and Harris took office, a gallon of milk cost on average \$3.25; today, the price has increased by 25 percent and costs just under \$4. Gas prices have risen 22 percent.

And what kind of answer do you get from the administration? What type of answer do you get from the other side of the aisle? They say: Greed is causing prices to rise; that the grocery stores are greedy and are raising the prices; and we must have government come in and fix the prices.

Even on CNN, the mouthpiece for the Democrat party, economists appear to say: My goodness, have they not heard of Venezuela? Have they not seen what price controls do in Venezuela? They lead to shortages and famine. What they did to the Soviet Union, what they did to Communist China. And yet that is what they are proposing here because they misinterpret why the prices are going up.

It isn't that things are more precious; it is that your dollar is losing its value. Your dollar loses the value through inflation because we run a \$2 trillion debt.

It is a Ponzi scheme. It is a bait and switch. The politicians come to you and say: Here, we will give you this for free. It is free. It won't cost you anything. We will give you free college. We will give you \$25,000 for a house. It is free. There is no cost.

But it is a lie—the lie, the trick, the ruse. It is a lie on the American people because it is paid for through borrowing. And when we borrow, the Federal Reserve will buy the debt, and you will get inflation. So you are going to pay for it through inflation. There is no free lunch. You can't get anything for free. Something for nothing is a charade played on the American people by politicians who just want to gain power over your lives.

Americans will pay dearly for Congress's insatiable appetite for more and more spending. The high level of spending that is currently crushing the American family is just the beginning. If we continue down this unsustainable path, American families will be forced to deal with even higher inflation, confiscatory tax rates, rising interest rates, and a weak economy. It will be harder to find a job and provide for a family because the deals made in the Halls of Congress will always stick the taxpayer with the bill.

Right now, the average American family—their paycheck buys a thousand dollars less of stuff. You have lost

a thousand dollars. If you make the same income you made 4 years ago, you are a thousand dollars poorer because of inflation.

Inflation came from these politicians offering you something for nothing. We have to wake up. As spending under the Biden-Harris administration weakened, every American family's purchasing power is also less. At \$35 trillion, the Federal debt is nearly twice what it was 10 years ago. That is larger than the entire \$25 trillion economy of America—the next five largest economies combined. So you take America's GDP, and you add the next five countries, it still doesn't equal our debt. Our debt is bigger than our economy, plus five more countries.

Whose fault is it? Well, really, frankly, both parties. During the previous administration—during the Trump administration—\$8 trillion in debt was added. During the Biden administration—Biden-Harris administration—about \$8 trillion is going to be added. It is going to be almost exactly the same when you compare 4 years of a Republican administration to 4 years of a Democratic administration.

So really, there is blame that goes around. But there are alternatives. I am offering an end to the inflation, an end to the debt, and a gradual balance to the budget over 5 years.

How much is \$35 trillion? How do you even get your mind around it? Well, to put it in more tangible terms, \$35 trillion is enough to fill 34 NFL stadiums with hundred dollar bills. So you take hundred dollar bills, and you just keep piling them into an NFL stadium until you reach the brim; and then if you fill 34 of those NFL stadiums, that would be 35 trillion.

Government spending is so out of control that even if President Biden emptied the bank account of every individual in the United States, it would only cover half of the debt.

Think about that: \$35 trillion debt and then all of the savings of all of America—if you took all of their savings, which I am not proposing—but if you took it all, you only pay for half of the debt.

This is an unsustainable course, and many smart people have been saying this. We are headed for a calamity if we don't do something. Yet both parties just keep plowing on. They call what we are going forward with a continuing resolution. I will have none of it.

It is continuing the status quo. It is continuing to borrow \$2 trillion a year. We have had a couple of periods in the last year where we borrowed a trillion dollars in a 3-month period. This is alarming, and it is out of control.

America is in a historic state of financial disarray. Right after the end of World War II—the world's most expensive war—our cumulative Federal debt was 18 percent larger than the GDP, the entire economy.

Now, in a period of relative peace, the debt is 22 percent larger. There are no excuses for this. Our debt now is

worse than it has been at any time as a percentage of GDP.

Are we certain that if a crisis erupts—if there were a war that we were participating in, another pandemic, God forbid, or some other catastrophe—that we will be able to borrow enough to meet the challenge? Without a drastic change of course, fiscal ruin is only a matter of time.

America's leading financial minds have already sounded the alarm. The Chairman of the Federal Reserve said that Federal spending is on an unsustainable path, and it is past time for Congress to correct it.

The CEO of JPMorganChase—America's largest bank—warned that the Federal Reserve must reduce its deficits before lenders finally say enough is enough and stop loaning the government money.

Now, you ask: How will this occur? Will it occur suddenly or gradually? Will we gradually lose our dominance? Will we gradually no longer be the reserve currency of the world or will we show up on a Friday to sell the debt and no one buys it?

The Federal Reserve will always buy it. The people say: The Federal Reserve will buy it. If the Federal Reserve buys all the debt, interest rates will go through the roof and so will inflation.

Even the head of the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office cautioned that our financial situation is unprecedented and suggested the United States is now on an alarmingly weak fiscal footing.

As interest payments on the national debt crowd out the rest of the government's budget, tax increases, inflation, and eventual default on the debt are what lie ahead for the American economy.

Unfortunately, a debt crisis will not just stop with our economy. A threat to our financial security is also a threat to our national security.

We must remember that the surest path to peace is leaving no doubt in your adversary's mind about your ability to respond to aggression. With increasingly dubious financial health and a large share of resources devoted to interest payments, the United States is sending the opposite message, a message of weakness. Yet Congress has repeatedly chosen to ignore the deficit, raise the debt ceiling, fund foreign wars we can't afford—just put it on our tab.

That is what will happen today. They will vote on my budget to balance within 5 years, but there won't be enough votes. They will go merrily along with no budget, but they will also go merrily along at a spending clip that will borrow \$2 trillion. And it will be all of the Democrats and about half of the Republicans who will go along with continuing to spend at this clip.

Since entering the Senate, I have introduced several proposals to balance the budget. In 2017, I introduced a budget that would have simply frozen spending for 5 years. And it balanced

because, as the economy grew and revenue grew, you didn't even have to cut spending. All you had to do was agree not to spend more than you spent last year. Most American people would tolerate that. But not in Washington, no. Republicans and Democrats said: No way will we ever freeze spending.

What does a business do when they are short of money? They freeze spending. They downsize. They do whatever it takes to stay afloat so they can make their payments. But not in Washington.

So they didn't pass my budget in 2017 to freeze spending. They kept doing the same: borrow and spend, borrow and spend.

In 2018, I offered another plan to balance the budget. But by this time, a spending freeze no longer balanced it in 5 years because the spending had continued to increase. So I offered a one penny plan, cut 1 percent across the board. You can probably just cut waste and malfeasance and cut 1 percent. Cut 1 percent across the board, and it would still balance. That was the penny plan in 2018. But as things have gotten worse, as we got to the craziness of the COVID hysteria, where, once again, Republicans and Democrats shut the economy down and then said: Hey, you don't have to suffer. You don't have to work. We will just send you a check.

This was one of the worst decisions that had been made in recent history: no work, free checks. It was all borrowed. So the spending grew at an alarming rate through the COVID years, through the Trump administration.

And then we finally got beyond the urgency of it—people were no longer dying in significant numbers—and the Biden administration said that we are going to pave every road in the land, and we are going to borrow more money.

So we borrowed \$8 trillion under Trump. We borrowed another \$8 trillion under Biden. And now you can't balance the budget with freezing spending over 5 years. You can't balance the budget with cutting one penny; you actually have to cut six pennies. You have to do a 6-percent cut over 5 years to balance the budget.

Even the Biden-Harris administration's own Treasury has admitted that the current path is unsustainable. The math is clear. And I urge my colleagues, do not get in an argument with math. You will lose.

It is plainly wrong to stick our children and our grandchildren with the bill for our reckless spending. Thankfully, America is still home to the world's most dynamic economy and resilient individuals.

With revenue still expected to rise in the next 10 years, we are not beyond hope. The six penny plan that I am producing and introducing today will create conditions for growth and avert economic ruin. Right now, our interest payments eat away at our funds that

are available for defense spending, and the budget leaves no room for emergencies.

Our current trajectory weakens our national security and drains productivity from the economy. History will remember those who had the courage to make the hard choices now and who chose to leave their children with less of the burden.

For just six pennies on the dollar, we can reverse this dismal trajectory. In just 5 years, we can restore trust in the U.S. dollar, the U.S. economy, and walk the U.S. Government off the fiscal cliff.

Vote yes on this plan. Vote yes on restoring fiscal sanity. Vote yes on securing a future for our country.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I speak in opposition today to the budget resolution put forward by my colleague from Kentucky.

Last year, President Biden and then-Speaker McCarthy came to an agreement on top-line appropriations levels for the current fiscal year as well as the fiscal year beginning on October 1. This bipartisan agreement, which included a 2-year budget deal, was passed by bipartisan votes in both Houses and was signed into law by the President. So, as of June 3, 2023, we have had a bipartisan budget deal that is good for 2 years—until September 30, 2025.

Just days before a government shutdown, House Republicans have spent most of this month trying to figure out how much of the deal they could renege on to get votes from their fractured caucus. Here in the Senate, this proposal also breaks the agreement, proposing \$20 trillion in Federal spending cuts over 10 years but not a single detail about where it would cut.

Republicans are not happy to disclose where cuts would be because the American people would not be happy about the likely results—cuts, for instance, to Medicare, veterans programs, border security, national parks, law enforcement, transportation safety, affordable housing, education, and Medicaid. And, of course, the “drill, baby, drill” climate deniers would cut climate and clean air and water programs. If adopted, in its final year, this budget would cut all of those programs by 35 percent.

While this budget attacks basic Federal programs in the name of fiscal responsibility, Republicans simultaneously plan to blow up the deficit by cutting taxes for their billionaire mega-donors and big corporations. Under one hat, Republicans act fiscally conservatively and seek to cut programs to reduce the national debt. Under their other hat, they pursue more Trump tax cuts for the wealthy, increasing the debt by \$4.6 trillion.

Last year, I asked CBO if it were mathematically possible to balance the budget within 10 years, extend the Trump tax cuts, and fully fund Social Security and Medicare, defense, and veterans programs. The answer from

CBO: No. The math simply doesn't add up. So that budget exists in fiscal fantasy land.

My Republican colleagues don't want to hear it, but more than a third of our national debt stems not from deficits but from economic shocks—the 2008 financial crisis and COVID. As we have heard over and over again in the Budget Committee, the economic shocks from climate change will likely dwarf those we experienced during the financial crisis—for instance, one caused by a climate-driven insurance crisis that crashes mortgage markets and property values nationwide. We have heard those warnings from everywhere from the chief economist of Freddie Mac to the front page of *The Economist* magazine.

What we should do, in bipartisan fashion, is decorrupt the Tax Code so that big corporations and billionaires are no longer a favored, free-riding elite. The Bush and Trump tax cuts skewed to the wealthy and big corporations are another third—\$10 trillion of the national debt. Without those tax cuts, the debt-to-GDP ratio, which is our best fiscal safety metric, would be declining in perpetuity.

Helping the wealthy avoid taxes is such an infatuation that House Republicans brought the United States to the brink of default in trying to prevent the IRS from cracking down on wealthy tax cheats.

If we want to address the national debt, preventing massive economic shocks, decorrupting the Tax Code and getting serious about healthcare reform are the ways to go about it. This is not.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, it has been proposed that there is no place to cut, that all of this spending is being used in such a noble fashion. I would propose that there are a couple of areas we might all agree on.

We spend about \$1 million studying Japanese quail to see if they are more sexually promiscuous on cocaine. Hmm. It seems like we could have just polled the audience on that one. It seems pretty clear. But we can't even cut things like that—\$1 million studying Japanese quail on cocaine to see if they are more sexually promiscuous.

We spend \$2 million studying whether, when you go to Luby's and you go to the cafeteria and someone sneezes in front of you on the food, you are more or less likely to take that food. Could we not cut that?

We spend about three-quarters of a million dollars studying selfies. If you take a selfie of yourself smiling and look at it later in the day, does it make you happy?

One of my favorites comes from 40 or 50 years ago, but the organization still exists and still keeps getting more money. This was from a conservative Democrat. This was a long time ago when they existed. William Proxmire

used to do the Golden Fleece Award. One of his favorites was, they wanted to determine which made you more aggressive—tequila or gin—so they got a group of fish, and they fed a group of fish gin, and then they fed the other group of fish tequila. I scratch my head and say: Well, gosh, everybody knows, right? It has to be tequila.

So, I mean, the thing is, is there any place to cut? Sure, there is. Most of these things come from the National Science Foundation. I have been harping on them for years. Do you know what they did last year? Every Democrat and half of my Republicans, who are our fellow travelers, doubled the amount of money they give to the National Science Foundation. So when they say, “Oh, well, that ludicrous thing? I would cut that,” well, they are not going to cut it if you give them twice as much money.

So there are lots of ways. There is lots of fat. There are improper payments to the tune of billions and billions of dollars. They write a check to the wrong person. They write a check to dead people. I came to the floor and tried to get unanimous consent to quit sending checks to dead people. When we had the pandemic and they sent all the free checks, a lot of them went to dead people, for goodness' sake.

Do we ever cut any of the spending? Is there ever any remote slowdown in the spending? Every year, it goes up because they care about people, and they want to give you free stuff, but it is not free. There is going to be a \$2 trillion deficit, and you are going to pay for it through inflation.

There is no mystery to inflation. The Federal Reserve buys our debt. When they do and the new money enters the circulation, it dilutes the value of the currency. Instead, what do you hear from the other side? Oh, the grocery store owners are greedy. We must put price controls on.

Well, they should remember the story from the Soviet bloc countries. A man goes into the store, and he says: Are you the store that doesn't have any butter?

The guy behind the counter says: No. We are the store that doesn't have any toilet paper.

That was an old joke of the Soviet bloc countries. That is what you get with price controls. That is what you get when you misunderstand what causes inflation. That is what you get when you want to pattern yourself after the phenomenon of disaster which is Venezuela.

So what I am asking is, we should spend what comes in. It is what every American family does. It is what most States do. It is what most cities do and what most counties do—spend what comes in—even over half of the European Union. We think of them as socialist countries, and some border on it. But, guess what, they spend what comes in. Half of the European Union balances their annual budget.

They are destroying this country by giving you free stuff. The stuff they are

giving you is not free. There is no free lunch. You can't have free college. Somebody has to pay for it. There is no money up here. They are not giving you somebody else's money. They are not even taxing the rich. They are just borrowing it. It is all borrowed. They borrow to send it to Ukraine. They borrow to give it to you for free school. They will give you free cars. They will give you free houses. None of it is free. It is what causes inflation.

When you go to the grocery store, think of these people masquerading as Santa Claus. They are the ones who have caused the price of your steak to double, the price of milk to go up, the price of gas to go up. It is not the greedy grocery store owner; it is the shrinking dollar and the politicians masquerading as Santa Claus who are causing this economic havoc and ruin.

I recommend a “yes” vote on the only budget that will be presented this year because both parties have abdicated their roles. My budget balances it in 5 years. It is what we should do for the strength of America.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

The Senator from Kentucky.

SETTING FORTH THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025 AND SETTING FORTH THE APPROPRIATE BUDGETARY LEVELS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2026 THROUGH 2034—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 502, S. Con. Res. 41.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 502, S. Con. Res. 41, a bill setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2025 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2026 through 2034.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas and nays are requested.

Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The result was announced—yeas 39, nays 56, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 252 Leg.]
YEAS—39

Barrasso	Fischer	Moran
Blackburn	Graham	Mullin
Boozman	Grassley	Paul
Braun	Hagerty	Ricketts
Britt	Hoeven	Risch
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Romney
Cassidy	Johnson	Rubio
Cornyn	Kennedy	Schmitt
Cramer	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Crapo	Lee	Sullivan
Cruz	Lummis	Thune
Daines	Marshall	Tillis
Ernst	McConnell	Tuberville

NAYS—56

Baldwin	Heinrich	Rounds
Bennet	Helmy	Sanders
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Schatz
Booker	Hirono	Schumer
Brown	Kaine	Shaheen
Butler	Kelly	Sinema
Cantwell	King	Smith
Capito	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Cardin	Luján	Tester
Carper	Markey	Van Hollen
Casey	Merkley	Warner
Collins	Murkowski	Warnock
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warnock
Duckworth	Murray	Warren
Durbin	Ossoff	Welch
Fetterman	Padilla	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wicker
Hassan	Reed	Wyden
Hawley	Rosen	Young

NOT VOTING—5

Coons	Manchin	Vance
Cotton	Scott (FL)	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). On this vote, the yeas are 39, the nays are 56. The motion is not agreed to.

The motion was rejected.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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. 787, Byron B. Conway, of Wisconsin, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Ben Ray Luján, 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.

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 Byron B. Conway, of Wisconsin, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 58, nays 37, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 253 Ex.]

YEAS—58

Baldwin	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Romney
Blumenthal	Helmy	Rosen
Booker	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Brown	Hirono	Schumer
Butler	Kaine	Sinema
Cantwell	Kelly	Smith
Capito	King	Stabenow
Cardin	Klobuchar	Tester
Carper	Luján	Tillis
Casey	Markey	Van Hollen
Collins	Merkley	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Warnock
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Welch
Fetterman	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden
Hassan	Peters	
Hawley	Rosen	

NAYS—37

Barrasso	Hagerty	Ricketts
Blackburn	Hawley	Risch
Boozman	Hoover	Rounds
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Budd	Kennedy	Schmitt
Cassidy	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	Young
Fischer	Mullin	
Grassley	Paul	

NOT VOTING—5

Coons	Schatz	Vance
Cotton	Scott (FL)	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HELMY). On this vote, the yeas are 58, the nays are 37.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Delaware.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, the Office of Government Ethics is an Agency that independently works to oversee the executive branch's ethics program. The Director serves a term of 5 years in this instance, leading work that prevents financial conflicts of interest and ensures that the executive branch, regardless of political party, holds itself to the highest ethical standards.

Our Nation has been without a Senate-confirmed Director to this critical Agency for more than a year. I will say that again: more than a year. But, fortunately, we have a highly qualified nominee for this post, one who has received support from both Democrat and Republican Senators, including Senators on the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, which I used to chair.

Since 2016, David Huitema has served as the Assistant Legal Adviser for Ethics and Financial Disclosure at the De-

partment of State. In this role, he has the responsibility of managing the Department's ethics program. Previously, he served as an attorney-adviser at the Department of State, worked in private practice for several years, and completed a clerkship at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit.

Mr. Huitema has a deep and thorough knowledge of the law and of ethics compliance in addition to his range of experience at the State Department and in private practice. I have no doubt that his skills and his experience will enable him to effectively lead the Office of Government Ethics.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 620, David Huitema, of Maryland, to be Director of the Office of Government Ethics for a term of five years; 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 Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, directing the Office of Government Ethics is an important position due to the Office's role in aiding the President with the nominations process and assistance to the Senate in evaluating potential conflicts of interest for Presidential nominations.

This point was, of course, made clear in Mr. Huitema's HSGAC hearing, as he testified to the committee that nominee vetting would be not just a priority but priority one for the Office of Government Ethics and would dominate the next year, meaning the year that is about to arrive.

Given the fact that this position serves, once confirmed, for a 5-year term, it is also important for us to remember that we are now just a few weeks away from a Presidential election, a Presidential election that will determine who will serve as President of the United States for the next 4 years. So in light of that, we should wait to see who is elected before confirming this person to a 5-year term.

It is concerning to me that during his hearing before the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, Mr. Huitema left open the possibility of supporting a partisan policy, a partisan approach, from a nonpartisan position, one that can be used as a means of further weaponizing our government against officials who might be appointed, should President Trump win, in a Republican administration. Individuals responsible with directing the Office of Government Ethics must not engage, promote, or tolerate partisan lawfare.

Particularly in the midst of unprecedented lawfare and political weaponization of the U.S. Government against Donald Trump by the Biden-Harris administration, I have got grave

concerns that have led me to oppose their partisan nominees and policies considered in this Chamber, particularly between now and the election. The Biden-Harris administration forfeited that courtesy when they decided that they wanted to govern more like a banana republic than the United States of America.

Now, after these two assassination attempts that we have seen so far on Donald Trump, continued lawfare by Democrats at both State and national levels and unacceptable rhetoric from Vice President HARRIS, who has brought foreign leaders to campaign for her in a key battleground State, it is clear that they have changed their tune. And so I am not going to change my tune.

We have to remember that the President of the United States, at any given moment, for constitutional purposes, is the executive branch, is the living embodiment of the executive branch. This is an office that really ought to be filled at least with Members being allowed to take into account the outcome of a coming Presidential election. With that Presidential election just weeks away, there is no reason this has to be done today. In fact, there are very, very good reasons for us not to do it today.

Let's take this up after the Presidential election. That is the appropriate time to raise this. If Mr. Huitema is willing to further clarify his position and the next sitting President appoints him to fill the position, I am happy to revisit this question. Until then, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Michigan.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUESTS—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, shortly, I will ask for unanimous consent to confirm Rahkel Bouchet and John Truong to be associate judges for the District of Columbia Superior Court. The DC Superior Court functions as the State-level trial court in the Nation's Capital. Vacancies on the superior court bench have been straining the court, delaying justice for individuals and families all across the District.

Judge Bouchet and Mr. Truong each have the expertise and the temperament needed to serve on the superior court and are committed to serving the people of the District of Columbia.

Judge Bouchet has served as a magistrate judge for the District of Columbia's Superior Court since 2016 and is currently the deputy presiding magistrate judge. Prior to joining the bench, Judge Bouchet served as a clinical law professor and spent over 15 years in private practice, focusing on family and criminal law.

Mr. Truong is currently a Deputy Chief in the Civil Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, where he has served since 2013. He previously served as assistant U.S. attorney in the office's Criminal Divi-

sion, where he prosecuted misdemeanor and felony crimes in the DC Superior Court.

Mr. President, these are not controversial nominees. They were vetted and recommended to the President by an independent local commission and received bipartisan support in my committee. In fact, former President Trump has also nominated Judge Bouchet and Mr. Truong to serve on the DC Superior Court.

The people of the District deserve to have the empty seats on the superior court filled by qualified judges, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting these nominees.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 770, Rahkel Bouchet, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years; 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 Tennessee.

Mr. HAGERTY. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 771, John Cuong Truong, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years; 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 Tennessee.

Mr. HAGERTY. Mr. President, I object. Reserving the right to object, this summer, several of us made clear that, given the unprecedented lawfare by the Biden-Harris administration against President Trump, we will not consent to fast-tracking any judicial nominees before the coming election, and we are keeping our word on that.

If Democrats truly want these nominees confirmed, Senator SCHUMER can schedule them for votes. The truth is, they don't care enough about these nominations to do that so they are trying to confirm them this way, with the fast-track process.

Look, I have firsthand experience with this process. In 2017, Senate Democrats forced floor votes and 30 hours of postclosure time on my confirmation to be U.S. Ambassador to Japan under President Trump. So I am not standing in the way of confirma-

tion. As promised, though, I will not fast-track judicial confirmations before the election, when the American people will get a chance to reject the politicized administration of justice that is occurring here in America right now. We clearly stated this position, and now we are following through on it. Therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Michigan.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, shortly, I will ask for unanimous consent to confirm Ann Fisher and Ashley Poling to serve as Commissioners on the Postal Regulatory Commission, or the PRC.

The PRC is an independent Agency that serves as the Postal Services regulator, providing oversight as well as accountability. This bipartisan Commission is most effective with a full complement of Commissioners who have diverse perspectives but who are all committed to ensuring the transparency and accountability of the Postal Service.

Ann Fisher and Ashley Poling have both served as PRC Commissioners since 2019, and they have both demonstrated their commitment to robust oversight of the Postal Service. These are not controversial nominees. They are both dedicated public servants with deep expertise of the Postal Service. Both were previously nominated to the PRC by former President Trump, and they were unanimously confirmed by the Senate. They also received strong bipartisan support in my committee for their renominations, and I would urge my colleagues to join me in confirming these well-qualified nominees.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations en bloc for the Postal Regulatory Commission: Calendar No. 772, Ann C. Fisher, and Calendar No. 773, Ashley Jay Elizabeth Poling; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; that 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.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Ann C. Fisher, of South Dakota, to be a Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission for a term expiring October 14, 2030 (Reappointment), and Ashley Jay Elizabeth Poling, of North Carolina, to be a Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission for a term expiring November 22, 2030 (Reappointment)?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 8281

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, the Democrats' talking points against the SAVE

Act are being proven wrong day after day after day.

We heard them say repeatedly: Non-citizens, including illegal aliens, don't vote because they can't vote. That is to say, they don't vote because they are not allowed to vote because Federal law prohibits noncitizens from voting in U.S. elections. But they do. They have. And existing laws make it, unfortunately, far too easy for them to do so.

In fact, Oregon officials, to cite just one example, admitted just recently an error of the State's automatic voter enrollment problem. And they acknowledged that it was much more significant an error than they previously thought, having registered 1,259 possible noncitizens just since 2021 alone. Some of the mistakenly enrolled non-citizens, thereafter, went on to cast a ballot, according to Oregon's secretary of state.

This enrollment error in Oregon was first unearthed earlier this month with officials admitting to wrongly registering around 300 voters through an Oregon DMV program that registers legal citizens when they obtain a driver's license or a State ID. But this week, the DMV and the secretary of state's office said a complete review showed 1,259 people who didn't provide proof of U.S. citizenship were added to Oregon's voter rolls, a number four times the previously acknowledged and reported figure.

Unfortunately, Oregon is not unique in this regard. There are other States that have acknowledged problems—a long list of them—including States like Texas and Virginia, each clearing thousands of noncitizens from their existing voter registration rolls.

Yet Democrats say this isn't happening. They continue to dismiss the need for the SAVE Act, citing an existing law under which noncitizens are, in fact, already barred from voting in Federal elections, as well they should be. They are barred; but the fact that they are barred doesn't mean that a combination of circumstances based on existing law makes it far, far too easy for noncitizens to vote. As I said a moment ago, they do, even though they are prohibited from doing it; and in many circumstances, they have.

But we are seeing it happen in realtime.

This is our final chance to address this issue before what I think most of us would acknowledge is going to be one of the most consequential elections of our lifetimes. If Democrats truly believe, as most Americans do, that voting in U.S. elections should be reserved for American citizens, then they must agree to pass the SAVE Act.

This is not too heavy a lift. This is something that just makes it possible for us to enforce existing law—existing law that, to my knowledge, nobody in this Chamber or the other legislative Chamber down the hall has suggested we change. That is all this does. That is all the SAVE Act is about.

This is, in fact, the last chance to prove that they care about election integrity in order for it to matter in enough time that it can make a difference between now and the November general election. After all, since the Biden-Harris inauguration, over 10 million undocumented immigrants entered the United States illegally. This figure—just that figure of 10 million who came into the country illegally in the last 3½ years alone—that figure exceeds the population of most of our States—36, in fact. A supermajority of all of our States have populations smaller than the population of illegal immigrants that have come through unlawfully under the Biden-Harris watch.

With millions of unauthorized people on U.S. soil—a total of 30 million non-citizens living in the United States—the potential for election fraud through ineligible voting is not a hypothetical risk. This means the foundational principles that underpinned our republic—or any republic, for that matter—are under attack. It is under attack because President Biden, Secretary Mayorkas, and “Border Czar” Vice President KAMALA HARRIS refuse to enforce the law.

With the influx of illegal aliens under this administration, if even a fraction—let's just say, 1 in 100—were to vote, this could translate into hundreds of thousands of votes. Depending on where they are located and concentrated, this could be far more than enough to sway many of our most tightly-contested elections and alter their outcomes, especially in the case of the Presidential election.

So make no mistake: This matters. It has consequences. And what we do or choose not to do will make a difference.

This is concerning considering a recent study. And in that study, we found that noncitizens have ample openings and significant opportunities, repeatedly, to vote unlawfully. This study found that anywhere from 10 to 27 percent of noncitizens in the U.S. are, in fact, today registered to vote. And anywhere from 5 percent to 13 percent of noncitizens in the United States currently do vote in Presidential elections.

So, no, don't tell me this doesn't happen. Don't tell me it is already unlawful so we don't need to do anything about it. We know that existing law, while it prohibits noncitizen voting in Federal elections, existing law makes it far too easy to do. And that is what we want to do in America with our elections. We want to make it easy to vote; hard to cheat. The last thing we want to do is make it easy to vote for those who will cheat—who do cheat by virtue of their voting because they are not entitled to do it.

It is what it means to be a citizen in a republic. It is what it means to be a country and to have a vote. You are stealing other people's votes. You are diluting their votes. You are, in fact,

disenfranchising legitimate votes when you participate unlawfully, fraudulently, feloniously, but in a way that current law makes far too possible.

Across the Nation, instances abound where States have inadvertently, apparently, facilitated this crisis. Who knows to what degree of inadvertence this was, but it is always referred to as an inadvertent error. And unless or until we can prove otherwise, we have to deal with it.

But regardless of the degree of awareness and intentionality that went into it, these things did, in fact, happen, everything from unsolicited voter registration forms being mailed directly to the addresses of noncitizens and driver's licenses being issued without adequate checks, relying merely on the honesty of illegal aliens as they complete forms. All of these practices have opened up the floodgates to voter fraud.

Now, there is no law in place telling the States, as they process voter registration forms under the 1993 National Voter Registration Act, or NVRA—this is the so-called Motor Voter law. It is a law that allows people, when they apply for a driver's license, to simultaneously register to vote in Federal elections simply by checking a box and signing their name. Nothing in the NVRA or in any other current provision of Federal law tells the States exactly how or what they must do in order to verify the citizenship of voters who plan to participate in Federal elections.

Regrettably, a few years ago, the Supreme Court of the United States interpreted the NVRA, based on the fact that it doesn't instruct the States on how to verify citizenship, as somehow precluding, prohibiting the States from asking for proof of identification verifying citizenship at the time someone registers to vote under the NVRA in a Federal election.

This really was wrong, in my opinion. It was a majority opinion of the Supreme Court, and I believe they got it wrong. It is the Court's ruling, nonetheless, and it stands. It was issued over the strong dissent of Justice Alito, who pointed out the reasons why it shouldn't have been interpreted that way, but that ruling stands nonetheless, and the States have to abide by that order.

So, to be clear, under the law as it now stands, somebody going into a State and applying for a driver's license—as you are allowed to do, by the way, as a noncitizen, in all 50 States. You can apply for a driver's license in all 50 States and the District of Columbia. If you check the box on the attached NVRA form saying you want to register to vote and then sign your name saying “Yeah, I am eligible to do this,” that is it. The State isn't even allowed to ask you for any kind of identification. That is the end of the matter. A mere check of a box and a signature is all it takes, with little to no risk of being caught. In fact, non-citizens are being encouraged to vote

and not warned of the consequences of doing so.

The fact that the Supreme Court wrongly interpreted Federal law to ban States from requiring proof of citizenship when registering voters via Federal forms makes it all the more urgent and important for us to do this. This signals loudly and clearly that this is how you get around this thing. We have to fill this gap.

An increasing number of localities permit noncitizens to vote in local elections. Now, that is their decision. I think it is a terrible decision on their part, but it is a decision over which we as Congress, we as the lawmaking branch of the U.S. Government, have no control. But what we do have control over is who may vote in Federal elections. That part is our business.

Prominent Democrats have openly discussed these tactics as beneficial to their agenda—“these tactics” meaning deliberately bringing about the registration to vote in Federal elections by noncitizens and participating in Federal elections and casting ballots unlawfully as noncitizens.

Only months ago, every Senate Democrat voted to count illegal aliens in the census to help them shore up more seats in Congress and more votes in the electoral college. This cannot continue.

It is one thing to do that in the context of the decennial apportionment count—the part of the census that is used to distribute seats in Congress and in the House of Representatives and in the electoral college; it is quite another thing to let them actually vote. No sane republic would or should do that—certainly not this Republic.

The American people agree overwhelmingly on this. If you are an American citizen, you can vote in Federal elections; if you are not, you can’t, and you shouldn’t be able to.

It is our responsibility, it is our imperative to close these gates—these gates that have been left wide open as a result of a combination of circumstances, including the NVRA, the wrong interpretation of it by the Supreme Court a few years ago, and then the 10 million-plus illegal aliens coming in in the last 3½ years alone and the total of 30 million-plus noncitizens living in the United States today, coupled with the fact that it has never been easier to apply for a driver’s license in all 50 States and the District of Columbia even if you are a noncitizen.

My bill, called the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act, or the SAVE Act, would be a vital step in securing the electoral process, ensuring that every vote cast must be legitimate, that every vote cast must be cast by a U.S. citizen, and that every voter be duly and lawfully registered.

The SAVE Act amends the National Voter Registration Act so that States can ensure that only U.S. citizens may participate in Federal elections. The SAVE Act requires States to obtain

concrete documentary proof of citizenship at the time of voter registration. It specifies that acceptable documentation must be provided, and it explains what kind of documentation. It also requires States to establish alternative verification processes for those rare cases where standard documents might be unavailable.

In that respect, the SAVE Act is far easier to comply with than other examples we can identify under existing Federal law where Americans routinely can be and are required to produce proof of citizenship in order to do a certain thing.

The most common of these instances of Federal law requiring proof of citizenship involve the submission of the form known as the I-9. If you are not familiar with that, I can guarantee, if you are a U.S. citizen and you have ever had a job, you filled one out.

The I-9 is the form that you have to present whenever you start new employment. If you are starting as an employee, you have to fill out the I-9. Attached to the I-9 has to be proof of citizenship. Typically, it is most easily satisfied if you have a U.S. passport. If you don’t have a U.S. passport, you have to show a U.S. birth certificate and then, I think, a couple of forms, a government-issued photo ID, to prove that you are the person identified on that birth certificate, and then you are good.

The SAVE Act is even more flexible than that. That is not too onerous by itself, but recognizing that the right to vote is at stake and that some people might not have or might have lost some of these documents, it provides myriad other avenues by which they may prove their citizenship. This is not too onerous.

It also requires the States that set up these verification processes to make sure that they can get this done. It provides incredibly expansive ways to prove citizenship, and if you don’t have any documented proof, you can do it.

This will in no way make it hard for any U.S. citizens to vote, not even the poorest or the least fastidious about recordkeeping among us. Every one of them will be able to vote if they are U.S. citizens. Indeed, it will prevent their votes from being canceled by foreign actors trying to bring about what really amounts to foreign interference with U.S. elections, which is something we all claim to care about and be opposed to aggressively.

Furthermore, the SAVE Act compels States to proactively remove noncitizens from voter rolls and introduces severe Federal penalties for those individuals who knowingly register noncitizens to vote.

The bill echoes the sentiments of the American people themselves, from coast to coast, from north to southeast to west. It transcends political affiliations and speaks directly to the core of what makes our country great: fair, free, and secure elections.

There is a lot that divides us here, that sets Democrats against Repub-

licans and that can result in us disagreeing on the basis of a genuine disagreement among our voters, among our constituents. Republicans and Democrats, voters and Senators alike, often just disagree depending on our political alignment. But in this particular instance, it is the Senators who are opposed to each other, not reflected in the way the American people feel. Among the American people, this is like an 80-percent issue. Like 80 percent of Americans believe that we should be doing this. In fact, they feel like it is absolutely crazy to not do it.

This is about transcending those political affiliations and going back to what is so important about being a U.S. citizen and casting our vote. Your vote doesn’t mean much if it can be canceled out by somebody else who is not entitled to be here.

There is not a corporation in America that would allow nonshareholders to participate in a shareholder election. They wouldn’t let a nonshareholder vote if the whole point of the vote was to let shareholders vote.

If I were to wander into the Senate Democratic caucus as they are holding their leadership elections or any other important deliberation where they have to vote, they wouldn’t in a million years let me vote in there because I am not a Senate Democrat.

When I arrived in the U.S. Senate, each of the three times I have been sworn in as a U.S. Senator, I had to produce documentary proof that I had, in fact, been elected in Utah. I had to produce an election certificate issued by the chief election official in the State of Utah, the Lieutenant Governor, who indicated that I won my elections—first in 2010, then in 2016, then in 2022. Without being able to prove that I was entitled to be here and to cast a vote here, I would never have been allowed to vote, nor should I be. It is no less true with U.S. elections. We cannot let those who are not entitled under the law to do it because they are not citizens, to vote in our elections.

This is about protecting our elections from foreign interference—something my Democratic colleagues claim to care immensely about. Every day that we delay, the foundation of our electoral processes erodes a little more. We can’t wait for this administration to enforce the law.

This bill will make it harder to cheat in elections and ensure the integrity of every single ballot that gets cast. There is really no valid argument against it, so heretofore people opposed to it have just been throwing out red herrings like “It is already illegal,” which, for reasons I explained a minute ago, means nothing if there is no way to enforce the law, and existing law makes it far too easy to cheat without getting caught or, alternatively, just ignoring it altogether. But there is no valid argument against this bill. That is why you don’t hear any valid argument against this bill—it doesn’t exist.

The only reason to oppose this bill would be if you need or are counting on

illegal votes to win elections, if you want to rely on them—perhaps in the first instance or as backup; I don't know. But there is no valid, legitimate reason to oppose it.

By passing the SAVE Act, we would send a clear message that in the United States, voting is not just a privilege of citizenship but also a protected and cherished right, one that we need to protect.

As debates about election integrity rage, the SAVE Act stands out by guaranteeing that only American citizens will have a say in our elections. American elections must be decided by Americans, by American citizens. Without that, without them, we have no right to be here. We have no right to pass laws on behalf of the people without those people being citizens. So we have to make sure that those people determining who is here, who is in the Chamber down the hall, and who sits in the White House, are, in fact, U.S. citizens.

I acknowledge the presence of my friend and colleague, the distinguished Senator from Kansas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam President, I sure am honored to be here on the Senate floor fighting to defend our democratic process with my friend and colleague from the great State of Utah.

Free, safe, secure, and fair elections are integral to the survival of our Republic. Without election integrity, the voice of American citizens—the foundation of our Republic—is at risk of being silenced.

Unfortunately, millions of Americans have lost confidence in the security of our elections. They question whether their vote truly matters or if their vote is being diluted by noncitizens. We must ensure that the outcome of our elections is determined by our own citizens, uninfluenced by illegal ballots. The heart of our democracy depends upon this.

Ensuring that only U.S. citizens vote in our elections isn't just necessary, it is common sense. I am proud to support the SAVE Act, which will protect our elections by requiring proof of citizenship to register to vote and an ID at the time of voting.

This shouldn't be a divisive issue. Nearly 80 percent of Americans—Democrats, Republicans, Independents—all agree on this simple requirement—80 percent.

Now, again, this is common sense. You need an ID to drive. You need an ID to board a plane. You need an ID to get a fishing license. But voting is a sacred right with an even higher value than those other examples. Voting should demand the same standard. Protecting this right isn't controversial. It is common sense.

Right now, due to the crisis of our open southern border, at least 11 million illegal immigrants are in the United States today. That number alone could replace the population of 36

States, almost 4 times the population of Kansas. Imagine what that could do to our electoral process if left unchecked.

You know, friends back home—I just did a telephone townhall. They asked me the same question: Why do my colleagues across the aisle refuse to support a policy that 80 percent of Americans agree upon; that would make our elections freer, safer, more secure?

Well, let me tell you why. It is because they spent years courting illegal immigrants, ushering them into our country, ushering in over 12 million, hoping to tip the scales in key States. But we cannot let them highjack our elections.

Now, look, noncitizen voting is real. This isn't hypothetical. In Texas, Virginia, and Oregon, noncitizens have been found on the voting rosters. Additionally, California, Maryland, Vermont, and Washington, DC, already allow noncitizens to vote in local elections.

This is an immediate threat to the future of our democracy, and it demands action. This is a nonpartisan American issue. It is about protecting our country. Just as we reject foreign interference in our elections, we must reject noncitizen voting with equal seriousness.

And this is why Congress must act, and they can act today. This has already been passed in the House. We could pass this today. The President could sign it tomorrow, and away we go.

With the SAVE Act, we can restore faith in our elections. We are only 40 days away from the most consequential election in our lifetime. Time is running out. Our Republic depends on it. So let's act.

I would like to yield the floor back to my colleague from Utah.

Mr. LEE. I recognize the presence of my friend and colleague the senior Senator from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I thank my colleague from Utah.

Madam President, thank you for the time and recognition.

I want to say thank you to him for bringing this issue forward.

As I am out and about in Tennessee, I hear a lot about this. People are concerned about what would happen if those who are illegally in the country get a vote, if they exercise the rights of citizenship, because so many people in Tennessee talk about that, in America, there is nothing more fundamental than guarding our God-given freedoms, approaching the ballot boxes as equal citizens for fair and open elections.

And they are quite disturbed because, for the last more than 3 years, what they have seen is that the Biden-Harris administration has waged a war on this sacred institution by working overtime to make illegal immigration legal.

Now, you have heard reference to the numbers of illegal aliens—and, by the way, that is the statutory term that is used—and about the numbers that have

come into this country. We know it is north of 10 million illegal aliens. The Senator from Kansas referenced this. And the size is larger—the number, the population number—larger than 36 of our States, and the impact that that can have.

And as my colleague from Utah pointed out, when someone comes here illegally, and they go into a State like Minnesota that gives those that are illegally in the country a driver's license, and then that individual goes to another State, through the motor voter law, they can check that box, and they can register to vote. They can get that driver's license. They can register to vote. And we know that this has occurred, and we have seen it occur in voter rolls all across this country—from Massachusetts to Arizona and everywhere in between.

Now, recently, the State of Virginia went through their voter rolls, and they discovered that they had more than 6,000 that were on their voter rolls who had entered the country illegally.

And this becomes such a problem when you look at the number of States that do not require voter ID when they vote. We have got 14 States across this country where you do not have to show an ID when you go to vote at the polls. You show up, and you vote.

Now, one thing is clear. While it is against the law for illegal aliens to vote in Federal elections, many States and jurisdictions lack the proper safeguards to enforce this law. It is already illegal. It is already illegal. But they broke the law coming into the country illegally. They have broken the law by checking that box and registering to vote.

And the risk is higher than ever because of what has transpired at the open border, but the SAVE Act, which the gentleman from Utah has brought to the floor today, would solve this problem because it would require proof of U.S. citizenship to vote in an election, and you would have to provide that proof in person.

I will tell you, there are many people that are surprised that we don't require that proof—that you prove that you are who you say you are.

The SAVE Act also has provisions to restore our election integrity. It would require States to establish a program to remove those that are illegally in the country from the voter rolls, and it would also allow citizens to sue election officials who fail to uphold requirements for proof of citizenship.

Now, the House did pass this in July, and it had been sitting over here for the last couple of months. And so I would ask my Democratic colleagues: What in this bill do you oppose? What do you oppose? Why is it that you would want to open the door to allow individuals that have illegally entered the country to actually vote in a Federal election? Do you want to encourage them to vote in our elections?

This is why we need to protect the integrity of each citizen, each person—one person, one vote.

Now, my colleague from North Carolina has also come to the floor, and I want to say a word about his Promoting Free and Fair Elections Act, which would also be helpful. His bill, which I support, would block President Biden's Executive order that forces—not allows, but commands—it forces Federal Agencies to work with outside partisan groups to mobilize voters.

And guess what. The taxpayers got to pay for this. Talk about wanting to federalize elections. Talk about the Federal Government wanting to throw their weight. This is it.

And, of course, the Executive order excludes any information about how the Biden-Harris administration would go about approving or selecting groups.

So I commend my colleague from North Carolina for the Promoting Free and Fair Elections Act. I commend my colleague from Utah for the SAVE Act.

I yield the floor to my colleague from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 439, H.R. 8281, the SAVE Act; further, 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 California.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, reserving the right to object, today marks the third time that I have come down to the floor to object to this bill—not the first time, not the second time, three times.

Madam President, in this particular case, the third time is not the charm. But I grant my colleague one thing. He says that things have changed since the last time he tried to bring this bill up for a vote or approval on unanimous consent.

What has changed, you might ask? Well, this bill actually failed to pass the Republican-controlled House of Representatives just last week. Republicans attached this bill to a must-pass government funding bill, and they still couldn't find the votes, not even with the votes that they have on their side of the aisle.

So it does beg the question: What the heck are we doing here?

This is not a serious attempt to protect our elections. The only thing that this bill does—and the discussion of it does—is stoking fear that our elections may not be secure, and it creates mistrust in the outcome of elections.

So I feel compelled to take a moment to, once again, reassure all Americans that are listening today: There is no credible evidence of massive voter fraud or a massive number of noncitizens voting in our elections—no evidence, none. Let me be clear: no evidence, none.

In fact, it is already illegal for non-citizens to vote in Federal elections, no matter what State they live in.

In some of the conversation from some of the Senators, over the last several minutes, there has been reference to what the Federal Government may be doing to federalize elections. I will make specific reference to the motor voter law that was approved by Congress on a bipartisan basis; that, yes, directs States to do what they can to encourage civic participation and to utilize their department of motor vehicles to engage eligible voters. Since they are already interfacing with government, let's take that moment of their time—as they are already sharing name, address, date of birth, other personal information—and in addition to applying for a driver's license or a State ID, if they are eligible, to register them to vote in the process or update their registration.

And, yes, there are States in the country that do allow a noncitizen or undocumented immigrant, even, to obtain a driver's license. But I can tell you, as a former chief elections officer for the State of California—not just on behalf of California but of my colleagues across the country that I have worked with—protocols are in place. If you are a noncitizen applying for a special type of driver's license or an undocumented immigrant applying for a special type of driver's license, you go through one process. If you are a citizen, you go through another that includes that opportunity to register to vote.

Let me come back to the bottom line here again: no evidence of massive voter fraud—no evidence the last time this bill came up, no evidence today. And I doubt there will be any evidence between now and November 5—or even after November 5—because of the integrity of elections administration in the country.

Now, I have to speak to the timing. We stand here today, 41 days before this November's election. The election is already happening. For those who are familiar, ballots have already been mailed out to members of the military and other overseas voters.

In many States, the vote-by-mail ballot process has already begun. In some States, early voting is beginning. The election is happening.

But again, I sense the real motive for bringing this bill up today is an attempt to continue to inject fear and uncertainty in the minds of voters at a time where, frankly, we need calm; we need understanding; we need truth.

So, as I have in the previous objections, I will extend my invitation again today: Let's work together in a thoughtful, responsible, bipartisan manner to ensure more eligible Americans can easily register to vote, stay registered to vote, and cast their ballots. But until I am taken up on that offer, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The senior Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Madam President, my distinguished friend and colleague the

Senator from California makes an impassioned plea that we not pass this bill. I appreciate his thoughtfulness and care and consideration that he routinely gives to matters pending before the Senate. I wish I could say that always translates into accurate statements.

Today, it didn't. He made several statements that are just not accurate. First and foremost, he suggested—not just suggested, he said that this bill—the SAVE Act, which I am trying to pass right here, right now—failed to pass in the House of Representatives; that even in the Republican-controlled House of Representatives it couldn't get the votes to pass.

That is not true. It is 100 percent false. In fact, this has passed the House of Representatives. It passed the House of Representatives not only with the Republicans voting for it but they picked up five Democrats along the way. So they passed it. They passed it with a bipartisan vote.

Now, he may be referring to the fact that there was another vote—another vote cast last week in which they attached the SAVE Act to a spending bill. It was the spending bill that caused the combined measure to fail. But, in fact, the SAVE Act has been passed by the House of Representatives.

It was passed with a bipartisan vote because even these Democrats, who joined with all the Republicans over in the House of Representatives, acknowledged that this is a problem. The problem has been created by a combination of Federal laws that have grown too loose, that have been further loosened by the Supreme Court of the United States in its interpretation of it, and that the need for it has, in fact, escalated.

Point No. 2 that he makes—this is the third time—sounding, I think, a little frustrated by the fact that we tried to do this multiple times. Well, forgive me, but the case for it has continued to build. It has continued to build steadily, even at the same time that the House of Representatives has now passed it.

This does matter. So he is mistaken here in that nothing has changed.

He says that there is no evidence of this. That is not true. That is news to me, given that the world learned yesterday of this evidence that just came out from the secretary of state's office in Oregon showing that complete review revealed 1,259 people in that State who didn't provide proof of U.S. citizenship, and they had been added to Oregon's voter registration rolls a number of—four times the previously reported figure.

That is also news to States like Texas and Virginia, just to state a couple. There are more that have been going through their voter registration rolls and discovered a lot of noncitizens. I mean, you add them all up, and we are talking about thousands of non-citizens registering to vote.

Then he pivots a little bit, and he says that there is no evidence of massive voter fraud. If thousands of illegally registered voters—people who illegally register to vote in Federal elections—if that is not massive, I don't know what is.

Now, as to the next point that he makes: Ballots have already been mailed out. I don't dispute that. I am absolutely certain that that is the case. That is in no way, shape, or form an argument against the SAVE Act, nor is it an argument against passing this now.

In fact, there is no reason not to pass this now. There is good reason to pass it now, given that in fully 22 States in the United States of America—fully 22 States allow voter registration up to and including the day of the Presidential election. So in addition to the thousands of persons who are noncitizens and therefore may not lawfully register to vote or vote in a Federal election who have already registered to vote, many of whom have been shown in past elections to have voted illegally—we don't even know what the total number is. We don't even know what the total number of people is who might register to vote and then vote unlawfully between now and the 5th of November when the election is held. Yet in addition to the 22 States where you can register to vote, up to and including the day of the Presidential election, there are a whole lot of others who allow it, to varying degrees, at some point between now and election day.

Then he goes back to the fact that this is not a serious proposal. I don't know what that means, other than Democrats don't like it. And I understand that they don't like it. It is serious. I assure you, Madam President, and I assure my colleagues, this is a very serious matter when people register to vote and vote illegally. That disenfranchises actual U.S. citizens.

Finally, I do take exception to something. I take exception to the suggestion as to motive, suggesting that the reason I am here to do this is to disingenuously plow what he refers to as “fear and uncertainty” as to the legitimacy of our elections.

Not only is this kind of speech uncalled for and prohibited under rule XIX of the Senate rules where you are not supposed to characterize somebody's motive as something devious like this, if I were out here deliberately trying, just for kicks and giggles, to undermine the legitimacy in the outcome of the election, that would be inappropriate. That is not accurate. There is not a scintilla of proof for that. And there is a mountain of proof that we have darned good reason to bring this about.

I am deeply disappointed that we can't pass this. This is not a heavy lift. It is not too much to ask that we put something in place, putting teeth into existing law that has been on the books for decades that Americans overwhelm-

ingly agree with and says you can't vote in a U.S. election unless you are a U.S. citizen.

The House passed it; we could pass it today. This could make a difference. We should pass it. It is inexcusable that we are not.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from North Carolina.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 1398

Mr. BUDD. Madam President, Americans should be able to trust our electoral process. But the Biden-Harris administration is undermining the system. And this is rightly causing millions of Americans to doubt the integrity of their vote.

That is why my colleague from Utah Senator LEE has worked so hard to pass the SAVE Act. It is a common-sense bill to make sure that only American citizens vote in American elections.

Now, this would address one of the most pressing threats to the electoral system. But there is also another serious threat to the integrity of our elections: the use of taxpayer dollars for partisan political activity.

During the first 100 days of the Biden-Harris administration, President Biden signed an Executive order directing the head of every Federal Agency—every Federal Agency—to submit a plan for their Agency to “promote voter registration and voter participation.”

Now, on the surface, this seems like a harmless order simply designed to increase the number of Americans who vote. And I believe—we probably all believe—that is a laudable goal.

The problem is that the order also mandates that all Federal Agencies partner with approved third-party organizations to provide these services on Federal Agency property and using your taxpayer dollars.

So big questions remain, less than 2 months before a general election: Which third-party organizations are approved; who approves them; and what criteria are required?

All of this information is conveniently missing from this order.

Now, Congress has attempted to provide some and conduct some oversight on this, and citizens have rightly filed the Freedom of Information Act lawsuits.

The Biden-Harris administration has released only a tiny fraction of these Agency plans. Now, in at least one instance, the administration redacted every single paragraph of an Agency plan, leaving only vague headers.

I have one of these. I have 8 pages of redaction. That is how they responded to what American citizens are entitled to in regard of Freedom of Information. That is how the Biden-Harris—KAMALA HARRIS—administration responded.

So it begs the question: What does the Biden-Harris administration have to hide? I am concerned that this administration is writing their own rules and using taxpayer money to partner with liberal get-out-the-vote organiza-

tions. For example, a few months after this order was issued, the Biden-Harris administration hosted a listening session to discuss the implementation of this order.

Now, about 50 leftwing organizations attended this meeting, and every representative attending was either registered as a Democrat or donated to Democrats, with the exception of one member of the Green Party.

According to notes from a Department of Justice attorney documenting this meeting, their talking points focused on expanding Democrat voter blocs and espousing extreme liberal views. Remember, this is everyone's taxpayer dollars doing this.

Now, as a matter of principle, I don't believe the Federal Government should be using those taxpayer resources to advance their partisan politics and policies. That is a principle that should be commonly shared across the aisle.

But more than that, the prospect of a blanket Federal Agency mandate to engage in electioneering on the taxpayers' dime raises serious ethical and legal concerns.

Now, I don't think you can draw any conclusion other than to say that this Executive order is another example of the weaponization of Federal Government.

Congress should shut down this ethically and legally dubious scheme to help restore faith in our elections. That is why I stand here today to propose that the Senate pass the Promoting Free and Fair Elections Act. The bill is simple and straightforward. It would prohibit Federal Agencies from using your taxpayer dollars to enter agreements with partisan organizations that conduct voter mobilization activities.

The Biden-Harris administration's sweeping directive is inherently political and directed primarily at groups expected to vote for one party over another. And when the American people ask for information on it, this is what they get. This order must not be allowed to stand.

Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be discharged from further consideration of S. 1398 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; further, 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?

Mr. PADILLA. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from California.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise today in opposition to a bill introduced by my colleague from North Carolina. Let me start by saying this: The Senator from North Carolina says the Federal Government should not use official taxpayer resources—no taxpayer dollars—to advance partisan politics.

You will be happy to know that I agree 100 percent. And I would venture to say that all of my Democratic colleagues agree 100 percent. But let's also be clear the Executive order referenced isn't that.

And my colleague's attempt to attribute some scheme behind informing eligible citizens of their right to vote and facilitating their voter registration and participation is simply without merit.

As I mentioned a few minutes ago, when debating the SAVE Act, we are now less than 6 weeks until the November election. And while there may be disagreement on policy with my colleagues, we should certainly agree that it is crucial to make sure every eligible American can participate in the political process—again, without any unnecessary barriers or obstacles and certainly without intimidation.

As I referenced a few minutes ago, I once served as California's secretary of state and as the chief elections officer, and I am proud of the reforms that we implemented in making it easier for eligible citizens to register to vote, to stay registered to vote—because that is not easy in some States—and to cast their ballots in the elections.

I want to emphasize that these reforms were put in place for all citizens regardless of political party, regardless of political leanings. We wanted to make sure that every eligible Californian could exercise their right to vote, and that is what should be our business here today—to make sure that every eligible American can exercise their right to vote.

That is exactly why President Biden first issued this Executive order, which builds on decades of what, once upon a time, was bipartisan efforts to expand voter registration. What could be more patriotic than performing your civic duty? The bipartisan history of Congress in promoting voter participation includes the bipartisan passage of the National Voter Registration Act once upon a time.

President Biden issued the Executive order to bring the weight of the Federal Government to help Americans register to vote. It strikes me as perfectly reasonable that when Americans are already interacting with the government, that we should take that opportunity to securely get more eligible Americans registered to vote and ready to participate in the elections. The Executive order that we are debating here is simply fulfilling the mandates that Congress created with the bipartisan passage of the National Voter Registration Act.

I couldn't help but notice in the debate—in the presentation, in the arguments—that there has been a failure to point to any partisan language either in statute or in the Executive order. So I am disappointed that these efforts continue. What we should be doing is working together to facilitate civic participation and combating misinformation and disinformation sur-

rounding the 2024 election that only risks confusing or discouraging people to participate.

For those and other reasons, I object. The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The junior Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BUDD. Madam President, I really do appreciate my colleague's comments, especially the part on agreeing 100 percent with me.

You know, it is very easy for my Democrat colleagues to wax poetic about wanting more Americans to want to register to vote. After all, it could be that the program I am discussing here is designed only to help his party, especially when I go back to what I referenced earlier about a Department of Justice attorney documenting this meeting and noticing that all the points were focused on expanding Democrat voter blocs and that there were 50 leftwing organizations that attended the meeting except for the one member of the Green Party.

When we asked for details on this, of course, he said it wasn't that, but I do look at the top of this document from the Biden-Harris administration, referred to as the interim "Strategic Plan for the Implementation of Executive Order 14019, Promoting Access to Voting," and this is what the American people get from the Biden-Harris administration.

I would hope, at the very least, that my colleague, while waxing poetic, would agree about this program, like all Federal programs, that it should not be about oversight and transparency, but that is the case at the present time.

And I do want to make thing one thing perfectly clear: We need as many people as possible to vote. Republicans and the vast majority of Americans support the idea that you need a photo ID to vote. Republicans and the vast majority of Americans support the idea that you should be a U.S. citizen to vote. Republicans and the vast majority of Americans do not support the use of Federal taxpayer funds—your dollars—for partisan political activity.

Opposing these measures makes it clear that my Democrat colleagues simply aren't valuing election integrity, especially when we ask for details, and this is what the Biden-Harris administration shows the American people regarding "Executive Order 14019, Promoting Access to Voting." Republicans value election integrity. At least you can tell by our efforts here.

Folks, we just want it to be easy to vote and hard to cheat. I hope the American people are watching.

I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF BYRON B. CONWAY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Byron B. Conway to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

Born in Green Bay, WI, Mr. Conway earned his B.A. from Santa Clara Uni-

versity in 1998 and his J.D. from Marquette University Law School in 2002.

After graduating from law school, he worked as an associate at Gimbel Reilly Guerin & Brown LLP in Milwaukee from 2002 to 2006. There, Mr. Conway handled a variety of cases including misdemeanor and felony criminal matters involving drug offenses, battery, burglary, and white-collar crimes.

Since 2006, Mr. Conway has worked at Habush Habush & Rottier S.C. (Habush), first as an associate and most recently as a shareholder. His practice at Habush has been devoted primarily to civil litigation, the majority of which has centered on personal injury claims. Mr. Conway's cases have involved, among other things: explosions, environmental contamination, product defects, workplace accidents, workers' compensation, motor vehicle accidents, nursing home neglect, premises liability, and insurance coverage disputes. Throughout his 22-year legal career, he has tried 20 jury cases.

The American Bar Association unanimously rated Mr. Conway as "qualified," and his nomination is strongly supported by his home State Senators, Ms. BALDWIN and Mr. JOHNSON.

With deep ties to Wisconsin and significant litigation experience, Mr. Conway is prepared to serve honorably as a district judge on the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

I am proud to support his nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PADILLA). The Senator from Wisconsin.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today in support of Byron Conway's nomination to serve as a judge for the district court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

Senator JOHNSON and I have worked to set up the bipartisan Wisconsin Federal Nominating Commission to provide us with recommendations for qualified candidates for open Federal judicial and U.S. attorney positions. This commission has identified and put forward highly qualified, experienced candidates such as Mr. Conway, and I am pleased to see the Senate moving forward with his nomination.

As I shared with the Judiciary Committee, in addition to being an exceptional judicial candidate, Byron Conway is Wisconsin through and through. He was raised in Green Bay, WI, and attended Notre Dame Academy. He went on to receive a bachelor's degree from Santa Clara University before coming back home to earn his law degree from Marquette University Law School.

After being admitted to the Wisconsin bar, Mr. Conway practiced in the Milwaukee area before moving to Green Bay to practice civil litigation. Mr. Conway has experience with a wide variety of cases, including misdemeanor and felony criminal matters, employment discrimination cases, and personal injury cases. I am certain that his prior litigation experience will

serve him well as a judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

Mr. Conway is a very active member of his local community, having served as president of the Brown County Bar Association, as the Brown County District Representative to the State Bar Board of Governors, and as the vice president of the board of directors for the Brain Center of Green Bay, which offers resources to individuals with cognitive deficits and neurological disorders. Byron Conway has both the experience and the temperament necessary to serve Wisconsin's Eastern District with fairness and impartiality.

I want to thank the chairman of the committee, Chair DURBIN; Ranking Member GRAHAM; and the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee for advancing Mr. Conway's nomination out of the committee with bipartisan support.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting to confirm Mr. Conway's nomination.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The junior Senator from Rhode Island.

VOTE ON CONWAY NOMINATION

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the scheduled vote begin immediately.

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

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The result was announced—yeas 58, nays 37, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 254 Ex.]

YEAS—58

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

NAYS—37		
Barrasso	Hagerty	Ricketts
Blackburn	Hawley	Risch
Boozman	Hoover	Rounds
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Budd	Kennedy	Schmitt
Cassidy	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	Young
Fischer	Mullin	
Grassley	Paul	

NOT VOTING—5

Coons	Scott (FL)	Vance
Cotton	Tillis	

The nomination was confirmed.

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

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

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, over 4 months ago, Steward Health Care and the more than 30 hospitals it owns in 8 States declared bankruptcy, with some \$9 billion in debt. This bankruptcy has caused devastating harm to patients, healthcare workers, and entire communities from Massachusetts to Arizona.

In July, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, which I chair, voted to authorize a bipartisan investigation into the financial mismanagement of Steward Health Care. On that same day, the HELP Committee also voted to subpoena Dr. Ralph de la Torre, the CEO of Steward Health Care, to testify at a hearing on this very important issue on September 12.

Sadly, Dr. de la Torre made the unfortunate and unacceptable decision not to show up at this hearing in defiance of a congressional subpoena. So last week, the HELP Committee voted 20 to 0 on two resolutions to hold Dr. de la Torre accountable for his failure to appear at this hearing.

The first resolution instructs Senate legal counsel to bring a civil suit in the District Court for the District of Columbia to require Dr. de la Torre's compliance with the subpoena and his testimony before the HELP Committee.

The second resolution would refer this matter to the U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia to criminally prosecute Dr. de la Torre for failing to comply with the subpoena.

In a few moments, I will be asking unanimous consent to pass the second resolution, which seeks to hold Dr. de la Torre in criminal contempt for fail-

ing to comply with the congressional subpoena.

But before I do that, let me take a moment to briefly explain why the HELP Committee believed it was so important for Dr. de la Torre to testify before Congress.

First, we wanted Dr. de la Torre to explain to us how it could happen that at least 15 patients at hospitals owned by his company died—died—as a result of a lack of medical equipment or staffing shortages, and why at least 2,000 other patients were put in immediate peril, according to Federal regulators.

That is something that the American people deserve to know. But perhaps most importantly, we wanted to know how it could happen that while thousands of patients and healthcare workers suffered and communities around the country have been devastated as a result of Steward Health Care's financial mismanagement, Dr. de la Torre and the companies he owned were able to receive at least \$250 million in total compensation over the past 4 years.

For months, Senator CASSIDY, the ranking member of the HELP Committee; Senator MARKEY, the chair of our healthcare subcommittee; and I have asked Dr. de la Torre to testify before our committee to answer these questions. And time after time, he has arrogantly refused, and that is simply not acceptable.

So, today, I will ask the Senate to unanimously adopt this resolution seeking to hold Dr. de la Torre in contempt of Congress.

Let me take this opportunity to thank Ranking Member CASSIDY and his staff for working with me and my staff on this very important issue. The passage of this resolution by the full Senate will make clear that, even though Dr. de la Torre may be worth hundreds of millions of dollars, even though he may be able to buy fancy yachts and private jets and luxurious accommodations throughout the world, even though he may be able to afford some of the most expensive lawyers in America, no, Dr. de la Torre is not above the law. If you defy a congressional subpoena, you will be held accountable no matter who you are or how well connected you may be.

The goal of the HELP Committee throughout this entire process has been to make sure not only that we have a complete understanding of the financial chicanery surrounding Steward Health Care but to do everything that we can to make sure that such a travesty never occurs again.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that two letters be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, one from Dr. de la Torre's attorneys to the committee and, secondly, a response letter from Ranking Member CASSIDY and myself.

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

SEPTEMBER 18, 2024.

Re Senate HELP Committee Subpoena to Dr. Ralph de la Torre.

Hon. BERNIE SANDERS,

Chairman, Committee on Health Education, Labor, and Pensions, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR SANDERS: We write to follow up on our September 4, 2024 letter ("Letter") to the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee (the "Committee") and the Committee's recent announcement that it intends to vote this week on two contempt resolutions regarding the July 25, 2024 subpoena issued to Dr. de la Torre, in his capacity as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Steward Health Care System LLC ("Steward"), for testimony at the Committee's September 12, 2024 hearing titled "Examining the Bankruptcy of Steward Health Care: How Management Decisions Have Impacted Patient Care" (the "Hearing").

As we underscored in our Letter, Dr. de la Torre lacks the authority to speak on behalf of Steward with respect to the ongoing bankruptcy proceedings and he is prohibited by a federal court order from doing so. Despite these valid objections, however, the Committee moved forward with the Hearing without meaningfully considering the issues that Dr. de la Torre raised and without attempting to reschedule the Hearing. What is more, the Committee's disregard for Dr. de la Torre's request to reschedule the Hearing in light of these legal restrictions substantiated our concern that the true purpose of the Hearing was not to gather facts within the Committee's constitutional and congressional remit, but instead a pseudo-criminal proceeding with the goal of convicting Dr. de la Torre in a court of public opinion.

Our concerns that the Hearing would be used to ambush Dr. de la Torre in a pseudo-criminal proceeding were on full display last week, with the Committee soliciting testimony from witnesses calling Dr. de la Torre and Steward executives "health care terrorists" and advocating for Dr. de la Torre's imprisonment, all while the Committee refused to even acknowledge or aid the bankruptcy settlement that would ensure continuity of services in all but two Steward hospitals across the nation.

Dr. de la Torre cannot be permitted to provide sworn testimony at this time, given that the Hearing was seemingly designed as a vehicle to violate Dr. de la Torre's constitutional rights, including his Fifth Amendment rights. The U.S. Constitution affords Dr. de la Torre inalienable rights against being compelled by the government to provide sworn testimony that is specifically (yet baselessly) sought to frame Dr. de la Torre as a criminal scapegoat for the systemic failures in Massachusetts' health care system. Accordingly, on the advice of counsel, Dr. de la Torre invokes his procedural and substantive rights under the Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, including the privilege to refrain from testifying at the Committee's Hearing. See *Quinn v. United States*, 349 U.S. 155, 161 (1955). ("Still further limitations on [Congress's] power to investigate are found in the specific individual guarantees of the Bill of Rights, such as the Fifth Amendment's privilege . . .").

If the Committee had any concern for the hospitals affected by Steward's bankruptcy proceedings it would, consistent with Dr. de la Torre's request to postpone the hearing for a more appropriate time, permit the bankruptcy resolution to move forward and focus its actions on tackling legitimate questions in the best interests of Steward patients, hospitals, and communities.

Sincerely,

ALEXANDER J. MERTON.

SEPTEMBER 25, 2024.

Alexander J. Merton,
Partner, Quinn Emanuel, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. MERTON: We write in response to your letter of September 18, 2024. As explained in our letter of September 5, 2024, your client, Dr. Ralph de la Torre, had a legal duty to attend the hearing of the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions on September 12, 2024, as commanded by the duly authorized Committee testimonial subpoena issued to him on July 25, 2024, for which you accepted service on his behalf and indicated his availability.

As further explained in our September 5, 2024, letter, had Dr. de la Torre appeared to testify, he would have had a full opportunity to assert his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination in response to questions posed to him by members of the Committee that implicated that right. Having elected not to appear, Dr. de la Torre willfully placed himself in default of the Committee's subpoena. Your effort to assert the Fifth Amendment, on your client's behalf, after the fact, and generally rather than in response to specific questions, is untimely and inadequate and does not cure your client's default.

In response to Dr. de la Torre's failure to appear, the Committee convened an executive session on September 19, 2024, and voted to report two resolutions to the Senate for further consideration. The first directs Senate Legal Counsel to bring a civil action to enforce the Committee's subpoena and the second authorizes the President of the Senate to certify a Committee report regarding the refusal of Dr. Ralph de la Torre to appear and testify before the Committee to the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia for criminal prosecution. Both resolutions were agreed to and favorably reported by the Committee.

Sincerely,

BERNARD SANDERS,
CHAIRMAN,
Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor, and Pensions
BILL CASSIDY, M.D.,
RANKING MEMBER,
Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. SANDERS. With that, Madam President, I would be happy to yield to the ranking member of the committee who has done an excellent job on this issue, Senator CASSIDY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, for months the HELP Committee, on a bipartisan basis, has investigated the financial mismanagement of Steward Health Care and the impact on the delivery of care at its hospitals.

Steward's mismanagement has nationwide implications, affecting patient care in more than 30 hospitals across 8 States, including one in my home State, Glenwood Regional Medical Center in West Monroe, LA.

Because of Steward's management decisions resulting in limited resources at Glenwood, the State had to force the hospital to operate at one-third capacity. One patient reportedly died waiting for transfer to another hospital because Glenwood did not have the necessary resources to treat.

According to a report from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, a doctor at Glenwood told a Lou-

isiana State inspector that the hospital was performing "third-world medicine."

Now, the problems at Glenwood are not unique. The HELP Committee heard testimony that because of understaffing at a Steward-owned St. Elizabeth's Medical Center in Boston, patients at the hospital waited in the emergency room for hours and sometimes days.

We have also heard testimony that Steward neglected to pay the vendors for essential hospital services. At St. Elizabeth's, there is a report that when newborn babies died, nurses had to put their bodies into cardboard shipping boxes because Steward did not pay for proper bereavement boxes.

A new mother who experienced a hemorrhage, or a bleed, during childbirth died because a basic piece of medical equipment required to save her life to stop the bleeding had been repossessed because Steward did not pay its bills.

Through the committee's investigation, it became evident that a thorough review of Chief Executive Officer Dr. Ralph de la Torre's management decisions was essential to understand Steward's financial problems and its failure to serve its patients.

To better understand and hopefully prevent this from happening again, we sought testimony from Dr. de la Torre, frankly, giving him the opportunity to present his side. It is possible that there is something that we didn't understand. And if he presented it, that understanding would have given us a different perspective.

Unfortunately, Dr. de la Torre refused to testify voluntarily. As a result, the committee issued a subpoena in July. And up until September 4, his lawyers indicated he intended to comply with the subpoena and to testify. However, 8 days before the scheduled hearing, Dr. de la Torre informed the committee he would not comply with the subpoena.

We responded to Dr. De la Torre explaining why his objections to the committee subpoena had no merit, directing him to comply.

Unfortunately, Dr. De la Torre ultimately defied the subpoena, refusing to appear before the committee.

Now, a witness cannot disregard and evade a duly authorized subpoena. That is why today the Senate will be voting on a resolution to hold Dr. de la Torre in criminal contempt for defying the subpoena.

I think it is unfortunate that we are here. But if someone shows contempt for the American people by defying a subpoena and refusing to provide answers, that is a contemptible thing. Congress has a responsibility to act.

I urge my colleagues to approve this resolution and to hold Dr. de la Torre in contempt.

And with that, I yield to my colleague.

Mr. SANDERS. Senator MARKEY has played a leadership role in the investigation of this whole process. I would like to yield to Senator MARKEY.

MR. MARKEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, very much. Thank you for your great leadership on this issue. Thanks to Senator CASSIDY. We have made this bipartisan from the very beginning in order to ensure that the American public can completely understand what has happened to this Steward Health Care chain, and I thank him for the leadership in holding Dr. Ralph de la Torre accountable for his greed and shining a light on the deadly consequences that result from the involvement of for-profit forces in our healthcare system.

Steward Health Care declared bankruptcy in May. It was a culmination of a financial tragedy. Over the past decade, Steward, led by its founder and CEO, Dr. Ralph de la Torre, and his corporate enablers, looted hospitals across the country for their own profit. And while they got rich, workers, patients, and communities suffered.

Nurses paid out of pocket for cardboard bereavement boxes for the babies to help grieving parents who had just lost a newborn. Hospital beds collapsed underneath patients. Patients died alone in hallways.

The Boston Globe Spotlight team has laid out the details in eye-watering fashion.

Meanwhile, Ralph de la Torre and his corporate cronies got just what they wanted: hundreds of millions of dollars in profit, yachts, private jets, luxury vacations. They used hospitals to fund their own episode of “Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous.” And its star is CEO Dr. Ralph de la Torre.

Today, we are here because Dr. de la Torre has yet to answer for what he has perpetrated. I asked him to appear before my Primary Health and Retirement Subcommittee in April in Boston. He declined. He refused.

Senators SANDERS and CASSIDY invited Dr. de la Torre to testify in July here in Washington. He declined. He refused.

On July 25, the committee issued a legal order for him to appear. He ignored it. He refused.

Dr. de la Torre is using his blood-soaked gains to hide behind corporate lawyers instead of responding to the U.S. Senate’s demand for actions.

But while he tries to run and hide, Dr. de la Torre is revealing himself for what he truly is: a physician who placed personal gain over his duty to do no harm.

The Senate has not made a criminal contempt referral in more than 50 years, since 1971. It is a rare move for the rare degree of callousness, cruelty, and cowardliness that Dr. de la Torre has demonstrated.

In the face of all of the mismanagement, health workers fulfill their sacred responsibility to their patients and to their communities. They cared for young and old, held grieving families’ hands, and responded in people’s greatest moments of fear and vulnerability.

And now workers and communities will spend years cleaning up Ralph de

la Torre’s disaster all in order to ensure that they will be protecting patient care.

The rich don’t need to use communities as a safety net for their wealth, but that is how Dr. de la Torre used these hospitals and communities—including in Massachusetts—and sacrificed community health in the process. They are rightly outraged in those communities, and I am outraged for them.

For them and for everyone who has suffered due to Ralph de la Torre’s greed and Steward’s collapse, I hope the Department of Justice will move swiftly to bring charges against him.

To Dr. de la Torre, you cannot use your millions to shield yourself from accountability to the American people.

I urge the Senate to hold Dr. Ralph de la Torre, CEO of Steward, in criminal contempt.

And I thank, once again, Chairman SANDERS and Ranking Member CASSIDY for their great leadership on this issue.

MR. SANDERS. Senator MARKEY, thank you for your leadership on this.

Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 522, S. Res. 837.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 837) authorizing the President of the Senate to certify the report of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate regarding the refusal of Dr. Ralph de la Torre to appear and testify before the Committee.

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

MR. SANDERS. I know of no further debate on the resolution.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing no further debate, the question is on adoption of the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 837) was agreed to.

MR. SANDERS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the preamble be agreed to and that the motions 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 preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of September 23, 2024, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). The Senator from Maine.

NATIONAL LOBSTER DAY

MS. COLLINS. Madam President, before I begin my remarks on the continuing resolution to fund the government, I do have to take just a moment to note that today is National Lobster Day, and that is extremely important to the State of Maine.

Just last week, I treated the Members of my caucus to a wonderful lob-

ster lunch, complete also with Maine potatoes and Maine wild blueberry pie. That should be an incentive for people to become Republicans, I would think, to get that annual lobster lunch. But it is an iconic industry in my State. If you ask people about the State of Maine, lobster always comes up.

So I do want to acknowledge that Senator KING and I have once again this year noted that September 25 is National Lobster Day, and we appreciate the support of our colleagues.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Now, Madam President, I rise to urge passage of the government funding measure that was approved by the House of Representatives earlier today. The bill, which is known as a continuing resolution, or a CR, is straightforward. Most important of all, it prevents a government shutdown.

Government shutdowns are inherently a failure to govern effectively. They have negative consequences all across government. They require certain essential government employees, such as Border Patrol agents or members of our military or air traffic controllers, to report to work but with no certainty that they will be paid. We simply cannot allow that to occur.

Other harmful impacts have been outlined by the Secretary of Defense and all of the service Secretaries who point out that new defense programs cannot be started when there is a government shutdown—that inevitably increases costs to the taxpayers—and programs that should be terminated or trimmed are continuing to be funded at current levels. So we can’t have—or stopped altogether, as people cannot do their work—so we cannot have a government shutdown.

This continuing resolution is not perfect, but it is an effort to extend current year program levels through December 20, with limited exceptions aimed primarily at preventing program disruptions and preparing for the Presidential transition and inaugural activities.

I would also note that this temporary funding bill includes \$231 million for the Secret Service’s immediate protection operations following the two recent assassination attempts on the life of former President Trump. All of us are aware that there also is a plot by the Iranian Government to assassinate President Trump. So we need to make sure we are providing robust protection.

While the first attempt on President Trump’s life, the Secret Service has conceded, was due to poor communication and other failures, the Secret Service has also asked for this additional funding. It is absolutely essential as they deal with the increased threat environment and ensure that our current President and Vice President and Presidential candidates are all fully protected.

As I mentioned, the Secret Service has acknowledged that the security failure on July 13 was not a result of a

lack of resources. The additional funding in this bill will help to surge support to meet emergent personnel, equipment, and logistical needs. It will also allow for the Department of Defense to be reimbursed for the activities that it provides and will now resume for former President Trump.

The continuing resolution also allows the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, immediate access to more than \$20 billion for its Disaster Relief Fund to sustain disaster assistance during the period covered by this CR.

This funding resolution is the product of bipartisan, bicameral negotiations. It is essential that it be adopted in order to prevent a government shutdown, and I urge its adoption.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I am very pleased that we now have a straightforward, bipartisan compromise to fund the government and avoid a pointless, devastating shutdown. I hope every single one of my colleagues will join us in voting to pass this bill.

Our work does not end here. My hope is that now we can get going in earnest on hammering out bipartisan full-year funding bills, including providing long overdue disaster assistance.

It is time for Democrats and Republicans to negotiate those bills together instead of House Republicans just following the loudest voices on the far right, because it is getting a little exhausting to watch some House Republicans push again and again for the most extreme, partisan cuts and policies—stuff that is not realistic at all—before learning the same lessons the hard way yet again.

You cannot strike a deal to govern with people who do not really want to govern. You can't avoid a shutdown trying to placate the people who want a shutdown. But here is the important thing: You do not have to waste time trying. If you are serious about governing, you do not have to let a few extreme House Republicans set the agenda or let Donald Trump call the shots.

There is a better way, and I know because it is the path that we have been following here in the Senate. Vice Chair COLLINS and I passed 11 funding bills out of our committee with overwhelming bipartisan support. We negotiated strong bills that could actually be signed into law and would make a real difference for folks back at home.

We did it by listening to each other, by listening to folks back home, rejecting partisan policies, and focusing on how we set our Nation and families up for success. That is the same approach I hope we can now take now that this CR gives us the time we need to negotiate bipartisan, bicameral full-year bills.

I know compromise takes time, and it takes a lot of hard work. I have hammered out with my colleague many tough deals here in my time, but I

think we have proven in this Congress, many times over, that the path to bipartisanship is far easier and far more productive than the dead-end MAGA extremism House Republicans keep making their very first priority.

So let's all vote to pass this CR, and then let's get to work, in a serious bipartisan way, on our full-year funding bills and on meeting the long overdue disaster relief needs of so many of our States and our communities.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I do think it is important to point out that the House passed this bill by an overwhelming bipartisan vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I understand the Senate has received H.R. 9747 from the House, and I ask the Chair to execute the order of September 24 with respect to the bill.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will proceed to legislative session.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND EXTENSIONS ACT, 2025

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 9747) making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2025, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, tonight, the American people can sleep easier knowing we have avoided an unnecessary government shutdown at the end of the month. It is a relief for the country that, once again, bipartisanship prevailed to stop another shutdown threat. It took much longer than it should have, but because House Republicans finally, finally chose to work with us in the end, Congress is getting the job done tonight.

Because bipartisanship ultimately prevailed, the government will stay open. Vital government services will not be halted. Appropriators will have more time to fully fund the government before the end of the year. This bipartisanship is a good outcome for America, and I hope it sets the tone for more constructive bipartisan work when we return later in the fall.

Thanks to Speaker Johnson for working with me on the agreement, and thanks to Leader McCONNELL and Leader JEFFRIES for helping make it happen—and a special thanks to our appropriators, particularly Chair MURRAY and Vice Chair COLLINS, for setting an excellent example of bipartisanship.

I urge everyone to vote yes, and I urge us to vote now.

I yield back all time.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce the Senator from Delaware (MR. COONS) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (MR. COTTON), the Senator from Florida (MR. SCOTT), and the Senator from Ohio (MR. VANCE).

The result was announced—yeas 78, nays 18, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 255 Leg.]

YEAS—78

Baldwin	Grassley	Peters
Barrasso	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Romney
Blumenthal	Helmy	Rosen
Booker	Hickenlooper	Rounds
Boozman	Hirono	Rubio
Brown	Hoover	Sanders
Butler	Hyde-Smith	Schatz
Cantwell	Kaine	Schumer
Capito	Kelly	Shaheen
Cardin	Kennedy	Sinema
Carper	King	Smith
Casey	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Cassidy	Lankford	Sullivan
Collins	Luján	Tester
Cornyn	Lummis	Thune
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Tillis
Cramer	Markey	Van Hollen
Cruz	McConnell	Warner
Daines	Merkley	Warnock
Duckworth	Moran	Warren
Durbin	Murkowski	Welch
Ernst	Murphy	Whitehouse
Fetterman	Murray	Wicker
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Wyden
Graham	Padilla	Young

NAYS—18

Blackburn	Hagerty	Paul
Braun	Hawley	Ricketts
Britt	Johnson	Risch
Budd	Lee	Schmitt
Crapo	Marshall	Scott (SC)
Fischer	Mullin	Tuberville

NOT VOTING—4

Coons	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Vance

The PRESIDING OFFICER (MR. OSSOFF). On this vote, the yeas are 78, the nays are 18.

Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this bill, the bill is passed.

The bill (H.R. 9747) was passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume executive session and resume consideration of the Perry nomination.

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

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of April M. Perry, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

TRIBUTE TO CINDY HERRLE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, for 2 weeks now, I have come to the floor to continue thanking my staff in the Republican leader office publicly for their outstanding and ongoing work.

Over the years, I have been very fortunate to have so many tremendously talented individuals helping me tend to the duties of the leader. But just as I am grateful that so many have decided to join our team, I am even more gratified by how few have decided to leave.

Since I became leader, my office here in the Capitol has been steered by just two chiefs of staff. We have had just two communication directors, two national security advisers, three legal counsels—just to name a few examples. It has been a bit like managing a baseball team with a franchise player in every single position—every one of them marked by loyalty, professionalism, and genuine expertise.

So, today, I would like to single out members of this all-star team of policy advisers. I will begin with my senior adviser on appropriations, Cindy Herrle.

My entire team misses Cindy around the office, but the wealth of institutional expertise she lent to our efforts more than earned her the right to close out a distinguished chapter on Capitol Hill. She retired earlier this year.

Cindy joined my team with about the most impressive résumé in senior congressional leadership you could possibly have: House committee work, two Speakers of the House, and a Senate whip. Suffice it to say: She knows her stuff.

Cindy's experience gave her a sixth sense of spotting issues along the way or anticipating pitfalls and helping us all avoid them.

She knows the arcane mechanics of budgets and appropriations. She knows the people who write them, edit them, and pass them. And her understanding of both Chambers gives her and anyone fortunate to have her in their corner a macro view of the process of funding the government.

I know my team was especially grateful for Cindy's skills as a "House whisperer," so to speak. She was our forecaster for legislative prospects across the Capitol, a trusted liaison with the lower Chamber, whenever it came time to get important bicameral efforts across the finish line.

And even in the most stressful moments, Cindy knew how to cut the tension, donning her trusty "good luck" sunglasses or inviting colleagues to enjoy her annual Dolly Parton Advent calendar.

Cindy can look back with pride both for delivering excellence in difficult circumstances and for making so many friends all along the way.

But I am confident that Cindy's deepest relationship on the Hill was the parallel service of her brother Patrick, who is in the Capitol Police.

I am grateful to each of them for their decades of devoted service. Thank you, Cindy.

TRIBUTE TO JIM NEILL

Mr. President, I have found humor in what my good friend Lamar Alexander used to say about the job of being leader of the Senate. He said:

It is a little bit like being a groundskeeper at a cemetery. Everyone is under you, but no one is listening.

Truth is, in a place like the Senate, we can only be effective by rowing in the same direction with folks who share our principles. And for 7 years, the senior adviser helping me build and maintain conservative coalitions has been the youngest son of a big Irish-Catholic family from Detroit.

Jim Neill's roots taught him what is worth standing for and how to get a noisy room to listen to him. In meetings of my staff, all Jim has to do to get our attention is simply stand up.

But his engagements further afield draw on Jim's other strengths: authenticity, candor, a political weather vane with a dead read on gathering changes, and a principled compass that points true north.

I can't begin to tell you how many times important Senate accomplishments have nearly died on the launch pad but for Jim's deft and diplomatic touch.

Like many of our fellow travelers, Jim credits President Reagan with an outsized role in forming both his interest in politics and his conservative principles.

But I suspect that fewer conservatives of Jim's generation would use the next breath to credit legendary Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richards with forming his style and good taste.

Around the office, my team's resident rock and roll historian doles out wicked humor and curmudgeonly quips in equal measure. But Jim's colleagues know him most of all as a trusted friend, a big brother, whose advice and perspective ring true.

Of course, credit for Jim's ability to wrestle thorny issues on a daily basis goes to his wife Erin, who keeps him grounded, and to his kids Maggie and Patrick, who I know make him extraordinarily proud. So thank you, Jim, so much.

TRIBUTE TO STEPHANIE PARKS

Mr. President, now the space Jim shares with several colleagues is among the liveliest in my office, and that is due in no small part to my senior advisor on healthcare policy, Stephanie Parks. We just call her "Sparks."

Sparks is responsible for a portfolio that few people in Washington fully understand but which none of us can afford to get wrong. It is a lot like playing left tackle, and I always want the best covering my back.

As it turns out, identifying the best wasn't that difficult. In the world of healthcare policy, Sparks's reputation is unmatched. She is among the most highly regarded policy professionals in Washington.

She can sew up a tough deal like no other. And when the job requires dashing hopes or breaking china, she is somehow able to do that with a smile and with her universal admiration still intact.

Needless to say, everyone in Washington would be eager to bring Sparks's talent on board. Fortunately for me, I wasn't the only one who was eager to make sure she landed here. In fact, no less a former boss than Speaker of the House Ryan made frequent calls to my office to make sure we hired her.

Well, the Speaker was right, and I have been so grateful for Sparks's knack for making sense of complex policy developments, keeping me apprised of the ever-shifting tides of important debates.

I know the rest of my team, for their part, are grateful for the office's foremost authority on developments in true crime, Formula 1 racing, and Notre Dame football.

And I know that Sparks's professional excellence makes her beloved family, especially her mom Barbara and her many friends, rightly proud.

But since my Louisville Cardinals are headed to South Bend this weekend, I have to close my otherwise unqualified praise with just two words: "Go Cards!"

Sparks, thank you for everything.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE DONALDSON

Mr. President, now, as one of so many lawyers in the Senate, I have always been quick to admit to colleagues I wouldn't go to me for a simple will. But I have been fortunate to have counsel on my team who can handle that and a whole lot more.

The first such person I need to thank might very well be a victim of fate. My senior advisor and counsel Steve Donaldson is a proud native Kentuckian, a sharp lawyer, and one of the few experts out there on the intricacies of campaign finance.

Frankly, it is nearly impossible to imagine a situation in which Steve didn't wind up working for me someday. I needed somebody who could keep up on this niche issue that I have been immersed in through my entire time in the Senate. In that regard, Steve was an obvious choice.

But over the years, I have come to rely on Steve as so much more than a trusted sounding board on our shared interest in the First Amendment. He is also our resident whiz on the nuances of employment law. It is an important issue to begin with, but it took on massive new importance with the onset of the pandemic a few years ago.

Steve became my team's trusted navigator through the serious public health concerns and rapidly evolving official guidance. At the most consequential time in the unemployment

policy since the Great Depression, Steve was instrumental in shaping the CARES Act, asking questions that others had not considered, and foreseeing challenges in time to tweak our legislative response.

On top of it all, he has carried the unenviable but essential responsibility of ensuring my entire office upholds the highest standards of professional ethics. The team looks forward with pained amusement to his annual impression of the Grinch who stole Christmas and with sincere appreciation for his patient counsel that keeps us all in the clear.

Steve is the consummate professional at everything—that is, except golf. Perhaps I can accept the blame for keeping him too busy at the office to play more often.

Steve's pride in Kentucky roots is, more than anything, a pride in his family. I know he makes his mother Kathy, his sister Annie, and his niece and nephew very, very proud. So, Steve, thank you so much.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE FRAGOSO

Mr. President, next is my chief counsel Mike Fragoso. Like so many of the well-qualified jurists he has helped to put on the Federal courts over the years, Mike—or “Frags” is what we call him—came with an Ivy League pedigree and an impressive resume of legal brilliance.

But unlike his peers in black robes, he also carries a reputation as my office sartorial master.

Frags is another member of my staff with a challenging multifaceted mandate. From the judicial confirmation process to matters of criminal justice and border security, I call on Frags to wear many hats. And when the circumstances permit, he pairs them with three-piece suits.

Seriously, it is a job that draws on every bit of Frags's experience traveling the width of Republican politics from Jeff Flake to CHUCK GRASSLEY and plumbing the depth of conservative jurisprudence.

Frags is equally at home in the high-minded philosophical discourse of the legal community and the urgent pragmatism of Congressional dealmaking.

He is so exceptionally competent that he often produces from his desk the work that would normally require, literally, teams of outside counsel.

Frags stands on deeply held principles but maintains a firm grasp on the realm of the possible. He is willing to exhaust creative effort and sacrifice holidays to make headway against even the most intractable problems. He knows which screws to twist to hold misbehavior and miscarriage of justice to account.

Fighting the good fight can be draining, especially when the good guys come up emptyhanded. But much to his colleague's delight, Frags never misses an opportunity to elicit much-needed laughs and self-effacing humor with gag gifts he seemingly produces from thin air.

I am certain he showers his wife Ashley and their daughters Maria, Aurelia, and Helena with similar joy and even greater pride than he has for his noble work.

Frags, Frags, thanks for everything.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT KAREM

Mr. President, there is a certain irony in the fact that many years ago my team found a kid who would end up as my fiercest adviser in the cause of restoring American hard power working in the world of American soft power.

In those earliest days, my fellow Kentuckian Robert Karem frequently found himself driving me around town doing important events.

These day, however, as my national security adviser, I frequently send Robert to the ends of the Earth and to the seats of foreign governments as a trusted representative of the entire Senate.

Of course, there was a period in between when I had to exercise some strategic patience, and I am not referring to the moments when classified meetings make Robert difficult to reach. I mean that his talents couldn't be contained.

And over the years, they have landed him in the service of a veritable who is who of Republican foreign policy luminaries. I am certain that each of them found, as I did, a deep intellect and appetite for knowledge, a relentless focus on worthy causes, and a passion for advancing them that simmered just beneath the surface.

Certainly, this last bit represents a compromise between Robert's experiences in the boiling cauldron of the House and his appreciation for the cooling saucer of the Senate.

When Robert returned to my office 6 years ago, I handed him a portfolio full of tough problems with no easy solution. It demands that he juggle the urgent and the important; the big picture and the smallest detail; the security of the Senate in moments of unprecedented crisis; and the enduring credibility of America's commitments in the world.

Robert knows how to advance the ball in international settings with cosmopolitan tact, meet naivete and incompetence around Washington with righteous ire, and defuse office monotony with strikes of high yield, precision-guided humor.

I am grateful for all of it and for the loyalty and dedication that should make his family, his Commonwealth, and his Nation very, very proud. Thank you, Robert.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN CHAPUIS

Mr. President, now, folks all around the Senate appreciate this body's cooling saucer of a reputation, but no one embodies it like my senior adviser on commerce and tax policy, John Chapuis.

To be sure, “Chappy” cut his teeth with our former colleague Tom Coburn, who prided himself on playing an active and assertive role out here on the

floor. And his work in the Whip's office under Senator CORNYN dropped him straight into the middle of vote-counting chaos.

But that pedigree did nothing if not make Chappy a master of Senate rules and procedure; and with that mastery comes a calm, collected assurance, the composure of a recovering collegiate athlete, the competence of a Senate expert at the top of his game.

Chappy's path through the Senate has earned him a well-deserved reputation as a Swiss Army knife. He can cite Senate rule, chapter and verse, with the most seasoned cloakroom staff. He can carry the day on consequential nominations with deep-dive background research. And, of course, most recently, he can keep me sharp, parsing tariff disputes and employment reports with equal ease.

In the proudest tradition of an institution where Senators once relied on much smaller staffs, Chappy is the utility player every team wishes it had.

Of course, the team that can claim Chappy's proudest allegiance is the one he has built with his wife Suzanne, herself a distinguished member of the Senate family in the Chaplain's office. As I understand it, the wonderful story that now includes two young sons, Sullivan and Fielding, began with a proposal at the top of the Capitol dome. I am just grateful the Republican leader's office gets to be a part of it.

Chappy, thank you so much.

TRIBUTE TO ERICA SUARES

Mr. President, I can't help but wonder how many of the industries and constituencies seeking the ear of my office on any given day know that my senior adviser responsible for business coalitions is also a watercolor painter whose work adorns the invitations my colleagues receive to our annual Kentucky Derby lunch or whether Erica Suares's former colleagues at Coastal Living magazine have followed along as her reputation as consummate adviser has reached every corner of the uppermost echelons of Republican politics—Jim DeMint, to MITT ROMNEY, to me.

Erica's innate talents for diplomacy and coordination are undeniable. For more than a decade, I have trusted Erica to relay important guidance around the Republican conference and build consensus across business and advocacy groups. She is charismatic, perceptive, and highly intelligent. In the heat of battle, she has been known to forgo sleep for days.

But the depth of Erica's commitment and the breadth of her professional accomplishments are a testament to something else—a genuine, friendly warmth that is downright difficult to sustain in a town like Washington.

As much as she excels at tending relationships with stakeholders across the Senate and private sector, Erica tends relationships with her colleagues with the utmost care. She takes it upon herself to welcome new arrivals, to celebrate birthdays with requisite

cookie cakes, and to fulfill other duties that come along with being indisputably the heart and soul of the office.

I know my entire team is grateful to occupy a small part of Erica's heart. The rest rightly belongs to her family—her mother Suri and her late father Roger—whom she continues to make so very, very proud.

Erica, thank you.

TRIBUTE TO TERRY VAN DOREN

Mr. President, Terry Van Doren has told me before about the awe he felt as a farm kid from downstate Illinois visiting the Harry Truman Presidential Library and seeing a replica of a bust that stands in the hall outside this Chamber here in the Capitol. The thought of seeing the real thing, let alone passing it by every day at work, was a thrill.

What says the most about Terry—or, as we call him, TVD—is that after 12 years on my team, I am certain he still feels the thrill of service here in the Capitol. That is not to say the Senate hasn't tried mightily to grind it out of him.

For more than a decade, Terry has juggled a uniquely challenging portfolio that encompasses agriculture, transportation, energy, and a laundry list of niche constituencies in between.

With massive implications for Federal spending and issues that matter deeply to Kentucky, Terry inevitably finds himself in the thick of every vote-arama, every government funding fight, and every last-dash legislative effort right before the holidays. With a steady hand, deep expertise, and unwavering loyalty to me and the folks I represent, Terry has been an extraordinarily effective workhorse—even if, in one instance, it meant becoming an expert on racehorses.

From spearheading the CRA process in defense against harmful overregulation to shepherding massive, bipartisan accomplishments on infrastructure and agriculture, he has exercised his talents with a mild manner, with self-efacing humility, and with undaunted optimism that this might be the year that the Senate's schedule doesn't spoil his hunting season travel plans.

So I am grateful to Terry's family—his wife Lisa and their kids Amelia and Bobby—for letting us lean on him literally at all hours.

Thanks again, Terry.

TRIBUTE TO JODY WRIGHT

Mr. President, now, if personnel is policy, I have been fortunate to have outstanding personnel on my team, but if you want to make a lasting impact, you need good personnel in every corner of the government. To do that, you need somebody like my nominations counsel, Jody Wright.

For starters, Jody has the institutional credentials of a Senate thoroughbred. From the whip's office under Don Nickles to the Republican Cloakroom, Jody knows as well as anyone just what it takes to make this place tick. She is well-versed in the Senate's

written rules and, just as importantly, in the unwritten ones. Trust me, when you are trying to clear last-minute logjams on the floor, it helps to have someone who speaks these languages fluently.

Of course, nominations don't start here in the Senate. Jody's work necessarily involves a hefty dose of executive branch procedure. To further complicate matters, the nature of the job changes significantly depending on which party is in the White House. These days, Jody has excelled at identifying and claiming rare opportunities for Republican appointees to influence policy in meaningful ways.

Jody's work is a delicate balancing act on the best of days, but it also requires the sort of people skills and undaunted optimism that this proud Texan has in spades. Her sunny disposition isn't reserved for meetings with candidates from public office; it is doled out around my office and the entire Senate, wherever and whenever it is needed most. And it speaks to the pride I know Jody feels to work right here in the Capitol. That is second only to Jody's pride in her family—in her husband Glenn's own service in the Navy and in the joys of raising their daughter Grace, whom I know Jody's colleagues have enjoyed watching grow up.

So, Jody, thank you so much.

Mr. President, if you can believe it, the work of thanking the incredible staff of my Republican leader office is still unfinished. I will still need to brag on a few more outstanding leaders who have made so much of our success possible, and I look forward to doing that sometime soon.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HAS-SAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUESTS

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, let me tell you two brief stories.

A high schooler takes from the internet a picture of a female classmate, then uses artificial intelligence to “nudify” that young girl, and shares this deepfake sexually explicit image with the rest of the school on social media. The classmate—mortified and humiliated—doesn't want to show her face at school. She is afraid. She spends a week begging her parents not to force her to go back. Her parents, futilely, report the images to the social media company, but they never hear even a word back. Meanwhile, everyone at the school knows who distributed this sexually explicit image of this 14-year-old girl, but he faces no consequences.

Here is the second story: A teenage boy begins a relationship online with a young girl. He is smitten, and they de-

cide to swap explicit photos with each other, but it turns out the teenage girl is a scammer, and he has just fallen prey to sextortion. The scammer repeatedly messages the young man, demanding payment or the explicit photos will be sent to his friends via a social media network. The young man—embarrassed, mortified, thinking there is no way out—dies by suicide. His name was Gavin Guffey.

His father is here today advocating to hold Big Tech accountable. On my lapel, I am wearing the heart emoji that Gavin texted his family moments before he took his own life.

Where do these stories take place—in Texas? New Jersey? South Carolina? Washington? California? Illinois? Florida? Sadly, the answer is all of them.

American high schools are experiencing an explosion of AI-generated sexual images, and in many cases, there is no consequence and no recourse for the teenage girls or boys like Gavin. There have been thousands and thousands of cases of sleazebags using nonconsensual, intimate images to extort victims both sexually and financially.

In fact, the FBI just issued a warning this year about the growing threat of sextortion for minors online. There are dozens of families across the country whose children have taken their own lives because of their fear of these images being released. There are hundreds of high schoolers targeted, often by their own classmates, who are experiencing incredible psychological harms in knowing that these images exist and are still out there.

And your child's images aren't just targeted while they are in middle school or in high school. In New York, a young man right out of high school took images of his former classmates from their social media profiles and used AI to alter the images in a sexually explicit manner. He then posted them for the world to see, along with their personal identifying information, encouraging violence and harassment against those he was victimizing. He was convicted only of a misdemeanor, and he faced zero charges for the deepfake explicit images. I would venture to guess some of the victims tried and failed to get these fake images removed by the tech company.

I have spoken to these victims and their parents, including two 14-year-old girls who were victims in the same month, with the same story, on opposite sides of the country. These girls were scared; they were hopeless; but they also wanted justice and relief from these images so they took action.

Elliston Berry of Texas and Francesca Mani of New Jersey bravely spoke up about their experiences and how the TAKE IT DOWN Act—my bipartisan legislation with Democrat Senator AMY KLOBUCHAR—would have protected them and afforded them justice for these horrific acts. Both Elliston and Francesca testified at a field hearing for the Senate Commerce

Committee, bravely sharing their stories.

There are 29 States that have not criminalized deepfake revenge porn. Thus, law enforcement in those States cannot prosecute the slimeballs who peddle this lifelike, yet fake, smut. That is justice denied for these teenagers and other victims.

The TAKE IT DOWN Act empowers victims across the entire United States. It makes it a felony for these creeps to use AI to create and publish fake, lifelike pornographic images of real people.

Just as importantly, our bipartisan bill requires Big Tech to have a notice and takedown process so that every American—not just the Taylor Swifts of this country who are famous enough that they can get the images taken down but every American and every teenager in junior high and high school who is victimized—like Elliston and Francesca and Gavin—can get these disturbing images taken offline immediately. I don't want to see another family suffer such a fate, which is why I am on the floor today, trying to pass the TAKE IT DOWN Act.

This bill is overwhelmingly bipartisan. There are nearly 20 Republican and Democrat cosponsors of this bill. Over 80 organizations, including victims' advocates, including unions, including law enforcement are backing this bipartisan legislation. The TAKE IT DOWN Act passed the Senate Commerce Committee unanimously. Every Republican, every Democrat on the committee voted for this legislation. The House companion, likewise, has strong bipartisan support.

The Senate acted on parts of this issue earlier this year in having passed two complementary pieces of legislation 11 weeks ago. However, neither of these other bills empowers victims to get their explicit images—real or fake—removed from websites. In a moment, unfortunately, you will be hearing an objection from my colleague, the Senator from New Jersey, who previously supported both of these complementary bills.

One of these bills is the SHIELD Act, authored by Senator KLOBUCHAR—the coauthor of my TAKE IT DOWN Act as well. The SHIELD Act was significantly modified at the request of my colleague from New Jersey before he would allow that to pass. The TAKE IT DOWN Act deliberately adopted the exact same language that the Senator from New Jersey requested in the SHIELD Act—everything he requested—from the same sentencing provisions to the same intent provisions, to the same exceptions to the bill. Now it appears the Senator from New Jersey no longer supports the language he voted for and the language he negotiated and helped draft.

It cannot be that the Senator from New Jersey is concerned about free speech matters, because he has already agreed to pass two bills that deal with this very same issue and using the

same language. I certainly hope that the Senator from New Jersey doesn't actually believe that realistic child pornography, as we have described here today, is somehow protected speech under any of our legal precedents. It is not.

The only difference between the two bills that, perhaps, the Senator from New Jersey can possibly point to is that the TAKE IT DOWN Act criminalizes the publication of deepfake revenge porn—an issue this body has not yet addressed—and that the TAKE IT DOWN Act requires big tech companies to remove these heinous images upon notice from the victims in order to protect the victims. Neither of these positive changes are good reasons to hold up the bill, but they are essential to bringing justice to our constituents from Francesca to Elliston.

So, if the Senator from New Jersey objects, teenage girls like Francesca Mani of New Jersey, like Elliston Berry of Texas, or teenage boys like Gavin Guffey will have no protection from sextortion or from having fake sexual abuse materials—images and videos, literal child pornography—being publicly shared by predators and sex offenders. If he objects, the next Francesca, the next Elliston, the next Gavin won't be able to force Snapchat or Instagram or TikTok to step up and take down this abusive content.

For the folks at home, I want you to listen very carefully. Sometimes Senate procedure can be confusing. I want you to listen for two words from the Senator from New Jersey: "I object." Let me tell you how this works. If he doesn't say those two words, this legislation will, right now, this evening, pass the U.S. Senate 100 to nothing.

And understand, this legislation—99 Senators have already indicated they have no objections to this legislation. All the Senator from New Jersey has to do is not say those two words, "I object," and this law is passing the Senate unanimously. On the other hand, if you hear those two words, "I object," the result is going to be that this legislation is defeated on the floor of the Senate.

On behalf of Elliston Berry, on behalf of Francesca Mani, on behalf of the memory of Gavin Guffey and his family who still grieves his loss, on behalf of the countless teenagers and others who have been victimized by real and by deepfake explicit images, on behalf of the thousands more teenagers and women who are likely to be victims of this abuse in the future, I urge my colleagues to come together with a simple, bipartisan, commonsense step and pass the TAKE IT DOWN Act.

Therefore, Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be discharged from further consideration of S. 4569 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; further, that the Cruz-Klobuchar substitute amendment at the desk be 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. BOOKER. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. I have to tell you, I am saddened that the Senator from New Jersey chose to give no explanation for his objection; chose to give no reason to Francesca, why she is being denied; no reason to Elliston; no reason to Gavin.

He had an opportunity to explain his objections. Do you know what he said? Nothing.

Nearly 2 weeks ago was when I circulated this amendment to both sides of the aisle, and it cleared 99 Senators. He had a week and a half to object. Yesterday, this legislation was about to pass, and an hour before it was going to pass, the Senator from New Jersey raised his objection. He said last night: TED, I haven't had time to read the bill.

It had been circulated to his office 2 weeks earlier, but he said he hadn't had time to read the bill.

I said: Great. I will delay this for a day so you can read the bill. The language in the bill is word for word verbatim the language you agreed to, you have voted for, and you negotiated.

He said he had numerous substantive objections. If he does, we heard none of them, not a word of it.

It makes me sad that he doesn't feel his constituents deserve any explanation for blocking legislation as important as this.

Madam President, it is not lost on anyone that this is an election year. And I will say, absent a single substantive objection, the obvious inference is that this objection is being made because we have got an election in less than 6 weeks.

I consider the Senator from New Jersey a friend. I sure hope he is not standing up here denying victims of this abuse relief simply to score partisan political points. I would like to think he wouldn't do such a thing.

But in order for me to believe he wouldn't do such a thing, he needs to actually explain some reason for his objection, which at least, so far, he has not bothered to do.

I will tell you, we had an agreement negotiated with the majority leader to pass an entire package of bills—Republican bills and Democrat bills—that have passed the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. All of that package was going to pass yesterday until, at the last minute, the Senator from New Jersey came with his midnight objection and no reasoning whatsoever.

So I am now going to give this body the opportunity to pass the package that had been negotiated in a bipartisan manner, that had been agreed to,

and we are going to find out if the Senator from New Jersey will not only object to providing relief to the victims of this abuse but will object to multiple other bills that are bipartisan bills supported by Members of this body, because he wants to play partisan politics instead. I hope he does not.

Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the following bills en bloc: S. 4569, the TAKE IT DOWN Act, Cruz-Klobuchar; Calendar No. 473, S. 275, the Rural Broadband Protection Act of 2024, Capito-Klobuchar; Calendar No. 474, S. 1570, the Bottles and Breastfeeding Equipment Screening Enhancement Act, Duckworth and Daines; Calendar No. 285, S. 1153, the National Manufacturing Advisory Council for the 21st Century Act, Peters and Rubio; Calendar No. 480, S. 3475, Strengthening the Commercial Driver's License Information System Act, Peters and Young; Calendar No. 479, S. 3277, the Marine Debris reauthorization, Sullivan and Whitehouse; Calendar No. 513, S. 4212, the American Music Tourism Act of 2024, Blackburn and Hickenlooper; and Calendar No. 485, S. 4107, the Think Differently Transportation Act, Duckworth and Capito; further, that S. 4569 be discharged from the Committee on Commerce; that the committee-reported amendments, where applicable, be agreed to; that the Cruz-Klobuchar amendment to S. 4569, which is at the desk, be considered and agreed to; that the bills, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed en bloc; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. BOOKER. I object.

Madam President, the sharing of non-consensual intimate images online is harmful and unacceptable. It is a serious problem that is affecting too many Americans. Many times, it is impacting our young people, and we need to do more to ensure that digital platforms are not used to harass and harm.

We need ethical guardrails for emerging technologies including generative AI. This means laws that protect people from harassment and hold wrongdoers accountable, but do not have unintended criminal consequences.

I had hoped the junior Senator from Texas would work with me rather than using Senate procedure to create the false appearance of partisanship. He used personal attacks and half truths to politicize the serious issue of online sexual harassment. I have and will continue to work with my colleagues to combat the issue of online sexual harassment. I look forward to finding solutions to address the proliferation of nonconsensual intimate images online.

Online sexual harassment and so many other issues that impact Ameri-

cans, from public safety to reproductive care to failing power grids, are urgent and it is our duty to address them. However, taking to the Senate floor with veiled threats is not how we should operate in this deliberative body. We are here to work together and to find solutions together.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

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

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

BLOOMBERG FOUNDATION

Mr. KENNEDY. Three quick points, Madam President: No. 1, I rise, first, to thank the Bloomberg Foundation. I had made notes from which I was going to speak, but I lost them. So I am going to kind of wing it here.

Over the past couple of years, the Bloomberg Foundation has spent millions of dollars—I want to say the figure is \$30 to \$40 million—to try to help really smart kids from low-income families access some of our finest colleges in the country. And America does have the best system of higher education in the world, by the way. We have the best quality colleges.

What the Bloomberg Foundation was focusing on was that these were just really smart kids from low-income families who had great grades and great standardized test scores and great extracurricular activities, but many of them just didn't know about the opportunities that were out there in the world for them. The Bloomberg Foundation wasn't concentrating on race or gender or sexuality or a part of the country or any of those things. They were just looking to try to help really smart young women and young men in high school with great grades and great standardized test scores access some of the finest universities in the country. And they spent 40 million bucks doing it, working with some other groups.

Well, it didn't work out like they thought. They just didn't have as much success as they wanted to. But they learned from the experience.

What they learned was, in order to reach these young people, you can't just text them. You can't just call them. You can't send them an email—in part, because today, when all of us receive emails and text messages from people who we don't know, we automatically assume it is some kind of scam. So that is what Bloomberg and its contractors found—that people, including our young people, they are just very suspicious, and so they weren't able to reach that many kids. And those that they didn't reach—and by the way, the folks from Bloomberg contacting them would never meet the

kids. They wanted to reach as many kids as they could, so they were doing it digitally. They just found out it wasn't that effective. But they also learned that the way to reach these kids is to see them in person and, in part, go through the kids' high schools' guidance counselors and placement offices.

So I am hoping that Bloomberg is going to start again. I am not saying that Bloomberg had no success. They had success, but it just wasn't as much success as we all wanted. But, by God, they tried, and they deserve thanks.

This wasn't any taxpayer money; it was the money of the Bloomberg foundation. They tried, and they learned a lot from it, and I wanted to thank them for trying. I hope they won't give up, and I hope they will use what they learned to try to reach these young people again.

TRIBUTE TO KATHERINE FOSTER

Madam President, No. 2, I want to repeat very briefly what I said last week. Katherine Foster is a member of our Cloakroom staff. Katherine is not here. She is in the back doing her job. Today is her last day, and I wanted to thank her again for her service. As I said last time, she has taken a very prestigious job in the private sector, and I wish her well, and I hope she makes bucket loads of money.

To those who don't know, we have—by "we," I mean the Republicans and the Democrats—what we call Cloakroom staff. These are people who work with us to make this place work. On any given day, the Democratic Cloakroom staff and the Republican Cloakroom staff are the nicest and the smartest people in this building, and they just do an incredible job. They work hard, and they have to be here at all kinds of ungodly hours, and they have to put up with back-sass from U.S. Senators. It is a very hard job. And that is true on both the Democratic side and the Republican side.

But, anyway, Katherine is one of that group, and she is leaving. We are sorry she is leaving, but we are happy that she is leaving because she is going to make more money than the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. So we wish her well.

But I also wanted to use this opportunity to thank our entire teams on both the Democratic and the Republican side for their incredible work.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 8292

Madam President, No. 3, the House passed a bill dealing with the sanctity of taxpayer records.

In another life, I worked in State government. I worked for like, I don't know, 16 or 17 years—I don't remember because it went by in a flash—as State treasurer, which was an elected position. But before that, I was in an appointed position, a position appointed by the Governor. It was a political position called the secretary of the Department of Revenue, and that was a fancy title for "tax collector." I was the State's tax collector for, I don't

know, 3½ years, until I left the position to go run for State treasurer.

One of the things I learned was the sanctity of people's income taxes. I mean, I am sure there are some documents that are more private—maybe our medical records—but they are not that much more private to us and precious to us than our tax records.

At the Louisiana Department of Revenue, which is where I worked, we had a hard-and-fast rule, and every employee knew it, and they respected it, by God. If you leaked somebody's tax returns, we would chase you like you stole Thanksgiving, and we would punish you. And we would not only fire you, but we would prosecute you if we had to. So, consequently, we had almost no leaks—none.

I wish I could say that for the IRS. Through the years, they have had a bunch of leaks. I don't want to overstate it, but they have. Not that long ago, back in 2019, they had a leak, and it actually came from a vendor that was working for the IRS.

By the way, the sanctity of those tax returns and whatnot and the importance to protect them also applies to contractors for the tax Agency.

But, anyway, one of the vendors for the Internal Revenue Service leaked 8,000 tax returns—8,000. Not 80, not 800—8,000 tax returns. And they gave these tax returns to a media organization. The person who leaked it—he didn't do it because he was trying to show tax fraud; he did it to try to embarrass the people. A lot of them were really wealthy, and he wanted to embarrass them just out of the meanness in his heart.

Some very famous people—I think Mr. Jeff Bezos was on the list. President Trump was on the list. But if you looked at this list, this list was as long as King Kong's arm. You could stack this list here and paint that ceiling—8,000. And it embarrassed a lot of people. It would have embarrassed you if your name was all over the Internet with your personal information and your home address and your signature. It was just wrong.

It took years for the IRS to track this down. We kept pushing them and raising fresh hell and saying: This is not right.

Well, I don't think they did it on their own; I think they got outside help. They finally caught this person. Do you know what his penalty was? He got 5 years, and they fined him \$5,000. I just don't think that is enough of a deterrent—I don't—when you add up all the misery that this one meathead caused to 8,000 people, none of whom were cheating on their taxes. He was just trying to embarrass them, and that is just wrong.

So the House passed a bill the other day that basically says the penalty is going to be increased. It is no longer going to be a minimum of 5; it is going to be 10 years. But also, instead of a \$5,000 fine, the maximum fine is going to be \$250,000.

And here is the thing. You can't—let me put it another way. Every document—every tax return that you release is a different count. In other words, this meathead that released 8,000, under the new law, that would be 8,000 counts against him. And that is the way it ought to be. It shouldn't be: Let's just lump them all together in one, and that is one count, and he pays 5,000 bucks, and he gets 5 years but he is probably out in 2. That is just not right, folks.

And what you allow is what will continue. And I don't hate anybody. I don't hate anybody. I don't know this meathead who did this, and in my heart, I don't hate him, but what he did was wrong. He just tried to embarrass and did embarrass 8,000 Americans who weren't doing anything wrong. They were paying their taxes, for God's sake. It is just wrong. It makes me want to throw up. It triggers my gag reflex.

So I hope we can pass the House bill. Like I say, I hadn't changed a word in the House bill. It is identical to what just passed the House. And I think—if I am wrong on this, Madam President, I will come back and correct the record—I think it passed the House unanimously.

Did it pass the House unanimously? Do we know, Josh? There were a couple of votes against.

This is Josh, who I work with. Smart as a whip.

It wasn't unanimous. I stand corrected. Josh, my brain, corrected me. But it was almost unanimous. And I would sure like to see this body do the same thing, and I just don't see this as a partisan issue.

Now, the reason I am talking so long is I think that my good friend Senator RON WYDEN wants to object to this. Now, I hope he doesn't. I don't know if I can say this, but I am going to say it anyway. I will buy him a pony if he doesn't object to this bill—a pony of his choice. That is not a bribe. I like RON WYDEN so much, I would buy him a pony of his choice anyway. But if he won't object to this bill, I will buy him a pony, OK, because this is a good, good piece of legislation.

I don't want to do this behind his back. So I don't see RON here, but what I am going to do, Madam President—I am not trying to tell you how to do your job. You can do whatever you want. But I am going to make this motion, and I would ask if you would consider holding it until Senator WYDEN has a chance to get here because I don't want to do this behind his back.

I see the Parliamentarian is unhappy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana is recognizing that fact, yes.

Mr. KENNEDY. I will buy her a pony too.

Let me go to plan B. What I will do is, I want to hit "pause" because I don't want to do this behind RON's back. Let me hit "pause," and I will ask that we go into a quorum call.

When RON gets here, I will ask to be recognized so I can assert my motion, and RON can agree with my splendid bill, and then we will go pick out a pony.

So I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the Senator will be recognized.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, my friend Senator WYDEN is here, so I would like to proceed. I am sorry he missed my speech. It would have given him goosebumps if he had been here to listen to it. But maybe you all can tell him about it, and I hope he will find it convincing.

In the meantime, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 8292, which is the bill I talked about passed by the House almost unanimously, which was received from the House.

They couldn't hear me? Let me start over. All right.

Madam President, I am sorry. I didn't have my mic on.

The Presiding Officer recognized my request that we suspend the quorum call?

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, Senator WYDEN is here. I thank him for coming out. I hope he heard my speech. I hope he was persuaded. I know him to be a reasonable man, so I took my best shot. So I am going to go ahead and make my motion now that he is here.

Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 8292. That is the bill I talked about that was passed almost unanimously by the House. That bill has been received from the House. 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?

Mr. WYDEN. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I certainly have no sympathy for leakers, and I want to make a couple of points to make it clear why I am going to oppose this proposal.

First of all, the biggest leakers of taxpayer data are the big tax software companies. We never hear a peep from our colleagues on the other side about that. In fact, my Republican colleagues try, with every piece of legislation where there is a possible connection, to get rid of the IRS's new direct-file system that allows taxpayers to avoid the

big tax prep companies who overcharge them and give away their data.

My view is, it makes no sense to create an even larger double standard—a life sentence for nonviolent offenders. That seems disproportionate to the whole concept of potentially zero penalty for big corporations that leak all the time.

Second, let's talk about the system this proposal would protect. It is a system that allows the people at the very, very top to pay what they want, when they want to, and, often, sometimes nothing at all for years on end. Some of the wealthiest folks—the people at the very top—pay zero for years on end, including the ex-President.

So my view is the American people ought to have more information about the tax schemes the ultrawealthy are playing, not less.

I want to make it clear, again, I take a backseat to no one when it comes to protecting taxpayer data. But the tax games of the ultrawealthy are not a state secret that ought to be protected like the nuclear codes. The Congress ought to be doing more for tax transparency. I am happy to have that discussion.

Meanwhile, the Senate should not go out of its way to help the system that helps the ultrawealthy hide in the shadows and dodge paying their fair share.

For those reasons, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, I thank my friend RON for his point of view. I hope we can sit down and talk about this and perhaps work something out because this bill is not about changing the tax rate; it is just about everybody's tax return is their own business.

I also thank, Madam President, your courtesy and time and attention in this matter.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

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

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

LIEUTENANT OSVALDO ALBARATI STOPPING PRISON CONTRABAND ACT

Mr. OSSOFF. Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 5284, the Lieutenant Osvaldo Albarati Stopping Prison Contraband Act, introduced earlier today.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 5284) to increase the penalty for prohibited provision of a phone in a correctional facility, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. OSSOFF. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

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

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. OSSOFF. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate on the bill, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 5284) was passed as follows:

S. 5284

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 “Lieutenant Osvaldo Albarati Stopping Prison Contraband Act”.

SEC. 2. PROHIBITED PROVISION OF A PHONE.

Section 1791(b) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs (5) and (6), respectively;

(2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) in the case of a violation of subsection (a)(1), imprisonment for not more than 2 years, or both, if the object is specified in subsection (d)(1)(F) of this section;”; and

(3) in paragraph (5), as so redesignated, by inserting “, in the case of a violation of subsection (a)(2),” before “(d)(1)(F)”.

SEC. 3. REVIEW OF POLICIES.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall—

(1) conduct a review of the policies of the Bureau of Prisons pertaining to inmates who make, possess, obtain, or attempt to make or obtain a prohibited object, as defined in section 1791(d)(1) of title 18, United States Code; and

(2) update those policies as needed to improve protections for incarcerated individuals and staff.

Mr. OSSOFF. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

Mr. OSSOFF. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. KLOBUCHAR). The majority leader.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the closure motion with respect to the Perry nomination be withdrawn; further, that the Senate vote on confirmation of the Perry nomination at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 12.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam 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. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 788.

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 Jonathan E. Hawley, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of Illinois.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam 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. 788, Jonathan E. Hawley, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of Illinois.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Ben Ray Luján, 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.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam 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. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 620.

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 David Huitema, of Maryland, to be Director of the Office of Government Ethics for a term of five years.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam 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. 620, David Huitema, of Maryland, to be Director of the Office of Government Ethics for a term of five years.

Charles E. Schumer, Gary C. Peters, Peter Welch, Debbie Stabenow, Tina Smith, Richard Blumenthal, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Tammy Duckworth, Patty Murray, Jack Reed, Tammy Baldwin, Tim Kaine, Margaret Wood Hassan, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz, Catherine Cortez Masto, Benjamin L. Cardin, Alex Padilla.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam 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. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 714.

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 Cathy Fung, of California, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam 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. 714, Cathy Fung, of California, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

Charles E. Schumer, Debbie Stabenow, Jack Reed, Michael F. Bennet, Tim Kaine, Laphonza R. Butler, Angus S. King, Jr., Richard J. Durbin, Tina Smith, Catherine Cortez Masto, Richard Blumenthal, Maria Cantwell, Patty Murray, Jeanne Shaheen, Alex Padilla, Mazie K. Hirono, Chris Van Hollen.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, September 25, be waived.

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate proceed to the consideration of PN587; that the nominations be confirmed; 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 the nominations; that any related statements be printed in the Record; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE

PN587 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (2) beginning John R. Bass, II, and ending Brian A. Nichols, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 2, 2023.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar No. 713, Calendar No. 715; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Jeffrey Samuel Arbeit, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years, and Benjamin A. Guider III, of Louisiana, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam 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.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI DAVID SAPERSTEIN

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I come to the floor to honor a great New Yorker, a great American, and one of the greatest Jewish leaders in our country's history: Rabbi David Saperstein. This year marks his 50th anniversary at the Religious Action Center, a milestone of immense distinction and honor.

It is not possible to summarize in a single statement the breadth and depth of Rabbi Saperstein's accomplish-

ments. He is, of course a rabbi. But he is also an advocate at heart. He is a lawyer. A teacher. A diplomat who served as ambassador. He is a religious leader and a mentor to countless people over the years, of all faiths and persuasions.

But if we had to pick just one thing, it would be this: Rabbi Saperstein has always been a voice for justice and progress and decency for people around the world.

As the director of the Religious Action Center for over 40 years, he was one of Reform Judaism's greatest champions in the Halls of Congress and within the Federal Government. In his own words, he carried out this role with a mission to "make real the Jewish prophetic ideals of justice, peace, freedom, equality and compassion, in America, in Israel, in the lives of human beings everywhere."

Rabbi Saperstein is also the first rabbi in American history to serve as U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom, selected by President Obama in 2014. He advised both the President and Secretary Kerry on promoting the rights of religious minorities around the world. After serving in government, he continued his service as president of the World Union for Progressive Judaism. Today, he also serves on the Advisory Committee on Human Trafficking.

It is rare for a single person to accomplish so much and hold so many leadership positions in one lifetime. But it is even rarer to see the profound decency and thirst for justice that has motivated Rabbi Saperstein at every step of his life. Our country is blessed through his life. Jewish Americans are better off because of his good works. And Americans of all walks of life are better off because of the service, the vision, and legacy of Rabbi Saperstein.

So, on behalf of a grateful Senate, I congratulate the rabbi for celebrating 50 years with the Religious Action Center.

TRIBUTE TO DR. NANCY COX

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I rise today to congratulate my friend Dr. Nancy Cox, dean of the University of Kentucky's College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment, on her upcoming retirement. As she prepares to step down from the helm, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this distinguished Kentuckian and her 20-plus years of service to the Commonwealth.

A graduate of Furman University, the University of Georgia, and North Carolina State University, Nancy made her bones researching animal physiology. She launched her career at Mississippi State before joining the ranks of faculty leadership at UK's College of Agriculture as associate dean for research. To the great fortune of our flagship university, Nancy never left.

Serving as dean of the college of agriculture since 2014, Nancy led the school

through some of its most transformative years. She spearheaded groundbreaking programs, like the Racetrack Safety Program and the James B. Beam Institute for Kentucky Spirits, that help keep Kentucky's signature equine and bourbon industries at the forefront of the Nation. Early on, she understood the importance of research not only to the university and its students, but also to Kentucky's agricultural community, prioritizing investments for veterinary studies, equine health, and animal forage production research. As dean, she oversaw the renewal of UK's Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, and together, we worked to establish UK's first-ever animal forage production research lab in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Nancy's work to champion research on issues ranging from equine safety to the problems facing small family farms continues to help our Nation's producers and growers succeed.

Even after two decades of service to Kentucky, Nancy hasn't shied away from new opportunities to effect change on campus. In 2020, she stepped up to join President Capilouto's leadership team as the first-ever vice president for land-grant engagement. In this role, she has helped deepen UK's commitment to its land-grant mission, finding new ways to serve and connect with communities across the Commonwealth through research, instruction, and extension programs.

Anybody who has ever worked with Nancy can vouch for her dedication to serving her fellow Kentuckians. From forging new partnerships to deepening the university's ties with important stakeholders, like the Kentucky Farm Bureau, Nancy's leadership has tangibly made life better for families, businesses, and communities across our state. As she puts it, "Every day, we try to do better than the day before." Nancy has certainly lived up to this ideal, and though we are all sorry to see her go, I am confident she will continue to make a difference in her community.

As she begins a well-deserved retirement, I have no doubt that she will be enjoying more time with her friends and family. Today, it's my privilege to join the chorus of faculty, students, and alumni praising Nancy's leadership and her work to lift up Kentucky's farmers and the next generation of agricultural leaders. I urge my Senate colleagues to join me in thanking Nancy for her remarkable service to the University of Kentucky and the Commonwealth.

TRIBUTE TO JIM IACOCCA

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I rise today to congratulate Brigadier General (Retired) James "Jim" T. Iacocca as he prepares to retire from the Knox Regional Development Alliance in my home State of Kentucky. It is my privilege to pay special tribute to

Jim for all his contributions to the Commonwealth and his 30-plus years of dedicated service to our Nation.

Jim entered the Army on a whim. Without speaking to his parents, he enlisted in the Army Reserve his freshman year at Lehigh University. His 29 years of Active-Duty service that followed included tours in airborne and special operations units at multiple Army installations, deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq, and numerous military awards and decorations. He served as deputy commanding general of the Army Recruiting Command and Brigade Commander for the Army's 3rd Recruiting Brigade. In 2015, Jim became the 60th Adjutant General, one of the oldest leadership positions in the Army. In this role, he oversaw over 1 million Active-Duty, National Guard, and Reserve servicemembers, keeping soldiers combat-ready to serve and execute the Army's missions.

Jim retired from Active-Duty service in 2017, but his work on behalf of the Commonwealth and the Army was far from over. As one of two civilian aides to the Secretary of the Army for Kentucky, Jim helps bridge the gap between Army leadership and our State's military communities, providing crucial counsel to the Secretary on all matters Kentucky.

Many on my staff have had the privilege of interacting with Jim through his work as president and CEO of the Knox Regional Development Alliance. In this role, Jim serves as the critical link between my office and the military base. With an eye always toward the future, Jim is constantly working with partners inside and outside the gate to identify new missions and improve the experience and well-being of Kentucky's servicemembers. He has been instrumental in some of the biggest issues Fort Knox has tackled in recent years, driving billions of dollars into the regional economy and advocating for the priorities of Fort Knox and its more than 26,000 soldiers, civilians, and families.

In all his years serving Fort Knox, Jim has never lost sight of the people he represents; that includes not only the brave men and women who serve our country but also the greater Knox region. Jim will be the first to tell you that a strong community is an irreplaceable asset to any military installation and, indeed, Fort Knox. As the unifying voice for the base and the Knox community, Jim collaborates with a wide range of people, from servicemembers to the business community to local, State, and Federal leaders across the Commonwealth. In fact, Jim's contributions recently earned him the honor of Gold Neighbor for his dedication to Fort Knox, its soldiers, and their families. I count myself among the many grateful for Jim contributing his character, humble leadership, and deep knowledge to the Commonwealth.

Jim has worn many impressive hats while serving his country, but his

proudest roles have been husband and father. As he prepares to step down from the Knox Regional Development Alliance this year, I know Jim will enjoy spending more time with his wife Sandy and their daughter—and building out that impressive bourbon collection of his. Our men and women in uniform, in addition to the people of Kentucky, are losing a tireless advocate, and though we are saddened to say goodbye to Jim, his retirement is well-earned. I urge my Senate colleagues to join me in thanking this brave American, dedicated public servant, and proud Kentuckian for his decades of distinguished service to our country.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATIONS

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

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

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 24-72, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Bulgaria for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$114 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-72

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

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Bulgaria.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$79 million.
Other \$35 million.
Total \$114 million.

Funding Source: National Funds.

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

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Two hundred eighteen (218) Javelin FGM-148F missiles (includes four (4) fly-to-buy missiles).

One hundred seven (107) Javelin Lightweight Command Launch Units (LWCLU).

Non-Major Defense Equipment: The following non-MDE items will also be included: Javelin LWCLU Basic Skills Trainers (BST); Javelin Outdoor Trainers (JOT); Battery Coolant Units (BCUs); System Integration and Check Out (SICO); lifecycle support; Javelin Restricted Interactive Electronic Technical Manual (IETM); Javelin operator manuals; tools; Javelin gunner training; Ammunition Technical Officer (ATO) training; Javelin maintenance training; technical assistance; other associated equipment and services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (BU-B-UCQ).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: BU-B-UCP, BU-B-UCS.

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

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

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: September 20, 2024.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Bulgaria—FGM-148F Javelin Missiles

The Government of Bulgaria has requested to buy two hundred eighteen (218) Javelin FGM-148F missiles (includes four (4) fly-to-buy missiles) and one hundred seven (107) Javelin Lightweight Command Launch Units (LWCLU). Also included are Javelin LWCLU Basic Skills Trainers (BST); Javelin Outdoor Trainers (JOT); Battery Coolant Units (BCUs); System Integration and Check Out (SICO); lifecycle support; Javelin Restricted Interactive Electronic Technical Manual (IETM); Javelin operator manuals; tools; Javelin gunner training; Ammunition Technical Officer (ATO) training; Javelin maintenance training; technical assistance; other associated equipment and services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$114 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the security of a NATO Ally that is an important force for political and economic stability in Europe.

The proposed sale will improve Bulgaria's long-term defense capacity to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity and to meet its national defense requirements. Bulgaria will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

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

The prime contractors will be the Javelin Joint Venture between Lockheed Martin, located in Orlando, FL, and RTX Corporation, located in Tucson, AZ. There are no known offset agreements in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Bulgaria.

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

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-72

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

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The Javelin Weapon System is a medium-range, man portable, shoulder-launched, fire and forget anti-tank system for infantry, scouts, and combat engineers. It may also be mounted on a variety of platforms including vehicles, aircraft, and watercraft. The system weighs 49.5 pounds and has a maximum range in excess of 2,500 meters. The system is highly lethal against tanks and other systems with conventional and reactive armors. The system possesses a secondary capability against bunkers.

2. Javelin's key technical feature is the use of fire-and-forget technology which allows the gunner to fire and immediately relocate or take cover. Additional special features are the top attack and direct fire modes, an advanced tandem warhead and imaging infrared seeker, target lock-on before launch, and the capability for soft launch from enclosures or covered fighting positions. The Javelin missile also has a minimum smoke motor that decreases its visibility and chance of detection on the battlefield.

3. The Javelin Weapon System is comprised of two major tactical components, the reusable Light Weight Command Launch Unit (LWCLU) and a missile contained in a disposable launch tube assembly. The LWCLU incorporates an integrated day-night sight that provides target engagement capability in adverse weather and counter-measure environments. The LWCLU may also be used in a stand-alone mode for battlefield surveillance and target detection. The LWCLU's thermal sight is a 3rd generation Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) sensor. To facilitate initial loading and subsequent updating of software, all on-board missile software is uploaded via the LWCLU after mating and prior to launch.

4. The missile is autonomously guided to the target using an imaging infrared seeker and adaptive correlation tracking algorithms. This allows the gunner to take cover or reload and engage another target after firing a missile. The missile has an advanced tandem warhead and can be used in either the top attack or direct fire modes (for targets under cover). An onboard flight computer guides the missile to the selected target.

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

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

7. A determination has been made that Bulgaria can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This proposed sale is necessary to further the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

8. All defense articles and services listed on this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Government of Bulgaria.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATIONS

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

fication of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

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

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 24-89, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Sweden for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$31.5 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-89

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

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Sweden.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* \$27.5 million.
Other \$4.0 million.

Total \$31.5 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: Foreign Military Sales (FMS) case SW-P-LBK was implemented below congressional notification threshold at \$13.7 million (\$10.9 million in Major Defense Equipment (MDE)) and included forty-five (45) AN/USQ-190 Multifunctional Information Distribution System Joint Tactical Radio Systems (MIDS JTRS). The Government of Sweden has requested the case be amended to include an additional seventy-five (75) AN/USQ-190 MIDS JTRS. This amendment will cause the case to exceed the congressional notification threshold, and thus notification of the entire program is required. The above notification requirements are combined as follows:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): One hundred twenty (120) AN/USQ-190 MIDS JTRS.

Non-Major Defense Equipment: The following non-MDE items will also be included: communications equipment; support equipment; engineering and technical support and assistance; non-warranty repair and return; training; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (SW-P-LBK).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

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

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

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: September 20, 2024.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Sweden—Multifunctional Information Distribution System Joint Tactical Radio Systems

The Government of Sweden has requested to buy one hundred twenty (120) AN/USQ-190 Multifunctional Information Distribution System Joint Tactical Radio Systems (MIDS JTRS). The following non-Major Defense Equipment (MDE) items will also be included: communications equipment; support equipment; engineering and technical support and assistance; non-warranty repair and return; training; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$31.5 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a NATO Ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

The proposed sale will improve Sweden's capability to meet current and future threats by modernizing its existing Link 16 capability to interoperate with U.S. forces and to exchange secure, jam-resistant tactical data via Link 16. Sweden will use the enhanced capability as a deterrent to regional threats and strengthen its homeland defense. Sweden will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

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

The principal contractor is Data Link Solutions, located in Cedar Rapids, IA. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Sweden; however, U.S. Government Engineering and Technical Services may be required on an interim basis for training and technical assistance.

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

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-89

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

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The AN/USQ-190 Multifunctional Information Distribution System Joint Tactical Radio Systems (MIDS JTRS) builds on MIDS-Low Volume Terminal (LVT)'s capabilities with the addition of Concurrent Multi-Netting (CMN) and Concurrent Contention Receive (CCR) functions. CMN and CCR dramatically expand the number of platforms and network-enabled systems that can be reliably included in a Link 16 network. These enhancements allow a single MIDS JTRS terminal to simultaneously receive messages on up to four nets (compared with only a single net in terminals without CMN and CCR) within a single Link 16 time slot, allowing a user to "hear" messages from up to three additional sources at once.

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

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

4. A determination has been made that Sweden can provide substantially the same

degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Sweden.

SUPPORTING HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, on March 6, 2021, almost a year to the day after communities across America—and Alaska—shut down in an attempt to slow the spread of COVID-19, this body was voting on the third COVID relief bill, the American Rescue Plan.

Unfortunately, this was a wholly partisan exercise. Rather than advancing a bipartisan consensus effort, one side unilaterally pushed forward the largest spending package Congress had ever advanced, which I was not able to support. However, in the midst of that bogged down, partisan exercise, there was a bright spot of cross-aisle collaboration that brought together Democrats, Republicans, and Independents. In fact, it was one of only three amendments that passed with unanimous support during a contentious process where over 40 votes were taken.

I am speaking of my amendment with Senators MANCHIN, PORTMAN, SINEMA, COLLINS, and SULLIVAN to designate \$800 million of the K12 education funds in the bill to be used for identifying, supporting, and educating children and youth experiencing homelessness.

I offered this amendment because the first two COVID relief packages did not include any dedicated funding to support this vulnerable population, who were arguably the most negatively impacted by school closures.

At that time, 2,578 Alaskan children and youth were identified as experiencing homelessness. That number grew to 3,554 in the next school year. Unfortunately, we are on pace to break records this school year.

Homelessness has far-reaching impacts on young people, affecting both their personal development and education. Living without a stable home means increased stress, insecurity, and trauma, leading to mental health challenges such as anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem.

The tolls of their living situation also affects their physical health, increasing the risk of illness, obesity, diabetes, and hunger. Many youth struggle with regular sleep without a consistent place to rest their head. And many turn to substance abuse to cope with hardships.

For youth in school, homelessness often results in frequent school absences, difficulty concentrating, and lower academic achievement, as the instability of their living conditions makes it hard to focus on learning. The

likelihood of dropping out of school rises dramatically, and so does the risk of being involved in the juvenile justice system.

Homeless youth may lack access to essential resources like school supplies, quiet study spaces, and nutritious meals, further widening the achievement gap.

Now I am probably not breaking any news to those of us in Congress, who have heard too many stories of young people enduring these incredibly trying conditions.

But I am here today to share some incredible news on this front from the bipartisan work done on this floor to help our youths in crisis.

In my home State of Alaska, we received \$2.35 million in these funds, more than eight times its usual allocation.

To see the impact that these funds have had makes my heart sing. What was really incredible was seeing how each district used these funds creatively to meet the unique and specific needs of the kids they serve. By providing districts flexibility in their spending, schools were able to provide everything from school supplies to cell phones to clothing and food.

In the Kenai Peninsula School District, they used funds to help a student access mental health services. This particular student had experienced homelessness and housing instability for the majority of their time in public education. After falling off the radar of the school, the student became an unaccompanied homeless youth due to parental substance use disorder and incarceration.

These homeless youth funds were a lifeline in providing critical mental health services to support this student, giving them tools for coping, and helped place them on a path to sustained stability at a time when they were experiencing incredible uncertainty and didn't have someone in their life to help guide them.

In Anchorage, the school district used these funds to provide Wi-Fi hot spots, since the subsidized broadband internet was no longer available.

These funds enabled the purchase of 15 Wi-Fi hot spots for families last school year and 10 more for this year. You can imagine that for families and youth who are moving from place to place—motels, cars, couches—access to reliable internet to complete homework and communicate with teachers is a particular challenge. No other district program is able to support homeless students this way. ASD's Migrant Education, Indigenous Education, and English Language Learners departments see this as a big need but one they cannot address.

In addition to hotspots, Anchorage School District's program was able to provide car repairs. Now, that might seem like a strange way to help those experiencing homelessness, but districts discovered that car repairs made more economic sense than providing

cab services for young people trying to attend classes. By providing \$200 on car repair costs, the district ultimately saved money on transportation, and families had more reliable car services.

Both districts also used funding to bring on additional staff designated to work with homeless students. The Child in Transition Program in the Anchorage School District was able to hire two full-time staff for remote sites and five part-time staff in high schools to support students on campus and connect them to services. These staffers are connecting students and families with identification efforts, checking in on attendance and grades, monitoring and supporting academic progress, and facilitating referrals with community partners.

In fact, one of these staffers was able to build rapport with a student experiencing homelessness who was interested in applying for a job, but didn't know how to start the process. By having a dedicated staff member, who they knew and trusted, the support and resources were there for this student to apply for the position and prepare for their interview. Today, that young person is employed.

These real-life examples highlight what this funding is actually doing on the ground and the incredible, real world benefits it has in the lives of youth and families experiencing homelessness.

We know that the No. 1 risk factor for adult homelessness is the lack of a high school education or equivalent.

The challenges and hardships that youth experiencing homelessness face can set them on the wrong path, severely limiting future opportunities for employment and healthy lifestyles.

These funds are still directly supporting students so they can attend school and have the resources to successfully complete their education.

This funding is helping young people get out of the homelessness cycle permanently.

I am proud to stand here with my colleagues to share the impact of this American Rescue Plan provision.

I was disappointed that we were not able to get a clean 1-year extension done so that we can continue to hear good stories of the work being done in our communities to identify and support homeless youth.

There were a number of reasons that States and local education agencies were not able to fully spend down their funds—from local education agencies not even being aware of the additional flexible funds, to delayed guidelines from the Department of Education on allowable uses.

So without an extension, some States will be returning funds. And make no mistake: These are funds that are still critically needed in our communities. The youth experiencing homelessness in our States still need our support, and we expect to see continued increases in homeless youth.

To be clear, there is more work to be done with homelessness on the rise. I

urge my colleagues to work with us to address these issues.

CONSTITUTION WEEK

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I rise in recognition of Constitution Week, recognized from September 17 through September 23.

Since 1956, Congress has recognized an annual Constitution Week in recognition of the signing of the U.S. Constitution in Philadelphia on September 17, 1787. We also recognize Constitution Day and Citizenship Day on September 17, providing an opportunity for us to reflect upon and to learn about our Nation's founding document.

This annual recognition is of critical importance. Our Constitution informs our system of governance, creates individual rights and liberties, and expresses our collective values. Throughout my time in office, I have prioritized working to improve the quality of U.S. history and civics education throughout our Nation. Educating current and future generations of Americans about our Constitution is a critical piece of this.

While the flaws and omissions inherent in the original Constitution are widely recognized, one of its most important features is that it was designed to remain adaptable to future generations of Americans. Virginia delegate Edmund Randolph, one of the drafters, stated that the intention was to ‘insert essential principles only, lest the operations of government should be clogged by rendering those provisions permanent and unalterable, which ought to be accommodated to times and events.’

Of course, article V of our Constitution also lays out an explicit amendment process. Amendments can be made to our Constitution when proposed by a two-thirds vote of both the House and Senate and ratified by three-fourths of the State legislatures, which equates to 38 States.

Today, we are in the unprecedented situation in which a constitutional amendment ratified by the required 38 States has not been formally recognized as a part of our Constitution. In 2020, Virginia became the 38th and final required State to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, which was proposed and sent to the States after passage by broad bipartisan majorities in 1972.

The ERA would constitutionally protect the equality of rights under the law, regardless of sex. The main clause of the amendment simply states, “Equality of rights under the law shall not be abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.”

Despite what many Americans believe, the only right explicitly guaranteed regardless of sex in the U.S. Constitution is the 19th Amendment right to vote. The Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment has been invoked successfully in sex discrimination cases, but the outcomes of these chal-

lenges have been inconsistent. The current Supreme Court's approach to the Constitution highlights the need for the ERA, given the apparent belief by some Justices that the Equal Protection Clause should be frozen in time in 1868, casting in doubt those precedents currently holding that the Equal Protection Clause applies to sex discrimination.

Our lack of an explicit provision places us out of line with the rest of the world. Eighty-five percent of countries have an explicit prohibition against governmental discrimination on the basis of sex.

The United States is the only industrialized democracy that does not include an explicit provision in its Constitution, a marker that I take seriously as the chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. On August 6 of 2024, the American Bar Association, which is the leading legal association in our Nation, voted overwhelmingly to recognize the ERA as the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Resolution 601 urges government on all levels to implement the ERA now.

This important affirmation by our Nation's leading association of lawyers is in line with the position taken by many members of this body. In a vote on April 27, 2024, a bipartisan majority of U.S. Senators voted to affirm the validity of the Equal Rights Amendment as our 28th Amendment to the Constitution and to explicitly remove the deadline that Congress included in the preamble of the resolution proposing the ERA to the States.

In both 2020 and 2021, the House of Representatives passed a similar joint resolution to explicitly remove this arbitrary deadline for adoption of this critical constitutional amendment.

It is important that we pass this S.J. Res. 4, which I have been pleased to lead on a bipartisan basis with Senator LISA MURKOWSKI of Alaska, to remove any ambiguity and to make it clear beyond a doubt that the ERA is a valid part of our Constitution. The passage of this resolution is long overdue. However, the fact remains that the Equal Rights Amendment has already fulfilled all of the requirements laid out in article V and should be recognized—today—as our 28th Amendment.

Women still face serious challenges “on account of sex,” and our existing legal framework does not always provide a sufficient remedy.

As the 28th Amendment, the ERA would serve as a new tool—for Congress, for Federal Agencies, and the courts—to advance equality in the fields of workforce and pay, pregnancy discrimination, sexual harassment and violence, reproductive autonomy, and protections for LGBTQ+ individuals.

For example, we recently recognized 30 years since the passage of the Violence Against Women Act, which President Biden described as his “proudest legislative achievement.” Despite all of the successful progress through VAWA,

a U.S. Supreme Court decision invalidated one of its key elements: the creation of a private right of action to allow survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, and child abuse to sue for civil damages from their perpetrators. The Court struck down this democratically approved legislation on the grounds that it was outside of Congress's power.

It stymied the ability of our democratically elected branches to address the critical problem of gender-based violence. The ERA would serve as an explicit constitutional backstop for legislation like VAWA's private right of action that is intended to address problems of inequality, as well as serving as a tool in the courts.

Our Constitution is a reflection of our values, and no value is more American than equality. I call for the passage of S.J. Res. 4. I also express my strong belief that the ERA has fulfilled the requirements of article V and should be recognized as such.

INFLATION REDUCTION ACT HEALTH PROVISIONS

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I rise today to highlight the critical importance of the health provisions in the Inflation Reduction Act, IRA.

Last week, the Senate Finance Committee held a hearing entitled, "Lower Health Care Costs for Americans: Understanding the Benefits of the Inflation Reduction Act." Since President Biden signed the IRA into law on August 16, 2022, this landmark legislation continues to make life easier for American families to afford health insurance coverage and prescription drugs.

Across the board, costs are being lowered. Since January 2023, thanks to the IRA, insulin for Medicare beneficiaries is capped at \$35 a month, and all recommended vaccines are available for seniors at no cost. The IRA further lowers drug costs by capping out-of-pocket Medicare part D beneficiaries' expenses at \$2,000. And in 2026, Medicare will begin implementing negotiated drug prices, starting with 10 of the highest cost prescription drugs.

Last month, the Biden-Harris administration took on Big Pharma and succeeded in negotiating to lower prices for 10 of the most common and expensive drugs under Medicare. Americans are expected to save \$6 billion on prescription drug costs, and people enrolled in Medicare are expected to save \$1.5 billion in out-of-pocket costs in 2026 alone. Early next year, the administration will announce 15 more drugs that will be subject to price negotiations.

Prior to this historic piece of legislation, drug companies were routinely charging Americans three times more than patients in other countries for the same medication.

However, the Biden-Harris administration's announcement last month ended this pattern by unveiling negotiated lower prices for some of the

most expensive, popular drugs taken to treat conditions including blood clots, diabetes, cancer, heart failure, and rheumatoid arthritis. Every day, millions of Americans are saving money on healthcare costs, thanks to the Biden-Harris administration.

This was made possible because of the IRA, which passed thanks to my Democratic colleagues in Congress and with Vice President HARRIS' tie-breaking vote in the Senate. Every single Republican voted against it.

In 2021, the Biden-Harris administration was able to pass temporary subsidies for low-income Americans as part of the American Rescue Plan Act, ARPA. With the passage of the IRA a year later, these enhanced premium tax credits (PTCs) were extended for an additional 3 years. These PTCs have been a key driver of the record 21.4 million people signing up for coverage under the ACA.

As things stand, the enhanced PTCs passed in the Inflation Reduction Act will expire in 2025. We cannot let this happen. We know access to affordable health insurance saves lives and reduces costs by enabling people to access the care they need. If these enhanced PTCs are allowed to expire next year, over 20 million Americans will see a sudden increase in their health insurance costs. Additionally, an estimated 3 million Americans could lose their health insurance entirely.

Another policy included in the IRA to increase prescription drug affordability is capping Medicare patients' out-of-pocket costs at \$3,000 in just a couple of months and \$2,000 per year in 2025. This policy will prevent Medicare beneficiaries from paying tens of thousands of dollars to purchase lifesaving drugs prescribed by their doctors.

Further, many vaccines are available with no beneficiary cost-sharing under Medicare. Vaccines can be incredibly expensive. For example, the shingles vaccine can cost up to \$385 for seniors. In 2023, the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC) estimated that vaccination rates for adults enrolled in Medicaid were lower than adults with private health insurance coverage. Now, Medicare beneficiaries can receive all adult vaccines recommended by the Centers for Disease Prevention and Control's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices for free, including the shingles vaccine. That means no copayment or other out-of-pocket costs.

Democrats voted for this, and the Biden-Harris administration made it happen. Americans and Marylanders are struggling to pay for their prescription medications, and it is long past time for Congress to remedy this obstacle. Prescription drugs have been life-saving for millions, but if they are unaffordable, then their benefit is of no significance.

No one should have to go into debt to buy the prescription drugs they need to live a healthy, productive life, and yet, that is a dilemma many families in the

U.S. face. Twenty-nine percent of Americans either cannot afford their prescription drugs or are rationing them. Too often, groups in fair or poor health struggle the most to afford their medications.

Opponents of addressing the high prescription drug prices, claim that more affordable prices will come at the expense of innovation. I say, and the research agrees, that is false. The U.S. Government ensures there is access to innovative treatments and prescriptions. The best example of this can be found in my home State of Maryland, the National Institute of Health (NIH), which is the world's largest government funder of biomedical research. Almost all drugs rely on NIH-supported basic science. And the returns on these investments are very high.

Researchers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology have found that each \$125 million NIH grant leads to \$375 million more in private market value, 33 more patents, and one new drug. Another study estimated that the rate of return on NIH investment is 43 percent, and that each dollar in NIH funding leads to an additional \$8.40 in private research and development (R&D) spending.

Despite these significant taxpayer investments, prescription drugs are often priced at levels that limit access to lifesaving drugs, particularly among those who are underinsured or uninsured. Even after accounting for the cost and risk of R&D, evidence shows the returns to new products exceed normal rates of return.

These drug manufacturers offer many important and lifesaving medications that people need and deserve. Patients and the healthcare system should not be price gouged or priced out, which is why the IRA is so important for American families.

There is evidence that the IRA health provisions have reduced out-of-pocket spending for millions of Americans. I urge all of my Senate colleagues to join Democrats and the Biden-Harris administration to ensure all of our constituents have access to affordable, lifesaving, and life-sustaining prescription drugs. When it comes to these essential medications, no one should have to choose between putting food on their table and their health—or even their life.

WOMEN'S HEALTHCARE

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I rise today to discuss the deeply concerning trend of the criminalization of women's healthcare, particularly after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade.

I want to bring awareness to this week's Senate Finance Committee hearing entitled, "Chaos and Control: How Trump Criminalized Women's Health Care." Now, more than ever, it is vital to codify reproductive rights and protect other hard-won civil rights as they faced renewed threats.

We must prioritize women's health and reproductive rights by passing comprehensive legislation like the Women's Health Protection Act, the Right to Contraception Act, and the Right to IVF Act.

Last week, ProPublica published two articles documenting the devastating and entirely preventable deaths of Amber Thurman and Candi Miller, two mothers living in Georgia. The deaths of these mothers were due to Georgia's strict abortion ban. According to 10 maternal health experts and doctors on a Georgia State committee who reviewed these two cases, their deaths were impacted by the State's abortion ban—an abortion ban that does not, as promoted, protect the life of the mother.

It has been made clear to the public that pregnant women across the United States are losing their lives for reasons that could have been avoided. Since abortion was banned or restricted in 22 States over the past 2 years, pregnant women have been forced to carry a pregnancy to term, travel across State lines to those without an abortion ban, and even face rejection from emergency room doctors. The right to abortion was deeply held by women for almost 50 years, and the right to access contraception has existed for almost 60 years. Despite the clear constitutional rights the Supreme Court established almost 50 years ago in the landmark *Roe v. Wade* decision, each year, legislatures across the country have passed harmful abortion restrictions in an effort to impede a woman's fundamental right to make the best, informed healthcare decisions for herself and her family.

Reproductive freedom is continuously undermined and attacked, even though 80 percent of the public believe decisions about abortion should be made by women in consultation with their healthcare providers. I urge my colleagues to accurately represent their constituents, who overwhelmingly support a woman's right to choose, without the interference from Federal, State, or local governments. At no point is a politician more qualified to look at and assess your reproductive health than you and your healthcare provider.

As it stands, we are facing an extreme healthcare worker shortage because of the Dobbs decision. Providers have been forced to relocate or cease offering care altogether, leaving over one-third of women in situations where it is difficult to get abortion services in their State. Clinics and maternal health providers are stepping in to provide care for out-of-state patients who cross State borders to seek care.

In 2021, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) projected that, by 2030, roughly 3,000 fewer OB-GYNs will be practicing in the country. As of 2018, there were around 50,800 OB-GYNs, already too few to meet the country's rising demand. Many providers are afraid of facing criminal

penalties. The criminalization of doctors providing reproductive care to women is appalling.

While doctors struggle to provide care to all their patients, communities of color are facing the largest barriers when it comes to accessing abortion care. Black women are three times more likely to die in childbirth compared to their White counterparts. Many States are facing maternal healthcare deserts, especially areas that typically serve low-income communities.

When abortion is illegal, those who want to terminate a pregnancy may be forced to go a more dangerous route. The World Health Organization (WHO) found that unsafe or illegal abortions account for up to 10 percent of maternal deaths worldwide. Candi Miller tragically died in her home after taking abortion pills she ordered online. She did not visit a doctor because of the current legislation on pregnancies and abortions in Georgia. Due to abortion bans, like the one in Georgia, many women grapple with the decision to manage their abortion alone, even when they would prefer to seek care from a healthcare provider.

The Dobbs decision claimed to hand abortion to the States, but we continue to see challenges to reproductive rights elevated to the Supreme Court. *Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine v. FDA* decided this past term was merely a temporary win for reproductive health, but this is not over. Anti-abortion advocates and supporters of Project 2025 will continue to attack access to medication abortion, a safe and effective drug taken by over 6 million women over the last 24 years.

I am proud that Maryland was the first State to mandate contraceptive coverage in 1998. My State has long been a leader in supporting and protecting reproductive rights. On April 14, 2023, Governor Moore announced that the State would begin to stockpile mifepristone. This is even more important now that there have been threats of weaponizing the Comstock Act against pregnant people. Maryland remains committed to serving as a safe haven for abortion and reproductive healthcare access.

Idaho's challenge to the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) is also far from over. The Biden-Harris administration was clear that States must comply with EMTALA and provide stabilizing care in emergencies, even if that care includes abortion. States like Idaho unjustifiably put women's health and life at risk when they prohibit providers from managing pregnancy complications. Patients have lost their child, their fertility, and even their organs. *Idaho v. U.S.* demonstrated that abortion bans harm all patients.

Throughout my time in Congress, I have worked to dismantle barriers to women's health. The right to choose whether to have a child is fundamental, and it is a decision that should

only be made by women in consultation with their healthcare provider, free of government interference. It is time to elevate the voices that truly know how much is at stake in the fight for reproductive freedoms. Lives are at risk, and we cannot sit back and continue to read about the growing rates of maternal mortality. Amber Thurman and Candi Miller's deaths should have been prevented. In their memory and that of all the women who have lost their lives due to their State's abortion bans, we must fight for a woman's right to reproductive care.

VENEZUELA

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I come to the floor today first and foremost to acknowledge the incredible bravery of the Venezuelan people.

On July 28, despite the Maduro regime controlling Venezuela's entire election apparatus, despite the issuing of arrest warrants against opposition campaign aides and disqualifying opponents, despite blocking nearly all independent international observers, despite the threat of violence from men on motorbikes who attacked people at opposition rallies, Venezuelans from all walks of life went to the polls to vote.

That took courage. And it took a leap of faith that they could take back their country. And had they been given the opportunity, I think it is safe to assume the nearly 8 million Venezuelans who have left the country to escape the chaos and repression in recent years, would also have voted against Maduro.

Venezuelans are tired of living under this regime. They have endured a horrific economic and humanitarian crisis. They suffer through electricity blackouts. Many in Venezuela don't have access to clean water and are instead forced to use open water in the street for bathing, cooking, and drinking.

One UN report found 96 percent of Venezuelans living in poverty. Government corruption is rampant, the regime has carved up the energy sector and given it to loyalists, and parts of the security forces actively participate in drug trafficking.

In the face of all this, Venezuelans took a chance and went to the polls. Predictably, Maduro claimed victory within hours. But thanks to the receipts from the voting machines, academics and news outlets ranging from AP to the Washington Post to the Guardian were able to analyze the results and have all concluded that the opposition won in a landslide. One election forensics professor at the University of Michigan found the opposition beat Maduro 66 percent to 31 percent.

Despite this, Maduro, without irony, declared victory, saying that the "popular will" had to be respected. More than a month later, he still hasn't released the official precinct-level results. And in attempt to distract from what he has done, he has picked fights with social media companies and has

moved the Christmas holiday to October. That is just crazy, and it reeks of desperation.

No one thinks he won—not the President of Chile who wrote that the results were “difficult to believe”; not the Costa Rican Government who called the results “fraudulent”; not the President of Colombia, who said Maduro should “accept the transparent results, whatever they may be”—and indeed, Mexico, Brazil, and Colombia released a very important joint statement calling for “impartial verification of the results.”

Of course, there are those who still support Maduro. Vladimir Putin congratulated him. And the Cuban President said Maduro “cleanly and unequivocally defeated” the opposition.

But Venezuelans know the truth: Maduro lost. That is why, despite the clear threat of violence, they poured into the streets in protest.

Before the election, Maduro warned of “a bloodbath,” and indeed, his crackdown has been swift and deadly. At least 24 people have been killed and about 2,400 people arrested in relation to the protests, according to Human Rights Watch.

Just days ago, Mr. Gonzalez, the winner of the July 28 Presidential election, was forced to flee to Spain after Maduro issued a warrant for his arrest. Earlier this week, I spoke with Ms. Machado, the opposition leader who bravely traveled across Venezuela and mobilized a peaceful, democratic movement to change the country at the ballot box. Now, she has been forced into hiding by Maduro’s campaign of repression and intimidation.

As the chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I condemn the actions of the Maduro regime, and I believe we must do what we can to support the Venezuelan people. That is why I fully support the leveling of targeted Magnitsky sanctions against those in the Maduro regime engaged in serious human rights abuses as part of this violent crackdown. That is why I am here on the floor today, to lift up the voices of the Venezuelan opposition, so their struggle for democracy is not lost to the next news cycle. And it is why I am working on legislation that I will introduce in the coming days—legislation that will add support for Venezuela’s democratic institutions; provide humanitarian relief for Venezuelans; support a peaceful democratic, transition of power; support the restoration of the rule of law in the country; and contribute to the reconstruction of Venezuela.

Now, I know that reconstruction might seem like an impossible dream. It might seem like Maduro will never leave power.

I am here to underline a critically important point: Nothing is impossible, so do not give up hope.

I am not naive; I realize Maduro is desperate to hold onto power. I know that, after years of failed maximum pressure campaigns by previous administrations, Maduro is still there.

But that does not mean we should give up hope. Simon Bolivar once said: “A people that loves freedom will in the end be free.”

For so many decades in my life, the Soviet Union seemed indestructible. Then almost overnight, it collapsed. I remember being in Berlin with my wife Myrna. My wife and I hammered at the concrete of the Berlin Wall that was covered in graffiti showing a crossed-out hammer and sickle. The collapse of the Soviet Union is an important example for those of us who are fighting for a better Venezuela today. It is an example of the good we can achieve, if only we have faith.

But if Maduro agrees to respect the election results, there is much work to be done. We here in Washington recognize that it will be the Venezuelan people who are at the forefront of change in their country. But we in Congress and in the international community generally, we have tremendous power to support the people of Venezuela and their aspirations for a brighter, democratic future.

So to my colleagues here in Congress: Be ready—ready to support, to engage, and to play a productive role in ending this longstanding conflict.

To those in the Venezuelan military and security forces who are ready for a new direction for your country, away from violence and repression: Lay down your arms and be part of the solution.

And to the brave Venezuelan people, do not lose hope that you can change things for the better. Do not give up hope that in the end your country will be free.

ACCESSIBLE FEDERAL TECHNOLOGY

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the 51st anniversary of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the importance of the law to equal access for people with disabilities, including equal access to Federal technology.

When it was signed into law on September 26, 1973, the Rehabilitation Act prohibited discrimination on the basis of disability by the Federal Government, in federally funded programs, and by Federal contractors. Passage of the Rehabilitation Act committed the Federal Government to ensuring that every person, including people with disabilities, have access to government programs and services. As with any legislation, enforcement is key. In the years following passage, people with disabilities needed to advocate that the Federal Government issue regulations and implement the law in order to ensure Federal services and products are accessible. Four years after passage, no regulations had been issued. At the beginning of April 1977, disability advocates started a month-long national protest, pressuring President Carter and his Cabinet. The protests lasted 26 days and resulted in implementation of the first Rehabilitation Act regulations. The Rehabilitation Act and the

resulting regulations laid the groundwork for the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990.

The Rehabilitation Act helped make the Federal Government more accessible for people with disabilities, but with time, new accessibility barriers emerged. Those accessibility barriers were related to America’s information revolution, which has changed society at a rapid pace. In response to the emerging digital revolution, Senator Orrin Hatch led efforts in 1986 to establish guidelines on electronic accessibility, resulting in a new section of the Rehabilitation Act: section 508. In 1998, Senator Chris Dodd and Representative ANNA ESHOO led efforts to further strengthen section 508’s accessibility requirements for digital information, services, and tools offered by Federal Agencies. The Rehabilitation Act amendments in 1998 were the last significant congressional changes to Section 508.

Section 508 requires technology at Federal Departments and Agencies to be accessible for, and usable by, people with disabilities, including Federal employees who have disabilities. Section 508 requires the United States Access Board to develop the specific standards that Department and Agency technology must meet to be accessible for people with disabilities. Technology covered by section 508 includes websites, apps, and electronic documents, as well as physical technology such as kiosks, computers, and telecommunications equipment. Examples of accessible technology include websites, apps, or PDFs that can work with a screen reader or other assistive technology. They include video communications systems that are capable of incorporating sign language. They include kiosks that are properly positioned for a wheelchair user and provide an option for speech output.

Accessible Federal technology is important to ensure all Americans can benefit from government resources, and demographic changes mean more Americans will be disadvantaged if Federal technology is not accessible. Our Nation is rapidly aging, and older adults are more likely to have a disability. That means a larger population will be relying on accessible Federal technology for access to Federal employment, information, and services in the coming decades. Accessible Federal technology also benefits people without disabilities. For example, an accessible Federal website also benefits someone browsing on a small screen, someone browsing with a broken arm, or someone in a noisy environment who cannot hear an online video.

Despite the importance of accessible technology, the Federal Government has a poor record of meeting its obligations under section 508. In 2018, I was approached by blinded veterans who informed me that they could not access Department of Veterans Affairs’ websites using their screen readers. In

response, I introduced bipartisan legislation, the Department of Veterans Affairs Website Accessibility Act. When it was signed into law in 2020, the VA Website Accessibility Act required the VA to report on the accessibility of the VA's websites and intake kiosks. The resulting report, released in 2021, had stark findings—fewer than 10 percent of the VA's websites were fully accessible for people with disabilities. The report also included a wholly inadequate plan for bringing the VA's websites into section 508 compliance.

The VA's web accessibility report was a wakeup call; the Federal Government must do better. To start, I used my position as chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Aging to push the VA to improve. I am pleased that my efforts had bipartisan support from the ranking member of the Aging Committee and from the bipartisan leadership of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans Affairs. In response to a letter signed by the bipartisan leadership of three committees and two subcommittees, the VA released a revised website accessibility report, with an updated plan for making VA websites accessible. I also requested that the VA conduct regular section 508 compliance updates for bipartisan House and Senate staff, which the VA has done since March 2022. The VA's recurring progress reports for congressional staff help ensure that the VA's efforts to improve stay on track.

Unfortunately, the shortfalls at the VA are not unique. In recent years, a long list of agencies has settled lawsuits alleging that their websites and technology are not accessible. Further, since 1998, the Federal Government's reporting and oversight for section 508 has ranged from lackluster to non-existent. The Department of Justice is required by law to report every 2 years on the Federal Government's section 508 compliance but, prior to my oversight, had not done so since 2012. The General Services Administration routinely collected data on Federal website accessibility but did not make that information available to the public or Congress. The Office of Management and Budget maintained a strategic plan for Federal section 508 compliance, but that strategic plan had not been updated since 2013, despite Federal accessibility shortfalls and rapid technological change.

Since 2022, I have authored multiple letters to Federal departments and Agencies urging them to improve section 508 compliance, oversight, and transparency. Many letters were bipartisan, demonstrating the continued, broad interest in accessible Federal technology. I also led two Aging Committee hearings on accessible government technology that included people with disabilities as witnesses. Their testimony helped the committee understand the real-world impact when Federal technology does not allow for equal access. In December 2022, I released *Unlocking the Virtual Front*

Door

an Aging Committee majority staff report that lays out many of the Federal accessibility failures that I have outlined today. *Unlocking the Virtual Front Door* includes a set of recommendations for the Federal Government and for Congress for making Federal technology accessible.

I am pleased that improvements have been made in response to my oversight of section 508 compliance. The VA reorganized its technology access office, expanded its outreach to people with disabilities, and bolstered its efforts to make its technology accessible. The VA also reevaluated over 300 exceptions that it had granted to allow the use of inaccessible technology and revoked all but 18. The Department of Justice, meanwhile, released its first report on the Federal Government's section 508 compliance since 2012, and the General Services Administration committed to new section 508 oversight and transparency efforts. The Office of Management and Budget has released updated guidance for Departments and Agencies on meeting section 508 standards, replacing its outdated 2013 strategic plan. Department and Agency inspectors general have also taken an interest in accessible technology, which resulted in a January 2024 inspector general report on technology at the VA.

While there has been progress toward making the Federal Government's technology accessible for people with disabilities, significant shortfalls remain. The Justice Department's latest section 508 report, released in January 2023, found that 1 in 10 public-facing websites at major Departments and Agencies are not fully accessible for people with disabilities. A December 2023 General Services Administration assessment likewise noted that the Federal Government's section 508 compliance is "well below expectations." There are also continued, troubling reports of specific electronic accessibility failures within the Federal Government. For example, there are allegations that the new electronic health record system at the VA is not accessible for people with disabilities. The VA has come a long way since I began my oversight of section 508. The VA must continue to show that it is serious about section 508 by prioritizing accessibility for all new information and communications technology, including its EHR system.

The reports and data that have been released in response to my oversight of section 508 highlight a need to do more. One recommendation in *Unlocking the Virtual Front Door* was for Congress to significantly update section 508 for the first time since 1998. That is why I have introduced S. 4766, the Section 508 Refresh Act of 2024. My legislation would make changes to ensure that newly purchased or developed Federal technology is accessible before it is deployed. It would also reform the Federal Government's section 508 complaint process by giving the experts

with the Access Board a prominent role. The Section 508 Refresh Act would require regular testing to ensure that Federal technology already in use remains fully accessible over time, and it would require Departments and Agencies to appoint qualified, dedicated section 508 officers. Critically, my legislation would also require the involvement of people with disabilities in the acquisition and accessibility testing of Federal technology. People with disabilities who work for the Federal Government or use Federal resources are the ones who are harmed when Federal technology is not accessible. It is essential for them to have a seat at the table when Federal technology is being acquired, designed, implemented, and tested.

The need to reform section 508 is real. My own constituents have testified to the Aging Committee about the impact when Federal technology does not allow equal access for all Americans. Ms. Jule Ann Lieberman of Devon, PA, is an expert on assistive technology. Yet, during the COVID-19 pandemic, she could not access local prevalence data on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website because it was inaccessible for her screen reader. Although Ms. Lieberman was able to ask a family member for help, she explained to the committee that "repeated requests for help become burdensome for those who support me, potentially leaving me with either no access or not timely information." Sadly, Ms. Lieberman ran into yet another accessibility barrier later in the pandemic, when she could not use her screen reader to access COVID-19 vaccination resources on the CDC website.

Mr. Ron Biglin is a blind Air Force veteran from Clarks Summit, PA. Mr. Biglin can fish, kayak, and do online banking. However, Mr. Biglin could not use the internet to access his VA health benefits. When Mr. Biglin tried to do so, the VA's online portal, My HealtheVet, would not work with his screen reader. Mr. Biglin told the Aging Committee that, "when you are visually impaired you want to be as independent as possible and having problems getting on VA websites takes away this independency." In response to my oversight, the VA worked to resolve the issues that Mr. Biglin was having with My HealtheVet. However, to safeguard equal access, we must ensure that all Federal Departments and Agencies build accessibility into their technology from the start.

I remain committed to ensuring that Federal technology is accessible for people with disabilities and that all Americans have equal access to Federal jobs, information, and benefits. I look forward to working with my colleagues in Congress on continued section 508 oversight and to advance the Section 508 Refresh Act.

GUATEMALA

Mr. WELCH. Madam President, last December I joined Senators TIM KAINE, DICK DURBIN, JEFF MERKLEY, and LAPHONZA BUTLER and Representatives NORMA J. TORRES and DELIA C. RAMIREZ, on a trip to Guatemala. We arrived just weeks before the scheduled inauguration of President Bernardo Arevalo, who had been elected by an overwhelming majority. The Guatemalan people had voted decisively to reject the corruption, impunity, and malfeasance that had been the hallmark of successive governments in that country.

We went to Guatemala to speak directly to Mr. Arevalo's supporters, as well as to the powerful forces in Guatemala, including the Attorney General, opposition members of Congress, magistrates, and those who were corruptly conspiring to prevent President Arevalo from taking office. Our purpose was to make clear that if their efforts to subvert the will of the people succeeded, it would have profoundly negative long-term consequences for U.S. relations—both economic and security—for whoever illegally seized power. It would propel the country down a path of authoritarianism and economic decline much like Nicaragua, leading to further social division, political instability, and isolation.

Their efforts to overturn the election and undermine the people were flagrant; the Attorney General went so far as to attempt to nullify the fair election of then President-elect Arevalo shortly after we met with officials of the outgoing administration to urge a peaceful transfer of power.

Ultimately, the efforts to prevent President Arevalo from taking office failed. But his detractors were far from defeated. They immediately set their sights on preventing President Arevalo from carrying out his anti-corruption agenda and forcing him from office. Those efforts continue today.

I mention this because I recently met with a delegation of Guatemalan indigenous women, led by Nobel Laureate Rigoberta Menchú. Although their numbers are woefully under-represented in the three branches of government, I have never met more determined and courageous women. Women who have experienced extreme poverty, violence, and loss, yet who have become leaders in their communities and fiercely dedicated to preserving their indigenous identity, improving the lives of their families, and defending Guatemala's fragile democracy.

The United States strongly supports President Arevalo, who offers the best chance Guatemala has had in decades to chart a new path for his country—a path grounded in the rule of law, in the institutions of democracy, in transparency, in accountability. And despite the efforts of the corrupt networks whose only interest is in using the institutions of power and privilege to enrich themselves, I am hopeful because President Arevalo has the support of

Guatemala's indigenous population, exemplified by the fearless women I met this week.

They are not going to let what they won freely and fairly at the ballot box be stolen from them. They are not going to allow a minority of crooked elites deny them and their children the chance for a better life. They have an ambitious social, economic, and political reform agenda. They are committed to working to strengthen education, economic opportunity, equality, democracy, and justice. It is in the interest of the Arevalo administration and the United States to help them achieve these goals for the benefit of all Guatemalans.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MILWAUKEE NAACP

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam President, today I rise to recognize the Milwaukee NAACP on its 100th anniversary. It gives me great pleasure to honor this remarkable organization and to commemorate this historic milestone.

The Milwaukee NAACP branch was established in 1924, which grew out of the national quest to eradicate the eruptions of anti-Black violence. For 100 years, the Milwaukee NAACP has stood at the forefront of the civil rights movement, unwavering in its efforts to achieve parity in politics, education, society, and the economy, while striving to eliminate racial prejudice.

During the emergence of the NAACP, millions of African-Americans were migrating from the south to northern States like Wisconsin in search of greater opportunity and a better quality of life. The newcomers soon learned that they had not escaped racial discrimination in jobs, education, and housing.

Throughout its early years, led by prominent middle-class African-American professionals, including Wilbur Halyard, Ardie Halyard, and James W. Dorsey, the Milwaukee NAACP was instrumental in battling the racial discrimination through political lobbying, legal intervention, and direct-action protest.

Over the past century, the NAACP has achieved significant progress in empowering African-Americans to reach their greatest potential. By supporting initiatives to improve the lives of those who are often left behind, the NAACP has instigated substantial transformations in Wisconsin's largest city.

Despite the NAACP's tireless efforts, the African-American community in Milwaukee continues to face daunting challenges. Factors such as wages, educational outcomes, economic conditions, neighborhood safety, and the opportunity to achieve the American dream are regrettably still influenced by a person's ZIP Code or the color of his or her skin.

By working together, we can ensure that African-Americans and all community members are educated, em-

ployed, and empowered to succeed. The NAACP's persistent commitment to improvement fosters hope for the next generation of leaders in Milwaukee's communities of color.

As we honor the Milwaukee NAACP's achievements and contemplate future challenges, I will be forever grateful for the branch's achievements over the past century, and I look forward to its continued success in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE MARYLAND ATHLETES AT THE 2024 OLYMPICS

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I rise today to honor the 26 athletes with ties to Maryland who participated at the 2024 Olympics and Paralympics in Paris, France. Olympic athletes compete at the highest level of their craft, showing incredible determination and perseverance to reach their goals. Therefore, I would like to recognize the following athletes for their hard work and successes during the 2024 Olympics and Paralympics:

Katie Ledecky of Bethesda and alumni of Stone Ridge School of Sacred Heart, who won silver in the 4x200m freestyle relay, dominated the 1500m freestyle, won gold in the 800m freestyle, and bronze in the 400m freestyle. Ledecky now has 14 Olympic medals, making her the most decorated female Olympian in U.S. history.

Phoebe Bacon of Chevy Chase and Erin Gemmell of Potomac, who also competed on the U.S. Swim Team, with Gemmell taking silver in the 4x200m freestyle relay.

Alyssa Thomas, a 10-year veteran of the WNBA and University of Maryland Alumni, who won her first gold medal during the U.S. Women's Basketball final against France.

Kevin Durant of Suitland, an NBA superstar who won his fifth gold medal during the U.S. Men's Basketball final against France.

Thea Lafond, another UMD Terp and alumna of Montgomery County Public Schools, who won Dominica's first gold medal ever in the triple jump.

Aaron Brooks of Hagerstown and Helen Maroulis of Rockville, who both won a Bronze Medal in their weight class of wrestling. Maroulis is the first-ever American to win three Olympic medals in women's wrestling.

Aaron Russell of Ellicott City and the Team USA Men's Volleyball Team, who won a bronze medal in their match against Italy.

Massai Russell of Potomac, who won gold in the 100m hurdle.

Quincy Wilson of Potomac, who became the youngest Maryland Olympian and track and field gold medalist in the history of the Olympics for running in the team qualifier for the 4x400m relay.

Skateboarder Rudy Lolley of Ocean City, the youngest Maryland woman at 17 to compete at the Olympic Games.

Grace Balsdon, Leah Crouse, Brooke DeBerdine, Emma DeBerdine, Kelee Lepage, and Nike Lorenze, alumnae of University Maryland, who competed for their respective countries' field hockey teams.

Trevon Jenifer of Huntingtown, who won his third Gold-Medal for wheelchair basketball.

Noah Hanssen of Ellicott City, who placed fourth in wheelchair fencing.

Tatyana McFadden of Columbia, who earned a silver medal in the women's T54 100m, her 20th medal.

Daniel Ramanchuk of Mt. Airy, who won a gold medal in Men's T54 5,000m and a bronze medal in Men's T54 400m.

Jessica Long of Baltimore, who won a gold medal in the women's 400m freestyle swim, making her one of the top Paralympians of all times with 29 medals.

Zachary Shattuck of Mt. Airy, who won a silver medal in men's mixed 4x50m freestyle relay swim.

On behalf of all Marylanders, I thank them for representing Maryland in the 2024 Olympics and Paralympics and congratulate them on this major achievement.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE NEE

MR. REED. Madam President, I rise today to congratulate George Nee, president of the AFL-CIO of Rhode Island, on his upcoming retirement and to thank him for his years of service and unwavering dedication to improving the lives of working people.

For George, organized labor serves as the "People's Lobbyist," ensuring that the concerns of working people are given due consideration when critical decisions are made. In his retirement letter, he wrote that "organized labor has a right and a responsibility to exercise our voice when and where decisions are made at every level of government. These decisions impact the quality of life and economy of our state, and we must be there."

His leadership—tenacious but pragmatic and always with decency and integrity—has contributed to the vibrancy of the union movement in Rhode Island, making it one of the States with the highest percentage of union workers in the Nation.

From the beginning, George acted on the belief that working people have a right to have a voice, no matter if they are working in the fields, on the factory floors, in offices, in healthcare facilities, in schools, or on construction sites.

As a young man, he left the comfort of Boston College to earn \$5 dollars per week, plus room and board, to join farmworkers in organizing successful grape and lettuce boycotts. He was inspired by Cesar Chavez, and joined him on a pilgrimage across the farmlands of California, serving as his personal bodyguard.

Rhode Island called him back. In 1976, he organized jewelry workers, clerical workers, and healthcare workers and founded SEIU Local 76, where he served as president until he joined the Rhode Island AFL-CIO in 1983 as a staff representative. George quickly rose through the ranks at the Rhode Island AFL-CIO. By 1985, he was elected secretary-treasurer and, in 2009, president—a role that he will step down from on October 11.

George's strong moral compass and steady leadership has been a beacon for public servants and community leaders across the State. He has been a mentor and a trusted adviser to me and to so many others who share his goals of a just and prosperous Nation where workers' rights are always protected.

In a 2018 interview with Rhode Island Public Radio's Scott MacKay, George

said: "We have a solemn obligation to the people who came before us to fight back and protect these rights for future generations."

As he begins his next chapter, George can rest assured that he fulfilled that solemn promise and has equipped a new generation for the battles and the challenges ahead. Rhode Island is a stronger State, and we are a better Nation because of George Nee's leadership.

I thank him and his wonderful family, especially his beloved wife Ann, for their great friendship and kindness over many years and for their great inspiration. George always reminded us, by his actions, that hard work for a just cause was the greatest and most satisfying contribution that we can make.

I wish George a happy and healthy retirement. He has earned it.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE NEE

MR. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I rise today to offer my sincerest congratulations to my friend George Nee on his upcoming retirement as president of the Rhode Island AFL-CIO. George is a friend of many years, and I have long admired his dedication to fighting for Rhode Islanders—for good-paying jobs, affordable healthcare, safe workplaces, and retirement security.

George was born in Syracuse, NY, and first came to New England in the late 1960s to attend Boston College. He left his studies to oversee the United Farm Workers grape boycott in Massachusetts and, a few years later, came to Rhode Island for the Farm Workers' lettuce boycott. Through his work, he met legendary activist and organizer Cesar Chavez and became part of the security team protecting Chavez as he worked to organize farm workers. Inspired by Chavez, George returned to the Ocean State in 1976 to form his own union, which would become the Service Employees International Union Local 76, representing jewelry, clerical, and healthcare workers.

In 1983, George joined the Rhode Island AFL-CIO as its executive director, then secretary-treasurer, then president. Under George's leadership, the AFL-CIO improved access to opportunities for workers, including Climate Jobs Rhode Island, an initiative to help transition Rhode Island toward a clean energy economy. Along the way, he met and married Anne Sliney, the best of a great many good decisions he has made. She has made her own magnificent contributions, and together, they raised three children Katie, Brigid, and Patrick, who are each following the family tradition of making a difference in ways that matter.

I got to know George best in the early 90s when Rhode Island's workers' compensation system was in crisis. George brought the union voice and perspective to the table and advocated for reforms to revamp the broken system. The result was a law that dra-

matically reduced costs without cutting benefits—a win for workers and employers. George was one of the keys to the law's passage and went on to protect that reform and the workers' compensation system over many years. George stands in a Rhode Island tradition of leadership in the national labor movement, along with legends like Ed McElroy, Armand Sabitoni, Frank Montanaro, and now Michael Sabitoni. George puts his head down and works hard, so workers in our State can hold their heads high.

Bravo, my friend. We owe you a debt of gratitude and appreciation for uplifting the lives and livelihoods of workers across our State. My very best wishes on your exciting next chapter.

REMEMBERING J. MICHAEL DOWNEY

MR. REED. Madam President, I rise today to honor the life of one of Rhode Island's great champions for working people, J. Michael Downey, president of Rhode Island Council 94 of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees.

Mike was known as a family man, an organizer, a tough negotiator, and a fierce protector of his members' wages, working conditions, and benefits. He was a loving husband to his wife of nearly 50 years, Claudette, a devoted father to his three children, and a doting grandfather to his nine grandchildren. He was also a beloved brother to his brothers and sisters in the union movement.

Mike came from a family of union organizers. His father was the president of Local 28, the Plumber's Union and executive director of the Allied Building Trades. His grandfather was president of the Bricklayer's Union, Local 1. Mike was a master plumber and practiced his trade at the University of Rhode Island for 27 years, during which he also served as the president of Local 528.

He later brought his expertise to the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training, where he served as the chief plumbing investigator. In 2005, Mike was first elected president of Council 94, and he was re-elected five times. He also served on the executive board of the Rhode Island AFL-CIO and the Institute of Labor Studies. Under his leadership, Council 94 increased member participation, expanded and enhanced its political activities, and prioritized organizing, adding new locals.

Just days before his passing, Mike helped negotiate a new 3-year contract with the State that boosted wages and enhanced benefits. The contract was overwhelmingly approved by the rank-and-file members—a final addition to his long list of accomplishments as a union leader.

Mike was known for his kindness and compassion. He is remembered for his

special passion for supporting the lowest paid members of the union. He believed in the dignity of work and creating pathways for all workers to advance. He embodied the spirit of solidarity.

We will miss him and will strive to live by his example.

REMEMBERING J. MICHAEL DOWNEY

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I rise today to honor my friend, J. Michael Downey, who was the president of Rhode Island's AFSCME Council 94. Mike passed away in August, leaving behind his wife Claudette, their three children Corey, Faith, and Michael, and their spouses. He also leaves behind two siblings and nine grandchildren. Mike was born in Providence and grew up in a union household. Both his father and grandfather served in leadership roles in their local unions.

After graduating from LaSalle Academy, Mike earned his master plumbing license through a 5-year apprenticeship program. Mike went on to work as a plumber at the University of Rhode Island and later as chief plumbing investigator at the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training. It was during Mike's time at URI that, like his father and grandfather before him, he found his passion for organized labor and advocating for the rights and well-being of workers. For more than 27 years, Mike served as president of Local 528, which represents workers at URI. Mike also served as president of AFSCME Council 94 from 2005 until his passing.

Mike was an avid sports fan and loved New England's teams—the Celtics, Red Sox, and Patriots. He also enjoyed coaching youth sports and could often be found cheering in the stands at his grandkids' sporting events. Mike was a great guy, an enthusiastic leader, and a good friend in the fight. I thank him for his tireless advocacy on behalf of workers across Rhode Island. I will miss him.

TRIBUTE TO J. WILLIAM MIDDENDORF II

Mr. REED. Madam President, today I rise to recognize the 100th birthday of Ambassador J. William Middendorf. Ambassador Middendorf is an extraordinary Rhode Islander and an extraordinary American. Last Sunday, we had a chance to celebrate his birthday at his home in Little Compton, RI, and he was as sharp and insightful as ever. Today, along with Senator WHITEHOUSE, I would like to take a moment to honor his impressive career in service to our country.

Ambassador Middendorf, now a resident of Little Compton, RI, was born in Baltimore, MD on September 22, 1924. As a young man, he attended the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA. In 1945, as World War II raged in Europe, Ambassador Middendorf inter-

rupted his education to serve in the Navy as an engineering officer and navigator aboard the landing craft support ship USS *LCS-53*. After the war, Ambassador Middendorf continued his education and graduated from Holy Cross with a bachelor of naval science. He later attended Harvard College, where he graduated with a bachelor of arts degree, and in 1954, he earned an M.B.A from New York University's Stern School of Business.

Ambassador Middendorf then became an investment banker. Eventually, as a cofounder of the prominent Wall Street firm Middendorf, Colgate and Company, he began to involve himself in politics. He took on important roles within the national Republican Party, including as treasurer of the Republican National Committee from 1965 to 1969.

Eventually, Ambassador Middendorf left his investment firm and began his long career in public service. In 1969, President Nixon appointed him to be U.S. Ambassador to the Netherlands, where he represented our Nation with distinction. In 1974, he returned to the U.S. to serve first as Under Secretary of the Navy, and then as the 62nd Secretary of the Navy, a position he held until 1977.

As Secretary of the Navy he pushed for the development of four new Navy programs, particularly the *Ohio*-class submarine program. He also led the way on developing and fielding the AEGIS missile system, Trident missile program, CH-53E heavy-lift helicopter, and the F/A-18 Hornet attack aircraft. The introduction of these programs resulted in major improvements for the Navy and remain key national defense assets to this day. The Navy's growth under Ambassador Middendorf's leadership is in large part thanks to his relationships in Congress and reputation as a respected leader.

After serving as Secretary of the Navy, Ambassador Middendorf returned to the private sector. He served as the president and chief executive officer of Financial General Bankshares, which eventually became First American Bank.

After the 1980 election, Ambassador Middendorf led the CIA transition team for President Reagan's incoming administration. President Reagan then nominated him to be U.S. Ambassador to the Organization of American States in 1981. He served in this position until accepting an appointment as U.S. Representative to the European Community, now known as the European Union.

In retirement, Ambassador Middendorf has remained a person of tremendous intellect and achievement and has become a prolific writer. Ambassador Middendorf continues to share his strong and insightful opinions as a frequent contributor to the "Providence Journal." While we don't always agree, his columns always make for a lively and interesting read. He has also written several books, and his newest

title, "On My 100-Year Watch: Tyrants and Patriots," is set to be released later this year.

Following the tradition of naming naval destroyers after U.S. naval leaders and heroes, the future *Arleigh Burke*-class guided-missile destroyer—DDG-138—will be named USS *J. William Middendorf*. Once commissioned, the USS *J. William Middendorf* will join U.S. naval forces in protecting our country for years to come. And today, I am proud to rise in recognition of Ambassador J. William Middendorf, an exceptional Rhode Islander and American, and wish him a happy 100th birthday.

TRIBUTE TO J. WILLIAM MIDDENDORF II

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I rise today to wish a happy 100th birthday to J. William Middendorf II, known to family and friends as Bill. Bill lives in Little Compton, RI, and celebrated this remarkable milestone on Sunday. Bill led a distinguished career in public service. He served in World War II as a naval engineering officer and navigator. He was appointed U.S. Ambassador to the Netherlands in 1969. Following his ambassadorship, he served as Under Secretary of the Navy.

In 1974, Middendorf was appointed by President Nixon to serve as the 62nd Secretary of the Navy. During his leadership in the Navy, Middendorf championed the Navy's submarine program and oversaw the creation of General Dynamics Electric Boat's Quonset Point location. Rhode Islanders know well the importance of the Quonset Point facility to our State's economy and its role at the forefront of our national security efforts. Bill was also instrumental in the development of the F/A-18 Hornet, which was in part named for the Revolutionary warship, the USS *Hornet* that had been commissioned by his ancestor, Captain William Stone. And he approved the first Marine Corps Marathon, which is still run to this day.

Last December, I was very pleased to take to the Senate floor to celebrate that an *Arleigh Burke*-class guided-missile destroyer was named USS *J. William Middendorf*, which follows the tradition of naming destroyers after U.S. naval leaders. That recognition was a testament to Bill's remarkable career in public service and many contributions to our State and country. Bill, my best wishes to you on your 100th birthday.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF RHODE ISLAND

Mr. REED. Madam President, I rise today on behalf of my colleague Senator WHITEHOUSE and myself, to recognize the 60th anniversary of the Community College of Rhode Island—CCRI—which opened its doors on September 24, 1964. Over the last six decades, CCRI has grown into New England's largest public, 2-year degree

granting college, expanding educational opportunities for hundreds of thousands of Rhode Islanders.

From its modest beginning in Providence with just 325 students, CCRI opened its Knight Campus in 1972 to nearly 3,000 students, after Royal Webster Knight gifted 80 acres of his estate in Warwick to the college. CCRI has grown to nearly 20,000 enrolled students each year and now has four campuses across Rhode Island, including an education center and online classes, ensuring that residents throughout the State have access to educational and career development opportunities.

Students have more than 20 academic departments to choose from—from the arts, to science and mathematics, to business, and more—all at an affordable price. In 2017, the Rhode Island Promise Program was launched, making CCRI tuition-free to recent high school graduates seeking opportunities.

But CCRI also understands that education is a lifelong journey, and it is never too late to learn something new. The adult education team at CCRI offers a wide range of classes to prepare adults to join the workforce, including GED classes, English language studies, and corporate language training. By working in close collaboration with industry and business leaders, CCRI ensures students are meeting workforce needs in the Ocean State. Just last year, CCRI was selected by the Biden administration as one of just 17 new Industrial Assessment Centers, working with the Department of Energy to expand clean energy workforce training opportunities, for in-demand, high-quality jobs.

CCRI is a pillar of hope for the community, consistently rising to the challenge of meeting the educational and workforce needs of the present and the future. In the last 20 years alone, CCRI has guided students and employers through the Great Recession and COVID-19 pandemic and earned the designation as a Hispanic-serving Institution, reflecting its commitment to meeting emerging community needs. Its campuses also serve as community hubs, connecting residents to vital services and activities, job preparation workshops, free flu and COVID shots, and more. This is all thanks to the dedicated faculty and staff, who work tirelessly to carry out the mission of the college every day.

CCRI is a bedrock institution to the State of Rhode Island, and we are so proud of the hard-working people who have changed the lives of so many individuals over the last 60 years. Along with Senator WHITEHOUSE, I would like to congratulate the entire CCRI community on this important milestone.

TRIBUTE TO REV. DR. MARK E. DEVER

Mr. HAWLEY. Madam President, it is a privilege today to honor the Rev. Dr. Mark E. Dever on the occasion of his

30th anniversary as senior pastor of Capitol Hill Baptist Church, here in Washington, DC.

Mark Dever was born in Madisonville, KY, in 1960. Initially a skeptic, he became a Christian as a teenager and went on to study at Duke University, where he met his wife Connie. Preparing for a life in academia, Dr. Dever completed degrees at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, before earning a Ph.D. in ecclesiastical history from Cambridge University.

Providence had plans other than academia, however. In January 1993, Dr. Dever was invited to apply for the recently vacated pulpit on Capitol Hill. To the surprise of many, he did—and has pastored in the shadow of the Capitol ever since.

Since his installation as pastor of Capitol Hill Baptist Church, Dr. Dever has not hesitated to preach “the whole counsel of God,” Acts 20:27. Under his faithful leadership, the church has grown from a few hundred to a thriving congregation of nearly a thousand. In January 1995, that same leadership was felt in this Chamber, when he briefly served the Senate as interim chaplain.

Dr. Dever has dedicated his life to the work of the ministry and to the idea that a pastor should preach, pray, love, and stay. And those who have been blessed enough to know him or to be members at his church know he embodies that ideal.

His preaching—and he would be sure to note that it is expositional preaching in particular—has taught many to better understand God and God’s word. His constancy in prayer and willingness to wait on God’s timing has produced an inspiring level of patience and trust in God’s purposes. He loves through his encouragement and regular prayers. He has an almost singular ability to shape leaders and inspire pastors. And his dedication to staying in the place God has called him has made Dr. Dever a blessing to the thousands of Capitol Hill and executive branch staffers who have passed through his church doors.

Dr. Dever is the author of over 20 books. He is the grateful husband of Connie, the father of Annie and Nathan, and the proud grandfather of Penelope.

On behalf of the Senate and countless colleagues who have been inspired, pastored, and taught by him, it is my honor to recognize Dr. Mark Dever for his distinguished service to the church and to our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHN T. BROOKS

Mr. WARNOCK. Madam President, today I congratulate Dr. John T. Brooks, on his retirement from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC. Dr. Brooks is retiring from the CDC with more than 26 years of hard work on behalf of our country. Dr. Brooks began his career as an epidemic intelligence service (EIS) officer

at the National Center for Zoonotic, Vector-Borne, and Enteric Diseases. In this role, he investigated domestic outbreaks of foodborne disease and managed domestic surveillance for cases of botulism.

Most recently, as the chief medical officer of the CDC’s Division of HIV Prevention in the National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention, Dr. Brooks was essential in leading efforts in the Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative. He pushed for Federal guidelines to prevent and treat HIV and multiple other infectious diseases, as well as authored over 250 peer-reviewed publications and textbook chapters.

Thank you, Dr. Brooks, for 26 years at the CDC, for dedication to public service, and for a lifetime of work that has truly made a difference in the health of our Nation and around the world. On behalf of the U.S. Senate and the great State of Georgia, I recognize Dr. Brooks for all of the important work he has done and wish him the very best in his next phase of life.

ANTIQUE TRACTOR PRESERVATION DAY

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam President, today, I rise to pay tribute to an observance that honors the thousands of Americans who devote their daily toils to the excellence of our Nation’s agriculture industry. That observance is embodied in a new celebration: Antique Tractor Preservation Day, observed in Kansas on August 22.

As a Senator from Kansas, my devotion to our State’s leading role in American agriculture has been a cornerstone of my tenure. As a fifth-generation farm kid, I understand firsthand that the success of agriculture would not be possible without the tractors that facilitate its development. It is therefore imperative to mark Antique Tractor Preservation Day in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. In doing so, we pay homage to antique tractors, which symbolize American agriculture.

A focus on antique tractors is of particular importance. Uplifting antique tractors allows the public to appreciate the impressive spirit of innovation that has driven continued improvement in the efficiency of today’s tractors, resulting in a direct improvement of the modern farming sector. A specified day to celebrate antique tractors and display them in various venues empowers families who own these tractors to preserve their farming heritage by sharing stories with a wide audience. Educational opportunities regarding our Nation’s farming history are crucial to the continuance of this essential industry. Antique Tractor Preservation Day offers such an opportunity. Just as friendships have been forged on tractors for over a century, so, too, does the observance of Antique Tractor Preservation Day provide an occasion to solidify the bonds of fellowship between farming enthusiasts and those

who have not yet learned about the significance of antique tractors.

A special mention must be made to Mr. Michael Hinton, a native Kansan who has committed his efforts to educating the American public about antique tractors and the legacy they represent. Mr. Hinton pioneered the concept of Antique Tractor Preservation Day and maintains a tremendously helpful website at talkingtractors.com, which serves as a resource for those who seek to learn more about tractors and agriculture. For his distinguished passion and efforts, I am grateful.

I now ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Antique Tractor Preservation Day and, in so doing, the storied legacy of American agriculture, which is paramount to our Nation's merit.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO CYNTHIA EDWARDS

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I rise today to recognize Ms. Cynthia Edwards, as her tenure as Deputy Secretary of Agriculture for the State of Arkansas comes to a close.

We have been fortunate to have Ms. Edwards's careful and expert guidance at the Arkansas Department of Agriculture since 2011. In that time, the department has continued to make strides in bettering the lives of Arkansans, especially our farmers and ranchers, and much of this progress can be directly attributed to her dedication to the industry.

Growing up in DeWitt, AR, Ms. Edwards is no stranger to the agrarian charm the Natural State is renowned for. DeWitt is a small community in the Arkansas Delta, a region of the country where people roll up their sleeves and work hard until the job is done.

The same can be said for Ms. Edwards. A lawyer by trade, with undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Arkansas system, she has dedicated her career to public service, first working under a great leader for the State Senator Blanche Lincoln and culminating in her work for the Arkansas Department of Agriculture.

The lasting impact on the state of Arkansas that Cynthia Edwards is responsible for will be hard to even measure, as well as her influence on future generations of women hoping to pursue careers in the areas of agricultural law and policy. Her example is an inspiration, and it is exciting to see others following in the path she has paved.

I congratulate Ms. Edwards on her outstanding service to the State of Arkansas and its agricultural pursuits and wish her the best in her retirement.●

RECOGNIZING THE CINCINNATI OHIO VET CENTER

• Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I rise to honor the Cincinnati Ohio Vet Cen-

ter for receiving the 2024 Vet Center Excellence in Customer Experience Award, given to the highest performing vet center in the Nation. In the past year, the Cincinnati Vet Center has improved the well-being of veterans in southwest Ohio. The center expanded community access points to local college campuses at the University of Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky University and conducted strategic outreach on smaller local college campuses. The team also expanded outreach to local gyms and fitness centers, going above and beyond to meet veterans where they are, to spread the word about the services vet centers provide to our Nation's heroes.

The counselors at the Cincinnati Vet Center have added to the evidence-based treatments available to veterans and servicemembers and worked to find new ways for veterans to heal and build lasting connections with one another. The team accomplished all of this while remaining steadfast in their commitment to its Vietnam era groups and its long-running African-American veteran group.

Veterans and their families have sacrificed so much to keep our country safe. We owe them more than our gratitude; they deserve the healthcare, benefits, and educational opportunities that they have earned through their service to our Nation. That is why the work that places like the Cincinnati Ohio Vet Center do matters so much and why we can never waver in our commitment to veterans and their families.

I would like to personally recognize these employees at the Cincinnati Vet Center for making this possible: Cher Runtenelli, vet center director; Ryan Scharfenberger, outreach specialist; Zachary McGuffey, program support assistant; Taylor Katt, readjustment counselor; Stephanie Downard, readjustment counselor; and Chasitee Little, readjustment counselor.●

TRIBUTE TO KIMBERLY LOZADA

• Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I am honored to recognize Kimberly "Kym" Lozada of Manchester as September's Granite Stater of the Month. After her husband passed away, Kym felt a drive to find ways to support her community—and now, through her barbershop, Get Faded, Kym offers free haircuts and other events to support adults and kids alike.

Kym, a mother of six, opened Get Faded in February 2023. When her husband passed away 6 months later, she wanted to find a way to help other single parents who might be struggling with the busy back-to-school season. She started an annual event with free haircuts for local students, and this year, the shop also gave out 150 backpacks filled with school supplies. The business has also hosted trunk-or-treat for kids on Halloween. Get Faded prioritizes ensuring that all children feel comfortable; it is a certified sen-

sory-safe barbershop, where the barbers are trained to give haircuts to children with autism or sensory processing sensitivities that can make it difficult to experience a traditional haircut. Overall, Kym makes Get Faded a place where every child can feel supported—and, of course, get the haircut they want to feel stylish and confident.

In addition, like many Granite State families, the Lozada family has experienced the effects of the fentanyl crisis. Kym's late husband dealt with addiction, and she is open about his experience in the hopes that she can inspire others to get treatment. In Kym's words, "I will keep telling my story in the hope that it can save someone's life." Get Faded recently hosted free haircut events for adults at Hope for NH Recovery, a center that offers peer-based support for those dealing with addiction, and at AmeriHealth Caritas, an organization that works to bring healthcare to communities throughout the State.

Kym's dedication to helping those in need is a true example of the Granite State spirit of pitching in to help our fellow citizens. Her family's experience is one that is not unique in our State, but her perseverance and commitment to helping Granite Staters in her own way can inspire all of us.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. LEE EDWARDS

Mr. LEE. Madam President, the resurgence of American conservatism over the last three-quarters of a century had many fathers: James Burnham, Willmore Kendall, Frank Meyer, Richard Weaver, Milton Friedman, Russell Kirk, and, of course, William F. Buckley. They laid the intellectual foundation for the political transformation launched by Senator Barry Goldwater and brought to fruition by Ronald Reagan. All those are names of the past, but one individual remains with us who knew most of them, wrote about them, and popularized their thinking that transformed American society.

This is Dr. Lee Edwards. Now in his tenth decade, he has been an irreplaceable part of the conservative movement longer than most of us have been alive. He is a scholar and teacher with a doctorate from the Catholic University of America and further study at the Sorbonne. He is a philosopher, formerly the distinguished fellow in conservative thought at the Heritage Foundation. His books have been translated into as many languages as societies and their peoples have hungered for freedom.

His volumes still speak eloquently to young Americans who wonder where we go from here: "The Collapse of Communism," "The Power of Ideas," "The Conservative Revolution: The Movement that Remade America," "Reading the Right Books, a Guide for the Intellectual Conservative," and biographies of half a dozen major conservative leaders. He knew them all.

One might think he deserves some sort of monument.

Well, he has one, a monument that he more than anyone else created.

It stands a few blocks from this Capitol at the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue, New Jersey Avenue, and G Street. It is the Victims of Communism Memorial, dedicated to “more than 100 million victims of Communism and to those who love liberty.”

Authorized by Act of Congress in 1993, it was first suggested to Lee by his wife Anne, who was also his partner in his writing.

If this memorial were a mandatory stop for all the high school tours that come to DC every spring, graduates would be better inoculated against the ignorance of radical leftism that infests too many of our universities.

Lee’s work continues through his Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation, here in Washington, where visitors are reminded that one-fifth of humanity still lives under communism in China, Cuba, Vietnam, Laos, and North Korea, as well as other countries where oppressive Marxist-Leninist practices impoverish and subjugate millions.

Whatever honors have been bestowed upon him in the past, and whatever accolades await him in the future, Lee Edwards remains that rare person of enormous achievement for liberty, whose greatest reward will always be the joyous sound of breaking chains across the world, the shattering of tyranny, and the anthems of a free people.

TRIBUTE TO JOE CASTIGLIONE

• Mr. MARKEY. Madam President, for 42 years, Joe Castiglione’s resonating voice has been the bridge between Boston’s great cathedral Fenway Park and Red Sox fans listening to the game in garages, kitchens, workplaces, and vehicles across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and throughout New England.

Whether you were turning your dial to 93.7 FM in Boston or Lawrence or Malden, 105.5 FM in Springfield, 1440 AM in Worcester, or 96.3 FM on the Cape, Joe Castiglione made you feel like you were in the bleachers with peanuts and a score card. When you were listening to him, you always knew who was at bat, you always knew the count, and you always knew how many runners were on base.

With humility, grace, and an encyclopedic baseball mind, Joe Castiglione took us on a journey every season. It was Castiglione who introduced us to our new ball club each spring after the snow of winter gave way to the green grass of spring. It was Joe Castiglione who ushered us through the dog days of summer, when winning and losing streaks began to cement our spot in the standings. And it was Joe Castiglione who carried us through four magical, crisp October runs that cemented Boston’s status as the City of Champions.

On behalf of Red Sox fans everywhere, thank you, Joe Castiglione. I hope retirement brings you as much joy and happiness and entertainment as you have brought Red Sox Nation. Your wonderful wife Jan, sons Joseph Jr. (Duke) and Thomas, daughter Kate, and six grandchildren are fortunate to have you.

As a poet, a wordsmith, an alltime orator, we leave with some of Joe Castiglione’s greatest words: “Swing and a ground ball, stabbed by Foulke, he has it, he under hands to first, and the Boston Red Sox are the World Champions! For the first time in 86 years, the Red Sox have won Baseball’s World Championship. Can you believe it?!”●

TRIBUTE TO KEN MCNEELY

• Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the 32-year career of Ken McNeely, AT&T western region president, ahead of his retirement at the end of this month.

Ken joined AT&T in 1991 as a senior attorney specializing in corporate litigation and has held several key positions for the company since. As vice president of law and government affairs, the longest serving president of AT&T California, and now as president of the western region, Ken has been an exceptional leader and a trusted partner to colleagues in the public and private sectors.

As president of the western region, Ken has led AT&T’s activity in 19 States and overseen a workforce of over 50,000 employees, working tirelessly to deliver greater reliability for communities throughout California.

Ken is also a dedicated member of his community, serving on several boards, and supporting numerous philanthropic organizations over the years. He has also been recognized by others for his outstanding leadership, including by the Black Business Association with their Top 100 African Americans in Technology Award, Equality California with their Vanguard Award, and Our Family Coalition with their Luminary Award.

Ken has always represented our State and its values, and thanks to his work, we have made great strides in bridging the digital divide, ensuring first responders can stay connected to their communities, and preparing our students for future careers in the STEM field.

Today, I want to congratulate Ken on his many accomplishments and to thank him for his work over the past three decades. I wish him, his husband Inder, and their children Kabir and Meera well in the years ahead.●

RECOGNIZING SACRAMENTO STATE

• Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the students and faculty of California State University, Sacramento—or “Sacramento

State”—as they embark on their first year as California’s first-ever “Black-Serving Institution,” as well as the inaugural class of their “Black Honors College.”

Reflective of the most diverse State in the Nation, Sacramento State has long been a leader in providing quality, higher education to students of all backgrounds. Already, they are recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as both a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) and an Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution (AANAPISI).

But as the home to the largest enrollment of Black and African-American students in the California State University (CSU) system, this past summer, the California State Assembly recognized Sacramento State as the first “Black-Serving Institution” in the State of California, a testament to the university’s support of Black students who come from around the world to enroll.

Sacramento State is always looking for more ways to attract, support, and help graduate more Black students. That is why earlier this year, they created and launched the Nation’s first Black Honors College, an enhanced co-curricular college providing specialized coursework for students interested in Black history, life, culture, and contributions.

Thanks to the vision and leadership of Sacramento State president Dr. Luke Wood, inaugural dean of the Black Honors College Dr. Boatamo Mosupyo, and CSU chancellor Dr. Mildred Garcia, Sacramento State is building a world-class academic environment for Black students to follow their passions and to thrive.

Today, I want to congratulate Sacramento State on their official State recognition and to wish the inaugural class of the Black Honors College enormous success in the years ahead.●

TRIBUTE TO JACKIE REED

• Mr. WICKER. Madam President, on behalf of the people of Mississippi, I commend the accomplishments and career of Jackie Reed.

Jackie is a veteran driver known for his lofty standards of care. The Collinsville, MS, resident has notched 3 million safe miles in his 34 years behind the wheel, and he has been increasingly recognized as a leader in the Nation’s vital trucking industry. His lifelong commitment to excellence has made our highways safer and helped power the American economy.

For the past few years, Jackie has competed at the National Truck Driving & Step Van Championships. The event—known as the “Super Bowl of Safety”—has consistently demonstrated his knowledge of safety requirements, his industry awareness, and his driving skills. In 2022, he secured the Mississippi Grand Champion award in the three-axle category. He

returned the next year, finishing second place in the State's two-axle group.

In 2024, Jackie topped all his previous achievements. He was named America's top truck driver, besting 421 other elite contestants from almost every State. Jackie earned the Bendix Grand Champion title, and he also won first place in the tank truck vehicle class.

Jackie says he has won big awards because he has paid "attention to the small stuff." He scours the Facts for Drivers guidebook. He diligently inspects his truck. That level of detail pays off in trophies, and it also benefits Americans nationwide. Jackie's careful driving helps deliver goods to consumers, and it keeps his fellow drivers from accidents along the way.

Mississippi is lucky to have such an outstanding representative on the national stage. It is for his decades of distinction, his many achievements, and his continued quality that I commend Jackie Reed today. •

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:16 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 612. An act to reauthorize the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act, 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. 1103. An act to require the President to remove the extension of certain privileges, exemptions, and immunities to the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices if Hong Kong no longer enjoys a high degree of autonomy from the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3208. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a DHS Cybersecurity On-the-Job Training Program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7073. An act to improve public-private partnerships and increase Federal research, development, and demonstration related to the evolution of next generation pipeline systems, and for other purposes.

H.R. 8057. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9317 Bolsa Avenue in Westminster, California, as the "Little Saigon Vietnam War Veterans Memorial Post Office".

At 1:55 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1657. An act to provide for a land exchange in the Chippewa National Forest, Minnesota, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1726. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior to partner and collaborate with the Secretary of Agriculture and the State of Hawaii to address Rapid Ohia Death, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2468. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the State of Utah certain Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land

Management within the boundaries of Camp Williams, Utah, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2950. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, through the Coastal Program of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, to work with willing partners and provide support to efforts to assess, protect, restore, and enhance important coastal landscapes that provide fish and wildlife habitat on which certain Federal trust species depend, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4094. An act to amend the Central Utah Project Completion Act to authorize expenditures for the conduct of certain water conservation measures in the Great Salt Lake basin, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4259. An act to amend the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to require notification with respect to individualized education program teams, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4596. An act to reauthorize the Bureau of Reclamation to provide cost-shared funding to implement the endangered and threatened fish recovery programs for the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins.

H.R. 5302. An act to designate the Air and Marine Operations Marine Unit of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection located at 101 Km 18.5 in Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico, as the "Michel O. Macea Marine Unit".

H.R. 5490. An act to amend the Coastal Barrier Resources Act to expand the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5509. An act to modernize permitting systems at the Department of the Interior, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5646. An act to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require institutions of higher education to disclose hazing incidents, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6474. An act to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to expedite geothermal exploration and development in previously studied or developed areas.

H.R. 6852. An act to designate Holcombe Rucker Park, in Harlem, New York, as a National Commemorative Site, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7370. An act to amend the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 to establish a deadline for processing applications related to geothermal leasing.

H.R. 7422. An act to amend the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 to provide cost-recovery authority for the Department of the Interior.

At 4:40 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 9747. An act making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2025, and for other purposes.

At 6:33 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 bill, without amendment:

S. 656. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to revise the rules for approval by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of commercial driver education programs for purposes of veterans educational assistance, and for other purposes.

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

H.R. 522. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of

Veterans Affairs to provide or assist in providing a vehicle adapted for operation by disabled individuals to certain eligible persons, to pay expenses associated with the delivery of such vehicle, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6656. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Commissioner of Social Security to implement automated systems with callback functionality for each customer service telephone line of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Social Security Administration, respectively, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7323. An act amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to disapprove courses of education offered by a public institution of higher learning that does not charge the in-State tuition rate to a veteran using certain educational assistance under title 10 of such Code, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 522. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide or assist in providing a vehicle adapted for operation by disabled individuals to certain eligible persons, to pay expenses associated with the delivery of such vehicle, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 1657. An act to provide for a land exchange in the Chippewa National Forest, Minnesota, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

H.R. 1726. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior to partner and collaborate with the Secretary of Agriculture and the State of Hawaii to address Rapid Ohia Death, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

H.R. 3208. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a DHS Cybersecurity On-the-Job Training Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 4259. An act to amend the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to require notification with respect to individualized education program teams, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 5302. An act to designate the Air and Marine Operations Marine Unit of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection located at 101 Km 18.5 in Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico, as the "Michel O. Macea Marine Unit"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5509. An act to modernize permitting systems at the Department of the Interior, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 6474. An act to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to expedite geothermal exploration and development in previously studied or developed areas; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 6656. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Commissioner of Social Security to implement automated systems with callback functionality for each customer service telephone line of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Social Security Administration, respectively, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 6852. An act to designate Holcombe Rucker Park, in Harlem, New York, as a National Commemorative Site, and for other

purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 7073. An act to improve public-private partnerships and increase Federal research, development, and demonstration related to the evolution of next generation pipeline systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 7323. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to disapprove courses of education offered by a public institution of higher learning that does not charge the in-State tuition rate to a veteran using certain educational assistance under title 10 of such Code; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 7370. An act to amend the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 to establish a deadline for processing applications related to geothermal leasing; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 7422. An act to amend the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 to provide cost-recovery authority for the Department of the Interior; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 8057. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9317 Bolsa Avenue in Westminster, California, as the "Little Saigon Vietnam War Veterans Memorial Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

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

H.R. 1103. An act to require the President to remove the extension of certain privileges, exemptions, and immunities to the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices if Hong Kong no longer enjoys a high degree of autonomy from the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2468. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the State of Utah certain Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management within the boundaries of Camp Williams, Utah, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2950. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, through the Coastal Program of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, to work with willing partners and provide support to efforts to assess, protect, restore, and enhance important coastal landscapes that provide fish and wildlife habitat on which certain Federal trust species depend, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4094. An act to amend the Central Utah Project Completion Act to authorize expenditures for the conduct of certain water conservation measures in the Great Salt Lake basin, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4596. An act to reauthorize the Bureau of Reclamation to provide cost-shared funding to implement the endangered and threatened fish recovery programs for the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins.

H.R. 5490. An act to amend the Coastal Barrier Resources Act to expand the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

EC-6001. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and

Regulations, Office of Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modernizing the Delivery of Housing Counseling Services" (RIN2502-AJ70) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6002. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards" (RIN2502-AJ58) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6003. A communication from the Board Members of the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's fiscal year 2024 Annual Report; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6004. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Rural Health Care Services Outreach, Rural Health Network Development, and Small Health Care Provider Quality Improvement Grant Programs Fiscal Years 2021-2022"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6005. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Administrator, Federal Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6006. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Requirements Related to the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act" (RIN1210-AC11) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6007. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program Report to Congress for Fiscal Year 2021"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6008. 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-3606-EM in the State of South Carolina having exceeded the \$5,000,000 limit for a single emergency declaration; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6009. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, three (3) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of Homeland Security, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6010. A communication from the Agency Representative, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rules Governing Motion to Amend

Practice and Procedures in Trial Proceedings under the America Invents Act before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board" (RIN0651-AD50) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2024; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-6011. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Use of Campaign Funds for Candidate and Officeholder Security" (Notice 2024-22); to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-6012. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Procurement, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards" (RIN2700-AE77) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6013. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 12978 with respect to significant foreign narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6014. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13413 with respect to the Democratic Republic of the Congo; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6015. A communication from the Chief Counsel, United States Mint, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Exchange of Coin" (31 CFR Part 100) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6016. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary (Terrorism and Financial Intelligence), Department of the Treasury, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6017. A communication from the Counsel of Bank Activities, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Business Combinations under the Bank Merger Act" (RIN1557-AF24) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6018. A communication from the Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulation NMS: Minimum Pricing Increments, Access Fees, and Transparency of Better Priced Orders" (RIN3235-AN23) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6019. 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 "Medicare Program: Mitigating the Impact of Significant, Anomalous, and Highly Suspect Billing Activity on Medicare Shared Savings Program Financial Calculations in

Calendar Year 2023" (RIN0938-AV20) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6020. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Hearing Before the Food and Drug Administration; General Provisions; Amendments" (RIN0910-AI97) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6021. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Chemical Data Reporting; Extension of the 2024 Submission Period" ((2070-AK33) (FRL No. 5982.2-01-OCSPP)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6022. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; North Carolina; Mecklenburg Emission Control Standards" (FRL No. 8980-02-R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6023. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Chemical Data Reporting; Extension of the 2024 Submission Period" ((2040-AF92) (FRL No. 7218-01-OW)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6024. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Phasedown of Hydrofluorocarbons: Management of Certain Hydrofluorocarbons and Substitutes under the American Innovation and Manufacturing Act of 2020" ((2060-AV84) (FRL No. 10105-02-OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6025. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region; 2019-2020 Commercial Trip Limit Reduction for Spanish Mackerel in the Atlantic Southern Zone" (RIN0648-XS022) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6026. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; 2019 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure for Gulf of Mexico Gray Triggerfish" (RIN0648-XS017) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6027. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law,

the report of a rule entitled "Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; 2019 Commercial and Recreational Accountability Measure and Closures for Gulf of Mexico Lane Snapper" (RIN0648-XS019) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6028. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fraser River Sockeye and Pink Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Orders" (RIN0648-XW014) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6029. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region; 2019-2020 Commercial Closure for King Mackerel in the Gulf of Mexico Western Zone" (RIN0648-XS016) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6030. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; 2019-2020 Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Inseason Adjustments; Correction" (RIN0648-BJ43) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6031. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region; 2019-2020 Commercial Trip Limit Reduction for Spanish Mackerel in the Atlantic Southern Zone" (RIN0648-XS020) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6032. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Snapper-Group Fishery of the South Atlantic; 2019 Recreational Accountability Measure and Closure for the South Atlantic Deep-Water Complex" (RIN0648-XS018) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6033. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; 2019-2020 Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Inseason Adjustments; Correction" (RIN0648-BJ43) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6034. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West

Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; 2019 Tribal Fishery Allocations for Pacific Whiting; Reapportionment Between Tribal and Non-Tribal Sectors" (RIN0648-XW015) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6035. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Greater Amberjack Emergency Management Measures" (RIN0648-BM73) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6036. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-Grouper Resources of the South Atlantic; Vermillion Snapper Trip Limit Reduction" (RIN0648-XS015) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6037. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2020 Commercial Longline Closure for South Atlantic Golden Tilefish" (RIN0648-XS024) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6038. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Closure of the Regular B Days-at-Sea Program for the Remainder of Fishing Year 2019" (RIN0648-XX021) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6039. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Herring Fishery; Adjustment to the 2019 Specifications" (RIN0648-XX022) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6040. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Small-Mesh Multispecies Fishery; Inseason Adjustment to the Southern Red Hake Possession Limit" (RIN0648-XX039) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6041. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer From VA to NY" (RIN0648-XX036) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September

25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6042. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Inseason Adjustment to the 2020 Gulf of Alaska Pollock and Pacific Cod Total Allowable Catch Amounts" (RIN0648-XY058) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6043. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels Less Than 60 Feet (18.3 Meters) Length Overall Using Hook-and-Line or Pot Gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XY064) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6044. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Re-allocation of Pollock in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands" (RIN0648-XY073) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6045. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Chinook Salmon Prohibited Species Catch Limits in the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XY062) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6046. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels Greater Than or Equal to 50 Feet Length Overall Using Hook-and-Line Gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XY025) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6047. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XY017) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6048. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Re-allocation of Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XY061) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25,

2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6049. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Rockfish Management in the Groundfish Fisheries of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands and the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-BJ03) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6050. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Pacific Cod in the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XY057) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6051. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "West Virginia: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions" (FRL No. 11702-03-R3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6052. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Revisions; California; Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District" (FRL No. 11981-02-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6053. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; FL; Surface Coating of Miscellaneous Metal Parts and Products Amendments" (FRL No. 12121-02-R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

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

POM-177. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of New York, transmitted by the Secretary of the New York State Department of State, concerning the rescission of all previous requests by the New York State Legislature or either house thereof for a convention under Article V of the United States Constitution; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1460

Whereas, The New York State Legislature has made applications to the United States Congress to call one or more conventions to propose amendments concerning specific subjects to the United States Constitution, pursuant to Article V thereof; and

Whereas, the legislature finds that:

a. Since its ratification, the United States Constitution has only been amended 27 times; and

b. Despite continual debate, extreme political turmoil, shifting views, and uncountable

political, economic, and societal problems and events, our Nation has not had another Constitutional Convention since 1787; and

c. Article V of the United States constitution provides a vehicle for amending the constitution upon application by "two thirds" of the several States; and

d. Throughout its long and storied history, New York has made such applications; and

e. Scholars differ as to whether such applications ever expire, and if, regardless of scope set forth in the applications, any convention would be required to abide by such scope; and

f. Wealthy interest groups could exploit decisions made by our ancestors to contort their intent to amending the Constitution and removing or altering our rights; and

Whereas, the legislature declares that:

a. Although historical records maintained by the State of New York and the Library of Congress are incomplete and, in some instances, unclear as to the final disposition of joint resolutions previously passed by the New York State Legislature to initiate a call to Congress for a Constitutional Convention, it is reported that the New York State Legislature has passed several such calls for a Constitutional Convention since the 1780's. These calls include (1) Joint Resolution (1789) calling broadly for amendments to the Constitution to promote the common interests and secure the great and unalienable rights of mankind; (2) Joint Resolution (1931) calling for the repeal of the eighteenth amendment; and (3) Joint Resolution (1972) calling for the allowance of public funds for secular education; and

b. It is unclear as a matter of constitutional law whether these calls ever expire, and current generations may now be bound by decisions made in a different time and culture. The need to advance these various policy reforms should be debated anew, if necessary, and not bind future generations without any consideration; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, (if the Assembly concur), That the Legislature does hereby rescind, repeal, cancel, nullify, and supersede, any and all prior applications by the Legislature to the Congress of the United States of America to call a Constitutional Convention to propose amendments to the Constitution of the United States pursuant to the terms of Article V of the Constitution of the United States of America, regardless of when and regardless of whether such applications were for a more limited convention to propose one or more amendments regarding one or more specific subjects and purposes or for a general convention to propose an unlimited number of amendments upon an unlimited number of subjects, whether or not the calls are confirmed by the historical records maintained by the State or the Library of Congress; and be it further

Resolved, (if the Assembly concur), That the Secretary of State be, and hereby is, directed to send a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Senate of the United States and one to the House of Representatives in the Congress of the United States; and be it further

Resolved (if the Assembly concur), That the members of the Legislature of the State of New York request that this Joint Resolution be published in the Congressional Record and listed in the official tally of state legislative applications relating to calling for the United States Congress to call a convention to propose amendments to the United States Constitution.

POM-178. A petition from a citizen of the State of Texas relative to enactment of federal legislation prohibiting persons who are in the United States, in violation of the laws

of the United States, from contributing funds into or from the Social Security program; to the Committee on Finance.

POM-179. A petition from a citizen of the State of Texas relative to enactment of federal legislation to lawfully permit preferential hiring of United States citizens and preferential placement of United States citizens in educational programs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

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

Report to accompany S. 3891, a bill to amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to update and expand Federal economic development investment in the economic recovery, resiliency, and competitiveness of communities, regions, and States across the United States, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-233).

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

H.R. 1823. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 207 East Fort Dade Avenue in Brooksville, Florida, as the "Specialist Justin Dean Coleiman Memorial Post Office Building".

S. 3181. A bill to designate the Air and Marine Operations Marine Unit of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection located at 101 Km 18.5 in Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico, as the "Michel O. Maceda Marine Unit", and for other purposes.

H.R. 3354. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 220 North Hatcher Avenue in Purcellville, Virginia, as the "Secretary of State Madeline Albright Post Office Building".

S. 4404. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 840 Front Street in Casselton, North Dakota, as the "Commander Delbert Austin Olson Post Office".

S. 4634. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 154 First Avenue East in Jerome, Idaho, as the "Representative Maxine Bell Post Office".

S. 4803. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 31143 State Highway 65 in Pengilly, Minnesota, as the "First Lieutenant Richard Arne Koski Post Office".

H.R. 6810. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 518 North Ridgewood Drive in Sebring, Florida, as the "U.S. Army Air Corps Major Thomas B. McGuire Post Office Building".

H.R. 6983. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15 South Valdosta Road in Lakeland, Georgia, as the "Nell Patten Roquemore Post Office".

H.R. 7180. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 80 1st Street in Kingsland, Arkansas, as the "Kingsland 'Johnny Cash' Post Office".

H.R. 7385. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 29 Franklin Street in Petersburg, Virginia, as the "John Mercer Langston Post Office Building".

H.R. 7417. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 135 West Spring Street in Titusville, Pennsylvania, as the "Edwin L. Drake Post Office Building".

H.R. 7606. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1087 Route 47 South in Rio Grande, New

Jersey, as the "Carlton H. Hand Post Office Building".

H.R. 7607. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at Block 1025, Lots 18 & 19, Northeast Corner of US Route 9 South and Main Street in the Township of Middle, County of Cape May, New Jersey, as the "George Henry White Post Office Building".

H.R. 7893. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 306 Pickens Street in Marion, Alabama, as the "Albert Turner, Sr. Post Office Building".

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. KENNEDY, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 5164. A bill to extend the temporary scheduling order for fentanyl-related substances; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINES, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 5165. A bill to prohibit the intimidation of election officials and election workers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TILLIS:

S. 5166. A bill to provide major Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates with the same level of Secret Service protection as Presidents and Vice Presidents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 5167. A bill to amend section 45Q of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish the mine methane capture incentive credit; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 5168. A bill to make certain anti-discrimination laws applicable to the judicial branch of the Federal Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SMITH:

S. 5169. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to provide that any mandatory predispute or coerced postdispute arbitration clause, class action waiver, representation waiver, or discretionary clause with respect to a plan is unenforceable, to prohibit any such clause or waiver from being included in a plan document or other agreement with plan participants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 5170. A bill to establish the Data Protection Agency; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 5171. A bill to authorize competitive grants for the establishment of HOPE Accounts Pilot Projects and HOPE Action Plans Pilot Projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. 5172. A bill to amend the National Child Protection Act of 1993 to ensure that businesses and organizations that work with vulnerable populations are able to request back-

ground checks for their contractors who work with those populations, as well as for individuals that the businesses or organizations license or certify to provide care for those populations; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 5173. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the treatment of critical access hospital services furnished by a critical access hospital located in a noncontiguous State; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

S. 5174. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to clarify the criteria by which fiduciary responsibility is exercised in protecting shareholder rights; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 5175. A bill to amend subtitle A of title XX of the Social Security Act to authorize direct support worker career advancement demonstration projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 5176. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to provide grants to producers to carry out climate-smart conversion projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 5177. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the standard charitable mileage rate for delivery of meals to elderly, disabled, frail, and at-risk individuals; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 5178. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to update the amount of Social Security lump sum death payments and index lump sum death payments to inflation; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 5179. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide enhanced Federal matching payments for direct support worker training programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 5180. A bill to amend subtitle A of title XX of the Social Security Act to fund additional projects that focus on competency-based training for personal or home care aides, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 5181. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to establish minimum physical activity requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 5182. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to require the collection of information regarding social determinants of health, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. RICKETTS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. LEE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 5183. A bill to include sexual assault and aggravated sexual violence in the definition

of aggravated felonies under the Immigration and Nationality Act in order to expedite the removal of aliens convicted of such crimes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 5184. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a floor on payments to sole community hospitals located in a non-contiguous State under the hospital outpatient prospective payment system; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 5185. A bill to establish a grant program to support qualified community colleges, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 5186. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to establish criminal penalties for gratuities given to State and local public officials; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 5187. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a tax credit for Qualified Community College Bonds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 5188. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to incentivize the divestiture of certain securities connected to the People's Republic of China; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FISCHER:

S. 5189. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive certain distance requirements for certain hospitals electing to be designated as critical access hospitals; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 5190. A bill to prohibit the procurement of certain batteries by the Department of State; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. Kaine, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 5191. A bill to award grants to States to support efforts at institutions of higher education to increase degree attainment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 5192. A bill to authorize compensation to individuals, organizations, and companies impacted by the Gold King Mine wastewater spill of 2015, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 5193. A bill to designate certain special management areas, wildlife conservation areas, protection areas, recreation areas, wilderness areas, and scientific research and education area in the State of Colorado, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. REED, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. Kaine, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. LUJAN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BENNET, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. TESTER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. COONS, Mr. PETERS, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. KING, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. KELLY, Mr. HELMY, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr.

WARNOCK, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 5194. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand eligibility for the refundable credit for coverage under a qualified health plan; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. 5195. A bill to establish a verifiable international terrestrial ecosystem services conservation program and provide international technical assistance for the development of markets, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 5196. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish the New Homes Tax Credit; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEE (for himself and Mr. SCHMITT):

S. 5197. A bill to establish a rule of construction regarding consent for disclosure of personally identifiable information under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 5198. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for oil and natural gas well remediation and restoration accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 5199. A bill to reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. SMITH:

S. 5200. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to require mandatory certification for certain students and reduce stigma associated with unpaid school meal fees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. KELLY, Mr. CORNYN, and Ms. BALDWYN):

S. 5201. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to limit Federal funding of the procurement of certain buses under the Clean School Bus program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 5202. A bill to amend the Fentanyl Sanctions Act to strengthen the imposition of sanctions under that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. KELLY, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 5203. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue guidance on best practices for screening and treatment of congenital syphilis under Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. COONS, and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. 5204. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the limitations for deductible new business expenditures, to consolidate provisions for start-up and organizational expenditures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PADILLA:

S. 5205. A bill to modify the boundaries of the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 5206. A bill to require a report on foreign investment in the pharmaceutical industry of the United States; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 5207. A bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to modify certain requirements relating to emergency loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. PADILLA, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WELCH, Ms. WARREN, and Ms. BUTLER):

S. 5208. A bill to establish protections for warehouse workers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 5209. A bill to require the Attorney General to make publicly available a list of federally licensed firearms dealers with a high number of short time-to-crime firearm traces, and to prohibit Federal departments and agencies from contracting with such dealers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TESTER:

S. 5210. A bill to improve mental health services of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LEE (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 5211. A bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to modify the Presidential drawdown authority, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 5212. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the carbon oxide sequestration credit to ensure parity for different uses and utilizations of qualified carbon oxide; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

S. 5213. A bill to amend the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959 to require labor organizations to make certain disclosures to its members, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. OSSOFF):

S. 5214. A bill to require States to measure and publicly report on the separation of children from parents by hidden foster care arrangements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 5215. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to modify the treatment of non-disclosure agreements with respect to privatized military housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 5216. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of constructing a project to supply municipal, rural, and industrial water from the Missouri River to the Western Dakota Regional Water System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. FETTERMAN (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 5217. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to eliminate cost-sharing requirements for behavioral health care under

TRICARE Reserve Select; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 5218. A bill to amend titles XI and XVIII of the Social Security Act to strengthen, increase oversight of, and compliance with, security standards for health information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HELMY:

S. 5219. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the limitation on the deduction for State and local taxes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 5220. A bill to establish a process for expedited consideration of legislation relating to decisions by the Supreme Court of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FETTERMAN (for himself and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 5221. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for memorial headstones and markers furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to certain individuals who died before November 11, 1998, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ROUND (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 5222. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to implement a pandemic preparedness and response program using artificial intelligence; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 5223. A bill to amend section 301 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to clarify those classes of individuals born in the United States who are nationals and citizens of the United States at birth, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. 5224. A bill to prohibit the imposition of requirements that handguns have certain features generally absent from firearms in common use, to restore the civil and natural rights of the people of the United States in States hostile to liberty, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 5225. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, to examine the ability of the Federal Government to respond to potential fiscal shocks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 5226. A bill to establish a program to address sickle cell disease and other heritable hemoglobinopathies; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 5227. A bill to reaffirm and clarify the Federal relationships of the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians of Michigan as a federally recognized Indian tribe, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. KING, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 5228. A bill to require the use of prescription drug monitoring programs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 5229. A bill to reorganize the Federal judiciary, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KELLY (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 5230. A bill to amend the United States-Mexico Transboundary Aquifer Assessment Act to reauthorize the United States-Mexico transboundary aquifer assessment program; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. HOEVEN, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 5231. A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a pilot program to implement a pre-qualification or pre-approval process for farmers and ranchers with respect to a direct farm ownership loan under the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MARKEY, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 5232. A bill to prohibit the unauthorized possession of a firearm at a Federal election site; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RICKETTS:

S. 5233. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain gains and dividends derived from counties of concern as ordinary income; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RICKETTS (for himself, Mr. COTTON, and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 5234. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose an excise tax on certain investments of private colleges and universities; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself and Mr. CARPER):

S. 5235. A bill to provide additional contract authority to State departments of transportation to carry out surface transportation projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Ms. HAS-SAN, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. CASEY, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. WARREN, Mr. HELMY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 5236. A bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to enhance financial support for rural and safety net hospitals providing maternity, labor, and delivery services to vulnerable populations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RICKETTS:

S. 5237. A bill to prohibit index funds from investing in Chinese companies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 5238. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to prohibit Amtrak from including mandatory arbitration clauses in contracts of carriage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WELCH:

S. 5239. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to manage risks relating to military

use of artificial intelligence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. KING, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 5240. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to enhance direct certification under the school lunch program; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. BARARASSO:

S. 5241. A bill to require the establishment and use of short form applications for rural communities applying for economic development grant programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. LEE (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 5242. A bill to amend the Right to Financial Privacy Act of 1978 to preserve the confidentiality of certain records, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 5243. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for the regulation of cannabis and cannabinoid products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. RICKETTS:

S. 5244. A bill to prohibit the purchase of certain securities from covered entities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 5245. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to provide Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates with a justification for candidate protection determinations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 5246. A bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to expand the capacity of junior or community colleges and area career and technical education schools to conduct training services, education, and outreach activities for careers in the residential construction industry; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MURPHY:

S. 5247. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide nonimmigrant visas for cooperating witnesses of certain criminal activity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. SCHMITT, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 5248. A bill to require hospitals participating in Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program to inquire whether a patient is a citizen or national of the United States, or in a satisfactory immigration status, as part of the patient admission and registration process, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 5249. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to deny certain green energy tax benefits to companies connected to certain countries of concern; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 5250. A bill to reauthorize titles II and V of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. COONS):

S. 5251. A bill to establish a pilot program to support domestic critical material processing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. 5252. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code to require accountability in deferred prosecution agreements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SULLIVAN:

S. 5253. A bill to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to protect the cultural practices and livelihoods of producers of Alaska Native handicrafts and marine mammal ivory products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 5254. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance the employer-provided child care credit; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. ERNST:

S. 5255. A bill to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to submit to Congress an annual report on biomedical research funded by the United States and performed in China; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. ROMNEY:

S. 5256. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance the child tax credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BUDD, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. COONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PETERS, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 5257. A bill to amend the Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2022 to make technical corrections; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SULLIVAN:

S. 5258. A bill to amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to clarify the treatment of authentic Alaska Native articles of handicraft containing nonedible migratory bird parts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. LUJÁN:

S. 5259. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a program to increase participation in community solar programs and the receipt of associated benefits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KELLY:

S. 5260. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make certain information available on a public website relating to intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities certified for participation under the Medicaid program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 5261. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to provide grants to local educational agencies to cover the costs of challenges to determinations not to discontinue the use of specific instructional materials, or the availability of specific school library materials, in public elementary and secondary schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LUJÁN:

S. 5262. A bill to address maternity care shortages and promote optimal maternity outcomes by expanding access to birth centers and exploring more effective payment models for birth center care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 5263. A bill to amend the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to require the Council on Environmental Quality to publish an annual report on environmental reviews and causes of action based on alleged non-compliance with that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. THUNE (for Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. HAWLEY)):

S. 5264. A bill to suspend normal trade relations with the People's Republic of China and to increase the rates of duty applicable with respect to articles imported from the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself and Mr. KELLY):

S. 5265. A bill to take certain land into trust for the benefit of the Tonto Apache Tribe, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. PAUL):

S. 5266. A bill to require automatic sealing of certain criminal records, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WELCH:

S. 5267. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct an audit of the expenditures of the Federal Emergency Management Agency; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. LUJÁN (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 5268. A bill to prohibit Federal judges from receiving certain gifts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 5269. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a commission to review operations at the Veterans Health Administration and submit to Congress reports with respect to that review, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. KELLY (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 5270. A bill to amend the Office of National Drug Control Prevention Act of 1998 to include new requirements for assessments and reports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HEINRICH:

S. 5271. A bill to require the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration to temporarily exempt buprenorphine from the Suspicious Orders Report System for the remainder of the opioid public health emergency; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 5272. A bill to amend chapter 423 of title 49, United States Code, to provide protections with respect to frequent flyer programs and co-branded credit cards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 5273. A bill to take certain land in the State of Washington into trust for the benefit of the Quinault Indian Nation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself and Mr. LEE):

S. 5274. A bill to amend the Energy Act of 2020 to include critical materials in the definition of critical mineral, and for other pur-

poses; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

S. 5275. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to facilitate patient access to certain pediatric technologies; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 5276. A bill to require a roadmap for the future desired state for the solid rocket motor (SRM) industrial base, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. RICKETTS (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. SCHMITT):

S. 5277. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to publish, on an annual basis, an assessment of United States dependency on critical agricultural products or inputs from the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 5278. A bill to provide additional authorities for the leadership of the United States Agency for International Development in health technology innovation for global health in low-resource settings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. KAINA, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 5279. A bill to require the head of each agency to establish a plan relating to the safety of Federal employees and contractors physically present at certain worksites during a nationwide public health emergency declared for an infectious disease, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 5280. A bill to improve services provided to taxpayers by the Internal Revenue Service; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 5281. A bill to amend the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 to require the President to automatically waive certain critical document fees for individuals and households affected by major disasters for which assistance is provided under the Individuals and Households Program; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Ms. WARREN):

S. 5282. A bill to restrict car manufacturers and other companies from selling consumer car-related data, increase transparency regarding data practices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. CARPENTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. KAINA, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. COTTON, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. KING, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. BRITT, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. ERNST, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 5283. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Robert M. Gates, in recognition of his service to the United States as an intelligence professional, Secretary of Defense, and educator and leader for young people of the United States; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. OSSOFF (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 5284. A bill to increase the penalty for prohibited provision of a phone in a correctional facility, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 5285. A bill to stop the shipment of illicit synthetic drugs via transportation networks in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SULLIVAN:

S. 5286. A bill to prohibit certain exports of natural gas produced or refined in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 5287. A bill to take certain Federal land in the State of Washington into trust for the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Ms. SMITH):

S. 5288. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a program to provide grants to States to award grants for the establishment of networked geothermal heating and cooling systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. McCONNELL (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 5289. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to carry out activities to provide for white oak restoration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

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

S. 5290. A bill to address the effect of litigation on applications to export liquefied natural gas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BUDD, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. TUBERVILLE, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 5291. A bill to require all aliens applying for a nonimmigrant visa who are unlawfully present in the United States to submit to an in person interview with a consular officer; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 5292. A bill to amend the Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 to modify a provision relating to the acquisition of a Coast Guard icebreaker; considered and passed.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. SCHATZ):

S.J. Res. 111. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to the Government of Israel of certain defense articles and services; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself and Mr. WELCH):

S.J. Res. 112. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to the Government of Israel of certain defense articles and services; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S.J. Res. 113. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to the Government of Israel of certain defense articles and services; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S.J. Res. 114. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to the Government of Israel of certain defense articles and services; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S.J. Res. 115. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed license amendment for the export of certain defense articles, defense services, and technical data to Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S.J. Res. 116. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed enhancement or upgrade of sensitivity of technology or capability of certain major defense equipment for the Government of Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. BUTLER, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. HELMY, Mr. Kaine, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. Res. 856. A resolution recognizing the month of October 2024 as Filipino American History Month and celebrating the history and culture of Filipino Americans and their immense contributions to the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. WELCH, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. REED, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. KING, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. Res. 857. A resolution expressing concern about the spreading problem of book banning and the proliferation of threats to freedom of expression in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KING (for himself, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. Res. 858. A resolution recognizing the 15th anniversary of Outdoor Afro; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KING (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. Res. 859. A resolution supporting the designation of September 2024 as "National Recovery Month"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BRITT, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. HAWLEY, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 860. A resolution designating the week of October 6, 2024, through October 12, 2024, as "Religious Education Week" to cele-

brate religious education in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. WARREN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. BROWN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WARNOCK, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 861. A resolution expressing support for the designation of September 2024 as "Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month" in order to educate communities across the United States about sickle cell disease and the need for research, early detection methods, effective treatments, and preventative care programs with respect to complications from sickle cell disease and conditions related to sickle cell disease; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. PETERS):

S. Res. 862. A resolution designating October 23, 2024, as "National Marine Sanctuary Day"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. Res. 863. A resolution designating October 12, 2024, as "National Loggers Day"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. FETTERMAN, and Mr. VANCE):

S. Res. 864. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of September 23 through September 29, 2024, as "Rail Safety Week" and supporting the goals and ideals of Rail Safety Week to reduce highway-rail grade crossing and trespasser-related incidents, fatalities, injuries, and derailments, improve the safe transportation of hazardous materials by rail, and prevent rail worker fatalities; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. Res. 865. A resolution expressing the support of the Senate for the designation of October 23, 2024, as "Public Radio Music Day" and deep appreciation for the role of public radio music stations in serving listeners, musicians, and hundreds of communities in the United States; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. LUMMIS (for herself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CRUZ, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. Res. 866. A resolution designating October 4, 2024, as "National Energy Appreciation Day" to celebrate the people who work to power the United States and the economy of the United States and to build awareness of the important role that the energy producers of the United States play in reducing poverty, strengthening national security, and improving the quality of life for people around the world; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. Res. 867. A resolution designating September 2024 as "National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. OSOFOFF, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. Res. 868. A resolution acknowledging and commemorating the women who served

the Navy in the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service during World War II; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. JOHNSON, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mr. WICKER):

S. Res. 869. A resolution designating the week beginning November 11, 2024, as "National Pregnancy Center Week" to recognize the vital role that community-supported pregnancy centers play in saving lives and serving women and men faced with difficult pregnancy decisions; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. Res. 870. A resolution designating the week of September 15 through September 21, 2024, as "Community School Coordinators Appreciation Week"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE:

S. Res. 871. A resolution expressing support for the designation of October 2024 as "National Youth Justice Action Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. Res. 872. A resolution recognizing the life and the death of Daniel J. Evans, former Senator for the State of Washington; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. Res. 873. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Red Ribbon Week during the period of October 23 through October 31, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. RUBIO (for Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. RUBIO)):

S. Res. 874. A resolution honoring the Southeast Region Little League baseball team from Lake Mary, Florida, for winning the 2024 Little League Baseball World Series; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. KAINES (for himself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. Res. 875. A resolution designating September 21, 2024, through September 29, 2024, as "Blue Star Welcome Week"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KING, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. Res. 876. A resolution designating October 2024 as "National Principals Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. PETERS, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. Res. 877. A resolution designating the week of October 6, 2024, through October 12, 2024, as "National Community Policing Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. PETERS):

S. Res. 878. A resolution honoring the life, legacy, and contributions of James Earl Jones; considered and agreed to.

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

S. Res. 879. A resolution permitting the collection of clothing, toys, food, and housewares during the holiday season for charitable purposes in Senate buildings; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KAINES, Mr. CASEY, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. Res. 880. A resolution supporting afterschool programs and Lights On Afterschool, a national celebration of afterschool pro-

grams held on October 24, 2024; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. DAINES, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. Res. 881. A resolution designating October 26, 2024, as the "Day of the Deployed"; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. REED, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. SMITH, Mr. COONS, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. KING, Mr. CASSIDY, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. HICKENLOOPER):

S. Res. 882. A resolution designating the week of September 23 through September 27, 2024, as "National Clean Energy Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Ms. HASAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. KING, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. CASEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. REED, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. Res. 883. A resolution recognizing Big Brothers Big Sisters of America on its 120th anniversary; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. Res. 884. A resolution designating the week of September 22 through September 28, 2024, as "Gold Star Families Remembrance Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. REED, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. WELCH, Mr. KING, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. HASAN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. KAINES, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WARNER, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. Res. 885. A resolution designating October 2, 2024, as "Energy Efficiency Day" in celebration of the economic and environmental benefits that have been driven by private sector innovation and Federal energy efficiency policies; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. Res. 886. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of October 24, 2024, to October 31, 2024, as "Bat Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. WARNOCK, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. KING, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 887. A resolution expressing support for the designation of October 7 through October 12, 2024, as "National 4-H Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. McCONNELL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BUDD, Ms. BUTLER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CANTWELL, Mrs.

CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HELMY, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINES, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATTZ, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. VANCE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 888. A resolution honoring the life of James Ralph Sasser, former Senator for the State of Tennessee; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. GRAHAM, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BROWN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. McCONNELL, Mr. BENNET, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. Res. 889. A resolution designating October 30, 2024, as a national day of remembrance for the workers of the nuclear weapons program of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. McCONNELL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. PAUL, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VANCE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 890. A resolution condemning the brutal Hamas-led terrorist attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, and supporting an outcome that ensures the forever survival of Israel, the complete denial of the ability of Hamas to reconstitute in the region, and the safe release of United States hostages from the Gaza Strip; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. BUTLER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HELMY, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINES, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY,

Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Con. Res. 42. A concurrent resolution recognizing the significance of equal pay and the disparity in wages paid to Latina women in comparison to White, non-Hispanic men; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Ms. ERNST):

S. Con. Res. 43. A concurrent resolution expressing support for the designation of September 29, 2024, as “Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Day”; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 88

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 88, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit former Members and elected officers of Congress from lobbying Congress at any time after leaving office.

S. 141

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 141, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve certain programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs for home and community based services for veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 168

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 168, a bill to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 to include the Secretary of Agriculture on the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States and require review of certain agricultural transactions, and for other purposes.

S. 219

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 219, a bill to provide that Members of Congress may not receive pay after October 1 of any fiscal year in which Congress has not approved a concurrent resolution on the budget and passed the regular appropriations bills.

S. 363

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 363, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the individuals and communities who volunteered or donated items to the North Platte Canteen in North Platte, Nebraska, during World War II from December 25, 1941, to April 1, 1946.

S. 373

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. HELMY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 373, a bill to modify the disposition of certain outer Continental Shelf revenues and to open Federal financial sharing to heighten opportuni-

ties for renewable energy, and for other purposes.

S. 521

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 521, a bill to amend the Lumbee Act of 1956.

S. 547

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) 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 names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added as cosponsors 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. 663

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 663, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the waiting periods for disability insurance benefits and Medicare coverage for individuals with metastatic breast cancer, and for other purposes.

S. 711

At the request of Mr. BUDD, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) 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. 746

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 746, a bill to modify the prohibition on recognition by United States courts of certain rights relating to certain marks, trade names, or commercial names.

S. 930

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 930, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide public safety officer benefits for exposure-related cancers, and for other purposes.

S. 1007

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSBOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1007, a bill to establish in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor of the Department of State a Special

Envoy for the Human Rights of LGBTQI+ Peoples, and for other purposes.

S. 1028

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

S. 1230

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) were added as cosponsors 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. 1266

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1266, a bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to improve benefits and services for surviving spouses, and for other purposes.

S. 1302

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1302, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the distribution of additional residency positions, and for other purposes.

S. 1462

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1462, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to improve the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2004 and provisions relating to the carrying of concealed weapons by law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.

S. 1514

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1514, a bill to amend the National Housing Act to establish a mortgage insurance program for first responders, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1514, supra.

S. 1624

At the request of Mr. Kaine, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1624, a bill to require certain civil penalties to be transferred to a fund through which amounts are made available for the Gabriella Miller Kids First Pediatric Research Program at the National Institutes of Health, and for other purposes.

S. 1772

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1772, a bill to establish a national mercury monitoring program, and for other purposes.

S. 1851

At the request of Mr. LUJAN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1851, a bill to address maternity care shortages and promote optimal maternity outcomes by expanding educational opportunities for midwives, and for other purposes.

S. 2026

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2026, a bill to provide support for programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs relating to the coordination of maternity health care, and for other purposes.

S. 2076

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2076, a bill to adjust the definition of service in the uniformed services with respect to readmission requirements for servicemembers under the Higher Education Act of 1965.

S. 2119

At the request of Mr. HELMY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2119, a bill to reauthorize the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act of 2018.

S. 2496

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2496, a bill to amend the National Housing Act to include information regarding VA home loans in the Informed Consumer Choice Disclosure required to be provided to prospective FHA borrowers.

S. 2815

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2815, a bill to provide for a wage differential program to support new nursing school faculty members.

S. 2895

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2895, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a refundable adoption tax credit.

S. 3014

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3014, a bill to establish requirements for the Federal Trade Commission with respect to certain rules related to automotive retailing, and for other purposes.

S. 3026

At the request of Mr. WELCH, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. HELMY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3026, a bill to amend the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 to repeal restrictions on offshore wind leasing.

S. 3047

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from New York

(Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3047, a bill to award payments to employees of Air America who provided support to the United States from 1950 to 1976, and for other purposes.

S. 3079

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3079, a bill to establish a policy regarding appraisal and valuation services for real property for a transaction over which the Secretary of the Interior has jurisdiction, and for other purposes.

S. 3381

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3381, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow intangible drilling and development costs to be taken into account when computing adjusted financial statement income.

S. 3612

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. HELMY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3612, a bill to prohibit the limitation of access to assisted reproductive technology, and all medical care surrounding such technology.

S. 3755

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

S. 3788

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3788, a bill to reauthorize the National Landslide Preparedness Act, and for other purposes.

S. 3885

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3885, a bill to expand medical, employment, and other benefits for individuals serving as family caregivers for certain veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 3926

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3926, a bill to amend the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 to ensure that other transaction agreements are reported to USAspending.gov, and for other purposes.

S. 3979

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3979, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make permanent and codify the pilot program for use of contract physicians for disability examinations, and for other purposes.

S. 4141

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) were added as cosponsors of S. 4141, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the FIFA World Cup 2026, and for other purposes.

S. 4176

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4176, a bill to authorize major medical facility projects for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2024, and for other purposes.

S. 4243

At the request of Ms. BUTLER, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) were added as cosponsors of S. 4243, a bill to award posthumously the Congressional Gold Medal to Shirley Chisholm.

S. 4246

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 4246, a bill to improve menopause care and mid-life women's health, and for other purposes.

S. 4299

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 4299, a bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to issue a rule relating to the collection of crashworthiness information under the New Car Assessment Program of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 4350

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4350, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend acute hospital care at home waiver flexibilities.

S. 4370

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4370, a bill to amend the Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004 to improve that Act, and for other purposes.

S. 4528

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor 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 Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) 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. 4679

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4679, a bill to amend title XLI of the FAST Act to improve the Federal permitting process, and for other purposes.

S. 4693

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) were added as cosponsors of S. 4693, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an investment credit for converting non-residential buildings to affordable housing.

S. 4778

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4778, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make the exclusion for certain employer payments of student loans under educational assistance programs permanent.

S. 4832

At the request of Mrs. BRITT, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4832, a bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to amend the rules of the Commission to include a shark attack as an event for which a wireless emergency alert may be transmitted, and for other purposes.

S. 4841

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4841, a bill to amend the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 to establish a National Center for Advanced Development in Education at the Institute for Education Sciences, and for other purposes.

S. 4892

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4892, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to establish a grant program for first responder mental health and wellness, and for other purposes.

S. 4917

At the request of Mrs. BRITT, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4917, a bill to amend the Federal securities laws to enhance 403(b) plans, and for other purposes.

S. 4935

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from Mississippi

(Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4935, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to update the budget neutrality threshold under the Medicare physician fee schedule.

S. 4988

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) 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 name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5008, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 5054

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5054, a bill to impose an assessment related to fossil fuel emissions, to establish the Polluters Pay Climate Fund, and for other purposes.

S. 5058

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5058, a bill to require the Secretary of Defense to submit to Congress a strategy to improve cooperation between the Department of Defense and allies and partners of the United States located in the Middle East so as to improve use of partner-sharing network capabilities to facilitate joint defense efforts among the United States and such allies and partners, and for other purposes.

S. 5062

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 5062, a bill to address sexual harassment and sexual assault of Bureau of Prisons staff in prisons, and for other purposes.

S. 5074

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 5074, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide to Congress quarterly briefings on budgetary shortfalls of the Department of Veterans Affairs and to prohibit the provision of bonuses to Department of Veterans Affairs employees in Senior Executive Service positions in fiscal years with budgetary shortfalls, and for other purposes.

S. 5076

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut

(Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 5076, a bill to require periodic updates to the comprehensive strategy to promote Internet freedom and access to information in Iran, to authorize grants to support and develop programs in Iran that promote or expand an open, interoperable, reliable, and secure internet, and for other purposes.

S. 5087

At the request of Mr. FETTERMAN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5087, a bill to amend the United States Housing Act of 1937 to promote the establishment of tenant organizations and provide additional amounts for tenant organizations, and for other purposes.

S. 5091

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5091, a bill to provide for the basic needs of students at institutions of higher education.

S. 5122

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

S. 5135

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5135, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase penalties for unauthorized disclosure of taxpayer information.

S. CON. RES. 40

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 40, a concurrent resolution establishing new congressional oversight to address regulatory reform.

S. RES. 669

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 669, a resolution designating October 10, 2024, as “American Girls in Sports Day”.

S. RES. 795

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 795, a resolution condemning the botched rollout by the Department of Education of the FAFSA Simplification Act.

S. RES. 833

At the request of Mr. LUJÁN, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) and the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) were

added as cosponsors of S. Res. 833, a resolution countering disinformation, propaganda, and misinformation in Latin America and the Caribbean, and calling for multi-stakeholder efforts to address the significant detrimental effects that the rise in disinformation, propaganda, and misinformation in regional information environments has on democratic governance, human rights, and United States national interests.

AMENDMENT NO. 2853

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

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAIN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 5165. A bill to prohibit the intimidation of election officials and election workers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to introduce the Freedom from Intimidation in Elections Act of 2024.

This legislation would amend section 11(b) of the Voting Rights Act to establish a rebuttable presumption that carrying a visible firearm around election-related activities, such as voting or counting ballots, constitutes intimidation within the meaning of the VRA.

This bill empowers voters and election workers to seek an emergency civil injunction against individuals or groups engaged in such intimidating conduct.

Importantly, the bill provides an exemption for appropriate law enforcement officials and allows any group or individual facing suit to present evidence that they did not, in fact, intimidate any voters or election workers.

Given the increasing political polarization this country faces and the Supreme Court's everchanging interpretation of the Second Amendment, the risk of violence at polling places and election offices has never been higher. This bill is essential to ensure that eligible individuals can continue to exercise their right to vote without fear of retribution or harm.

It is imperative to protect our voters and dedicated election workers from threats of political violence by updating the Voting Rights Act's anti-intimidation provisions to address the specific threat posed by firearms around election activities.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. 5172. A bill to amend the National Child Protection Act of 1993 to ensure that businesses and organizations that work with vulnerable populations are able to request background checks for their contractors who work with those populations, as well as for individuals that the businesses or organizations license or certify to provide care for those populations; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

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

S. 5172

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

SECTION 1. DEFINING “COVERED INDIVIDUAL” FOR PURPOSES OF BACKGROUND CHECKS UNDER THE NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION ACT OF 1993.

Section 5(9)(B) of the National Child Protection Act of 1993 (34 U.S.C. 40104(9)(B)) is amended—

- (1) in clause (i)—
 - (A) by inserting “, contracts with,” after “is employed by”;
 - (B) by inserting “, contract with,” after “be employed by”; and
 - (C) by striking “or” at the end;
- (2) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iii);
- (3) by inserting after clause (i) the following:
 - “(ii) is employed by or volunteers with, or seeks to be employed by or volunteer with, an entity that is under contract with a qualified entity;”;
 - (4) in clause (iii), as so redesignated, by adding “or” at the end; and
 - (5) by adding at the end the following:
 - “(iv) is licensed or certified, or seeks to be licensed or certified, by a qualified entity.”;

By Mr. PADILLA:

S. 5205. A bill to modify the boundaries of the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to introduce the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge Expansion Act. This legislation would expand the boundary of the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge by approximately 5,658 acres to conserve additional land in Solano, Marin, and Sonoma Counties of California.

The San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge consists of more than 19,000 acres located along the northern edge of San Pablo Bay in Northern California. It was established in 1974 to support wetland habitat; endangered species, like the salt marsh harvest mouse and the Ridgeway's Rail; and migratory birds, including the largest wintering population of Canvasbacks on the west coast.

In addition to providing habitat and wildlife conservation, the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge offers numerous recreation opportunities, including wildlife viewing, wildlife photography, hiking, boating, fishing, and hunting. Regulation of these recreation

activities allows for public enjoyment of the refuge while still protecting the wildlife and their habitats.

The bill would expand the San Pablo Bay National Refuge by 5,658 acres, which is more than 28 percent of its current size. The bill would also authorize the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to acquire lands within the modified boundary from willing sellers or donors and allow other Federal Agencies to transfer federally owned land within the modified boundary to the Service without administrative hurdles. Finally, the bill would encourage the Service to allocate Land and Water Conservation Fund dollars to acquire any private inholdings within modified National Wildlife Refuge boundary.

The Fish and Wildlife Service recently reported that 221 million acres of wetlands were destroyed between 2009 and 2019, representing a 50-percent increase in the rate of loss from the previous decade. The loss of wetlands across the country has reduced the amount of critical habitat for wildlife, endangered species, and migratory birds. Given these trends and its prime location within the Pacific Flyway, expanding the boundaries of the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge offers a unique opportunity to protect both critical wetland habitat and priority public uses on Federal lands.

Importantly, expanding the refuge would also contribute to the State of California's and the Biden-Harris Administration's goals to conserve 30 percent of our public lands and waters by 2030.

I would like to thank my colleagues Representatives JOHN GARAMENDI, MIKE THOMPSON, and JARED HUFFMAN for championing this bill in the House.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge Expansion Act as quickly as possible.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 5209. A bill to require the Attorney General to make publicly available a list of federally licensed firearms dealers with a high number of short time-to-crime firearm traces, and to prohibit Federal departments and agencies from contracting with such dealers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to introduce the Clean Hands Firearm Procurement Act.

This legislation addresses a critical need to ensure that Federal resources do not inadvertently support gun dealers whose business practices may contribute to the proliferation of firearms used in criminal activities.

The Clean Hands Firearm Procurement Act would withhold Federal contracts from Federal firearm, licensees, FFLs, who have been listed in the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives' AFT Demand 2 Program twice in the preceding 3 calendar years.

The Demand 2 Program targets gun dealers who have sold 25 or more firearms within a year that are subsequently traced to crimes within 3 years of their sale.

Under this act, dealers identified under the Demand 2 Program will be prohibited from entering into Federal contracts for a period of 3 years following their last appearance on the list. However, the Attorney General would have the discretion to waive this prohibition for the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security if it is deemed necessary to protect national security.

Over the past two decades, the ATF's Demand 2 Program has been instrumental in identifying gun dealers whose sales practices may be contributing to the diversion of firearms to criminal activities. While the vast majority of an FFLs operate responsibly, a small fraction—about 2 percent—of these dealers have been shown to be a significant source of crime guns.

Between 2021 and 2023, only approximately 1,500 of the Nation's 75,000-plus FFLs were subject to the Demand 2 Program. This small group of dealers has a disproportionate impact on gun violence in our communities. It is deeply troubling that some of these dealers have continued to receive lucrative Federal contracts despite their track record.

The Clean Hands Firearm Procurement Act aims to incentivize better business practices among gun dealers by ensuring that those with a history of contributing to gun violence through irresponsible sales are not rewarded with Federal contracts. This bill is a critical step towards reducing gun violence and ensuring that Federal procurement practices do not inadvertently support the diversion of firearms to criminal activities.

Americans deserve to feel safe in their communities, and our government has a responsibility to ensure that its resources are used to promote public safety, not undermine it. By passing this legislation, we can take meaningful action to address the gun violence epidemic that continues to plague our Nation.

Public safety is paramount, and this bill represents an important measure to strengthen our efforts in combating the illegal use of firearms. I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass the Clean Hands Firearm Procurement Act as swiftly as possible.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. ROUND):

S. 5216. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of constructing a project to supply municipal, rural, and industrial water from the Missouri River to the Western Dakota Regional Water System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

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

S. 5216

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 "Western South Dakota Water Supply Project Feasibility Study Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) RECLAMATION FEASIBILITY STANDARDS.—The term "reclamation feasibility standards" means the eligibility criteria and feasibility study requirements described in section 106 of the Reclamation Rural Water Supply Act of 2006 (43 U.S.C. 2405).

(2) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(3) WESTERN DAKOTA REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM.—The term "Western Dakota Regional Water System" means the Western Dakota Regional Water System, Inc., a nonprofit corporation established and operated substantially in accordance with the reclamation feasibility standards to serve as a non-Federal project entity for purposes of the cooperative agreement entered into under section 3(b).

SEC. 3. WESTERN SOUTH DAKOTA WATER SUPPLY PROJECT FEASIBILITY STUDY.

(a) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the West Dakota Water Development District, through a cooperative agreement, may undertake a study to determine the feasibility of constructing a project to supply municipal, rural, and industrial water from the Missouri River to the Western Dakota Regional Water System.

(2) REQUIREMENT.—The study under paragraph (1) shall comply with the reclamation feasibility standards.

(b) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—If the Secretary determines that the study under subsection (a) does not comply with the reclamation feasibility standards, the Secretary may enter into a cooperative agreement with the Western Dakota Regional Water System to complete additional work to ensure that the study under that subsection complies with the reclamation feasibility standards.

(c) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the total costs of carrying out the feasibility study under this section shall not exceed 50 percent.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section \$10,000,000.

(e) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority provided by this section expires on the date that is 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 5272. A bill to amend chapter 423 of title 49, United States Code, to provide protections with respect to frequent flyer programs and co-branded credit cards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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

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

S. 5272

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 "Protect Your Points Act of 2024".

SEC. 2. PROTECTIONS RELATING TO FREQUENT FLYER PROGRAMS AND CO-BRANDED CREDIT CARDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 423 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

SEC. 42309. PROTECTIONS RELATING TO FREQUENT FLYER PROGRAMS AND CO-BRANDED CREDIT CARDS.

(a) PROTECTIONS RELATED TO POINTS, MILES, AND OTHER ACCRUED VALUE.—

(1) VALUE DISCLOSURE.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, each covered air carrier shall—

(A) prominently display on each page of the website of the air carrier information regarding the financial value of one point, mile, or other accrued value promised or offered in connection with a frequent flyer program; and

(B) update, in real time, any change to such information.

(2) EXPIRATION OF POINTS.—A covered air carrier shall not place an expiration date on any points, miles, or other accrued value promised or offered in connection with a frequent flyer program.

(3) TRANSFER OF POINTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A covered air carrier shall—

(i) allow a consumer participating in a frequent flyer program to transfer any amount of points, miles, or other accrued value of the consumer to another participant (chosen by the consumer) of the same frequent flyer program; and

(ii) guarantee that, with respect to any such transfer, the points, miles, or other accrued value remain equal in value once transferred.

(B) LIMITATIONS.—A covered air carrier shall not—

(i) limit the number of points, miles, or other accrued value that a consumer may transfer to another participant of the frequent flyer program; or

(ii) impose a fee or other penalty on the consumer in connection with such transfer.

(4) DISPLAY OF AIRFARE VALUE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, each covered air carrier shall display on any travel booking page of the website of the air carrier the cost of airfare or other add-on services both in dollar value and in the value of points, miles, or other accrued value promised or offered in connection with a frequent flyer program, in a manner that—

(A) displays both values concurrently; and

(B) does not require a consumer to alternate between such values to display both costs.

(5) AIRFARE AND ADD-ON SERVICES TRANSACTIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, each covered air carrier shall offer to consumers the ability to purchase airfare or other add-on services in any combination of dollars and points, miles, or other accrued value promised or offered in connection with a frequent flyer program.

(b) CONSUMER NOTICE OF CHANGES TO TERMS OF SERVICE.—

(1) CHANGES TO TERMS OF SERVICES.—With respect to the terms of service, contract of carriage, or other customer agreement of any frequent flyer program or airline co-branded credit card of a covered air carrier, the covered air carrier shall not include any provision that reserves the right of the covered air carrier to make changes to the terms of service, contract of carriage, or other customer agreement without providing to the consumer at least 1 year of notice of any such change.

(2) NOTICE TO CONSUMERS.—A covered air carrier shall not take any action that would allow the covered air carrier to devalue a consumer's accrued points, miles, or other accrued value promised or offered in connection with a frequent flyer program, including any action to decrease the dollar value,

eliminate, reduce, suspend, forfeit, invalidate, impose new limits on the access, use, redemption, or validity, or impose new requirements or expense for the redemption or use of any such points, miles, or other accrued value unless the covered air carrier has provided to consumers not fewer than 1 year of notice of any such action.

“(3) COORDINATION WITH CFPB.—In carrying out paragraphs (1) and (2), the Secretary shall coordinate with the Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, as necessary.

“(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) ADD-ON SERVICES.—The term ‘add-on services’ means any service that a consumer may add to a flight booking for an additional cost, or may purchase as an in-flight service, including seating options, baggage, beverages, food, early boarding, lounge access, internet or wifi access, or any other service determined appropriate by the Secretary.

“(2) CO-BRANDED CREDIT CARD.—The term ‘co-branded credit card’ means a credit card jointly offered by a covered air carrier in partnership with a credit card issuer, with an emphasis on rewarding brand loyalty.

“(3) COVERED AIR CARRIER.—The term ‘covered air carrier’ means an air carrier conducting passenger operations under part 121 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, that offers a frequent flyer program.

“(4) FREQUENT FLYER PROGRAM.—The term ‘frequent flyer program’ means a program in which a covered air carrier promises or offers points, miles, or other accrued value for tickets purchased from the covered air carrier.

“(5) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of Transportation.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 423 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 42308 the following:

“42309. Protections relating to frequent flyer programs and co-branded credit cards.”.

By Mr. McCONNELL (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 5289. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to carry out activities to provide for white oak restoration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

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

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

S. 5289

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 “White Oak Resilience Act of 2024”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF LAND-GRANT COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.

In this Act, the term “land-grant college or university” means—

(1) an 1862 Institution (as defined in section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601));

(2) an 1890 Institution (as defined in that section); and

(3) a 1994 Institution (as defined in section 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Public Law 103-382)).

SEC. 3. WHITE OAK RESTORATION INITIATIVE COALITION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established the White Oak Restoration Initiative Coalition (referred to in this section as the “Coalition”)—

(1) as a voluntary collaborative group of public, State, private, and nongovernmental organizations to carry out the duties described in subsection (b); and

(2) in accordance with the charter entitled “White Oak Initiative Coalition Charter” adopted by the White Oak Initiative Board of Directors on March 21, 2023 (or a successor charter).

(b) DUTIES.—In addition to the duties specified in the charter described in subsection (a)(2), the duties of the Coalition are—

(1) to coordinate public, State, local, private, and nongovernmental restoration of white oak in the United States;

(2) to make program and policy recommendations with respect to—

(A) changes necessary to address Federal and State policies that impede activities to improve the health, resiliency, and natural regeneration of white oak;

(B) adopting or modifying Federal and State policies to increase the pace and scale of white oak regeneration and resiliency of white oak;

(C) options to enhance communication, coordination, and collaboration between forest land owners, particularly for cross-boundary projects, to improve the health, resiliency, and natural regeneration of white oak;

(D) research gaps that should be addressed to improve the best available science on white oak;

(E) outreach to forest landowners with white oak or white oak regeneration potential; and

(F) options and policies necessary to improve the quality and quantity of white oak in tree nurseries; and

(3) to submit the report under subsection (c).

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Coalition shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report describing the activities of the Coalition during the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, including the recommendations described in subsection (b)(2).

(d) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, TECHNICAL SERVICES, AND STAFF SUPPORT.—The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall make such personnel available to the Coalition for administrative support, technical services, and development and dissemination of educational materials as the Secretaries determine to be necessary to carry out this section.

(e) NONAPPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—Chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code, shall not apply to the Coalition.

(f) PRIVATE FUNDING OF WHITE OAK RESTORATION PROJECTS.—The Secretary of Agriculture may make available funds to the Coalition to carry out this section from funds in the accounts established pursuant to section 1241(f) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(f)).

SEC. 4. FOREST SERVICE PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall establish and carry out 5 pilot projects in national forests to restore white oak in those national forests through white oak restoration and natural regeneration practices.

(b) NATIONAL FORESTS RESERVED OR WITHDRAWN FROM THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.—At least 3

pilot projects required under subsection (a) shall be carried out in national forests reserved or withdrawn from the public domain.

(c) AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary of Agriculture may enter into cooperative agreements to carry out the pilot projects required under subsection (a).

SEC. 5. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR WHITE OAK ASSESSMENT AND PILOT PROJECTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED LAND.—The term “covered land” means land under the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary, including a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System and abandoned mine land.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) ASSESSMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall carry out an assessment of covered land to evaluate—

(A) whether white oak is present on the covered land; and

(B) the potential to restore white oak forests on the covered land.

(2) USE OF INFORMATION.—In carrying out the assessment under paragraph (1), the Secretary may use information from sources other than the Department of the Interior, including information from—

(A) the White Oak Restoration Initiative Coalition established by section 3(a); and

(B) the Chief of the Forest Service.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress, and make publicly available on the website of the Department of the Interior, a report describing the results of the assessment carried out under paragraph (1).

(c) PILOT PROJECTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date on which the Secretary submits the report required under subsection (b)(3), the Secretary shall establish and carry out 5 pilot projects on various areas of covered land, the purpose of which is to restore and naturally regenerate white oak.

(2) AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements to carry out the pilot projects required under paragraph (1).

SEC. 6. WHITE OAK REGENERATION AND UPLAND OAK HABITAT.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall establish a nonregulatory program to be known as the “White Oak and Upland Oak Habitat Regeneration Program” (referred to in this section as the “Program”).

(b) DUTIES.—In carrying out the Program, the Secretary shall—

(1) draw upon the best available science and management plans for species of white oak to identify, prioritize, and implement restoration and conservation activities that will improve the growth of white oak within the United States;

(2) collaborate and coordinate with the White Oak Restoration Initiative Coalition to prioritize white oak restoration initiatives;

(3) adopt a white oak restoration strategy that—

(A) supports the implementation of a shared set of science-based restoration and conservation activities developed in accordance with paragraph (1);

(B) targets cost-effective projects with measurable results; and

(C) maximizes restoration outcomes with no net gain of Federal full-time equivalent employees; and

(4) establish the voluntary grant and technical assistance program in accordance with subsection (e).

(c) COORDINATION.—In establishing the Program, the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall consult with—

(1) the heads of Federal agencies, including—

(A) the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and

(B) the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service; and

(2) the Governor of each State in which restoration efforts will be carried out pursuant to the Program.

(d) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Program include—

(1) coordinating restoration and conservation activities among Federal, State, local, and Tribal entities and conservation partners to address white oak restoration priorities;

(2) improving and regenerating white oak and upland oak forests and the wildlife habitat such forests provide;

(3) carrying out coordinated restoration and conservation activities that lead to the increased growth of species of white oak in native white oak regions on Federal, State, Tribal, and private land;

(4) facilitating strategic planning to maximize the resilience of white oak systems and habitats under changing climate conditions;

(5) engaging the public through outreach, education, and citizen involvement to increase capacity and support for coordinated restoration and conservation activities for species of white oak; and

(6) increasing scientific capacity to support the planning, monitoring, and research activities necessary to carry out such coordinated restoration and conservation activities.

(e) GRANTS AND ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To the extent that funds are available to carry out this section, the Secretary shall establish a voluntary grant and technical assistance program (referred to in this subsection as the “grant program”) to achieve the purposes of the Program described in subsection (d).

(2) ADMINISTRATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enter into a cooperative agreement with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (referred to in this subsection as the “Foundation”) to manage and administer the grant program.

(B) FUNDING.—After the Secretary enters into a cooperative agreement with the Foundation under subparagraph (A), the Foundation shall—

(i) for each fiscal year, receive amounts to carry out this subsection in an advance payment of the entire amount on October 1, or as soon as practicable thereafter, of that fiscal year;

(ii) invest and reinvest such amounts for the benefit of the grant program; and

(iii) otherwise administer the grant program to support partnerships between the public and private sectors in accordance with this section.

(3) APPLICATION OF NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION ESTABLISHMENT ACT.—Amounts received by the Foundation to carry out the grant program shall be subject to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.), excluding section 10(a) of that Act (16 U.S.C. 3709(a)).

SEC. 7. WHITE OAK TREE NURSERY SHORTAGES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall develop and implement a national strategy to increase

the capacity of Federal, State, Tribal, and private tree nurseries to address the nationwide shortage of white oak tree seedlings.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) be based on the best available science and data, as established by land-grant colleges and universities that have demonstrated—

(A) scientific expertise relating to white oak;

(B) the ability to rapidly transfer technologies to the stave industry;

(C) geographic proximity to concentrated areas of white oak; and

(D) support for regional economic development; and

(2) identify and address—

(A) regional shortages of bareroot and container white oak tree seedlings;

(B) regional white oak reforestation opportunities and the seedling supply necessary to fulfill those opportunities;

(C) opportunities to enhance white oak seedling diversity and close gaps in seed inventories; and

(D) barriers to expanding, enhancing, or creating new infrastructure to increase nursery capacity for white oak tree seedlings.

SEC. 8. WHITE OAK RESEARCH.

(a) RESEARCH.—The Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with a land-grant college or university to conduct research on—

(1) white oak genes with resistance and stress tolerance;

(2) white oak trees that exhibit vigor for the purpose of increasing survival and growth;

(3) establishing a diverse white oak seed bank capable of responding to stressors;

(4) providing a sustainable supply of white oak seedlings and genetic resources;

(5) reforestation of white oak through natural and artificial regeneration; and

(6) the best methods for white oak reforestation on abandoned mine land sites.

(b) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the research under subsection (a), the land-grant college or university may consult with such States, nonprofit organizations, institutions of higher education, and other scientific bodies as the land-grant college or university determines to be appropriate.

SEC. 9. NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE.

(a) PARTNERSHIPS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, shall enter into a partnership with an eligible entity described in paragraph (2) to conduct research on improving white oak species resiliency, health, and preservation, including research on—

(A) population-scale sequencing;

(B) stress response traits;

(C) seedling physiology and performance; and

(D) white oak product development.

(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—An eligible entity referred to in paragraph (1) is a land-grant college or university that has demonstrated—

(A) scientific expertise relating to white oak;

(B) the ability to rapidly transfer technologies to the stave industry;

(C) geographic proximity to concentrated areas of white oak; and

(D) support for regional economic development.

(b) PRIORITIES.—The Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, shall prioritize research relating to the resistance of white oak to disease, pest, heat,

and drought in cultivated, new, and old-growth white oak timber stands.

SEC. 10. NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE INITIATIVE.

The Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, shall establish an initiative on white oak—

(1) to re-establish white oak forests where appropriate;

(2) to improve the management of existing white oak forests to foster natural regeneration of white oak; and

(3) to provide technical assistance to private landowners to re-establish, improve management of, and naturally regenerate white oak.

SEC. 11. AUTHORITIES.

To the maximum extent practicable, to carry out activities under this Act and the amendments made by this Act, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall use the authorities provided under this Act and those amendments, in combination with authorities under other provisions of law, including—

(1) good neighbor agreements under section 8206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a); and

(2) stewardship contracting projects under section 604 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c).

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 856—RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2024 AS FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH AND CELEBRATING THE HISTORY AND CULTURE OF FILIPINO AMERICANS AND THEIR IMMENSE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED STATES

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. BUTLER, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. HELMY, Mr. KAINA, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Ms. DUCKWORTH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 856

Whereas the earliest documented Filipino presence in the continental United States was October 18, 1587, when the first “Luzones Indios” arrived in Morro Bay, California, on board the Nuestra Señora de Esperanza, a Manila-built galleon ship;

Whereas the Filipino American National Historical Society recognizes 1763 as the year in which the first permanent Filipino settlement in the United States was established in St. Malo, Louisiana;

Whereas the recognition of the first permanent Filipino settlement in the United States adds a new perspective to the history of the United States by bringing attention to the economic, cultural, social, and other notable contributions made by Filipino Americans to the development of the United States;

Whereas the Filipino American community is the third largest Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander group in the United States, with a population of approximately 4,500,000;

Whereas, from 2000 to 2019, the Filipino American community grew 78 percent, and Filipinos are the largest Asian community in Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada,

New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, and West Virginia;

Whereas, from the Civil War to the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts, Filipinos and Filipino Americans have a longstanding history of serving in the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas more than 250,000 Filipinos fought under the United States flag during World War II to protect and defend the United States in the Pacific theater;

Whereas a guarantee to pay back the service of Filipinos through veterans benefits was reversed by the First Supplemental Surplus Appropriation Rescission Act, 1946 (Public Law 79-301; 60 Stat. 6) and the Second Supplemental Surplus Appropriation Rescission Act, 1946 (Public Law 79-391; 60 Stat. 221), which provided that the wartime service of members of the Commonwealth Army of the Philippines and the new Philippine Scouts shall not be deemed to have been active service, and, therefore, those members did not qualify for certain benefits;

Whereas 26,000 Filipino World War II veterans were granted United States citizenship as a result of the Immigration Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-649; 104 Stat. 4978), which was signed into law by President George H.W. Bush on November 29, 1990;

Whereas, in 1991, the Filipino American National Historical Society made efforts to recognize October as Filipino American History Month for the first time;

Whereas, in 2009, Congress first recognized October as Filipino American History Month (S. Res. 298; H. Res. 780);

Whereas, on February 17, 2009, President Barack Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-5; 123 Stat. 115), which established the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund to compensate Filipino World War II veterans for their service to the United States;

Whereas, since June 8, 2016, the Filipino World War II Veterans Parole Program has allowed Filipino World War II veterans and certain family members to be reunited more expeditiously than the immigrant visa process allowed at that time;

Whereas, on December 14, 2016, President Barack Obama signed into law the Filipino Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-265; 130 Stat. 1376) to award Filipino veterans who fought alongside troops of the United States in World War II the highest civilian honor bestowed by Congress;

Whereas, on October 25, 2017, the Congressional Gold Medal was presented to Filipino World War II veterans in Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Building, a recognition for which the veterans had waited for more than 70 years;

Whereas Filipino Americans have received the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force that may be bestowed on an individual serving in the Armed Forces, and continue to demonstrate a commendable sense of patriotism and honor in the Armed Forces;

Whereas the late Peter Aquino Aduja of Hawaii and the late Thelma Garcia Buchholdt of Alaska became the first Filipino American elected to public office and the first Filipina American elected to a legislature in the United States, respectively, inspiring their fellow Filipino Americans to pursue public service in politics and government;

Whereas Filipino American farmworkers and labor leaders, such as Philip Vera Cruz and Larry Itliong, played an integral role in the multiethnic United Farm Workers movement, alongside Cesar Chávez, Dolores Huerta, and other Latino workers;

Whereas, on August 3, 1948, the late Victoria Manalo Draves became the first Filipino American and Asian American to win a gold medal at the Olympics;

Whereas, on April 25, 2012, President Barack Obama nominated Lorna G. Schofield to be a United States District Judge for the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, and she was confirmed by the Senate on December 13, 2012, to be the first Filipina American in United States history to serve as an Article III Federal judge;

Whereas Filipino Americans play an integral role in the healthcare system of the United States as nurses, doctors, first responders, and other medical professionals, and approximately 1 in 4 working Filipino adults in the United States is a frontline healthcare worker;

Whereas Filipino Americans contribute greatly to music, dance, literature, education, business, hospitality, journalism, sports, fashion, politics, government, science, technology, the fine arts, and other fields that enrich the United States;

Whereas, as mandated in the mission statement of the Filipino American National Historical Society, efforts should continue to promote the study of Filipino American history and culture because the roles of Filipino Americans and other people of color have largely been overlooked in the writing, teaching, and learning of the history of the United States;

Whereas it is imperative for Filipino American youth to have positive role models to instill—

(1) the significance of education, complemented by the richness of Filipino American ethnicity; and

(2) the value of the Filipino American legacy; and

Whereas it is essential to promote the understanding, education, and appreciation of the history and culture of Filipino Americans in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the celebration of Filipino American History Month in October 2024 as—

(A) a testament to the advancement of Filipino Americans;

(B) a time to reflect on and remember the many notable contributions that Filipino Americans have made to the United States; and

(C) a time to renew efforts toward the research and examination of history and culture so as to provide an opportunity for all people of the United States to learn more about Filipino Americans and to appreciate the historic contributions of Filipino Americans to the United States; and

(2) urges the people of the United States to observe Filipino American History Month with appropriate programs and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 857—EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT THE SPREADING PROBLEM OF BOOK BANNING AND THE PROLIFERATION OF THREATS TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. WELCH, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. REED, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. KING, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. MARKEY) sub-

mitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 857

Whereas the overwhelming majority of adults in the United States oppose book bans;

Whereas an overwhelming majority of adults in the United States support educators teaching about the civil rights movement, the history and experiences of Native Americans, enslaved Africans, immigrants facing discrimination, and the ongoing effects of racism;

Whereas, according to a survey by the Knight Foundation, an overwhelming majority of adults are confident that their community's public schools select appropriate books for students to read;

Whereas, in 1969, the Supreme Court of the United States held in *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District*, 393 U.S. 503 (1969), that students do not "shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate";

Whereas, in 1982, a plurality of the Supreme Court of the United States wrote in *Board of Education, Island Trees Union Free School District No. 26 v. Pico*, 457 U.S. 853 (1982), that schools may not remove library books "in a narrowly partisan or political manner", as this kind of censorship will result in "official suppression of ideas";

Whereas the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States protects freedom of speech and the freedom to read and write;

Whereas Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that "everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers";

Whereas PEN America identified over 10,000 instances of individual books banned between July 2023 and June 2024, which is over double the instances of recorded book bans in public schools between July 2022 and June 2023 when PEN America counted nearly 3,400 instances of individual books banned;

Whereas PEN America identified 5,894 instances of books banned between July 2021 and June 2023, affecting 2,823 unique titles and censoring the works of 2,598 authors, illustrators, and translators;

Whereas the overwhelming majority of recent book bans were enacted without following the best practice guidelines for book challenges outlined by the American Library Association, the National Coalition Against Censorship, and the National Council of Teachers of English;

Whereas the unimpeded sharing of ideas and the freedom to read are essential to a strong democracy;

Whereas books do not require readers to agree with topics, themes, or viewpoints but instead allow readers to explore and engage with differing perspectives to form and inform their own views;

Whereas suppressing the freedom to read and denying access to literature, history, and knowledge are repressive and antidemocratic tactics used by authoritarian regimes against their people;

Whereas book bans violate the rights of students, families, residents, and citizens based on the political, ideological, and cultural preferences of the specific individuals imposing the bans;

Whereas book bans have multifaceted, harmful consequences on—

(1) students, who have a right to access a diverse range of stories and perspectives, especially students from historically marginalized backgrounds whose communities are often targeted by thought control measures;

(2) educators and librarians, who are operating in some States in an increasingly punitive and surveillance-oriented environment and are experiencing a chilling effect in their work;

(3) authors whose works are targeted and suppressed;

(4) parents who want their children to attend public schools that remain open to curiosity, discovery, and the freedom to read; and

(5) community members who want free access to a range of uncensored information and knowledge from their public libraries;

Whereas classic and award-winning literature and books that have been part of school curricula for decades have been challenged, removed from libraries pending review, or outright banned from schools, including—

(1) “Brave New World” by Aldous Huxley;

(2) “The Handmaid’s Tale” by Margaret Atwood;

(3) “Anne Frank’s Diary: The Graphic Adaptation” adapted by Ari Folman;

(4) “Their Eyes Were Watching God” by Zora Neal Hurston; and

(5) “To Kill a Mockingbird” by Harper Lee;

Whereas books, particularly those written by and about outsiders, newcomers, and individuals from marginalized backgrounds, are facing a heightened risk of being banned;

Whereas a substantial number of the instances of books banned or otherwise restricted in the United States have LGBTQ+ characters or themes that recognize the equal humanity and dignity of all individuals despite differences, including—

(1) “And Tango Makes Three” by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell; and

(2) “This Book Is Gay” by Juno Dawson;

Whereas a significant proportion of the instances of books, both fiction and nonfiction, that have been banned or otherwise restricted in the United States are books about race, racism, or feature characters of color, including—

(1) “The Story of Ruby Bridges” by Robert Coles and illustrated by George Ford;

(2) “Letter from Birmingham Jail” by Martin Luther King, Jr.;

(3) “Thank You, Jackie Robinson” by Barbara Cohen;

(4) “Malala: A Hero For All” by Shana Corey;

(5) “Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story” by Kevin Noble Maillard;

(6) “Hair Love” by Matthew A. Cherry;

(7) “Good Trouble: Lessons From the Civil Rights Playbook” by Christopher Noxon; and

(8) “We Are All Born Free: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Pictures”;

Whereas the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund has reported a dramatic surge in challenges at libraries and schools to the inclusion of graphic novels that depict the diversity of civic life in the United States and the painful and complex history of the human experience, including—

(1) “New Kid” by Jerry Craft;

(2) “Drama” by Raina Telgemeier;

(3) “American Born Chinese” by Gene Luen Yang; and

(4) “Maus” by Art Spiegelman;

Whereas books addressing death, grief, mental illness, and suicide are targeted alongside nonfiction books that discuss feelings and emotions written for teenage and young adult audiences that frequently confront these topics;

Whereas, during congressional hearings on April 7, 2022, May 19, 2022, September 12, 2023,

and October 19, 2023, students, parents, teachers, librarians, and school administrators testified to the chilling and fear-spreading effects that book bans have on education and the school environment; and

Whereas, according to PEN America, from July 2021 to June 2023, over 40 States across the country limited access to certain books for limited or indefinite periods of time, including—

(1) Florida, where at least 1,972 books in total have been banned or restricted in 37 school districts;

(2) Texas, where at least 1,426 books in total have been banned or restricted in 28 school districts;

(3) Pennsylvania, where at least 644 books in total have been banned or restricted in 16 school districts;

(4) Missouri, where at least 360 books in total have been banned or restricted in 16 school districts;

(5) Tennessee, where at least 360 books in total have been banned or restricted in 9 school districts;

(6) Utah, where at least 293 books in total have been banned or restricted in 10 school districts;

(7) South Carolina, where at least 128 books in total have been banned or restricted in 7 school districts;

(8) Virginia, where at least 94 books in total have been banned or restricted in at least 6 school districts;

(9) Michigan, where at least 80 books in total have been banned or restricted in at least 6 school districts;

(10) North Carolina, where at least 74 books in total have been banned or restricted in at least 5 school districts;

(11) Wisconsin, where at least 72 books in total have been banned or restricted in at least 12 school districts;

(12) Idaho where at least 51 books in total have been banned or restricted in at least 1 school district; and

(13) Oklahoma, where at least 45 books in total have been banned or restricted in at least 3 school districts: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of the week of September 22 through September 28, 2024, as “Banned Books Week”;

(2) expresses concern about the spreading problem of book banning and the proliferating threats to freedom of expression in the United States;

(3) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to supporting the freedom of expression of writers that is protected under the First Amendment to the Constitution and the freedom of all individuals in the United States to read books without government censorship;

(4) calls on local governments and school districts to follow best practice guidelines when addressing challenges to books; and

(5) calls on local governments and school districts to protect the rights of students to learn and the ability of educators and librarians to teach, including by providing students with the opportunity to read a wide array of books reflecting the full breadth and diversity of viewpoints and perspectives.

SENATE RESOLUTION 858—RECOGNIZING THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUTDOOR AFRO

Mr. KING (for himself, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, and Mr. PADILLA) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 858

Whereas, in 2009, Outdoor Afro started as a blog about nature written by Ms. Rue Mapp,

and has grown into a national not-for-profit network with volunteer leaders in 33 States and the District of Columbia, guiding hundreds of outdoor events each year based on a simple mission to celebrate and inspire Black-American connections to nature through recreational activities, including camping, hiking, birding, fishing, gardening, skiing, biking, camping, environmental education, conservation stewardship, and more;

Whereas, in the past 15 years, Outdoor Afro has cultivated and trained more than 1000 outdoor leaders, led thousands of outdoor events, and engaged well over 150,000 participants;

Whereas Outdoor Afro has disrupted the false perception that Black Americans do not have a relationship with nature and is inspiring access to remote and pristine nature, as well as urban nature, including local parks, trails, and open spaces;

Whereas Outdoor Afro promotes a healthy lifestyle and helps communities find healing, connects to Black history found in natural areas, and inspires an increased desire to protect vulnerable public lands for all to enjoy;

Whereas Outdoor Afro held its first international expedition in 2018 to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania;

Whereas, in response to the disproportionate number of Black children who drown while swimming, Outdoor Afro launched Making Waves, a program to strengthen relationships with water through water safety and swimming lessons provided by certified swim instructors;

Whereas, since its inception, Making Waves has funded nearly 1,950 “Swimmership” scholarships and aims to reach 1,500 new swimmers in 2024;

Whereas Outdoor Afro has engaged millions of people through digital outreach and is changing visual representations of who can connect with and lead in the outdoors through this digital outreach;

Whereas Outdoor Afro’s growing network comprises civically engaged men and women, many of whom plan outdoor activities on behalf of children and senior community members, restoring Black-American leadership in nature;

Whereas Outdoor Afro is a leading voice in the Black-American community for advice on where to recreate, the best outdoor gear to use, and environmental causes that need the greatest attention; and

Whereas October 25, 2024, marks 15 years since the establishment of Outdoor Afro as a community that supports connecting Black Americans with natural spaces and one another through recreational activities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 15th anniversary of Outdoor Afro; and

(2) commends the leadership of Outdoor Afro for leading the way for inclusion in outdoor recreation and nature for all.

SENATE RESOLUTION 859—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER 2024 AS “NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH”

Mr. KING (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 859

Whereas the theme for National Recovery Month is “Every Person. Every Family. Every Community.”;

Whereas nearly 108,000 individuals in the United States suffered a fatal drug overdose

during 2023, the first annual decrease in drug overdose deaths since 2018;

Whereas overdose deaths involving opioids decreased from an estimated 84,181 in 2022 to 81,083 in 2023;

Whereas overdose deaths from synthetic opioids (primarily fentanyl) decreased in 2023 compared to 2022, but overdose deaths from cocaine and psychostimulants (like methamphetamine) increased;

Whereas, in 2023, there were approximately 22,219,000 adults in the United States who considered themselves to be in recovery from substance use disorder;

Whereas individuals with substance use disorder may face stigma from health professionals as well as from friends and family;

Whereas it has been demonstrated that stigma can be a barrier to accessing treatment and engaging in recovery for individuals with substance use disorder; and

Whereas peer-supported communities offer individuals with substance use disorder better success in recovery by addressing the personal and emotional effects of addiction and easing reintegration: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the importance of patient, provider, and societal education for the prevention of substance use disorder;

(2) supports efforts to explore the means by which integrated care, community, and helping individuals obtain a sense of purpose can lead to effective and sustainable treatment of substance use disorder;

(3) shows appreciation and gratitude for family members, friends, and other individuals who support individuals in recovery from substance use disorder; and

(4) supports the designation of September 2024 as “National Recovery Month”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 860—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 6, 2024, THROUGH OCTOBER 12, 2024, AS “RELIGIOUS EDUCATION WEEK” TO CELEBRATE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BRITT, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. HAWLEY, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 860

Whereas the free exercise of religion is an inherent, fundamental, and inalienable right protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

Whereas the United States has long recognized that the free exercise of religion is important to the intellectual, ethical, moral, and civic development of individuals in the United States, as evidenced by the Founders of the United States, such as—

(1) Benjamin Franklin, who believed religion to be “uniquely capable of educating a citizenry for democracy”; and

(2) George Washington, who said in his farewell address, “Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports.”;

Whereas religious education is useful for self-development because it asks students to consider and respond to questions concerning the meaning and purpose of life, engages students in questions about morality and justice, and enables students to identify their values;

Whereas studies like the one published by the International Journal of Mental Health Systems in 2019 have shown that religious education can be “instrumental to improving adolescent mental health” by helping children learn how to make decisions based on morals, promoting less risky choices, and encouraging connectedness within a community, which can enhance self-esteem and well-being;

Whereas religious education fosters respect for other religious groups and individuals generally by acknowledging a source for human dignity and worth;

Whereas the Supreme Court of the United States found in *Pierce v. Society of Sisters*, 268 U.S. 510 (1925), that the State does not have power “to standardize its children by forcing them to accept instruction from public teachers only. The child is not the mere creature of the state; those who nurture him and direct his destiny have the right, coupled with the high duty, to recognize and prepare him for additional obligations.”;

Whereas religious instruction can come from a variety of sources, including sectarian schools and released time programs;

Whereas, according to the National Center for Education Statistics, in 2015, 4,350,000 children in the United States attended sectarian elementary and secondary schools where those children received religious education; and

Whereas the Supreme Court of the United States held in *Zorach v. Clauson*, 343 U.S. 306 (1952), that State statutes providing for the release of public school students from school to attend religious classes are constitutional, and, as a result, an estimated 540,000 public school students in the United States take advantage of released time programs each year: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) affirms the importance of religious education in the civic and moral development of the people of the United States;

(2) celebrates the schools and organizations that are engaged in religious instruction of the children of the United States to aid those children in intellectual, ethical, moral, and civic development;

(3) calls on each of the 50 States, each territory of the United States, and the District of Columbia to accommodate individuals who wish to be released from public school attendance to attend religious classes; and

(4) designates the week of October 6, 2024, through October 12, 2024, as “Religious Education Week”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 861—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER 2024 AS “SICKLE CELL DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH” IN ORDER TO EDUCATE COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES ABOUT SICKLE CELL DISEASE AND THE NEED FOR RESEARCH, EARLY DETECTION METHODS, EFFECTIVE TREATMENTS, AND PREVENTATIVE CARE PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO COMPLICATIONS FROM SICKLE CELL DISEASE AND CONDITIONS RELATED TO SICKLE CELL DISEASE

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. WARREN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. BROWN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WARNOCK, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 861

Whereas sickle cell disease (referred to in this preamble as “SCD”) is an inherited blood disorder that is a major health problem in the United States and worldwide;

Whereas SCD can result in multiple medical complications, including anemia, jaundice, gallstones, strokes, restricted blood flow, damaged tissue in the liver, spleen, and kidneys, and death;

Whereas SCD causes acute and chronic episodes of severe pain;

Whereas SCD affects an estimated 100,000 individuals in the United States;

Whereas approximately 1,000 babies are born with SCD each year in the United States, with the disease occurring in approximately 1 in 365 newborn Black or African American infants and 1 in 16,300 newborn Hispanic-American infants, and can be found in individuals of Mediterranean, Middle Eastern, Asian, and Indian origin;

Whereas more than 3,000,000 individuals in the United States have the sickle cell trait and 1 in 13 Black or African Americans carries the trait;

Whereas there is a 1 in 4 chance that a child born to parents who both have the sickle cell trait will have the disease;

Whereas the life expectancy of an individual with SCD in the United States is often severely limited;

Whereas sickle cell anemia can shorten life expectancy by more than 20 years;

Whereas sickle cell anemia is a common cause of childhood stroke, and, in 2019, fewer than half of children with sickle cell anemia who were 2 to 16 years old received the recommended screening for stroke;

Whereas, in 2019, only 2 in 5 children with sickle cell anemia who were 2 to 9 years old used recommended medication that can prevent sickle cell anemia complications;

Whereas, in 2020, the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine developed a comprehensive strategic plan and blueprint for action to address sickle cell disease, which, among other things, cited the need for new innovative therapies as well as the need to address barriers that may impact delivery of and access to approved treatments;

Whereas, while hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (commonly known as “HSCT”) is currently the only cure for SCD and advances in treating the associated complications of SCD have occurred, more research is needed to find widely available

treatments and cures to help individuals with SCD; and

Whereas September 2024 has been designated as Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month in order to educate communities across the United States about SCD, including early detection methods, effective treatments, and preventative care programs with respect to complications from SCD and conditions related to SCD: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to hold appropriate programs, events, and activities during Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month to raise public awareness of the sickle cell trait, preventative care programs, treatments, and other patient services for those suffering from sickle cell disease, complications from sickle cell disease, and conditions related to sickle cell disease.

SENATE RESOLUTION 862—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 23, 2024, AS “NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY DAY”

Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. PETERS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 862

Whereas, on October 23, 1972, the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.) became law and ushered in a new era of ocean conservation;

Whereas the National Marine Sanctuary System is a nationwide network that conserves spectacular oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes;

Whereas communities across the United States can nominate their most treasured marine and Great Lakes waters for consideration as national marine sanctuaries;

Whereas national marine sanctuaries protect biodiversity, safeguard extraordinary seascapes, historic shipwrecks, and sacred cultural places, and provide abundant recreational opportunities;

Whereas national marine sanctuaries seek opportunities to partner with indigenous governments and communities to achieve shared conservation goals and to support the care-taking of ecological resources and cultural sites of indigenous peoples;

Whereas national marine sanctuaries protect vital habitats for countless species of fish and wildlife, including many species that are listed as threatened or endangered;

Whereas the conservation of marine ecosystems is vital for healthy oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes, for addressing climate change, and for sustaining productive coastal economies;

Whereas the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation and its partners work to protect and nurture the growth of the National Marine Sanctuary System;

Whereas national marine sanctuaries increase access to nature for all, support coastal communities, and generate billions of dollars annually in local communities by providing jobs in the United States, supporting commercial, Tribal, and recreational fisheries, bolstering tourism and recreation, engaging businesses in stewardship, and driving the growth of the blue economy;

Whereas national marine sanctuaries connect people and communities through

science, education, United States history, recreation, and stewardship and inspire community-based solutions that help individuals understand and protect the spectacular underwater habitats, wildlife, archaeological resources, and cultural seascapes of the United States;

Whereas national marine sanctuaries are living laboratories that enable cooperative science and research that improves resource management and advances innovative public-private partnerships;

Whereas national marine sanctuaries can help make oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes more resilient by protecting ecosystems that sequester carbon, by safeguarding coastal communities from flooding and storms, and by protecting biodiversity;

Whereas the United States is a historic maritime Nation, and oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes are central to the way of life of the people of the United States;

Whereas engaging communities as stewards of these protected waters makes national marine sanctuaries unique and provides a comprehensive, ecosystem-based, highly participatory approach to managing and conserving marine and Great Lakes environments for current and future generations; and

Whereas October 23, 2024, is recognized as “National Marine Sanctuary Day” to increase awareness about the importance of the National Marine Sanctuary System and healthy oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and to celebrate the many recreational opportunities available for the enjoyment of this network of protected waters: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 23, 2024, as “National Marine Sanctuary Day”;

(2) encourages the people of the United States and the world to responsibly visit, experience, recreate in, and support the treasured national marine sanctuaries of the United States;

(3) acknowledges the importance of national marine sanctuaries in supporting community resilience, protecting biodiversity, and increasing access to nature;

(4) recognizes the importance of national marine sanctuaries for their recreational opportunities and contributions to local and national economies across the United States;

(5) celebrates the ability of the National Marine Sanctuary System to protect nationally significant places in oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes;

(6) calls on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to partner with communities and to complete designations of new national marine sanctuaries; and

(7) encourages Federal agencies to balance priorities and work together to support the priorities of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.).

SENATE RESOLUTION 863—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 12, 2024, AS “NATIONAL LOGGERS DAY”

Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 863

Whereas the logging industry has served as an economic driver and cultural tradition in the United States for centuries;

Whereas the logging industry creates rural jobs and provides revenue for local and State governments and National forests;

Whereas loggers provide renewable material for products used by people in the United States every day;

Whereas loggers are the first link in the \$300,000,000,000 domestic forest products supply chain;

Whereas loggers are the means by which healthy forest management plans are accomplished;

Whereas logging provides for healthy forests, which—

(1) create and maintain vital wildlife habitats;

(2) protect watersheds;

(3) provide young forests that sequester carbon for cleaner air;

(4) provide social wellbeing and public recreational opportunities; and

(5) reduce loss of life and property from wildfires; and

Whereas logging provides for healthy forests through regeneration and conservation, including by planting 2,500,000,000 trees annually: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates October 12, 2024, as “National Loggers Day”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 864—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 23 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 29, 2024, AS “RAIL SAFETY WEEK” AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF RAIL SAFETY WEEK TO REDUCE HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE CROSSING AND TRESPASSER-RELATED INCIDENTS, FATALITIES, INJURIES, AND DERAILMENTS, IMPROVE THE SAFE TRANSPORTATION OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS BY RAIL, AND PREVENT RAIL WORKER FATALITIES

Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. FETTERMAN, and Mr. VANCE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

Whereas the first Rail Safety Week was held from September 24 through September 30, 2017, by a highway-rail grade crossing safety nonprofit organization Operation Lifesaver, the Department of Transportation, and other organizations;

Whereas Rail Safety Week was launched to—

(1) raise awareness about the need for increased education on how to be safe around highway-rail grade crossings and railroad tracks; and

(2) highlight efforts to further reduce collisions, injuries, and fatalities;

Whereas highway-rail grade crossing and trespassing incidents constituted approximately 96 percent of all rail-related fatalities during 2023;

Whereas, under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58; 135 Stat. 429), Congress provided \$3,000,000,000 during a 5-year period for the Railroad Crossing Elimination grant program that has provided nearly \$600,000,000 to 63 local communities in 32 states to construct and plan highway-rail grade separation projects to eliminate crossings;

Whereas, in 2022, more than 60 percent of all highway-rail grade crossing collisions occurred at highway-rail grade crossings with lights or gates;

Whereas preliminary Federal statistics indicate that 2,192 highway-rail grade crossing collisions occurred in the United States in 2023, resulting in 247 deaths and another 764 individuals being injured;

Whereas many collisions between trains and motor vehicles or pedestrians could have

been prevented by increased education, engineering, and enforcement;

Whereas Operation Lifesaver administers a public education program about grade-crossing safety and trespass prevention;

Whereas, during Rail Safety Week, from September 23 through 29, 2024, and throughout the year, everyone is encouraged to take added caution as motorists or pedestrians approach tracks or trains;

Whereas the February 3, 2023, Norfolk Southern train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio, which resulted in the burning of 5 vinyl chloride tank cars and forced the evacuation of approximately 2,000 nearby residents, was a reminder of the risks posed by hazardous materials transportation;

Whereas preliminary 2023 Federal statistics indicate that—

(1) Class I freight railroads had the highest accident rate not at grade crossings in the past decade;

(2) the number of accidents not at grade crossings per 1,000,000 miles traveled among Class I freight railroads has increased by 42 percent since 2013; and

(3) more than 42,000 rail workers have been injured and 120 rail workers have been killed on duty since 2013;

Whereas the United States, Canada, and Mexico will concurrently observe Rail Safety Week; and

Whereas this important observance should lead to greater safety awareness and a reduction in highway-rail grade crossing collisions, derailments, rail worker fatalities, and other railroad incidents: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of “Rail Safety Week”;

(2) expresses strong support for—

(A) the goals and ideals of Rail Safety Week;

(B) efforts to reduce highway-rail grade crossing and trespasser-related incidents, fatalities, and injuries;

(C) efforts by the Federal Railroad Administration to improve safety cultures at Class I freight railroads;

(D) efforts by the Department of Transportation to implement the recommendations of the National Transportation Safety Board’s investigation into the February 3, 2023, Norfolk Southern derailment in East Palestine, Ohio;

(E) the residents of East Palestine, Ohio, Western Pennsylvania, and all other communities impacted by the derailment and release of hazardous materials on February 3, 2023;

(F) the brave actions of first responders who combat releases of hazardous materials across the United States, including the brave actions of the more than 300 firefighters from 50 fire departments who responded to the February 3, 2023, derailment in East Palestine, Ohio; and

(G) rail workers who have died or been injured while working to keep people and goods moving throughout the United States and the families of those rail workers; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States—

(A) to participate in Rail Safety Week events and activities;

(B) to educate themselves and others on how to be safe around railroad tracks; and

(C) to support efforts to improve the safe transportation of hazardous material by rail.

SENATE RESOLUTION 865—EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT OF THE SENATE FOR THE DESIGNATION OF OCTOBER 23, 2024, AS “PUBLIC RADIO MUSIC DAY” AND DEEP APPRECIATION FOR THE ROLE OF PUBLIC RADIO MUSIC STATIONS IN SERVING LISTENERS, MUSICIANS, AND HUNDREDS OF COMMUNITIES IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. COONS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 865

Whereas more than 23,800,000 listeners in the United States tune in weekly to local noncommercial radio stations to discover, learn about, and enjoy music selections, artists, and genres that are, in many cases, available only on public radio;

Whereas approximately 687 public radio music stations serve rural and urban communities in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico;

Whereas local public radio music stations celebrate a broad collection of sounds and styles, including jazz, blues, classical, Americana, alternative, folk, roots, soul, bluegrass, and other genres;

Whereas 96 percent of over-the-air broadcasts of classical music in the United States come from local public radio stations;

Whereas local, noncommercial, not-for-profit, public radio music stations develop local artists and audiences, sustain music and performers, and educate and enrich their audiences and communities;

Whereas local public radio music stations are locally staffed and programmed, are connected to the unique culture of their community, and share core values of music discovery, curation, preservation, and performance with their audiences;

Whereas knowledgeable local hosts, live announcers, and expert curation on public radio music stations have a proven track record of—

(1) helping audiences discover new and emerging homegrown musicians; and

(2) providing deep explorations into the history and cultural impact of music;

Whereas public radio music stations—

(1) tailor their content and programming to reflect regional tastes and talent;

(2) make music more accessible through local performances, studio sessions, artist interviews, and music journalism; and

(3) broadcast news and information about the local music industry;

Whereas public radio music stations connect musicians and artists with local audiences through an expanding range of platforms, including free over-the-air broadcasts, podcasts, videos, digital, and on-stage;

Whereas public radio music stations have served rural communities by—

(1) providing music discovery options for rural audiences;

(2) enabling musicians in rural communities to reach public radio audiences; and

(3) promoting and preserving music genres with deep cultural connections;

Whereas the emphasis of public radio on music presentation adds to the journey of lifelong music enjoyment;

Whereas public radio music stations serve as cultural hubs in their communities by providing a place for listeners to come together for the shared enjoyment of music and to support the local music economy;

Whereas local public radio stations partner with schools, hospitals, and other commu-

nity organizations to promote broad access to music for the public;

Whereas the values and collective commitment of public radio music stations to community service, education, and cultural support separate these nonprofit, noncommercial radio stations from other music providers; and

Whereas, October 23, 2024, would be an appropriate day to designate as “Public Radio Music Day”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of October 23, 2024, as “Public Radio Music Day”; and

(2) expresses its deep appreciation for the role of public radio music stations in serving listeners, musicians, and hundreds of communities in the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 866—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 4, 2024, AS “NATIONAL ENERGY APPRECIATION DAY” TO CELEBRATE THE PEOPLE WHO WORK TO POWER THE UNITED STATES AND THE ECONOMY OF THE UNITED STATES AND TO BUILD AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANT ROLE THAT THE ENERGY PRODUCERS OF THE UNITED STATES PLAY IN REDUCING POVERTY, STRENGTHENING NATIONAL SECURITY, AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD

Ms. LUMMIS (for herself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CRUZ, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 866

Whereas energy is a vital part of daily life and has greatly improved the standard of living in the United States and around the world;

Whereas the energy mix in the United States reflects an all-of-the-above energy approach, which is important for keeping energy affordable, reliable, and efficient;

Whereas the efficient use of the natural resources of the United States is a key part of strengthening the national security of the United States;

Whereas access to affordable, reliable energy supports economic growth and creates upward mobility;

Whereas the use of advanced energy technology has greatly reduced emissions associated with energy development and use while supporting sustained economic growth alongside continued environmental improvement;

Whereas the men and women who play a part in building, maintaining, and delivering access to energy should be commended for their hard work and vital role in modern life;

Whereas access to energy throughout the United States has more than doubled life expectancy in the United States;

Whereas access to energy has reduced the percentage of the global population living in poverty from more than 40 percent to less than 10 percent;

Whereas the energy industry accounts for 7,800,000 jobs in the United States;

Whereas each direct job in the oil and natural gas industry of the United States generates 3.7 jobs elsewhere in the economy of the United States, ultimately supporting 10,800,000 jobs that account for 5.4 percent of employment in the United States;

Whereas Federal oil and natural gas leases for onshore and offshore development brought in more than \$22,000,000,000 in revenue for the Federal Government in 2022;

Whereas the United States oil and natural gas industry alone generates nearly \$1,800,000,000,000 in gross domestic product per year;

Whereas coal continues to serve as a reliable and affordable source of baseload power for consumers across the United States and provided 19.5 percent of the utility-scale electricity in the United States in 2022;

Whereas hydroelectric power infrastructure contributes significant clean and reliable baseload power to the energy grid of the United States and vital grid flexibility with the ability to scale up or down to match fluctuations in consumer demand;

Whereas innovation in the nuclear energy industry of the United States has led to the annual generation capacity of about 100,000 megawatts of safe, clean, and reliable nuclear power; and

Whereas renewable energy employment continues to expand, with solar jobs accounting for the largest area of growth: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

- (1) designates October 4, 2024, as “National Energy Appreciation Day”; and
- (2) encourages the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and the people of the United States to observe National Energy Appreciation Day with appropriate events to promote education on, and celebrate the role of, modern energy systems in everyday life.

SENATE RESOLUTION 867—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2024 AS “NATIONAL SPINAL CORD INJURY AWARENESS MONTH”

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

S. RES. 867

Whereas approximately 306,000 individuals in the United States live with spinal cord injuries, which cost society billions of dollars in health care costs and lost wages;

Whereas there are approximately 18,000 new spinal cord injuries in the United States each year;

Whereas more than 42,000 individuals with spinal cord injuries are veterans;

Whereas motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of spinal cord injuries;

Whereas almost half of all spinal cord injuries sustained by individuals 30 years of age or younger occur as a result of a vehicular accident;

Whereas the average remaining years of life for individuals living with spinal cord injuries has not improved significantly since the 1980s;

Whereas there is an urgent need to develop new neuroprotection, pharmacological, and regeneration treatments to reduce, prevent, and reverse paralysis; and

Whereas increased education and investment in research are key factors in improving outcomes for individuals living with spinal cord injuries, enhancing the quality of life of individuals with spinal cord injuries, and ultimately curing paralysis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

- (1) designates September 2024 as “National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month”;
- (2) supports the goals and ideals of National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month;
- (3) continues to support research to find better treatments, therapies, and a cure for spinal cord injuries;

(4) supports clinical trials for new therapies that offer promise and hope to individuals living with paralysis; and

(5) commends the dedication of national, regional, and local organizations, researchers, doctors, volunteers, and people across the United States who are working to improve the quality of life of individuals living with spinal cord injuries and their families.

SENATE RESOLUTION 868—ACKNOWLEDGING AND COMMEMORATING THE WOMEN WHO SERVED THE NAVY IN THE WOMEN ACCEPTED FOR VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY SERVICE DURING WORLD WAR II

Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. CRUZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 868

Whereas President Franklin D. Roosevelt established the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (referred to in this preamble as “WAVES”) on July 30, 1942, when he signed the Act of July 30, 1942 (56 Stat. 730, chapter 538), into law;

Whereas, despite social stigmas and public opinion averse to women in uniform, women applied for WAVES in such numbers that enrollment ceilings were reached within the first several years;

Whereas, while women had served in the enlisted ranks of the Navy in a variety of positions during World War I, legislation passed after World War I limited women to service as nurses until the creation of the WAVES;

Whereas, during World War II, women in the United States were recruited into the Armed Forces to perform military assignments so that men could be freed for combat duties;

Whereas, under the direction of Lieutenant Commander (later Captain) Mildred Helen McAfee, the WAVES peaked in 1945 at nearly 80,000 officers and enlisted personnel, or approximately 2.5 percent of the wartime strength of the Navy and was composed of women from urban and rural communities across many socioeconomic backgrounds;

Whereas the annual report of the Secretary of the Navy for fiscal year 1945 stated that there were 8,475 officers and 73,816 enlisted WAVES serving in the spring of 1945;

Whereas the WAVES worked at large and small naval commands from Florida to Washington and from California to Rhode Island, as well as overseas;

Whereas the numerous and diverse contributions of the WAVES ranged from yeoman, chauffeur, and baker to pharmacist, artist, aircraft mechanic, and dental hygienist;

Whereas, during World War II, the WAVES served as training instructors throughout the United States for newly recruited WAVES as well as thousands of aspiring male naval aviators, gunners, and navigators destined for combat units;

Whereas the WAVES who served in naval aviation taught instrument flying, aircraft recognition, celestial navigation, aircraft gunnery, radio, radar, air combat information, and air fighter administration but were not allowed to be pilots;

Whereas the WAVES served the Navy in such numbers that, according to a Navy estimate, enough men were freed for combat duty to crew the ships of 4 major task forces,

each including a battleship, 2 large aircraft carriers, 2 heavy cruisers, 4 light cruisers, and 15 destroyers;

Whereas, at the end of World War II, Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal stated that members of the WAVES “have exceeded performance of men in certain types of work, and the Navy Department considers it to be very desirable that these important services rendered by women during the war should likewise be available in postwar years ahead”;

Whereas, by the end of World War II, more than 400,000 women had served the United States in military capacities, with every Navy aviator who entered combat having received some part of his training from a member of the WAVES;

Whereas the WAVES, despite their merit and the recognized value and importance of their contributions to the war effort, were not given status equal to their male counterparts, and struggled for years to receive the appreciation of Congress and the people of the United States;

Whereas the WAVES helped to catalyze the social, demographic, and economic evolutions that occurred in the 1960s and 1970s and continue to this day; and

Whereas the pioneering women who served in the WAVES are owed a great debt of gratitude for their service to the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

- (1) honors the women who served the Navy in the Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service (referred to in this resolution as “WAVES”) during World War II;

(2) commends the WAVES who, through a sense of duty and willingness to defy stereotypes and social pressures, performed military assignments to aid the war effort, with the result that men were freed for combat duties; and

(3) recognizes that the WAVES, by serving with diligence and merit, not only opened up opportunities for women that had previously been reserved for men, but also contributed vitally to the victory of the United States and the Allies in World War II.

SENATE RESOLUTION 869—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING NOVEMBER 11, 2024, AS “NATIONAL PREGNANCY CENTER WEEK” TO RECOGNIZE THE VITAL ROLE THAT COMMUNITY-SUPPORTED PREGNANCY CENTERS PLAY IN SAVING LIVES AND SERVING WOMEN AND MEN FACED WITH DIFFICULT PREGNANCY DECISIONS

Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. JOHNSON, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mr. WICKER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 869

Whereas, for more than 100 years, young women facing unplanned pregnancies have found support from charitable organizations ranging from Catholic Charities and Jewish maternity homes to the Salvation Army;

Whereas many charitable organizations banded together on November 13, 1971, to form the first United States association of nonprofit organizations, known in 2024 as Heartbeat International, dedicated to rescuing as many lives as possible from abortion;

Whereas, as of 2024, there were approximately 3,000 pregnancy centers (also known

as “pregnancy care and resource centers”) in the United States;

Whereas women in every part of the United States turn to pregnancy centers for help, hope, and healing;

Whereas pregnancy centers are local, non-profit organizations that provide vital and compassionate support to women and men faced with difficult pregnancy decisions;

Whereas pregnancy centers reach almost 2,000,000 people each year through a combination of client services, including—

- (1) pregnancy tests;
- (2) ultrasound and medical services;
- (3) options counseling and education; and
- (4) parenting and childbirth classes;

Whereas the estimated value of services provided in 2022 to women and men of all ages and backgrounds was over \$350,000,000;

Whereas some pregnancy centers offer specific medical services, including—

- (1) consultation with a licensed medical professional;
- (2) a limited ultrasound for pregnancy confirmation; and
- (3) testing for sexually transmitted infections and diseases;

Whereas the National Institute of Family and Life Advocates—

- (1) provides life-affirming pregnancy centers with legal counsel, education, and training;
- (2) has assisted hundreds of pregnancy centers in becoming medical clinics; and
- (3) has represented nearly 1,300 pregnancy centers that currently operate as medical clinics;

Whereas more than 53,000 people in the United States volunteer at community-supported pregnancy centers each year, including more than 5,000 licensed medical professionals;

Whereas nearly 2,250 medical pregnancy centers provide a limited ultrasound at little or no cost to women;

Whereas, in 2019, more than 486,000 ultrasounds were performed at medical pregnancy centers;

Whereas pregnancy centers understand that pregnancy can be emotional for mothers and fathers, and the compassionate staff and trained volunteers of pregnancy centers—

- (1) provide each patient with educational materials; and
- (2) offer each patient emotional support and care to help each patient through difficult situations;

Whereas close to 88 percent of pregnancy centers in the United States offer specialized parenting education—

- (1) through direct services on premises; or
- (2) in nearby churches, schools, or other locations;

Whereas nearly every pregnancy care and resource center provides clients with material support for pregnancy and infant care, which may include—

- (1) maternity clothing;
- (2) baby clothes and furniture;
- (3) housing assistance; or
- (4) nutritional counseling and resources;

Whereas pregnancy centers—

- (1) do not discriminate based on age, race, nationality, creed, religious affiliation, disability, or arbitrary circumstances; and
- (2) take special care to provide help to underserved minority populations;

Whereas pregnancy centers have committed to engaging fathers so that they can acquire the skills necessary to become involved and responsible fathers;

Whereas Care Net-affiliated pregnancy centers have saved more than 886,000 babies since 2008;

Whereas, since 2012, Heartbeat International reports that the Abortion Pill Rescue Network has saved more than 5,000 lives from in-process chemical abortions;

Whereas, between 2010 and 2024, 8 of 10 women considering abortion when they entered a Care Net-affiliated pregnancy care and resource center ended up choosing life;

Whereas, between 2010 and 2024, Care Net-affiliated pregnancy centers—

- (1) provided 1,300,000 free ultrasound scans;
- (2) provided parenting support and education to 1,100,000 individuals;
- (3) provided material resources to more than 1,700,000 individuals; and
- (4) administered 3,200,000 pregnancy tests;

Whereas the 24-hour Option Line of Heartbeat International—

(1) helps carry out a mission of reaching and rescuing as many lives as possible around the world through an effective network of life-affirming pregnancy centers; and

- (2) answers questions by phone, text, email, or chat before connecting an individual with the individual’s local pregnancy center, where the individual will receive 1-on-1, compassionate, caring support;

Whereas Heartbeat International has made contact with over 7,000,000 calls from women and men seeking pregnancy help through the Option Line, a national multilingual pregnancy contact center available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 364 days a year;

Whereas the Care Net Pregnancy Decision Line is the only national hotline that provides immediate pregnancy decision coaching by highly trained coaches;

Whereas Heartbeat International reports the existence of approximately 450 maternity homes in the United States;

Whereas Care Net, Heartbeat International, the National Institute of Family and Life Advocates, and other groups issued a statement entitled “Our Commitment of Care and Competence”, which—

- (1) addresses issues including—
 - (A) scientific and medical accuracy;
 - (B) truth in advertising;
 - (C) compassion;
 - (D) nondiscrimination;
 - (E) patient confidentiality;
 - (F) staff training; and
 - (G) a consistent life ethic; and
- (2) expands the determination of the pregnancy help movement to comply with applicable legal requirements regarding—
 - (A) employment;
 - (B) fundraising;
 - (C) financial management;
 - (D) taxation;
 - (E) medical licensure; and
 - (F) operation standards;

Whereas less than 10 percent of the income of pregnancy centers in the United States is derived from governmental sources, which ensures that pregnancy centers—

- (1) minimize burdens on each taxpayer; and
- (2) engage local communities to provide sustainable support; and

Whereas, after the reversal of *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113 (1973), pregnancy centers have wrongfully been the subject of vandalism and violence; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning November 11, 2024, as “National Pregnancy Center Week”;

(2) supports the important work of pregnancy centers across the United States;

(3) appreciates and recognizes the thousands of volunteers and staff of pregnancy centers in the United States who give millions of hours of service each year to women and men who are faced with difficult pregnancy decisions; and

- (4) recognizes the importance of—
 - (A) protecting life; and
 - (B) assisting women and men in need as they bring children into the world.

SENATE RESOLUTION 870—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 15 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 21, 2024, AS “COMMUNITY SCHOOL COORDINATORS APPRECIATION WEEK”

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 870

Whereas community schools marshal, align, and unite the assets, resources, and capacity of schools and communities for the success of students, families, and communities;

Whereas community schools are an effective and evidence-based strategy for school improvement included under section 4625 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7275), as added by section 4601 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (Public Law 114-95; 129 Stat. 2029);

Whereas community schools that provide integrated student support, well-designed and expanded learning opportunities informed by rigorous community-connected classroom instruction, promote a culture of belonging and safety, and active family and community engagement that use collaborative leadership and practices have positive academic and non-academic outcomes, including—

- (1) improvements in—
 - (A) student attendance;
 - (B) behavior;
 - (C) academic achievement;
 - (D) school readiness;
 - (E) mental and physical health;
 - (F) high school graduation rates; and
 - (G) school climate; and
- (2) reduced racial and economic achievement gaps;

Whereas community schools have the potential to help people of the United States from underserved communities, as indicated in a 2024 report;

Whereas a 2023 study found that mental health care provided through community schools addresses disparities through school-provided service and shows improved academic performance and student conduct, including reducing the number of school suspensions and disciplinary referrals;

Whereas a 2022 report found that community schools and the community as a whole produce a positive impact on student attendance, on-time grade progression, and credit accumulation for high school students;

Whereas community schools have a positive impact on meeting the basic needs of students, including nutritional services and access to comprehensive health services, as indicated in a 2024 report;

Whereas community schools provide a strong social return on investment, with one study citing a social return of between \$10 to \$15 for every dollar invested over a 3-year period;

Whereas community school coordinators—

- (1) are essential to building successful community schools and creating, strengthening, and maintaining partnerships between community schools and their communities;

(2) facilitate and provide leadership for the collaborative process and development of a system of supports and opportunities for children, families, and others within the community of a school that allow all students to learn and the community to thrive; and

(3) deliver a strong monetary return on investment for community schools and their communities, with one study citing a return

of \$7.11 for every dollar invested in the salary of a community school coordinator; and

Whereas Community School Coordinators Appreciation Week, celebrated from September 15 through September 21, 2024, recognizes, raises awareness of, and celebrates the thousands of community school coordinators across the country and the critical role of community school coordinators in the success of students: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 15 through September 21, 2024, as “Community School Coordinators Appreciation Week”;

(2) thanks community school coordinators for the work they do to serve students, families, and communities; and

(3) encourages students, parents, school administrators, and public officials to participate in events that celebrate Community School Coordinators Appreciation Week.

SENATE RESOLUTION 871—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF OCTOBER 2024 AS “NATIONAL YOUTH JUSTICE ACTION MONTH”

Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 871

Whereas the historical role of the juvenile court system is to rehabilitate and treat young people while holding them accountable and maintaining public safety, and the juvenile court system is therefore better equipped to work with youth than the adult criminal justice system, which is punitive in nature;

Whereas youth are developmentally different from adults, and those differences have been—

(1) documented by research on the adolescent brain; and

(2) acknowledged by the Supreme Court of the United States, State supreme courts, and many State and Federal laws that prohibit youth under the age of 18 from taking on major adult responsibilities such as voting, jury duty, and military service;

Whereas most laws allowing the prosecution of youth as adults were enacted before the publication of research-based evidence by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the Department of Justice demonstrating that prosecuting youth in adult court actually decreases public safety, as, on average, youth prosecuted in adult court are 34 percent more likely to commit future crimes than youth retained in the juvenile court system;

Whereas youth deserve an opportunity to demonstrate their potential to grow and change, and youth who are placed under the commitment of the juvenile court system often do not receive access to age-appropriate services and education and remain far from their families, which increases the likelihood that those youth will commit offenses in the future;

Whereas, between 2000 and 2022, there was a 75 percent decline in youth incarceration in the United States, but troubling disparities remain;

Whereas youth of color, youth with disabilities, youth with mental health challenges, and youth in foster care are disproportionately represented at all stages of the criminal justice system;

Whereas it is harmful to public safety and to young people in the legal system to confine youth in adult jails or prisons where they are significantly more likely to be physically and sexually assaulted, and are often placed in solitary confinement;

Whereas youth sentenced as adults receive an adult criminal record that hinders future education, housing, and employment opportunities; and

Whereas, in October, people around the United States participate in Youth Justice Action Month—

(1) to increase public awareness of the impact of the justice system; and

(2) to provide people across the United States with an opportunity to develop action-oriented events in their communities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) acknowledges that the collateral consequences normally applied in the adult criminal justice system should not automatically apply to youth arrested for crimes before the age of 18;

(2) expresses support for the designation of October 2024 as “National Youth Justice Action Month”;

(3) recognizes and supports the goals and ideals of National Youth Justice Action Month; and

(4) recognizes the 50th anniversary of the enactment of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (34 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.), as amended by the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-385; 132 Stat. 5123), and the importance of reauthorization, funding, and continued implementation in a manner consistent with the spirit and intent of the law.

SENATE RESOLUTION 872—RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND THE DEATH OF DANIEL J. EVANS, FORMER SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. CANTWELL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 872

Whereas Daniel “Dan” Evans was born in Seattle, Washington, in 1925;

Whereas Dan Evans graduated from Roosevelt High School in Seattle in 1943;

Whereas Dan Evans enlisted in the United States Navy in 1943, and served a 3-year tour of duty as an ensign aboard an aircraft carrier in the Pacific during World War II;

Whereas, after World War II, Dan Evans earned a bachelor of science degree and a master of science degree in civil engineering from the University of Washington and worked as a civil engineer in Seattle;

Whereas, in 1951, Dan Evans was recalled to the United States Navy for the Korean War, where he served as an operations officer on a destroyer with the rank of lieutenant and later as an aide to Admiral William K. Mendenhall during peace negotiations at Panmunjon;

Whereas Dan Evans married the late Nancy Bell Evans of Spokane, Washington, in 1959 and is survived by three sons, Daniel Jr., Mark, and Bruce;

Whereas Dan Evans was first elected to the Washington State House of Representatives in 1956 and served as the Republican floor leader from 1961 to 1964;

Whereas Dan Evans was first elected Governor of the State of Washington in 1964 and became the first person in Washington State history to serve 3 terms as Governor, winning reelection in 1968 and 1972;

Whereas Dan Evans served as Chair of the National Governors Association from 1973 to 1974;

Whereas Dan Evans served as the President of Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington, from 1977 to 1983;

Whereas Dan Evans served as the first Chair of the Pacific Northwest Electric

Power and Conservation Planning Council from 1981 to 1983;

Whereas, in 1983, Governor John Spellman appointed Dan Evans to the Senate to fill the vacancy caused by the death of former Senator Henry “Scoop” Jackson of Washington;

Whereas Dan Evans was elected to the Senate in a special election in 1983, and served as the Senator from Washington from 1983 to 1989;

Whereas Dan Evans served as Vice-Chairman of the Select Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate from 1987 to 1989;

Whereas, in 1993, Governor Mike Lowry appointed Dan Evans to the Board of Regents of the University of Washington;

Whereas Dan Evans served as the President of the Board of Regents of the University of Washington from 1996 to 1997;

Whereas, in 1999, the University of Washington Graduate School of Public Affairs was renamed the Daniel J. Evans School of Public Policy and Governance; and

Whereas, in 2017, the Olympic Wilderness in Olympic National Park was renamed the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of Daniel J. Evans, former member of the Senate;

(2) the Senate will communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased; and

(3) when the Senate adjourns today, it stands adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Daniel J. Evans.

SENATE RESOLUTION 873—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF RED RIBBON WEEK DURING THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 23 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2024

Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 873

Whereas the National Family Partnership started the Red Ribbon Campaign in 1988—

(1) to educate the people of the United States and encourage participation in drug prevention activities;

(2) to preserve the memory of Enrique “Kiki” Camarena (referred to in this preamble as “Special Agent Camarena”), a special agent of the Drug Enforcement Administration who—

(A) served the Drug Enforcement Administration for 11 years; and

(B) was murdered in the line of duty in 1985, while engaged in the battle against illicit drugs;

(3) to commemorate the service of Special Agent Camarena to the Drug Enforcement Administration and the people of the United States; and

(4) to further the cause for which Special Agent Camarena gave his life;

Whereas the Red Ribbon Campaign is the longest-standing drug use prevention program in the United States, bringing drug awareness to millions of people in the United States each year;

Whereas Red Ribbon Week is celebrated every year during the period of October 23 through October 31 by—

(1) State Governors and attorneys general;

(2) the National Family Partnership;
 (3) parent-teacher associations;
 (4) Boys and Girls Clubs of America;
 (5) the Young Marines;
 (6) the Drug Enforcement Administration; and
 (7) hundreds of other organizations throughout the United States;

Whereas the objective of Red Ribbon Week is to promote the creation of drug-free communities through drug use prevention efforts, education programs, parental involvement, and community-wide support through specific actions such as lighting up buildings and landmarks, and activities that engage the public;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, drug overdoses are the leading cause of death in people in the United States between the ages of 18 to 45, outnumbering deaths by firearms, motor vehicle crashes, suicide, or homicide;

Whereas over 107,000 people died from drug overdoses in the United States in 2023;

Whereas reducing the demand for illicit controlled substances would—

(1) curtail lethal addictions and overdoses; and

(2) reduce the violence associated with drug trafficking;

Whereas, although public awareness of illicit drug use is increasing, emerging drug threats and growing epidemics continue to demand attention;

Whereas the Drug Enforcement Administration hosts a National Take Back Day twice a year, on the last Saturdays of October and April, for the public to safely dispose of unused or expired prescription drugs that can lead to accidental poisoning, overdose, or misuse;

Whereas the National Family Partnership hosts Lock Your Meds, a multi-media campaign and program to encourage individuals, businesses, and communities to dispose of drugs appropriately and to reduce the demand for drugs;

Whereas Lock Your Meds is statewide in Idaho, North Carolina, and throughout the southeastern United States;

Whereas synthetic opioids such as fentanyl and the analogues of fentanyl devastated communities and families at an unprecedented rate, claiming more than 80,000 lives in 2023;

Whereas the presence of fentanyl and the analogues of fentanyl pose hazards to police officers and law enforcement agents;

Whereas 7 out of 10 fake prescription pills containing fentanyl tested at Drug Enforcement Administration laboratories contain a potentially deadly dose of fentanyl;

Whereas the Drug Enforcement Administration has created a special exhibit entitled “The Faces of Fentanyl” to commemorate the lives lost from fentanyl poisoning, and has received over 5,000 photos as of the date of enactment of this resolution;

Whereas the Drug Enforcement Administration seized more than 80,000,000 fentanyl-laced, fake prescription pills and more than 12,000 pounds of fentanyl powder in 2023;

Whereas over 4,000 people in the United States died from a drug overdose involving heroin in 2023, a rate of over 1 death for every 100,000 people in the United States;

Whereas, from 2022 to 2023, drug overdose deaths involving cocaine increased by over 7 percent, with almost 30,000 people in the United States dying from such an overdose in 2023;

Whereas, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, 2,500,000 people in the United States aged 12 or older reported having used methamphetamine in 2021;

Whereas psychostimulants with abuse potential, such as methamphetamine, were involved in 1.2 times as many drug overdose deaths as cocaine; and

Whereas parents, young people, schools, businesses, law enforcement agencies, religious institutions and faith-based organizations, service organizations, senior citizens, medical and military personnel, sports teams, and individuals throughout the United States will demonstrate their commitment to healthy, productive, and drug-free lifestyles by wearing and displaying red ribbons during the week-long celebration of Red Ribbon Week; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Red Ribbon Week during the period of October 23 through October 31, 2024;

(2) encourages the people of the United States to wear and display red ribbons during Red Ribbon Week to symbolize their commitment to healthy, drug-free lifestyles;

(3) encourages the people of the United States to light up buildings and landmarks to send a drug-free message;

(4) encourages children, teens, and other individuals to choose to live drug-free lives; and

(5) encourages the people of the United States—

(A) to promote the creation of drug-free communities; and

(B) to participate in drug use prevention activities to show support for healthy, productive, and drug-free lifestyles.

SENATE RESOLUTION 874—HONORING THE SOUTHEAST REGION LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL TEAM FROM LAKE MARY, FLORIDA, FOR WINNING THE 2024 LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL WORLD SERIES

Mr. RUBIO (for Mr. SCOTT of Florida for himself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 874

Whereas, on August 25, 2024, the Southeast Region Little League baseball team from Lake Mary Little League of Lake Mary, Florida, won the Little League Baseball World Series;

Whereas this is the first time a Florida team has won the Little League Baseball World Series in the 77-year history of the series;

Whereas the Southeast Region team achieved an undefeated record by obtaining 4 wins and 0 losses in the Southeast Region Tournament and 4 wins and 0 losses in the Little League Baseball World Series playoffs and winning the championship game;

Whereas the Southeast Region team players, coaches, and managers showed tremendous dedication and sportsmanship throughout the season toward the goal of winning the Little League Baseball World Series Championship;

Whereas the Southeast Region team fans from Florida showed enthusiasm, support, and courtesy for all of the players and coaches and the game of baseball; and

Whereas, in the 77th Little League Baseball World Series championship game, the Southeast Region baseball team faced the Asia-Pacific Region baseball team from Kuei-Shan Little League of Taoyuan, Taiwan, and came away victorious by a score of 2-1 in extra innings after a walk-off bunt: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate honors the Southeast Region Little League baseball team from Lake Mary, Florida, for winning the 2024 Little League Baseball World Series Championship.

SENATE RESOLUTION 875—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 21, 2024, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 29, 2024, AS “BLUE STAR WELCOME WEEK”

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

S. RES. 875

Whereas Blue Star Families seeks to empower military families by connecting them with their neighbors—individuals and organizations—to create vibrant communities of mutual support;

Whereas Blue Star Families annually designates the week beginning the second to last Saturday in September and concluding 8 days thereafter as “Blue Star Welcome Week”;

Whereas, during Blue Star Welcome Week, the Senate recognizes the 600,000 active duty and transitioning military families who move to new communities each year;

Whereas nearly half of these permanent change of station (PCS) moves occur during the summer; and

Whereas a sense of belonging is essential to the well-being and readiness of military families: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 21, 2024, through September 29, 2024, as “Blue Star Welcome Week”;

(2) expresses gratitude for the sacrifices made by service members, transitioning veterans, and their families;

(3) commits to ensuring that military-connected families feel a strong sense of belonging to their local civilian communities; and

(4) encourages civilians across the United States to welcome military-connected families into their communities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 876—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 2024 AS “NATIONAL PRINCIPALS MONTH”

Ms. SMITH (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KING, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. BRAUN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 876

Whereas the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the National Association of Elementary School Principals, and the American Federation of School Administrators have declared October 2024 to be “National Principals Month”;

Whereas principals are educational visionaries, instructional and assessment leaders, community builders, budget analysts, facilities managers, and administrators of legal and contractual obligations;

Whereas principals work collaboratively with teachers and parents to develop and implement clear missions, high curriculum standards, and performance goals;

Whereas principals create school environments that facilitate great teaching and learning and continuous school improvement;

Whereas the vision, actions, and dedication of principals provide the mobilizing force behind any school improvement effort; and

Whereas the celebration of National Principals Month would honor elementary school, middle school, and high school principals and recognize the importance of principals in ensuring that every child has access to a high-quality education: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 2024 as “National Principals Month”;

(2) honors the contributions of principals in elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools in the United States; and

(3) supports the goals and ideals of National Principals Month.

SENATE RESOLUTION 877—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 6, 2024, THROUGH OCTOBER 12, 2024, AS “NATIONAL COMMUNITY POLICING WEEK”

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. PETERS, and Ms. ROSEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 877

Whereas police officers are indispensable members of the community who put their lives on the line to protect others;

Whereas promoting strong relationships, founded in trust and mutual respect, between law enforcement officers and the communities they serve helps ensure the safe and effective execution of the law;

Whereas relationships developed through community policing help protect both law enforcement officers and civilians;

Whereas law enforcement officers and communities that work together to address public safety concerns can create lasting solutions to difficult challenges;

Whereas community policing has helped produce reductions in both violent and property crime;

Whereas events in recent years have sparked a nationwide call to improve the interactions between law enforcement officers and the communities they serve, particularly communities of color;

Whereas community policing facilitates peaceful dialogue, capable of fostering understanding and trust, between law enforcement officers and civilians;

Whereas community policing informs the public about the challenges that law enforcement officers face in executing their duties and provides law enforcement officers insight into the concerns of community members;

Whereas a long-term commitment to community policing is necessary to eliminate the underlying causes of crime;

Whereas the advancement of community policing should be supported to ensure that State and local law enforcement agencies have necessary resources; and

Whereas community policing has been recognized as an important tool for improving the relationship between law enforcement officers and the communities they serve: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of October 6, 2024, through October 12, 2024, as “National Community Policing Week”; and

(2) supports community policing and encourages the people of the United States, law enforcement agencies, and elected officials to identify ways in which communities can improve public safety, strengthen relationships, and build trust.

SENATE RESOLUTION 878—HONORING THE LIFE, LEGACY, AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF JAMES EARL JONES

Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. PETERS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 878

Whereas James Earl Jones was born on January 17, 1931, to Robert Earl Jones and Ruth Connolly Jones in Arkabutla, Mississippi;

Whereas, at the age of 5, Mr. Jones moved to Dublin, Michigan, with his maternal grandparents, John Henry Connolly and Maggie Connolly, who raised him;

Whereas, as a young boy, Mr. Jones spoke few words, suffering from a debilitating stutter;

Whereas, in high school, an English teacher discovered Mr. Jones’s gift for writing and convinced him to read his poetry aloud, leading Mr. Jones to overcome his stutter;

Whereas, in 1949, Mr. Jones enrolled at the University of Michigan, where he joined the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps and initially prepared to study medicine before switching to drama;

Whereas, in 1953, Mr. Jones commissioned in the United States Army, training at Fort Benning in Georgia, before being assigned to Camp Hale near Leadville, Colorado, and later being discharged as a first lieutenant;

Whereas, in 1955, Mr. Jones moved to New York, New York, to study at the American Theatre Wing, paying his way by working as a janitor;

Whereas, in 1958, Mr. Jones performed in his first Broadway production, *Sunrise at Campobello*, which launched his stage career;

Whereas, over the course of his 60-year career, Mr. Jones gave life to nearly 90 television network dramas and episodic series, over 110 movies, and countless plays, including a 30-month span in which he appeared in 18 different stage productions;

Whereas, in 1960, Mr. Jones joined Joseph Papp’s New York Shakespeare Festival, paving the way for his performances in “Henry V,” “Romeo and Juliet,” “Richard III,” “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” and “Othello”;

Whereas, in 1964, Mr. Jones debuted in the Cold War satire “Dr. Strangelove,” which established him in Hollywood, both on screen and behind the microphone, his voice exuding a timeless depth and intensity which drew listeners in and left a lasting impression;

Whereas, in 1969, Mr. Jones was the first celebrity guest on “Sesame Street,” appearing in the second-ever episode of the children’s series and slowly reciting the alphabet;

Whereas Mr. Jones spent his career as a pioneer for Black actors of his generation, as exemplified in his becoming one of the first Black actors to have a continuing role on a daytime soap opera in “As the World Turns” and in becoming the first Black actor to win a 1969 Tony Award in the play category for his performance in “The Great White Hope”;

Whereas, in 1977, Mr. Jones gave voice to Darth Vader in George Lucas’s “Star Wars,” even humbly requesting that his name not appear in the credits out of deference to a co-star;

Whereas it was not until the third film in the original Star Wars trilogy, “Return of the Jedi,” that Mr. Jones would be credited as the voice of Darth Vader;

Whereas, in 1982, Mr. Jones wed the late Cecilia Hart, who had played Desdemona to his Othello, and together they had a son, Flynn Earl Jones;

Whereas, in 1994, Mr. Jones embodied the voice of Mufasa in Disney’s “The Lion King” and was the only cast member to reprise his role in the 2019 remake of the film;

Whereas, in 2015, at the age of 84, Mr. Jones returned to Broadway to appear in the revival of the 1976 play “The Gin Game”;

Whereas, in 2022, a Broadway theater, formerly known as the “Cort,” was renamed the

James Earl Jones Theatre in his honor, the same house in which Mr. Jones began his career in 1958;

Whereas Mr. Jones earned a remarkable number of awards and accolades throughout his career in theater and film, including—

(1) a National Medal of the Arts from President George Bush in 1992;

(2) the Kennedy Center Honor in 2002;

(3) the Honorary Award for Lifetime Achievement at the 2011 Academy Awards;

(4) the Lifetime Achievement in the Theatre at the 2017 Tony Awards;

(5) two Primetime Emmy Awards, 2 Tony Awards, a Golden Globe Award, and a Grammy Award for individual performances; and

(6) a rare EGOT tally, achieving the “grand slam” of American show business by winning Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony awards; and

Whereas, on September 9, 2024, Mr. Jones passed away at 93 years old—Mississippi losing a beloved son, and the world losing an extraordinary talent: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the life and legacy of James Earl Jones for his contribution to theater, film, his State, and his country;

(2) recognizes that the voice and heart of Mr. Jones will be remembered for generations to come;

(3) extends its heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Jones; and

(4) requests that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the family of Mr. Jones as a token of the Senate’s respect and admiration for his life’s work.

SENATE RESOLUTION 879—PERMITTING THE COLLECTION OF CLOTHING, TOYS, FOOD, AND HOUSEWARES DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES IN SENATE BUILDINGS

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

S. RES. 879

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. COLLECTION OF CLOTHING, TOYS, FOOD, AND HOUSEWARES DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES IN SENATE BUILDINGS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of the rules or regulations of the Senate—

(1) a Senator, officer of the Senate, or employee of the Senate may collect from another Senator, officer of the Senate, or employee of the Senate within a Senate building or other office secured for a Senator non-monetary donations of clothing, toys, food, and housewares for charitable purposes related to serving persons in need or members of the Armed Forces and the families of those members during the holiday season, if the charitable purposes do not otherwise violate any rule or regulation of the Senate or Federal law; and

(2) a Senator, officer of the Senate, or employee of the Senate may work with a non-profit organization with respect to the delivery of donations described under paragraph (1).

(b) **EXPIRATION.**—The authority provided by this resolution shall expire at the end of the second session of the 118th Congress.

SENATE RESOLUTION 880—SUPPORTING AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS AND LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL, A NATIONAL CELEBRATION OF AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS HELD ON OCTOBER 24, 2024

Ms. SMITH (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KAINES, Mr. CASEY, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. BRAUN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 880

Whereas millions of children in the United States have parents who work outside the home;

Whereas high-quality programs that expand learning opportunities for children, such as afterschool, before-school, summer, and expanded learning opportunities, provide safe, challenging, engaging, and fun learning experiences, including experiences that encourage the study of science, technology, engineering, and math that help children and youth develop social, emotional, physical, cultural, and academic skills;

Whereas high-quality afterschool programs and high-quality expanded learning opportunities provide students with hands-on, engaging lessons that are aligned with the school day;

Whereas high-quality afterschool programs complement regular and expanded school days and support working families by ensuring that the children of those families are safe and productive during the hours parents are working;

Whereas high-quality afterschool programs engage families, schools, and diverse community partners in advancing the well-being of children and youth in the United States;

Whereas high-quality afterschool programs that partner with high-quality community-based organizations build stronger communities by integrating schools with the larger community; and

Whereas Lights On Afterschool, a national celebration of afterschool, before-school, summer, and expanded learning opportunities programs will be held on October 24, 2024, to highlight the critical importance of those high-quality programs to children and the families and communities of those children; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports Lights On Afterschool, a national celebration of afterschool programs held on October 24, 2024.

SENATE RESOLUTION 881—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 26, 2024, AS THE “DAY OF THE DEPLOYED”

Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. DAINES, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Ms. ROSEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 881

Whereas more than 2,000,000 individuals serve as members of the Armed Forces of the United States, including the reserve components of the Armed Forces;

Whereas several hundred thousand members of the Armed Forces are serving overseas in every region of the world;

Whereas more than 2,000,000 members of the Armed Forces have deployed to the area of operations of the United States Central Command since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks;

Whereas, in the decades following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, members

of the Armed Forces deployed in two major wars and countless operations throughout the world, and their service and bravery helped protect the United States from further terrorist attacks;

Whereas the United States is kept strong and free by the loyal military personnel from the total force of the Armed Forces, which includes the Active Duty components, the National Guard, and the Reserves, who protect the precious heritage of the United States through their declarations and actions;

Whereas the United States remains committed to providing the fullest possible accounting for personnel missing from past conflicts ranging from World War II through current day conflicts;

Whereas members of the Armed Forces serving at home and abroad have courageously answered the call to duty to defend the ideals of the United States and to preserve peace and freedom around the world;

Whereas members of the Armed Forces are called upon to respond to an increasingly complex and wide-ranging set of global threats to the United States;

Whereas members of the Armed Forces continue to come under enemy fire while deployed, risking their lives to protect Americans at home;

Whereas the United States remains committed to easing the transition from deployment abroad to service at home for members of the Armed Forces and the families of the members;

Whereas members of the Armed Forces personify the virtues of patriotism, service, duty, courage, and sacrifice;

Whereas the families of members of the Armed Forces make important and significant sacrifices for the United States; and

Whereas the Senate has designated October 26 as the “Day of the Deployed” since 2011; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 26, 2024, as the “Day of the Deployed”;

(2) honors the deployed members of the Armed Forces of the United States and the families of the members;

(3) calls on the people of the United States to reflect on the service of those members of the Armed Forces, wherever the members serve, past, present, and future; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States to observe the ‘Day of the Deployed’ with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 882—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 23 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 27, 2024, AS ‘NATIONAL CLEAN ENERGY WEEK’

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. REED, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. SMITH, Mr. COONS, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. KING, Mr. CASSIDY, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. HICKENLOOPER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 882

Whereas, across the United States, clean and readily abundant forms of energy are powering more homes and businesses than ever before;

Whereas clean energy generation is readily available from zero- and low-emissions sources;

Whereas the clean energy sector is a growing part of the economy and has been a key driver of economic growth in the United States in recent years;

Whereas technological innovation can further reduce costs, enhance reliability, and increase deployment of clean energy sources;

Whereas the report of the Department of Energy entitled “United States Energy & Employment Report 2024” found that, in 2023, the energy and energy efficiency sectors in the United States employed approximately 8,350,000 individuals;

Whereas the scaling of affordable and exportable clean energy is essential to reducing global emissions;

Whereas clean energy jobs contribute to the growth of local economies; and

Whereas innovative clean energy solutions and clean energy jobs are part of the energy future of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 23 through September 27, 2024, as “National Clean Energy Week”;

(2) encourages individuals and organizations across the United States to support commonsense solutions that address the economic, environmental, and energy needs of the United States in the 21st century;

(3) supports reliable and affordable energy for the people of the United States; and

(4) recognizes the role of entrepreneurs and small businesses in ensuring the leadership of the United States in the global energy marketplace and in supporting low-cost, clean, and reliable energy in the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 883—RECOGNIZING BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF AMERICA ON ITS 120TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. KING, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. CASEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. REED, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. BOOKER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 883

Whereas, in 1904, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America was founded as a positive disruption to society by making valuable mentorship the alternative to sending kids to the juvenile justice system;

Whereas, as of 2024, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America has more than 230 local agencies in more than 5,000 communities in all 50 States and the District of Columbia to inspire and engage youth to achieve their full potential;

Whereas Big Brothers Big Sisters of America—

(1) operates under the belief that inherent in every child is incredible potential; and

(2) establishes powerful connections through meaningful matches of volunteer mentors and young people from age 5 through young adulthood;

Whereas, since its founding, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America has served adult volunteers, young people, and families, and built a strong network of an estimated 20,000,000 alumni and champions;

Whereas mentoring is an evidence-based and effective method to support the emotional, social, physical, educational, and economic success of young people;

Whereas Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, through its efforts in communities across the United States, has significantly impacted the ability of young people to meet

various challenges, including challenges associated with mental health, educational achievement, workforce development, and criminal violence prevention;

Whereas 92 percent of youth in Big Brothers Big Sisters of America programs feel a greater sense of belonging and view their mentor as a very important adult in their life;

Whereas Big Brothers Big Sisters of America has been supported by a dedicated network of volunteers, donors, and partners, who have generously contributed their time, resources, and expertise to further the mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America; and

Whereas Big Brothers Big Sisters of America raises significant private funding from individuals, corporations, and foundation grants, which complements its Federal investment; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends Big Brothers Big Sisters of America for its work mentoring the young people of the United States and strengthening thousands of communities;

(2) acknowledges the 120th anniversary of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America and all of the achievements of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America;

(3) recognizes that access to a positive, sustained mentor can change the life trajectory of a young person; and

(4) supports Big Brothers Big Sisters of America in continuing and expanding programs that support young people.

SENATE RESOLUTION 884—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 22 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 28, 2024, AS “GOLD STAR FAMILIES REMEMBRANCE WEEK”

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself and Mr. WARNOCK) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 884

Whereas the last Sunday in September—

(1) is designated as “Gold Star Mother’s Day” under section 111 of title 36, United States Code; and

(2) was first designated as “Gold Star Mother’s Day” under the Joint Resolution entitled “Joint Resolution designating the last Sunday in September as ‘Gold Star Mother’s Day’, and for other purposes”, approved June 23, 1936 (49 Stat. 1895);

Whereas there is no date dedicated to families affected by the loss of a loved one who died in service to the United States;

Whereas a gold star symbolizes a family member who died in the line of duty while serving in the Armed Forces;

Whereas the members and veterans of the Armed Forces, through their service, bear the burden of protecting the freedom of the people of the United States;

Whereas the selfless example of the service of the members and veterans of the Armed Forces, as well as the sacrifices made by the families of those individuals, inspires all individuals in the United States to sacrifice and work diligently for the good of the United States; and

Whereas the sacrifices of the families of the fallen members of the Armed Forces and the families of veterans of the Armed Forces should never be forgotten; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 22 through September 28, 2024, as “Gold Star Families Remembrance Week”;

(2) honors and recognizes the sacrifices made by—

(A) the families of members of the Armed Forces who made the ultimate sacrifice in order to defend freedom and protect the United States; and

(B) the families of veterans of the Armed Forces; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe Gold Star Families Remembrance Week by—

(A) performing acts of service and good will in their communities; and

(B) celebrating families in which loved ones made the ultimate sacrifice so that others could continue to enjoy life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Whereas more than 2,200,000 individuals in the United States are currently employed across the energy efficiency sector, as the United States has doubled its energy productivity, and business and industry have become more innovative and competitive in global markets;

Whereas the Department of Energy is the principal Federal agency responsible for renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency efforts;

Whereas cutting energy waste saves the consumers of the United States billions of dollars on utility bills annually; and

Whereas energy efficiency policies, financing innovations, and public-private partnerships have contributed to a reduction in energy intensity in Federal facilities by nearly 50 percent since the mid-1970s, which results in direct savings to United States taxpayers; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 2, 2024, as “Energy Efficiency Day”; and

(2) calls on the people of the United States to observe Energy Efficiency Day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 885—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 2, 2024, AS “ENERGY EFFICIENCY DAY” IN CELEBRATION OF THE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS THAT HAVE BEEN DRIVEN BY PRIVATE SECTOR INNOVATION AND FEDERAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. REED, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. WELCH, Mr. KING, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. Kaine, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WARNER, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 885

Whereas October has been designated as “National Energy Awareness Month”;

Whereas improvements in energy efficiency technologies and practices, along with policies of the United States enacted since the 1970s, have resulted in energy savings of more than 80,000,000,000,000,000 British thermal units and energy cost avoidance of more than \$1,000,000,000,000 annually;

Whereas energy efficiency has enjoyed bipartisan support in Congress and in administrations of both parties for more than 50 years;

Whereas bipartisan legislation enacted since the 1970s to advance Federal energy efficiency policies includes—

(1) the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6201 et seq.);

(2) the National Appliance Energy Conservation Act of 1987 (Public Law 100-12; 101 Stat. 103);

(3) the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13201 et seq.);

(4) the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801 et seq.);

(5) the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17001 et seq.);

(6) the Energy Efficiency Improvement Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-11; 129 Stat. 182);

(7) the Energy Act of 2020 (Public Law 116-260; 134 Stat. 2418); and

(8) the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58; 135 Stat. 429);

Whereas energy efficiency has long been supported by a diverse coalition of businesses (including manufacturers, utilities, energy service companies, and technology firms), public interest organizations, environmental and conservation groups, and State and local governments;

Whereas, since 1980, the United States has more than doubled its energy productivity, realizing twice the economic output per unit of energy consumed;

SENATE RESOLUTION 886—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 24, 2024, TO OCTOBER 31, 2024, AS “BAT WEEK”

Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 886

Whereas bats are vital to the sustainability of natural ecosystems, national economies, and human health by controlling damaging insect pests, pollinating plants that produce fruits and vegetables, dispersing seeds to ensure healthy functioning forests and fields, and saving farmers in the United States more than \$3,000,000,000 in pest control every year;

Whereas bats have captured the human imagination through backyard sightings, folklore, art, myths, and legends, making outreach and education about the importance of bats instrumental;

Whereas bats are present throughout the world, except in extremely cold regions, and are the second-largest order of mammals with over 1,400 species;

Whereas white-nose syndrome, a fungal disease that has killed millions of bats in North America, has now spread to 40 States and 12 species of hibernating bats;

Whereas the disease has caused significant declines in populations of the tricolored bat, the little brown bat, and the northern long-eared bat, which is listed as endangered by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

Whereas the Department of the Interior, through the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the United States Geological Survey, the National Park Service, and the Bureau of Land Management, is leading the international response to the disease in partnership with the United States Forest Service and more than 150 Federal and State agencies, Tribes, nongovernmental organizations, and universities;

Whereas the United States Geological Survey and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service co-lead the multinational, multi-agency North American Bat Monitoring Program, which, since 2015, has consolidated nearly 94,000,000 records from partners in 49 States, 9 Canadian Provinces, and 20 Tribal

organizations, demonstrating the power of collaborative conservation science to monitor changes in North American bat populations;

Whereas the United States Geological Survey conducts scientific research on bats that helps resource managers and policymakers make informed decisions regarding the conservation of bats across North America; and

Whereas, in the past decade, the international partnership of States, Tribes, Federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other institutions has made extraordinary progress to understand white-nose syndrome, slow the spread of the disease, and develop treatments that hold promise for ending this epidemic: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for the designation of the week of October 24, 2024, to October 31, 2024, as “Bat Week”;

(2) encourages the observance of Bat Week with appropriate events and activities;

(3) acknowledges the important role bats play as pollinators and pest control for agriculture; and

(4) intends to—

(A) continue working to conserve bat species and their habitat; and

(B) work to defeat the disease known as white-nose syndrome.

SENATE RESOLUTION 887—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF OCTOBER 7 THROUGH OCTOBER 12, 2024, AS “NATIONAL 4-H WEEK”

Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRASSEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. WARNOCK, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. KING, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 887

Whereas 4-H is the largest youth development organization in the United States, supporting nearly 6,000,000 young people across the United States;

Whereas 4-H helps young people become confident, independent, resilient, and compassionate leaders;

Whereas 4-H is delivered by the Cooperative Extension System, a community of more than 110 land-grant colleges and universities across the United States that provides experiences for young people to learn through hands-on projects in the important areas of health, science, agriculture, and civic engagement;

Whereas the National Institute of Food and Agriculture of the Department of Agriculture serves as the Federal partner of 4-H in collaboration with land-grant colleges and universities, the Cooperative Extension System, and National 4-H Council;

Whereas National 4-H Week showcases the incredible ways 4-H provides opportunities for all young people and highlights the remarkable members of 4-H in all 50 States and across the globe who work each day to make a positive impact on other individuals;

Whereas the 4-H network of nearly 500,000 volunteers and 3,500 professionals provides caring and supportive mentoring to all members of 4-H, helping members to grow into true leaders, entrepreneurs, and visionaries; and

Whereas members of 4-H will celebrate National 4-H Week during the week of October 7 through October 12, 2024: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of October 7 through October 12, 2024, as “National 4-H Week”;

(2) recognizes the important role of 4-H as the youth development program of the Cooperative Extension System and the Department of Agriculture in the United States;

(3) encourages all citizens to recognize 4-H for the significant impact the organization and members have made and continue to make by empowering youth with the skills needed to lead for a lifetime; and

(4) celebrates the work of 4-H in developing engaged, healthy, and productive citizens who are “Beyond Ready” for work and life in a world of change.

SENATE RESOLUTION 888—HONORING THE LIFE OF JAMES RALPH SASSER, FORMER SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF TENNESSEE

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. McCONNELL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BUDD, Ms. BUTLER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HELMY, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. Kaine, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. VANCE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 888

Whereas James Ralph Sasser (referred to in this preamble as “Senator Sasser”)—

(1) was born in Memphis, Tennessee, in 1936;

(2) attended the University of Tennessee from 1954 to 1955;

(3) graduated from Vanderbilt University in 1958; and

(4) received a law degree from Vanderbilt University Law School in 1961;

Whereas, as a student at Vanderbilt University, Senator Sasser met Mary Gorman, to whom he was married for over 60 years;

Whereas, after graduating from law school, Senator Sasser was admitted to the Tennessee Bar and began practicing law in Nashville, Tennessee;

Whereas Senator Sasser began his lifetime of service to the United States by serving in the United States Marine Corps Reserve from 1957 to 1963;

Whereas Senator Sasser was first elected to the Senate in 1976, where he served with honor and distinction for 3 terms;

Whereas, from 1989 to 1995, Senator Sasser was chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate, where he helped negotiate and pass budget deals under Presidents George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton;

Whereas, from 1996 to 1999, Senator Sasser adeptly served as the Ambassador to China under President Clinton;

Whereas, during his tenure as Ambassador to China, Senator Sasser and his staff—

(1) worked to improve relations between the United States and China, which included arranging mutual state visits such as—

(A) Chinese President Jiang Zemin visiting the United States in 1997; and

(B) President Clinton visiting China in 1998; and

(2) bravely withstood days of violent protests against the United States Embassy in Beijing, China;

Whereas, following his retirement as Ambassador to China, Senator Sasser served as a visiting professor at George Washington University and later as a professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill;

Whereas Senator Sasser served the State of Tennessee proudly and leaves behind a legacy of distinguished service to—

(1) the State of Tennessee; and

(2) the citizens of the State of Tennessee;

Whereas the State of Tennessee and the United States are immensely grateful for the lifelong commitment of Senator Sasser to public service; and

Whereas Senator Sasser is survived by—

(1) his wife, Mary Gorman Sasser;

(2) his son, James Gray Sasser;

(3) his daughter, Elizabeth Sasser;

(4) his 2 sisters, Jo Marilyn O’Brien and Phyllis Donnelly; and

(5) 4 grandchildren; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate—

(A) has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of James Ralph Sasser, former Senator for the State of Tennessee; and

(B) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate—

(i) communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives; and

(ii) transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of James Ralph Sasser; and

(2) when the Senate adjourns today, it stands adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late James Ralph Sasser.

SENATE RESOLUTION 889—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 30, 2024, AS A NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR THE WORKERS OF THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM OF THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr.

GRAHAM, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BROWN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. McCONNELL, Mr. BENNET, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 889

Whereas, since World War II, hundreds of thousands of patriotic men and women, including uranium miners, millers, and haulers, plutonium processors, and onsite participants at atmospheric nuclear weapons tests, have served the United States by building nuclear weapons for the defense of the United States;

Whereas dedicated workers paid a high price for advancing a nuclear weapons program at the service and for the benefit of the United States, including by developing disabling or fatal illnesses;

Whereas the Senate recognized the contributions, services, and sacrifices that those patriotic men and women made for the defense of the United States in—

(1) Senate Resolution 151, 111th Congress, agreed to May 20, 2009;

(2) Senate Resolution 653, 111th Congress, agreed to September 28, 2010;

(3) Senate Resolution 275, 112th Congress, agreed to September 26, 2011;

(4) Senate Resolution 519, 112th Congress, agreed to August 1, 2012;

(5) Senate Resolution 164, 113th Congress, agreed to September 18, 2013;

(6) Senate Resolution 417, 113th Congress, agreed to July 9, 2014;

(7) Senate Resolution 213, 114th Congress, agreed to September 25, 2015;

(8) Senate Resolution 560, 114th Congress, agreed to November 16, 2016;

(9) Senate Resolution 314, 115th Congress, agreed to October 30, 2017;

(10) Senate Resolution 682, 115th Congress, agreed to October 11, 2018;

(11) Senate Resolution 377, 116th Congress, agreed to October 30, 2019;

(12) Senate Resolution 741, 116th Congress, agreed to September 30, 2020;

(13) Senate Resolution 438, 117th Congress, agreed to February 25, 2022;

(14) Senate Resolution 785, 117th Congress, agreed to December 22, 2022; and

(15) Senate Resolution 452, 118th Congress, agreed to November 6, 2023; and

Whereas those patriotic men and women deserve to be recognized for the contributions, services, and sacrifices they made for the defense of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 30, 2024, as a national day of remembrance for the workers of the nuclear weapons program of the United States, including the uranium miners, millers, and haulers, plutonium processors, and onsite participants at atmospheric nuclear weapons tests; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to support and participate in appropriate ceremonies, programs, and other activities to commemorate October 30, 2024, as a national day of remembrance for past and present workers of the nuclear weapons program of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 890—CONDAMNING THE BRUTAL HAMAS-LED TERRORIST ATTACK ON ISRAEL ON OCTOBER 7, 2023, AND SUPPORTING AN OUTCOME THAT ENSURES THE FOREVER SURVIVAL OF ISRAEL, THE COMPLETE DENIAL OF THE ABILITY OF HAMAS TO RECONSTITUTE IN THE REGION, AND THE SAFE RELEASE OF UNITED STATES HOSTAGES FROM THE GAZA STRIP

Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. McCONNELL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. PAUL, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VANCE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 890

Whereas Hamas is a foreign terrorist organization designated by the Secretary of State under section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189), whose founding charter states a commitment to destroying Israel and any nation that would support it, including the United States;

Whereas, on October 7, 2023, Iran-backed Hamas terrorists led an attack on Israel, killing approximately 1,200 individuals, including 40 United States citizens, taking 251 individuals hostage, and launching thousands of rockets toward Israel;

Whereas Israel, like other sovereign states, has a right to defend itself;

Whereas, after a year of continued and growing hostilities by Iranian proxies, Israel has launched operations to defend its people, eradicate Hamas terrorists, and rescue hostages held in the Gaza Strip;

Whereas Iran-backed Hamas has proven that it has no desire for peace in the region and has repeatedly broken negotiated ceasefire agreements and initiated attacks against Israel; and

Whereas, since October 7, 2023, Iran-backed terrorists continue rocket attacks on innocent civilians, disrupting major shipping and trade routes throughout the region, lobbing attacks on United States personnel and bases across the region, and killing and injuring more than 186 troops: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns Iran-backed Hamas for its brutal attacks on Israel;

(2) condemns Iran-backed Hamas for killing and taking hostage United States citizens;

(3) condemns Iran-backed Hamas for its use of rape as a weapon of war and for its inhumane treatment, torture, and killing of hostages;

(4) condemns the destructive and antisemitic protests in which property has been damaged, flags have been torn down, burned, and replaced with Hamas flags, and

Jewish Americans have felt their safety threatened; and

(5) supports an outcome that will—

(A) ensure the forever survival of Israel;

(B) destroy the ability of Hamas to reconstitute any leadership role in the region; and

(C) safely release and return all United States hostages.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 42—RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF EQUAL PAY AND THE DISPARITY IN WAGES PAID TO LATINA WOMEN IN COMPARISON TO WHITE, NON-HISPANIC MEN

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. BUTLER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HELMY, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINES, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. CON. RES. 42

Whereas October 3, 2024, is designated as “Latina Equal Pay Day” to observe the pay gap between Latina women and White, non-Hispanic men;

Whereas, as of 2024, there are 13,907,000 Hispanic women in the labor force, representing slightly more than 17 percent of all women in the labor force;

Whereas section 6(d) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(d)) (commonly known as the “Equal Pay Act of 1963”) prohibits discrimination in wages on the basis of sex for equal work;

Whereas title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq.) prohibits discrimination in compensation because of race, color, religion, national origin, or sex;

Whereas, despite the passage of the Equal Pay Act of 1963 (Public Law 88-38; 77 Stat. 56) more than 6 decades ago, which established that employers shall not discriminate in wages on the basis of sex, but shall provide equal pay for equal work, Bureau of the Census data show that Latina women working full-time and year-round are paid 58 cents for every dollar paid to White, non-Hispanic men, while the average wage differential for all Latina women with reported earnings working full-time, part-time, and part-year is 51 cents for every dollar paid to White, non-Hispanic men;

Whereas an analysis by the National Partnership for Women & Families of data from the Bureau of the Census shows that disabled Latina women are paid 44 cents for every dollar paid to White, non-Hispanic, non-disabled men;

Whereas the National Women’s Law Center has calculated that, on average, Latina women lose over \$1,200,000 in potential earnings over a 40-year career to the wage gap;

Whereas, at the rate observed in 2023, Latina women will not reach equal pay with White non-Hispanic men for 182 years after the date of enactment of this resolution;

Whereas, in 2024, the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Bureau of the Census reported the median annual pay for all Latina women in the United States working full-time, part-time, and part-year was \$32,410, compared to the median annual pay of \$63,210 for White, non-Hispanic men;

Whereas lost wages mean Latina women have less money to support themselves and their families, save and invest for the future, and spend on goods and services;

Whereas approximately 51 percent of Latina women are unable to earn sick days through their jobs;

Whereas the lack of access to affordable, quality child care, paid family and medical leave, and other family-friendly workplace policies forces many Latina women to choose between their paycheck or job and getting quality care for themselves or their family members, a dynamic that contributes to the wage gap;

Whereas, if the annual wage gap were eliminated, on average, a Latina woman working full-time and year-round would have enough money to pay for nearly 3 years of childcare, 37 months of food, or more than 16 months of mortgage and utility payments;

Whereas workplace harassment forces many women to leave their occupation or industry, or pass up opportunities for advancement, which contributes to the gender wage gap;

Whereas targets of workplace harassment are 6.5 times as likely as nontargets to change jobs;

Whereas there is a high personal cost for women who have been sexually harassed, including unemployment, under-employment, and financial stress resulting from changing jobs, which lead to long-term consequences for earnings and career attainment;

Whereas, in 2023, nearly 70 percent of workers paid the minimum wage or less were women, and there was a disproportionate concentration of women of color in low-wage and tipped jobs;

Whereas the pay disparity Latina women face is part of a wider set of disparities Latina women face in homeownership, unemployment, poverty, access to childcare, and the ability to build wealth;

Whereas the underpayment of Latina women workers causes businesses and the economy to suffer;

Whereas true pay equity requires a multifaceted strategy that addresses the gender and racial injustices that Latina women face daily; and

Whereas many national organizations have designated October 3, 2024, as “Latina Equal Pay Day” to recognize the pay gap between Latina women and White, non-Hispanic men in the prior year; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes the disparity in wages paid to Latina women and the impact of that disparity on women, families, the economy, and the United States; and

(2) reaffirms its support for ensuring equal pay and closing the gender wage gap.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 43—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER 29, 2024, AS ‘VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES DAY’

Mr. CARPER (for himself and Ms. ERNST) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. CON. RES. 43

Whereas, on September 29, 1899, the organization now known as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States was founded in Columbus, Ohio, in the aftermath of the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection;

Whereas, on September 29, 2024, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will celebrate its 125th anniversary;

Whereas, since 1899, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States has provided voluntary and unselfish service to the Armed Forces, veterans, and the United States by—

(1) advocating for overarching benefits programs for veterans;

(2) facilitating veterans transitioning back to civilian society;

(3) serving the communities in which veterans live; and

(4) taking a national leadership role on substantive issues important to veterans of the Armed Forces; and

Whereas the 125th anniversary of the founding of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States provides an opportunity to recognize, honor, and pay tribute to the nearly 1,000,000 veterans of the Armed Forces represented by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States who served in combat from World War II to the present day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) expresses support for the designation of September 29, 2024, as “Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Day”;

(2) recognizes the historic significance of the 125th anniversary of the founding of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and congratulates the organization on achieving that milestone;

(3) commends the nearly 1,000,000 veterans who belong to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and thanks those veterans for their service to their fellow veterans and the United States; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States to observe September 29, 2024, with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3298. Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WELCH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. CASSIDY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 9747, making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2025, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3299. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. HAGERTY) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 91, to award a Congressional Gold Medal collectively to 60 diplomats, in recognition of their bravery and heroism during the Holocaust.

SA 3300. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mrs. SHAHEEN) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 805, commemorating the tenth anniversary of the murder of James Wright Foley and calling for the moral courage to prioritize the return of Americans held captive abroad and take all necessary efforts to deter international hostage taking and arbitrary detention.

SA 3301. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mrs. SHAHEEN) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 805, supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3298. Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WELCH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. CASSIDY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 9747, making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal

year 2025, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. For “Community Planning and Development, Community Development Fund”, there is appropriated \$5,600,000,000 for an additional amount for fiscal year 2025, to remain available until expended, for the same purposes and under the same terms and conditions as funds appropriated under such heading in title VIII of the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (Public Law 117-43; 135 Stat. 355), except that such amounts shall be for major disasters that occurred in 2023 or 2024 and the fourth, 20th, and 21st provisos under such heading in such Act shall not apply: *Provided*, That of the amounts made available under this section, no less than \$3,500,000,000 shall be allocated for declared major disasters that occurred in 2023 within 30 days of the date of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this section, \$25,000,000 shall be made available for capacity building and technical assistance, including assistance on contracting and procurement processes, to support recipients of allocations for major disasters from this, prior, or future Acts, including likely recipients, as determined by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, of allocations that may become available with respect to major disasters in future years: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this section, \$25,000,000 shall be transferred, in aggregate, to “Department of Housing and Urban Development—Program Office Salaries and Expenses—Community Planning and Development” for necessary costs, including information technology costs, of administering and overseeing the obligation and expenditure of amounts made available under this section or any Act enacted before or after the date of enactment of this Act that makes amounts available for purposes related to major disasters under the heading “Community Planning and Development, Community Development Fund” and for additional information technology and other costs related to Department of Housing and Urban Development-wide or program specific disaster coordination and response: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available in this section, \$5,000,000 shall be transferred in aggregate under the heading “Department of Housing and Urban Development—Office of Inspector General” for necessary costs of overseeing and auditing funds amounts made available under the heading “Community Development Fund” in this Act or any Act enacted before or after the date of enactment of this Act that makes amounts available for purposes related to major disasters under such heading: *Provided further*, That amounts made available under this section and under the heading “Community Planning and Development, Community Development Fund” in any such Act may be used by a grantee to assist utilities as part of a disaster-related eligible activity under section 105(a) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5305(a)): *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(A)(i)).

SEC. _____. For “Federal Emergency Management Agency—Disaster Relief Fund”, there is appropriated \$10,000,000,000, for an additional amount for fiscal year 2025, to remain available until expended, of which \$9,500,000,000 shall be for major disasters declared pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford

Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.); *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SA 3299. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. HAGERTY) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 91, to award a Congressional Gold Medal collectively to 60 diplomats, in recognition of their bravery and heroism during the Holocaust; as follows:

Amend the title to read as follows: “To award a Congressional Gold Medal collectively to 60 diplomats, in recognition of their bravery and heroism during the Holocaust.”.

SA 3300. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. GRAHAM)) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 805, commemorating the tenth anniversary of the murder of James Wright Foley and calling for the moral courage to prioritize the return of Americans held captive abroad and take all necessary efforts to deter international hostage taking and arbitrary detention; as follows:

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following: “That the Senate—

(1) stands with all those who have been taken hostage or wrongfully detained, those who have been released, and the families and friends who fight for their freedom;

(2) prioritizes the return of all innocent United States nationals targeted for kidnapping or wrongful detention abroad and will continue to take all necessary steps to secure the release of Americans and deter our adversaries from using Americans as tools for their geopolitical ambitions;

(3) acknowledges the need to continue working with allies and partners to develop a coordinated approach to deter and prevent international hostage-taking;

(4) condemns the practice of targeting and wrongfully detaining Americans in order to threaten American sovereignty and interfere with United States foreign policy;

(5) supports efforts to ensure that the United States Government hostage enterprise is properly resourced and authorized to address the evolving dynamic of hostage-taking and wrongful detention, including through the Hostage Response Group at the National Security Council, the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell, the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs, and supporting departments and agencies to speed the safe return of United States nationals held hostage abroad and deter future hostage-taking;

(6) commends the personnel, past and present, of the hostage enterprise who have endeavored to faithfully execute the mission of recovering Americans unjustly held captive abroad; and

(7) recognizes August 19, 2014, as a solemn remembrance of this national security threat and the United States Government’s sacred obligation to protect United States nationals abroad from being taken captive unjustly.

SA 3301. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. GRAHAM)) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 805, commemorating the tenth anniversary of the murder of James Wright Foley and calling for the moral courage to prioritize the return of Americans held captive abroad and

take all necessary efforts to deter international hostage taking and arbitrary detention; as follows:

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas James W. Foley was an American freelance journalist, an author, teacher and humanitarian from New Hampshire;

Whereas James dedicated his career to robust, independent, and compassionate journalism that took him to war zones and classrooms alike;

Whereas, upon his return after being detained for six weeks in Libya, James said, “for some reason I have physical courage, but, that’s nothing compared to moral courage. If I don’t have the moral courage to challenge authority, to write about things that might have reprisals on my career, if I don’t have that moral courage, we don’t have journalism”;

Whereas, on November 22, 2012, James was kidnapped while reporting on the conflict in northern Syria;

Whereas, on August 19, 2014, James Wright Foley was publicly beheaded by the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS), his death then used as propaganda against the United States of America;

Whereas, on September 4, 2014, the James W. Foley Legacy Foundation was established to inspire the moral courage needed to secure the freedom of Americans taken captive abroad, prevent future hostage-taking, and promote journalist safety;

Whereas the Foley Foundation participated in the National Counter Terrorism Center task force, ordered by President Barack Obama to evaluate United States hostage policy and engagement with families of those held captive;

Whereas, on June 24, 2015, President Obama issued Presidential Policy Directive 30, which committed to “achieving the safe and rapid recovery of U.S. nationals taken hostage outside the United States” and established the current United States hostage enterprise, which includes the Hostage Response Group (HRG) at the National Security Council, the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs (SPEHA), and the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell (HRFC) that together pursue recovery strategies, support returned hostages and families of current hostages, and coordinate the use of diplomatic, law enforcement, intelligence, and military capabilities to resolve international hostage-takings;

Whereas the Foley Foundation has worked since 2014, in collaboration with the United States Government’s hostage enterprise and families of United States nationals taken hostage abroad by terrorists or criminals and those wrongfully detained by nation states to help reunite families;

Whereas, in 2019, after negotiating the release of a United States citizen wrongfully detained in Iran, President Trump reiterated that “the highest priority of the United States is the safety and well-being of its citizens. Freeing Americans held captive is of vital importance to my Administration, and we will continue to work hard to bring home all our citizens wrongfully held captive overseas,” and in 2023, upon negotiating the release of five Americans held in Iran, President Biden said that “reuniting wrongfully detained Americans with their loved ones has been a priority for my Administration since day one”;

Whereas, since 2019, the Foley Foundation has annually published research in the “Bringing Americans Home” report, which evaluates the experiences of American families with a loved one held captive abroad, returned hostages and detainees, and government and nongovernment experts;

Whereas, in December 2020, Congress passed, and President Trump reaffirmed the United States commitment to bringing home American citizens by signing into law the Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 1741 et seq.) to prioritize and provide assistance to Americans wrongfully detained abroad and to their family members;

Whereas, in September 2021, Alexandra Kotey pleaded guilty to eight counts of kidnapping, torture, and accessory to murder of four Americans, including James Wright Foley, Kayla Jean Mueller, Steven Joel Sotloff, and Peter Edward Kassig;

Whereas, on August 19, 2022, the Department of Justice convicted former British jihadist, El Shafee ElSheikh in Federal Court in the Eastern District of Virginia for the kidnapping, torture, and murder of Americans Sotloff, Kassig, Mueller, and Foley, as well as three British citizens;

Whereas, under Democratic and Republican presidents, the United States has successfully freed more than 120 Americans from unjust captivity abroad;

Whereas President Joe Biden’s July 2022 Executive Order 14078 (relating to bolstering efforts to bring hostages and wrongfully detained United States nationals home) declared that hostage taking and the wrongful detention of United States nationals constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States; and

Whereas the targeting of United States nationals for use as political pawns by nation states is a grave threat to the security of United States nationals traveling abroad, seeks to hold the United State Government hostage, and strains international stability: Now, therefore, be it

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I have nine 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 COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

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 Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 2 p.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 Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Indian Affairs is authorized to meet during the session

of the Senate on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 2 p.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 Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

The Subcommittee on Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Growth of the Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT
AGREEMENT—S. 91

AMENDMENT NO. 3299

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding passage of S. 91, as amended, the Hagerty amendment to the title at the desk be agreed to.

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

The amendment (No. 3299) to the title was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the title)

Amend the title to read as follows: “To award a Congressional Gold Medal collectively to 60 diplomats, in recognition of their bravery and heroism during the Holocaust.”

SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the senior Senator from Colorado and the majority leader be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills and joint resolutions from September 25, 2024, through September 27, 2024.

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

APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the majority and mi-

nority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or inter-parliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

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

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 107-12, the reappointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Review Board: Trevor Whipple of Vermont.

The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, and in consultation with the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance, pursuant to Public Law 103-296, reappoints the following individual as a member of the Social Security Advisory Board: Robert Charles Joondeph of Oregon.

The Chair announces, on behalf of the Majority Leader and the Republican Leader, pursuant to Public Law 110-298, the appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the State and Local Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery Board: Juan Figueiroa of New York.

The Chair, on behalf of the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, pursuant to Public Law 117-263), announces the appointment of the following individual to serve as member of the Commission on Reform and Modernization of the Department of State: Jay Snyder of New York.

RURAL BROADBAND PROTECTION
ACT OF 2024

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 473, S. 275.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 275) to require the Federal Communications Commission to establish a vetting process for prospective applicants for high-cost universal service program funding.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation with an amendment to strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic as follows:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Rural Broadband Protection Act of 2024”.

SEC. 2. VETTING PROCESS FOR PROSPECTIVE HIGH-COST UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND APPLICANTS.

Section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 254) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(m) VETTING OF HIGH-COST FUND RECIPIENTS.—

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

“(A) the term ‘covered funding’ means any new offer of high-cost universal service program funding, including funding provided through a reverse competitive bidding mechanism provided under this section, for the deployment of a broadband-capable network and the provision of supported services over the network; and

“(B) the term ‘new covered funding award’ means an award of covered funding that is made based on an application submitted to the Commission on or after the date on which rules are promulgated under paragraph (2).

“(2) COMMISSION RULEMAKING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Commission shall initiate a rulemaking proceeding to establish a vetting process for applicants for, and other recipients of, a new covered funding award.

(3) CONTENTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In promulgating rules under paragraph (2), the Commission shall provide that, consistent with principles of technology neutrality, the Commission will only award covered funding to applicants that can demonstrate that they meet the qualifications in subparagraph (B).

“(B) QUALIFICATIONS DESCRIBED.—An applicant for a new covered funding award shall include in the initial application a proposal containing sufficient detail and documentation for the Commission to ascertain that the applicant possesses the technical, financial, and operational capabilities, and has a reasonable business plan, to deploy the proposed network and deliver services with the relevant performance characteristics and requirements defined by the Commission and as pledged by the applicant.

“(C) EVALUATION OF PROPOSAL.—The Commission shall evaluate a proposal described in subparagraph (B) against—

“(i) reasonable and well-established technical, financial, and operational standards, including the technical standards adopted by the Commission in orders of the Commission relating to Establishing the Digital Opportunity Data Collection (WC Docket No. 19-195) (or orders of the Commission relating to modernizing any successor collection) for purposes of entities that must report broadband availability coverage; and

“(ii) the applicant’s history of complying with requirements in Commission and other government broadband deployment funding programs.

“(D) PENALTIES FOR PRE-AUTHORIZATION DEFAULTS.—In adopting rules for any new covered funding award, the Commission shall set a penalty for pre-authorization defaults of at least \$9,000 per violation and may not limit the base forfeiture to an amount less than 30 percent of the applicant’s total support, unless the Commission demonstrates the need for lower penalties in a particular instance.”.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment 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 committee-reported amendment, in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

The bill (S. 275), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

BOTTLES AND BREASTFEEDING EQUIPMENT SCREENING ENHANCEMENT ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 474, S. 1570.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1570) to amend the Bottles and Breastfeeding Equipment Screening Act to require hygienic handling of breast milk and baby formula by security screening personnel of the Transportation Security Administration and personnel of private security companies providing security screening, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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

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

The bill (S. 1570) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 1570

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 “Bottles and Breastfeeding Equipment Screening Enhancement Act”.

SEC. 2. HYGIENIC HANDLING OF BREAST MILK AND BABY FORMULA DURING AVIATION SECURITY SCREENING.

The Bottles and Breastfeeding Equipment Screening Act (Public Law 114-293) is amended by adding at the end the following new sections:

SEC. 3. HYGIENIC HANDLING OF BREAST MILK AND BABY FORMULA DURING AVIATION SECURITY SCREENING.

“Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this section and every five years thereafter, if appropriate, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall issue or update, as the case may be, guidance to minimize the risk for contamination of any breast milk, baby formula, purified deionized water for infants, and juice (as well as ice packs, freezer packs, frozen gel packs and other accessories required to cool breast milk, baby formula, and juice) that is subject to re-screening or otherwise subject to additional screening. Such guidance shall—

“(1) be developed in consultation with nationally recognized maternal health organizations;

“(2) ensure adherence to hygienic standards, as established by the Administrator, in consultation with nationally recognized maternal health organizations;

“(3) ensure that, when any such re-screening or additional screening requires additional testing, such testing so adheres to such standards, to so minimize such risk; and

“(4) apply to security screening personnel of the Administration and personnel of private security companies providing security screening pursuant to section 44920 of title 49, United States Code.

“SEC. 4. INSPECTOR GENERAL AUDIT.

“Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this section, the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report containing an audit of compliance with the requirements of sections 2 and 3. Such audit shall also include information relating to the effect of various types of screening technologies, including bottled liquid scanners, on the screening of breast milk, baby formula, purified deionized water for infants, and juice (as well as ice packs, freezer packs, frozen gel packs and other accessories required to cool breast milk, baby formula, and juice) that is subject to re-screening or otherwise subject to additional screening, and the rate at which such items are denied entry into the sterile area (as such term is defined in section 1540.5 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations).”

STRENGTHENING THE COMMERCIAL DRIVER’S LICENSE INFORMATION SYSTEM ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 480, S. 3475.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3475) to amend title 49, United States Code, to allow the Secretary of Transportation to designate an authorized operator of the commercial driver’s license information system, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which was reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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

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

The bill (S. 3475) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 3475

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 “Strengthening the Commercial Driver’s License Information System Act”.

SEC. 2. COMMERCIAL DRIVER’S LICENSE INFORMATION SYSTEM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 31309 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the first sentence—

(i) by inserting “(referred to in this section as the ‘Secretary’)” after “Secretary of Transportation”; and

(ii) by inserting “(referred to in this section as the ‘information system’)” after “an information system”; and

(B) in the second sentence, by inserting “information” before “system”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “(1) At a minimum, the information system under this section” and inserting the following:

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—At a minimum, the information system”; and

(ii) by indenting subparagraphs (A) through (F) appropriately; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “(2) The information system under this section” and inserting the following:

“(2) **REQUIREMENT.**—The information system”;

(3) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “under this section”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (E), by inserting “information” after “of the”;

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking “commercial driver’s”; and

(C) in paragraph (5), by striking “under this section”;

(4) in subsection (f)—

(A) by striking “section 31313(a)” and inserting “subsections (a)(2) and (b) of section 31313”; and

(B) by striking “section 31313” and inserting “that section”;

(5) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as subsections (f) and (g), respectively; and

(6) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

“(d) **AUTHORIZED OPERATOR.**—The Secretary may authorize a qualified entity (referred to in this section as the ‘authorized operator’)—

“(1) to operate, maintain, develop, modernize, and enhance the information system; and

“(2) to collect fees on behalf of the Secretary in accordance with subsection (e); and

“(3) to use any fees collected in accordance with that subsection.

“(e) **FEES SYSTEM.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary or the authorized operator, as applicable, may charge a reasonable fee for use of the information system.

“(2) **AMOUNT OF FEES.**—The total amount of fees collected under this subsection shall equal, as nearly as possible, the total amount necessary for the purposes and uses described in paragraph (3)(B).

“(3) **USE OF FEES.**—Fees collected under this subsection shall—

“(A) be credited to—

“(i) an appropriation account; or

“(ii) an account designated by the authorized operator; and

“(B) be available only for the purposes of operating, maintaining, developing, modernizing, or enhancing, or any other use relating to, the information system, including for personnel and administration costs relating to the information system.

“(4) **AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.**—Fees collected under this subsection shall remain available until expended for a purpose or use described in paragraph (3)(B).

“(5) **AUTHORIZED OPERATOR.**—If the Secretary designates an authorized operator under subsection (d)—

“(A) the Secretary shall not be charged a fee for access to, use of, or data in the information system; and

“(B) the Secretary shall have access to fee statements on a quarterly basis.”.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 31311(a)(21) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking “By the date established by the Secretary under section 31309(e)(4), the State shall be operating” and inserting “The State shall operate”.

WORDS MATTER FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 498, S. 3698.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3698) to amend title 11, District of Columbia Official Code, to revise references in such title to individuals with intellectual disabilities.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which was reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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

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

The bill (S. 3698) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 3698

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 “Words Matter for the District of Columbia Courts Act”.

SEC. 2. REFERENCES TO INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES.

(a) JURISDICTION OF UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT.—Section 11-501(2)(D), District of Columbia Official Code, is amended by striking “substantially retarded persons” and inserting “persons with moderate intellectual disabilities”.

(b) JURISDICTION OF SUPERIOR COURT.—Section 11-921(a)(4)(D), District of Columbia Official Code, is amended by striking “substantially retarded persons” and inserting “persons with moderate intellectual disabilities”.

(c) JURISDICTION OF FAMILY COURT.—Section 11-1101(a)(15), District of Columbia Official Code, is amended by striking “the at least moderately mentally retarded” and inserting “persons with moderate intellectual disabilities”.

EUGENE E. SILER, JR. UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE ANNEX

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 410, S. 4298.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4298) to designate the United States courthouse annex located at 310 South Main Street in London, Kentucky, as the “Eugene E. Siler, Jr. United States Courthouse Annex”.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which was reported from the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent 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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 4298) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 4298

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

SECTION 1. EUGENE E. SILER, JR. UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE ANNEX.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The United States courthouse annex located at 310 South Main Street in London, Kentucky, shall be known and designated as the “Eugene E. Siler, Jr. United States Courthouse Annex”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States courthouse annex referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Eugene E. Siler, Jr. United States Courthouse Annex”.

SENATOR DIANNE FEINSTEIN FEDERAL BUILDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be discharged from further consideration of S. 4489, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4489) to designate the Federal building located at 50 United Nations Plaza in San Francisco, California, as the “Senator Dianne Feinstein Federal Building”, and for other purposes.

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

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

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

The bill (S. 4489) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 4489

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

SECTION 1. SENATOR DIANNE FEINSTEIN FEDERAL BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The Federal building located at 50 United Nations Plaza in San Francisco, California, shall be known and designated as the “Senator Dianne Feinstein Federal Building”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Senator Dianne Feinstein Federal Building”.

CONGENITAL HEART FUTURES REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2024

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 7189, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

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

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

Mr. SCHUMER. 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. 7189) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL IN THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER FOR THE UNVEILING OF A STATUE OF MARTHA HUGHES CANNON

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 127, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

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

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to 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 concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 127) was agreed to.

VETERANS’ COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2024

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 7777, which was received from the House and is at desk.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 7777) to increase, effective as of December 1, 2024, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and 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. 7777) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

RESTORING BENEFITS TO DEFRAUDED VETERANS ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 4190, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4190) to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to repay the estates of deceased beneficiaries for certain benefits paid by the Secretary and misused by fiduciaries of such beneficiaries.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and 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. 4190) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

AMENDING THE DON YOUNG COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2022 TO MODIFY A PROVISION RELATING TO THE ACQUISITION OF A COAST GUARD ICEBREAKER

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 5292, introduced earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 5292) to amend the Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 to modify a provision relating to the acquisition of a Coast Guard icebreaker.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask that the bill be considered read a third time.

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

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. SCHUMER. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate on the bill, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 5292) was passed as follows:

S. 5292

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

SECTION 1. MODIFICATION OF ACQUISITION OF ICEBREAKER.

Section 11223 of the Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-263; 136 Stat. 4021; 14 U.S.C. 561 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking “Paragraphs” and all that follows through “apply” and inserting “Paragraphs (1) and (3) of subsection (a), and subsection (b), of section 1132 of title 14, United States Code, shall not apply”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER LAW.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Commandant provides the briefing described in subparagraph (B), paragraphs (4) and (5) of subsection (a), and subsections (d) and (e), of section 1132 of title 14, United States Code, shall not apply to an acquisition or procurement of an icebreaker under subsection (a) until—

“(i) the first phase of the initial acquisition or procurement is complete; and

“(ii) initial operating capacity is achieved.

“(B) BRIEFING DESCRIBED.—The briefing described in this subparagraph is a briefing provided by the Commandant to the appropriate congressional committees not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this paragraph that includes a detailed cost estimate for an icebreaker procured or acquired under subsection (a), including—

“(i) expected upgrades and crewing needs; and

“(ii) for each year of the estimated service life of such an icebreaker, the estimated costs for modification, shore infrastructure, crewing, and maintenance.”;

(2) by redesignating subsections (g) through (j) as subsection (h) through (k);

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

“(g) FULL OPERATING CAPABILITY.—

“(1) BRIEFING.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the procurement or acquisition of an icebreaker under subsection (a), the Commandant shall provide the appropriate congressional committees with a briefing that includes a detailed cost estimate for the icebreaker for each year of the estimated service life of the icebreaker, including the estimated costs for modification, shore infrastructure to support the cutter and crew, crewing, maintenance, and any other costs related to the icebreaker.

“(2) LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Commandant shall not expend any funds to reconfigure an icebreaker procured or acquired under subsection (a), beyond the funds required to achieve initial operating capability of the icebreaker, until the date that 7 days after the date on which the Commandant provides the briefing required by paragraph (1).

“(B) PLANNING AND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES.—The limitation on use of funds under subparagraph (A) shall not apply to the expenditure of funds for planning and program management activities relating to reconfiguration of an icebreaker procured or acquired under subsection (a).”; and

(4) in subsection (k), as redesignated, by striking “3 years” and inserting “5 years”.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions: S. Res. 876, S. Res. 877, S. Res. 878, S. Res. 879, S. Res. 880, S. Res. 881, S. Res. 882, S. Res. 883, S. Res. 884, S. Res. 885, S. Res. 886, and S. Res. 887.

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

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 resolutions (S. Res. 876, S. Res. 877, and S. Res. 878) were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 879) was agreed to.

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

The resolutions (S. Res. 880, S. Res. 881, S. Res. 882, S. Res. 883, S. Res. 884, S. Res. 885, S. Res. 886, and S. Res. 887) were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

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

HONORING THE LIFE OF JAMES RALPH SASSER, FORMER SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF TENNESSEE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 888, which is at the desk.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 888) honoring the life of James Ralph Sasser, former Senator for the State of Tennessee.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions 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 resolution (S. Res. 888) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

COMMEMORATING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MURDER OF JAMES WRIGHT FOLEY AND CALLING FOR THE MORAL COURAGE TO PRIORITIZE THE RETURN OF AMERICANS HELD CAPTIVE ABROAD AND TAKE ALL NECESSARY EFFORTS TO DETER INTERNATIONAL HOSTAGE TAKING AND ARBITRARY DETENTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 805.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 805) commemorating the tenth anniversary of the murder of James Wright Foley and calling for the moral courage to prioritize the return of Americans held captive abroad and take all necessary efforts to deter international hostage taking and arbitrary detention.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the Shaheen-Graham amendment to the resolution be considered and agreed to; that the resolution, as amended, be agreed to; that the Shaheen-Graham amendment to the preamble be considered and agreed to; that the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 3300) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following: “That the Senate—

(1) stands with all those who have been taken hostage or wrongfully detained, those who have been released, and the families and friends who fight for their freedom;

(2) prioritizes the return of all innocent United States nationals targeted for kidnapping or wrongful detention abroad and will continue to take all necessary steps to secure the release of Americans and deter our adversaries from using Americans as tools for their geopolitical ambitions;

(3) acknowledges the need to continue working with allies and partners to develop a coordinated approach to deter and prevent international hostage-taking;

(4) condemns the practice of targeting and wrongfully detaining Americans in order to threaten American sovereignty and interfere with United States foreign policy;

(5) supports efforts to ensure that the United States Government hostage enterprise is properly resourced and authorized to address the evolving dynamic of hostage-taking and wrongful detention, including through the Hostage Response Group at the National Security Council, the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell, the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs, and supporting departments and agencies to speed the safe return of United States nationals held hostage abroad and deter future hostage-taking;

(6) commends the personnel, past and present, of the hostage enterprise who have

endeavored to faithfully execute the mission of recovering Americans unjustly held captive abroad; and

(7) recognizes August 19, 2014, as a solemn remembrance of this national security threat and the United States Government's sacred obligation to protect United States nationals abroad from being taken captive unjustly.

The resolution (S. Res. 805), as amended, was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3301) to the preamble was considered and agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the preamble)

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas James W. Foley was an American freelance journalist, an author, teacher and humanitarian from New Hampshire;

Whereas James dedicated his career to robust, independent, and compassionate journalism that took him to war zones and classrooms alike;

Whereas, upon his return after being detained for six weeks in Libya, James said, “for some reason I have physical courage, but, that’s nothing compared to moral courage. If I don’t have the moral courage to challenge authority, to write about things that might have reprisals on my career, if I don’t have that moral courage, we don’t have journalism”;

Whereas, on November 22, 2012, James was kidnapped while reporting on the conflict in northern Syria;

Whereas, on August 19, 2014, James Wright Foley was publicly beheaded by the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS), his death then used as propaganda against the United States of America;

Whereas, on September 4, 2014, the James W. Foley Legacy Foundation was established to inspire the moral courage needed to secure the freedom of Americans taken captive abroad, prevent future hostage-taking, and promote journalist safety;

Whereas the Foley Foundation participated in the National Counter Terrorism Center task force, ordered by President Barack Obama to evaluate United States hostage policy and engagement with families of those held captive;

Whereas, on June 24, 2015, President Obama issued Presidential Policy Directive 30, which committed to “achieving the safe and rapid recovery of U.S. nationals taken hostage outside the United States” and established the current United States hostage enterprise, which includes the Hostage Response Group (HRG) at the National Security Council, the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs (SPEHA), and the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell (HRFC) that together pursue recovery strategies, support returned hostages and families of current hostages, and coordinate the use of diplomatic, law enforcement, intelligence, and military capabilities to resolve international hostage-takings;

Whereas the Foley Foundation has worked since 2014, in collaboration with the United States Government's hostage enterprise and families of United States nationals taken hostage abroad by terrorists or criminals and those wrongfully detained by nation states to help reunite families;

Whereas, in 2019, after negotiating the release of a United States citizen wrongfully detained in Iran, President Trump reiterated that “the highest priority of the United States is the safety and well-being of its citizens. Freeing Americans held captive is of vital importance to my Administration, and we will continue to work hard to bring home all our citizens wrongfully held captive over-

seas,” and in 2023, upon negotiating the release of five Americans held in Iran, President Biden said that “reuniting wrongfully detained Americans with their loved ones has been a priority for my Administration since day one”;

Whereas, since 2019, the Foley Foundation has annually published research in the “Bringing Americans Home” report, which evaluates the experiences of American families with a loved one held captive abroad, returned hostages and detainees, and government and nongovernment experts;

Whereas, in December 2020, Congress passed, and President Trump reaffirmed the United States commitment to bringing home American citizens by signing into law the Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 1741 et seq.) to prioritize and provide assistance to Americans wrongfully detained abroad and to their family members;

Whereas, in September 2021, Alexandra Kotey pleaded guilty to eight counts of kidnapping, torture, and accessory to murder of four Americans, including James Wright Foley, Kayla Jean Mueller, Steven Joel Sotloff, and Peter Edward Kassig;

Whereas, on August 19, 2022, the Department of Justice convicted former British jihadist, El Shafee ElSheik in Federal Court in the Eastern District of Virginia for the kidnapping, torture, and murder of Americans Sotloff, Kassig, Mueller, and Foley, as well as three British citizens;

Whereas, under Democratic and Republican presidents, the United States has successfully freed more than 120 Americans from unjust captivity abroad;

Whereas President Joe Biden's July 2022 Executive Order 14078 (relating to bolstering efforts to bring hostages and wrongfully detained United States nationals home) declared that hostage taking and the wrongful detention of United States nationals constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States; and

Whereas the targeting of United States nationals for use as political pawns by nation states is a grave threat to the security of United States nationals traveling abroad, seeks to hold the United States Government hostage, and strains international stability: Now, therefore, be it

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, as amended, with its preamble, as amended, was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 805

Whereas James W. Foley was an American freelance journalist, an author, teacher and humanitarian from New Hampshire;

Whereas James dedicated his career to robust, independent, and compassionate journalism that took him to war zones and classrooms alike;

Whereas, upon his return after being detained for six weeks in Libya, James said, “for some reason I have physical courage, but, that’s nothing compared to moral courage. If I don’t have the moral courage to challenge authority, to write about things that might have reprisals on my career, if I don’t have that moral courage, we don’t have journalism”;

Whereas, on November 22, 2012, James was kidnapped while reporting on the conflict in northern Syria;

Whereas, on August 19, 2014, James Wright Foley was publicly beheaded by the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS), his death then used as propaganda against the United States of America;

Whereas, on September 4, 2014, the James W. Foley Legacy Foundation was established

to inspire the moral courage needed to secure the freedom of Americans taken captive abroad, prevent future hostage-taking, and promote journalist safety;

Whereas the Foley Foundation participated in the National Counter Terrorism Center task force, ordered by President Barack Obama to evaluate United States hostage policy and engagement with families of those held captive;

Whereas, on June 24, 2015, President Obama issued Presidential Policy Directive 30, which committed to “achieving the safe and rapid recovery of U.S. nationals taken hostage outside the United States” and established the current United States hostage enterprise, which includes the Hostage Response Group (HRG) at the National Security Council, the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs (SPEHA), and the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell (HRFC) that together pursue recovery strategies, support returned hostages and families of current hostages, and coordinate the use of diplomatic, law enforcement, intelligence, and military capabilities to resolve international hostage-takings;

Whereas the Foley Foundation has worked since 2014, in collaboration with the United States Government’s hostage enterprise and families of United States nationals taken hostage abroad by terrorists or criminals and those wrongfully detained by nation states to help reunite families;

Whereas, in 2019, after negotiating the release of a United States citizen wrongfully detained in Iran, President Trump reiterated that “the highest priority of the United States is the safety and well-being of its citizens. Freeing Americans held captive is of vital importance to my Administration, and we will continue to work hard to bring home all our citizens wrongfully held captive overseas,” and in 2023, upon negotiating the release of five Americans held in Iran, President Biden said that “reuniting wrongfully detained Americans with their loved ones has been a priority for my Administration since day one”;

Whereas, since 2019, the Foley Foundation has annually published research in the “Bringing Americans Home” report, which evaluates the experiences of American families with a loved one held captive abroad, returned hostages and detainees, and government and nongovernment experts;

Whereas, in December 2020, Congress passed, and President Trump reaffirmed the United States commitment to bringing home American citizens by signing into law the Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 1741 et seq.) to prioritize and provide assistance to Americans wrongfully detained abroad and to their family members;

Whereas, in September 2021, Alexandra Kotey pleaded guilty to eight counts of kidnapping, torture, and accessory to murder of four Americans, including James Wright Foley, Kayla Jean Mueller, Steven Joel Sotloff, and Peter Edward Kassig;

Whereas, on August 19, 2022, the Department of Justice convicted former British jihadist, El Shafee ElSheik in Federal Court in the Eastern District of Virginia for the kidnapping, torture, and murder of Americans Sotloff, Kassig, Mueller, and Foley, as well as three British citizens;

Whereas, under Democratic and Republican presidents, the United States has suc-

cessfully freed more than 120 Americans from unjust captivity abroad;

Whereas President Joe Biden’s July 2022 Executive Order 14078 (relating to bolstering efforts to bring hostages and wrongfully detained United States nationals home) declared that hostage taking and the wrongful detention of United States nationals constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States; and

Whereas the targeting of United States nationals for use as political pawns by nation states is a grave threat to the security of United States nationals traveling abroad, seeks to hold the United States Government hostage, and strains international stability: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) stands with all those who have been taken hostage or wrongfully detained, those who have been released, and the families and friends who fight for their freedom;

(2) prioritizes the return of all innocent United States nationals targeted for kidnapping or wrongful detention abroad and will continue to take all necessary steps to secure the release of Americans and deter our adversaries from using Americans as tools for their geopolitical ambitions;

(3) acknowledges the need to continue working with allies and partners to develop a coordinated approach to deter and prevent international hostage-taking;

(4) condemns the practice of targeting and wrongfully detaining Americans in order to threaten American sovereignty and interfere with United States foreign policy;

(5) supports efforts to ensure that the United States Government hostage enterprise is properly resourced and authorized to address the evolving dynamic of hostage-taking and wrongful detention, including through the Hostage Response Group at the National Security Council, the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell, the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs, and supporting departments and agencies to speed the safe return of United States nationals held hostage abroad and deter future hostage-taking;

(6) commends the personnel, past and present, of the hostage enterprise who have endeavored to faithfully execute the mission of recovering Americans unjustly held captive abroad; and

(7) recognizes August 19, 2014, as a solemn remembrance of this national security threat and the United States Government’s sacred obligation to protect United States nationals abroad from being taken captive unjustly.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2024, THROUGH TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2024

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn under the provisions of S. Res. 888 to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted, on the following dates and times: Friday, September 27, at 10 a.m.; Tuesday, October 1, at 1 p.m.; Friday, October 4 at 10 a.m.; Tuesday, October 8, at 2:30 p.m.; Friday, October 11, at 8:30 a.m.; Tuesday, October 15, at 1:30 p.m.; Friday, October 18, at 10 a.m.;

Tuesday, October 22, at 8 a.m.; Friday, October 25, at 10:30 a.m.; Tuesday, October 29, at 9:30 a.m.; Friday, November 1, at 11:30 a.m.; Monday, November 4, at 11 a.m.; Wednesday, November 6, at 12 noon; and Friday, November 8, at 12 noon; further, that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, November 8, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m. on Tuesday, November 12; that on Tuesday, following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that following the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Perry nomination; further, that if any nominations are confirmed during Tuesday’s session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action; further, that the cloture motions filed during today’s session ripen on Wednesday, November 13.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2024, AT 10 A.M.

Mr. SCHUMER. 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, under the previous order and pursuant to S. Res. 888, as a further mark of respect for the late James Ralph Sasser, former Senator from Tennessee, the Senate, at 9:48 p.m., adjourned until Friday, September 27, 2024, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate September 25, 2024:

UNITED STATES TAX COURT

JEFFREY SAMUEL ARBEIT, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

BENJAMIN A. GUIDER III, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION

ANN C. FISHER, OF SOUTH DAKOTA, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 14, 2030.

ASHLEY JAY ELIZABETH POLING, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING NOVEMBER 22, 2030.

THE JUDICIARY

BYRON B. CONWAY, OF WISCONSIN, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN.

FOREIGN SERVICE

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOHN R. BASS II AND ENDING WITH BRIAN A. NICHOLS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 2, 2023.