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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 God, the giver of every good and perfect gift, during this Thanksgiving season, we pause to express our gratitude for the blessings You daily bestow.

Lord, thank You for family, friends, life, health, and strength. We praise You for the gift of Your salvation that provides us with a future and a hope. We are grateful for Your prevailing providence and Your promise that, in everything, You are working for the good of those who love You.

Today, use our lawmakers as instruments for Your glory. Where there is hatred, let them plant love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope.

We pray in Your marvelous 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, November 20, 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 proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Rebecca L. Penwell, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

### CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, Congress writes the Nation's laws, and the executive branch sticks to enforcing them. That idea is actually not new. It is written plainly into our article I powers right in the Constitution. But half a century of ceding legislative authority to an unelected bureaucracy has thrown this balance off-kilter.

Earlier this year, of course, the article III branch quite clearly restored the boundaries on freelance regulatory interpretation in the executive branch. But there is more work to be done to rein in Washington bureaucrats' expansive interpretation of their powers over working Americans, and fortunately Congress has a powerful tool called the Congressional Review Act that does exactly that.

To great effect, Senate Republicans used the CRA to scrap a slew of bureaucratic rules after 8 years of runaway regulation under the Obama administration. Republicans worked to end a coal-mining rule that threatened hundreds of thousands of workers, including many in Kentucky. We took a hammer to a pair of far-reaching and aggressive Obama-era education rules, and we dramatically scaled back DC bureaucrats' control of lands that should be managed with local input.

Between 2017 and 2018, Republicans used the CRA 16 times to impose an ambitious regulatory housecleaning that gave farmers and miners, landowners and job creators, small businesses and builders the certainty and confidence to stay producing on American soil.

We did all of this with hardly any Democratic support. So it is not surprising that, under the Biden administration, Democrats have worked relentlessly to resurrect the Obama administration's regulatory regime, from student loan socialism to job-killing energy policies, to blatant infringements on property rights. Literally, on day one, President Biden signed an Executive order that began tearing down the regulatory certainty that Republicans had restored.

Now, with just over a month left in the year, the Biden administration's 2024 regulations alone amount to the

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



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second highest annual total by pages in the *Federal Register*. On the whole, President Biden's agenda has imposed regulatory costs that, by one estimate, surpass \$1.8 trillion. That is trillion with a “t.”

So it is safe to say Congress once again has an opportunity. Two weeks ago, the American people gave Republicans a legitimate, crystal-clear mandate, and come January we ought to use it to hit the brakes on runaway regulation.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICIAL REPORTERS OF DEBATES

Mr. President, now, on another matter, I would like to take some time today to salute the outstanding Senate staff whom my team and I have relied on during our time in the Republican leader's office.

First, I would like to offer more fulsome thanks to the Official Reporters of Debates, the ears of the Nation here on the floor—always listening, carefully recording, and much to the relief of my staff, meticulously reconciling remarks as prepared with remarks as delivered.

The Official Reporters are integral to the life of the Senate and central to the construction of the historical record. But, by definition, they fly under the radar, blending almost intentionally into the fabric of this Chamber.

So I take particular pleasure today in asking to record in all caps, as the live transcript goes, my sincere gratitude to each of the Senate's Official Reporters of Debates for their essential work.

TRIBUTE TO REPUBLICAN SECRETARY AND CLOAKROOM STAFF

Mr. President, now I will turn to a final group of floor staff who deserve our sincere thanks.

In both the Democratic and Republican cloakrooms, you will find consummate professionals for whom loyalty, service, and deep institutional knowledge are calling cards. Much as I know the Democratic leader leans on the work of Gary Myrick and the Democratic cloakroom staff, I would like to brag for a few minutes on the Senate's Republican Secretary and the staff of the Republican cloakroom.

During my time in the Senate, I have been the majority leader, and I have been the minority leader. The majority is better. But whether it is designing the roadmap for a Republican majority's agenda or trying to amend or slow down a Democratic majority's agenda, I wouldn't want to navigate the Senate's arcana without a procedural expert like the Republican Secretary, Robert Duncan, by my side.

Duncan, in the footsteps of distinguished predecessors, has been an indispensable adviser to me and my staff. The entire Republican conference rightly trusts in his deep knowledge of the rules and precedents that govern this institution, and his calm manner projects confidence in even the thorniest procedural battles.

I am so grateful to Duncan for his rock-solid counsel. And, of course, a

portfolio as broad as the cloakroom's draws on the strengths of Duncan's entire team: the watchful eye of Assistant Secretary Chris Tuck, whose procedural ingenuity steers the Senate out of jams and whose sharp wit brings much needed humor to long days on the floor; the air traffic control of floor assistants Tony Hanagan, Brian Canfield, and their recently departed colleague Katherine Foster, whose deep relationships with Senators and staff across the conference keep important business moving swiftly and in good cheer; the agile readiness of cloakroom assistants Max Boyd, Maddie Sanborn, and Charlotte Ueland, whose record-keeping, conference-wide communications, and stewardship of the Republican pages make the cloakroom's most essential functions appear to happen as if magic; and the managerial savvy of administrative assistant Noelle Ringel, who wears a dizzying array of hats to keep the entire operation humming.

Cloakroom staff spend nights, weekends, and every working day making the jobs of Senators easier. Their pride in a very unique set of professional skills makes them more of a family than coworkers, and I know that sentiment extends entirely across the Republican conference.

So to each of you, thank you for the hard work you do so extraordinarily well.

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.

GLOBALFOUNDRIES

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, when I wrote and led passage of the bipartisan Chips and Science Act, I often spoke about days in the not too distant future when this legislation would bring manufacturing back to the United States, strengthen our national security, and deliver big for New York, particularly Upstate New York.

Today, I am proud to say, is precisely the kind of day I had in mind when I helped write the bipartisan Chips and Science Act. Today, semiconductor company GlobalFoundries finalized a \$1.5 billion award—that is \$1.5 billion with a “b”—to build a new, cutting-edge, massive chip factory in Malta, NY, and expand production in the Capital Region of New York. This award was made possible precisely because of the law I wrote and passed.

This chips award is now locked in. The agreement is signed, sealed, and delivered—in fact, ready to deliver a better future for Upstate New York and for America. Importantly, this funding is protected for years to come.

GlobalFoundries' announcement is exciting for several reasons. First, it

means thousands of new, good-paying manufacturing and union construction jobs are on the way to the Capital Region, as GlobalFoundries triples its production in Saratoga County. When we wrote the Chips and Science law, we wanted to make sure that it was union labor that built these factories.

Mr. President, the funds will also modernize a GlobalFoundries facility in Vermont, you will be happy to know. These are jobs that will help transform the region, jobs that even the children and grandchildren of workers today will hold decades from now. When your kid gets one of these jobs, you are not going to think, oh, it will be gone in 5 years, because this is a growing, burgeoning industry. Semiconductor chips are the future of our modern economy.

So it is a great thing for optimism for our future, for those ladders up that we so believe in here in America.

Second, this funding will help create a strong domestic supply of essential chips that America needs for our national and economic security. The chips made by GlobalFoundries are critical to the auto industry, to national defense, to artificial intelligence, all the way down to our smartphones. If we want to keep prices low and prevent shortages, one of the best things we can do is build chips here at home. This funding will help make that happen.

Most importantly, as I said, the \$1.5 billion award is cemented for New York and for America as long as GlobalFoundries meets its project milestones. Upstate New York, the Capital Region, can rest assured that the funding announced today will be there in the years to come.

So today is a great day for the Capital Region, a great day for New York, and a great day for American leadership in the global semiconductor industry.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, now on judges, today, the Senate will keep working to confirm more of President Biden's judicial nominees. It has already been a very productive week here in the Senate.

We began on Monday by confirming Judge Kidd to serve as a circuit court judge to the Eleventh Circuit. He is the 45th circuit court judge confirmed under President Biden. Yesterday, we kept going. We confirmed two more district judges to seats in Oregon and the District of Columbia and invoked cloture on the third.

We will continue going forward today. This morning, we will vote on the confirmation of Rebecca Pennell to be district judge for the Eastern District of Washington State. We will then immediately turn to a cloture vote on the next judicial nominee, Amir Ali to be district judge for the District of Columbia.

We will continue working on judges throughout the day and into this evening. We have a lot of excellent nominees to work through. So I ask my

colleagues to be flexible, to be ready to stay late, and to keep the votes moving quickly. We did that the other night, and we got a lot of votes done relatively fast.

I have spoken at length about how proud I am of the nominees this majority has confirmed to the bench. The over 200 judges we have confirmed have a sweeping range of experiences and areas of expertise. One of our nominees, for example, has argued and won three historic civil rights cases before the U.S. Supreme Court. Another judge confirmed early in Biden's term built her career as an expert in worker protections and represented factory workers and grocery store workers and taxi drivers and nurses. She is now a circuit court judge. We have also had consumer protection lawyers elevated to the bench, including one nominee whose job was to go after healthcare fraud and deceptive marketing of pharmaceutical and medical devices. I have been proud to support nominees to the Second Circuit who have been leading voting rights attorneys. And the experiences go on and on. Our nominees have represented children who have faced abuse and individuals wrongly convicted and more.

At the end of the day, of course, what matters most in a nominee is whether or not they can render impartial judgment based on precedent and rule of law, but it is also important that judges come from different walks of life.

Judges should not operate like cold, unthinking machines, nor is the work of justice a mere theoretical exercise. Judges are better off when they can interpret the law while putting themselves in the shoes of those over whom they preside, from the privileged to the impoverished. Judges are more likely to reach an equitable and prudent ruling if they can appreciate how their decisions will play out in society. That is more likely to happen if our benches are comprised of jurists from many different experiences from many different walks of life.

I thank my colleagues for their good work this week, and we will keep working today.

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 Republican whip.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, it has been clear for a while now that an enduring legacy of the Biden-Harris administration will be the historic immigration crisis at our southern border. And I don't use the word "historic" lightly, but it is appropriate, because

President Biden and Vice President HARRIS have presided over 4 years of recordbreaking illegal immigration at our southern border.

That is right: The 4 highest years of illegal immigration ever recorded at our southern border have occurred on President Biden's and Vice President HARRIS's watch.

I say occurred on their watch, but, of course, this recordbreaking illegal immigration didn't just occur on their watch. The Biden-Harris administration created this crisis. On the day he took office, the President began dismantling President Trump's border security policies, and illegal immigration began surging in response—and kept on surging.

Between official U.S. Customs and Border Protection encounters and known "got-aways"—individuals the Border Patrol saw but was unable to apprehend—there have been somewhere around 10 million—10 million—migrant encounters at the southern border during this administration.

Now, to put that number in perspective, that is larger than the population of the vast majority of U.S. States, and that is just the individuals we know about.

There are undoubtedly individuals who have made their way into our country over the past 4 years who have been neither seen nor apprehended.

The past 4 years have displayed the problems with unchecked illegal immigration. Shelters are overwhelmed. Border cities are overwhelmed. Blue cities far from the border are overwhelmed. The Border Patrol is stretched thin.

Agents pulled off field work to process the massive amounts of migrants, and the list goes on.

And, of course, it is essential to remember the situation at the border doesn't just affect the border. As I said, cities far from the border have struggled to deal with an influx of migrants.

Criminals who have made their way illegally into the country have committed crimes far from the southern border. And the effects of cross-border illegal activity are felt all around the country.

My State of South Dakota is about as far from our southern border as you can get, but law enforcement officials consistently tell me, in larger and smaller communities, that the deadly drugs they are dealing with have entered the country across our southern border.

And then there are the national security issues. The June arrest of eight Tajikistan nationals with suspected ties to ISIS who had illegally entered the country, as well as the identification of more than 400 migrants who used an ISIS-affiliated smuggling network to enter the United States, are just two examples of the kind of threats that we face—and the dangers of the chaos that President Biden and Vice President HARRIS have allowed to rage and have unleashed at our southern border.

Since October 2020, 387 individuals on the Terrorist Watchlist have been apprehended attempting to cross our southern border between ports of entry. Mr. President, 387 individuals on the Terrorist Watchlist. Those are the ones we caught. How many have come in who have been unobserved? How many terrorists or other dangerous individuals have made their way across without being apprehended?

Immigration officials are currently preparing for a possible final surge before President Trump takes office, a clear sign, if one were needed, that migrants regard President Biden as the open border President.

But final surge or no final surge, the days of this border crisis are numbered. Securing our border and removing those who have entered our country illegally are at the top of President Trump's priority list, and the Republican Congress is committed to doing everything it can to help, for the sake of our security and for the sake of our rule of law.

We sometimes forget that aspect—the rule of law. But the area of immigration should not be an exception to the principle that the law has to be respected. Immigrants have played, and will continue to play, a vital role in this country. And that won't change. But immigration has to be legal.

We need to end the notion that illegal pathways are a viable way to take up residence in this country, and we will end that notion under President Trump.

The Biden-Harris administration heralded the start of a border crisis. The Trump-Vance administration will herald the end of it. Two more months. Two more months.

I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF REBECCA L. PENNELL

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Washington Court of Appeals Judge Rebecca Pennell to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Washington.

Judge Pennell's significant career as a litigator for nearly two decades and her experience as a Washington State appellate court judge will make her an excellent addition to the Federal bench.

After graduating from the University of Washington and Stanford Law School, Judge Pennell served as a law clerk to Judge Robert H. Whaley on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Washington, the court to which she has been nominated.

Following her clerkship, Judge Pennell worked as a Skadden fellow assigned as a fellowship attorney at TeamChild in Yakima, WA. She then continued her career in public service as an attorney at the Federal Defenders of Washington and Idaho for 16 years. As a public defender, she tried approximately 13 trials, handled more than 100 cases in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and helped to establish two reentry drug courts within the Eastern District.

Since 2016, Judge Pennell has served as a judge on the Washington Court of Appeals, Division Three, where she has authored more than 568 opinions.

Judge Pennell has the strong support of her home State Senators, Mrs. MURRAY and Ms. CANTWELL. In addition, Judge Pennell was rated unanimously “well qualified” by the American Bar Association.

I urge my colleagues to support Judge Pennell’s nomination.

Mr. THUNE. 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. DURBIN. 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 Democratic whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask that we commence with the rollcall vote immediately under unanimous consent.

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

#### VOTE ON PENNELL NOMINATION

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

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 289 Ex.]

#### YEAS—50

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

#### NAYS—48

Barrasso	Crapo	Kennedy
Blackburn	Daines	Lankford
Boozman	Ernst	Lee
Britt	Fischer	Lummis
Budd	Graham	Manchin
Capito	Grassley	Marshall
Cassidy	Hagerty	McConnell
Collins	Hawley	Moran
Cornyn	Hoeven	Mullin
Cotton	Hyde-Smith	Murkowski
Cramer	Johnson	Paul

Ricketts  
Risch  
Romney  
Rounds  
Rubio

NOT VOTING—2

Braun  
Cruz

Schmitt  
Scott (FL)  
Scott (SC)  
Sullivan  
Thune

Tillis  
Vance  
Wicker  
Young

Markey  
Merkley  
Murphy  
Murray  
Ossoff  
Padilla  
Peters  
Reed

Rosen  
Sanders  
Schatz  
Schumer  
Shaheen  
Smith  
Stabenow  
Tester

#### NAYS—48

Barrasso	Grassley	Ricketts
Blackburn	Hagerty	Risch
Boozman	Hawley	Romney
Britt	Hoeven	Rounds
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Johnson	Schmitt
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Collins	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lee	Sinema
Cotton	Lummis	Sullivan
Cramer	Marshall	Thune
Crapo	McConnell	Tillis
Daines	Moran	Tuberville
Ernst	Mullin	Vance
Fischer	Murkowski	Wicker
Graham	Paul	Young

#### NOT VOTING—2

Braun  
Cruz

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 48.

The motion is agreed to.

#### 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 executive 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. 539, Amir H. Ali, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, Tina Smith, Elizabeth Warren, Raphael G. Warnock, Gary C. Peters, Tim Kaine, Richard Blumenthal, Jack Reed, Sheldon Whitehouse, Peter Welch, Mark R. Warner, Christopher A. Coons, Tammy Duckworth, Benjamin L. Cardin, Debbie Stabenow.

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 Amir H. Ali, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 290 Ex.]

#### YEAS—50

Baldwin	Casey	Helmy
Bennet	Coons	Hickenlooper
Blumenthal	Cortez Masto	Hirono
Booker	Duckworth	Kaine
Brown	Durbin	Kelly
Butler	Fetterman	King
Cantwell	Gillibrand	Klobuchar
Cardin	Hassan	Luján
Carper	Heinrich	Manchin

Van Hollen  
Warner  
Warnock  
Warren  
Welch  
Whitehouse  
Wyden

Rosen  
Sanders  
Schatz  
Schumer  
Shaheen  
Smith  
Stabenow  
Tester

#### NAYS—48

Barrasso	Grassley	Ricketts
Blackburn	Hagerty	Risch
Boozman	Hawley	Romney
Britt	Hoeven	Rounds
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Johnson	Schmitt
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Collins	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lee	Sinema
Cotton	Lummis	Sullivan
Cramer	Marshall	Thune
Crapo	McConnell	Tillis
Daines	Moran	Tuberville
Ernst	Mullin	Vance
Fischer	Murkowski	Wicker
Graham	Paul	Young

#### NOT VOTING—2

Braun  
Cruz

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 48.

The motion is agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Amir H. Ali, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

#### JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I would like to start by thanking Senator WARNOCK for letting me jump ahead in the speaking order today. I appreciate it. I am only going to take a couple of minutes.

Yesterday, in the press report, apparently, I had reported what I said at lunch for the news about me talking about a simple concept. I don’t know. I think the American people are on board with me. We have to show up for work, right? I think we have to.

The reason we had 18 votes on Monday night is because some of my colleagues on my side of the aisle—folks, this is not a partisan—it is partisan. It ended up focusing on some of my colleagues. You have to show up for work. We have got work to do here. And I understand there are all kinds of good reasons. But there is no excuse to let CHUCK SCHUMER force these judicial nominations down our throat.

We have got to show up for work. What happened on Monday night only occurred because Republicans were not here. They are my colleagues. They are my friends. But they are business associates first who have a job of making sure that we prevent CHUCK SCHUMER from driving a lot of these judicial nominations that, if we are here, won’t be successful.

The only reason we were here until midnight on Monday night is because some of my colleagues didn’t show up. I am just saying, folks, this is pretty

simple. I have spent most of my career in business. If my senior staff didn't show up or my former partners at Pricewaterhouse didn't show up, we would find them another job.

We get this job, whether we want it or not, unless we resign. You can't fire us in the midterm or in the middle of our terms. But I can express my concern with giving CHUCK SCHUMER an easy way to beat Republicans who want to vote against and potentially defeat some of these very liberal judges.

So all I am saying—so that the press gets it right—people put words in my mouth at a private lunch. That is OK. People do that around here. I don't. But let me say what I said at lunch: 90 percent of success is showing up. If we were here on Monday night, we wouldn't have been here until midnight because we would have defeated CHUCK SCHUMER's opportunity to do it then.

If we are not here every single day—I had somebody ask me: Well, when do I need to be there for that Fourth Circuit nominee? When is that vote going to occur?

I said: When you are not here.

We have got to show up, folks. The American people expect us to show up for a job. These are my friends. These are my colleagues. These are people I work together with. But they let me down on Monday. They better not let me down for the rest of the session or every time we fail because we failed to show up. I will be back down here to remind my colleagues that the American people and the people who elected us in our great States want us to do our jobs. You can't do your job if you are not here.

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

#### DISASTER RELIEF FUNDING

MR. WARNOCK. Madam President, I rise today calling on the U.S. Senate to immediately—immediately—approve the supplemental disaster assistance request sent to us by the President earlier this week so we can get Georgians and Americans all across our country the support they so desperately need following two recent storms: Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

Sadly, these storms are becoming more frequent and becoming more destructive. And we will see again and again the need of the Senate to respond with the urgency that this demands.

I was pushing for additional disaster assistance for Georgians reeling from past storms before Hurricane Helene landed in our State; namely, following Hurricane Idalia last year and Debby in August of this year.

My office was on the frontlines of the Federal response to Hurricane Helene in Georgia, and I was proud to work with a bipartisan group with my colleagues, including Senator TILLIS and Senator BUDD of North Carolina, to kick-start this disaster funding process.

I want to thank the President for listening to the people of our State in ex-

pecting this request. I want to thank the Senate Appropriations Committee Chair PATTY MURRAY for acting on this priority today. It is something she and I have talked about over the last several weeks.

Since these storms tore through Georgia and much of the Southeast, we have seen light in darkness as communities come together to help one another, neighbors supporting neighbors.

I was down in Augusta a few weeks ago, and it was tough to see that devastation. But part of that light piercing the darkness could be seen in the eyes and in the effort of Robert Lanier of Lanier's Meat Market. I was driving. We were going down the street. I had my staff do a U-turn. And there was Robert Lanier, local business owner—Lanier's Meat Market—literally providing free food and water to his neighbors. The very food that he sells every day to take care of his family, he was giving it away to his neighbors—a light shining in the darkness.

I saw this in Homerville, Soperton, and Gibson, where my office hosted community resource clinics to connect Georgians to Federal officials and resources, helping some 200 Georgians in the process.

In Quitman and in Valdosta, my team and I hit the road to deliver food, healthcare supplies, and water to our neighbors in need.

I spent time with smalltown mayors all across our State that were desperately in need of a response.

And to date, FEMA has provided over \$229 million in individual and household assistance to Georgians in need and continues to operate numerous disaster recovery and other assistance centers across the State.

I am proud of the great work being done, and I applaud the public servants and the community leaders who make it all possible. But in my travels and in my conversations with these smalltown mayors, with Georgians, for folks especially in our rural areas, it is clear that more needs to be done, and that help cannot come soon enough.

In Ray City, I joined President Biden to survey a damaged pecan grove. An estimated one-third of the State's pecan crop was destroyed as well as cotton. Over 100 poultry houses were damaged or destroyed, and 8 million acres of timber in America's No. 1 forestry State were impacted. All told, we are talking about more than \$6 billion in total damages to Georgia's agriculture sector.

Too many of our farmers have taken too many hits with these storms over the years, which is why I pushed the President to send to Congress a request for additional funding immediately so we can give a lifeline to our hurting agriculture industry.

At its peak, Helene left more than 1 million Georgians without power, 300 boil water advisories across the State, over 200,000 homes with some level of damage, and countless communities facing a long road to recovery.

Most tragically, 228 individuals perished in Helene's devastation; 34 of them were Georgians, 6 of them were children. And so as we pray with our lips for those we lost, we must pray with our legs to help those still reeling and recovering from this devastation.

While Congress was out of session last month, because I understood the urgency, I called on the Senate to come back to Washington to pass additional disaster assistance funding. Weeks have passed since then, but the urgency remains.

While it may not be in the headlines, Georgians who were at the center of this devastation are living this every single day.

While I am here to remind my colleagues of the moral urgency to act, I know families and farmers back home still recovering. They are the ones who understand the dire circumstances, clearly.

There is one family in Augusta, GA, a married couple with two young elementary school-aged kids, who, following Helene—listen—are still residing in a house deemed 95 percent damaged. It is practically uninhabitable, their home. But they are still waiting on Federal support to move to either a temporary or a long-term housing solution.

Imagine that, waking up every day in a home that is 95 percent damaged. And as they navigate the stress and the trauma of this turmoil, the father continues showing up to work. He goes to work every day in order to provide for his family and then returns to their damaged home, waiting on us to show up to work and get the job done.

If we expect hard-working Georgians to do their job in the midst of a disaster, they should expect us to do ours. It is reasonable service. It is the least we can do.

The disaster assistance proposal before us would deliver a lifesaver for so many families, providing over \$20 billion to help farmers address crop and orchard losses; more than \$600 million to help them rehabilitate damaged land; \$375 million to support rural communities with housing, power, water, healthcare, and more; and \$40 billion for FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund—the primary source of Federal assistance for Georgians impacted by Hurricane Helene.

There is also critical funding to fix our damaged roads and highways, support our small business harmed by the storms, and invest in public water and sewer system upgrades.

The only question is, What are we waiting for? There is no time for games, no time for delay, no time for partisanship, or politics. We must center the human beings, members of our families who are impacted by our policy, and the time to act is now.

We must approve this additional funding with bipartisan and bicameral support. And I will continue to do all I can until we get this done, and every dollar we allocate gets to the taxpayers. After all, this is the taxpayers'

money and hard-working families trying to pick up the pieces of their lives. This is the work we must do, and it cannot happen soon enough.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BUDD. Madam President, I rise today to talk about the road ahead for Western North Carolina after the devastation of Hurricane Helene. And I acknowledge and appreciate my colleague from one of the Mountain States, Georgia—particularly Northern Georgia—and am reminded that we are rebuilding together.

For us here in North Carolina, Hurricane Helene represented one of the worst natural disasters to ever strike my home State—and I have seen a lot of natural disasters in North Carolina.

From Hurricane Helene, at last count, more than 100 people just in our State have been killed; hundreds more were injured; and some are still missing. Thousands of North Carolinians lost their homes. They lost their businesses.

And for small mountain communities in Western North Carolina, this horrific ordeal began Friday morning of September 27. When the storm hit an already rain-soaked area, the situation escalated into life and death within moments.

In the small town of what is the now-famous Bat Cave, NC—population 180—the town's fire chief, Steve Freeman, was at home with his wife. In advance of the storm, Steve parked his first car, a 1967 Mustang. He put it up on higher ground on a ridge above the family's shed. At around 8:45 a.m., he and his wife heard their house shake. He ran to the back of the house; he looked out the window, and he found that the car had already been swept downhill into the shed. Seconds later, he watched their Ford pickup get flipped upside down by the torrential flooding. Then he heard more rumbling noises, followed by shaking; and outside, he saw a mudslide barreling down towards the rest of the holler.

He ran for cover, but the collapsing shed took his feet out from under him and washed him several yards into a backhoe, where his head was pinned between the loader and what was left of the shed. His wife, who was watching in horror, thought that he was dead. But, in a moment he credits to the grace of Almighty God, Steve had just enough room to get his head out, and he went back inside to his wife. They escaped the area.

Steve later said:

I had my near-death experience, and that's when I knew God was here for me.

What is even more extraordinary is that, after this harrowing experience, the chief, Steve, began working for the safety of his community. Others might have called it quits, but he went to work. He and his firefighters—they mapped out the area, and they started digging people out.

Chief Freeman is one of hundreds of heroic North Carolinians who leapt

into harm's way to help others. That is the thing about the people of Western North Carolina: They are not just tough; they are mountain tough.

I had the pleasure of going to undergrad at Appalachian State in Boone years ago, and I have got life-long friends who still call the region home. But if you spend any amount of time up there, you learn just how strong these people are in the mountains: These are proud and self-sufficient people. They are generous people.

For instance, take the story of Ethan Fowler of Slick Rock. He lives in Henderson County, and he volunteered to help rescue folks who were trapped. When he saw the storm debris that needed clearing in his neighborhood, he jumped on his own heavy machinery, and he did the job. Locals went up to him, and they offered to pay him; they offered him compensation for his work.

And Ethan replied:

It's just fuel.

He went on to personally help direct the National Guard and Federal officials as they arrived to clean up Gerton, Bat Cave, Lake Lure, and Chimney Rock.

This story and countless others like it are a perfect testament to the people of North Carolina. They are some of the most resilient people around. They don't look for handouts; they don't complain. The truth is they need us right now. Our government must be there to help them.

That is why it is incredibly disturbing to hear reports on the ground that they are still struggling to get in touch with representatives from FEMA. Now, of course, I don't want to denigrate the hard work of many of these hard-working officials who are trying to do the right thing, but when you hear the same story of a scatter-shot response and when you hear that same story over and over again, you know that something is dreadfully wrong.

You also know that something is wrong when we hear from a whistleblower at FEMA who claims that Federal officials directed a colossal event of avoidance against households with flags or yard signs supporting President Trump. This sort of weaponization of the government against people in their time of need is disgusting, and it is wrong, and there is going to be accountability for it.

As we hold these Agencies accountable, we in Congress have work to do, and no time to waste. So I am again calling on this body to quickly approve a supplemental bill to help fund the long-term recovery for the citizens of North Carolina. Congress should take up this bill without any further delay. Those of us from the region, regardless of party, I believe, support this.

Now, I realize that coming from someone like me—a dedicated fiscal conservative asking for this—it might sound, to some, out of place, but disaster relief is one of the essential functions of this government. Times like

these are precisely why we shouldn't overspend or waste taxpayer dollars in more prosperous times. Like any family or small business, we ought to be saving for a rainy day.

Ladies and gentlemen, that rainy day is today. In Western North Carolina, the temperatures are falling fast. Many people in my State are in real danger of facing a winter without heat because the storm destroyed the area's only kerosene station. We have people living in shelters with only the clothes on their backs because the hurricane wiped out their homes.

We have small shops, hotels, and restaurants that rely on tourism to operate, and some of those folks will be forced to shutter their businesses forever.

We have large sections of a major U.S. interstate highway that are still impassable and small mountain roads that are damaged beyond repair.

We have communities that are mourning the unimaginable loss of members of first responders and law enforcement.

We have some towns that I visited in the last month, like Hot Springs, Marshall, Burnsville, and Swannanoa, that are buried by flooding and mudslides, and there are towns like Chimney Rock that are mostly gone. Every day that I was present in the region, I was stunned by the enormity of the damage. It was unlike anything that I had ever seen.

This is not a situation where our government has the luxury of hand-wringing or deferring action for another few weeks or after another long recess. The citizens in my State—they need help and they need it now. This is why these men and women pay their taxes. This is their right as Americans, and we can't leave them behind. I believe, after having many conversations around the State, that that is their greatest fear: of being forgotten.

I will make my promise not to ever forget them, and my promise to the people of Western North Carolina is this: I will do everything in my power to see that you have the Federal resources you need to recover and to rebuild. I stand ready to work with my Senate colleagues and President-elect Trump to cut through the delays and provide the people of Western North Carolina with the resources they need as quickly as possible. We owe it to these fellow Americans to help them and help them now.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, on Monday, President Biden submitted to Congress an emergency supplemental funding request for nearly \$100 billion to help communities across the country recover from disasters.

Whether it is Lahaina, Maui, or Burlington or Davenport or Asheville, every community that has had the misfortune of being struck by a disaster deserves help. No one is ever fully prepared for a tornado or a flood or a fire,

but everyone has to go through the long and difficult and painful process of rebuilding—rebuilding their lives, rebuilding their homes, rebuilding their stores, rebuilding their communities—which is why every time a disaster has devastated our fellow Americans, Congress has recognized the need for help and stepped up to fulfill our responsibility to provide that help. We don't first check to see if it is a blue or a red or a purple State or county.

And, today, disaster survivors in almost 40 States, including my own, are counting on us to do exactly that. They have had their lives turned upside down, and in the wake of awful death and destruction, they are trying to find some semblance of stability and peace in their lives. But, to recover quickly and fully, they need our help. It has been more than 15 months since Lahaina burned down to the ground—in a matter of hours—by ferocious fires. More than 4,000 homes were destroyed, and yet, as of today, just one home has been rebuilt—one home. There are 4,000 homes gone, 12,000 people without a house, 2,200 structures incinerated—1 home rebuilt.

Even before the fires, Lahaina was a working-class town where people were mostly renters, and while a disaster of this scale is catastrophic for any community, the financial burden inflicted on these survivors is especially, especially acute. Everyone is doing the best that they can to recover. They are working so hard. They have pulled together so much. They have so much courage and compassion and persistence. They have plowed through every barrier put in front of them. They have saved each other's lives. They are trying to rebuild this beautiful, historic, pluralistic, joyful, multicultural town, but they need our help.

This is a core responsibility of the United States Federal Government. There are certain things that we should be arguing about; there are lots of things that we should be arguing about. Among those things is, What does the Federal Government do, exactly? What is the Federal Government's role, exactly, in education? in healthcare? in transportation?

One thing we cannot argue with each other about is this: when your fellow Americans are in a situation where their counties, their churches, their communities, their States are just simply overwhelmed and cannot recover without the resources of the Federal Government, that the Federal Government steps up and does their job.

So we are about to wrap this week up before the Thanksgiving break, and then we have a tight, little work period to get a hell of a lot done. The one thing we cannot leave undone in December—the one thing we cannot leave undone in December—is disaster aid not just for the people of Maui but for people all across the country. If the Federal Government is for anything, it has to be for this.

I yield the floor.

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** The Senator from West Virginia.

#### REPUBLICAN OBJECTIVES

**MRS. CAPITO.** Madam President, a few weeks ago, the American people spoke loud and clear. They rejected the policies that we have been seeing through this current administration. But, today, I rise to talk about the vision my Republican colleagues and I have for this future and the many solutions that we are eager to get back to work on that I believe will help get this country back on track.

First things first, this newly formed Republican Senate majority is ready to close the previous chapter. It is a chapter I think that none of us really want to go through again. Soon, the Resolute Desk will change hands, and the Senate, under the guidance of my friend and colleague and soon-to-be majority leader JOHN THUNE, will get to work. And we have the full support of the incoming President, President-elect Trump.

The American public wants to see real action. Back home in my State of West Virginia, people have conveyed to me that they are ready for real representation—a government of, by, and for the people. Senate Republicans will deliver responsive and responsible solutions for the American people.

The task ahead is this: unshackling the American economy, securing the border, unleashing our American energy, reducing crime and lawlessness, and restoring American strength and deterrence on the world stage. These are the issues on which the voters placed their faith in us.

I also believe that central to this mandate for this new American leadership is the idea that people really did feel better and preferred their lives under the Presidency of President Trump. I know for sure I did.

So as the Senate fulfills its responsibility to pass legislation to get this country back on track, let's look no further than the previous Trump administration for the roadmap.

President Trump unleashed American energy production, rolling back burdensome permitting rules and red-tape. Republicans slashed regulations that canceled pipelines. We erased barriers to our new ones. America sits on the greatest treasure trove of natural resources in the world, and a Republican-led energy policy will not squander that.

West Virginia knows the difference between good and bad energy policy all too well. We are an energy State. We have been blessed with a lot of natural resources, and we know that our economy and people's jobs and people's lives and people's families depend on us unleashing that energy. The jobs that President Trump saved—a lot of those jobs—were West Virginia energy jobs. So we can get back to a cheaper, more secure, and more reliable world by unleashing American energy once again.

The Republican solution is “America First” energy policies that can result

in energy dominance and our own self-reliance—no more depending on fuels from dictators who hate America or no more reliance on green energy from Chinese Communist Party-backed supply chains.

It is going to take an “all of the above” approach, including opening up projects like our recently just opened Mountain Valley Pipeline so that we can deliver energy in markets, promoting carbon capture and sequestration to use our vast coal resources, nuclear energy, and renewables, as the market sees fit—and they are growing.

In a few months, I will be chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. I am really excited about this opportunity, and I cannot stress enough how important these items are to the agenda.

My Senate Republican colleagues and I are prepared to bring forward legislative solutions to help fuel American growth, and I hope our Democratic colleagues will join us in moving these solutions forward in the next Congress.

On the economy, residents from my State—and the entire country—are still reeling from the elevated costs on all things, from housing, energy, food, and almost every other everyday essential.

Personal finances are stretched so thin right now. For instance, in my State of West Virginia, West Virginians are spending, on average, an additional \$930 a month, or more than \$25,000 a year, due to inflation, since 2021. Actually, that is a total of \$25,000 since 2021.

The plan to get the American economy back on track is a tried-and-true formula of energy dominance—repealing burdensome regulations—and lowering taxes. It is pretty simple. You should keep more of your own paycheck, and the government should stay out of the way.

I am looking forward to taking up legislation proposed by me and my other Senate colleagues toward these ends, including an extension and reauthorization of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that we passed in 2017—including some of the most pro-growth tax reform policies that we have seen—as well as other potential budget solutions.

Crime and the border go hand in hand. Under President Trump's first administration, both were managed. But now they are not. Look no further than the example of the addiction crisis, a direct product of lawlessness and the free rein of Mexican cartels.

Just a few days ago, last Friday, I convened State and community leaders in West Virginia for a summit focused on combating the addiction crisis. The correlation between wide-open borders and the raging drug crisis was mentioned repeatedly at this summit, especially during the presentation and discussion with our law enforcement panel.

Here is the fentanyl crisis by the numbers: CBP seized 27,000 pounds of

fentanyl in the fiscal year 2023. That is only a fraction of the real amount that crosses our border. Keep in mind that a minuscule amount of fentanyl can have a deadly effect.

Of the over 107,000 drug overdoses that occurred in the United States in 2023—I will repeat that number: 107,000; that is almost double the size of the capital city of Charleston in West Virginia, where I live—almost 75,000 of those involved fentanyl.

This out-of-control drug trafficking must end. It is a lawless scourge that takes more West Virginians per capita than in any other State in the Union. In sheer numbers, the death toll and calamity eclipse any other modern drug epidemic.

We know what works because the rise in fentanyl overdose deaths stalled under President Trump. The bottom line, we have got to close the border and end the lawlessness.

Yet again, Republicans have the roadmap. We did it once, and we can do it again. A heightened sense and appreciation for law and order from the border to the inner cities, to everywhere back home will feature prominently in this next Republican administration.

President Trump presided over a relatively peaceful period of history unmatched in our national history. After crushing ISIS, the Trump-led world order went largely uncontested by the world's dictators and demagogues. The same cannot be said about the world today.

China manipulates the Biden administration every day, while burrowing deep into our critical infrastructure and growing its military. Iran and its terrorist proxies wage war against our ally Israel. And, of course, there is the ongoing war in Ukraine. This is the world under the Biden-Harris administration's watch.

In what seems like the most trying confluence of geopolitical struggles in a generation, America must lead through strength. Indecision and weakness have emboldened our adversaries.

Republicans can start the next Congress by restoring deterrence against Iran and reinstating Trump's maximum-pressure campaign. We should cut off Iran's funding sources so that they can't continue to support these attacks against our U.S. servicemembers.

Just last week, the Houthis fired at least eight drones, five ballistic missiles, and three anti-ship cruise missiles against our U.S. Navy ships. It was barely even news because this is now just a regular occurrence under this current administration.

This administration apparently has no clue that our troops are under constant attack on land and sea, since our current Vice President, in her campaign, said that she didn't think any U.S. forces were in combat.

America must protect our servicemembers and put Iran on notice that their weapons-dealing business is over.

More broadly, a unified Republican government will be prepared to restore

our military strength, refocus our DOD on lethality, and restock our critical munitions.

I have detailed but a few of the ideas and solutions to this dangerous, costly, and disordered world that we are inheriting. It is a challenge fit for a strong government and even stronger leadership, and it is good that we have a change for who is in charge.

Until then, I suggest the best course of action this body can take is to work diligently on the outstanding priorities that we have in front of us. I am talking about the NDAA—the National Defense Authorization bill—the government funding bills, and the farm bill. That way, the next Congress can stand at full attention, ready to advance policies to make our country safer, stronger, and a more resilient place.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Madam President, 2 weeks ago, President Trump was re-elected, and the Senate Republicans reclaimed the Senate majority. As we prepare for the 119th Congress, I join my colleagues today to discuss Republican solutions to the challenges our Nation faces.

Among these important efforts, we will work with President Trump to unleash more American energy and not only make our country energy independent once again but actually make the United States energy dominant. We will do that by cutting the redtape that has handcuffed our energy industry. And instead of strangling regulations, we are going to boost innovation. That is the right kind of approach for energy policy in our Nation.

Energy security directly impacts our economic and national security. That is why we must act on day one to reverse the Biden administration's regulatory onslaught. From the very beginning of his tenure, President Biden has sought to curtail American energy. I would like to take a moment to recap some of these harmful regulatory policies.

Just last week, the Biden administration finished implementing a new natural gas tax. Think about that: a tax on natural gas at a time when the country has been fighting inflation. That natural gas tax was authorized as part of the Democrat partisan tax-and-spend bill.

Importantly, I intend to introduce a Congressional Review Act resolution of disapproval to block the Biden administration's new natural gas tax rule, and we will work with President Trump to repeal it. Again, this is part of reducing an inflation that affects every single American.

This costly tax comes in addition to new burdensome rules and higher fees on Federal energy production imposed by the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management.

But the Biden administration isn't just increasing costs for producers. They are working to outright prevent

the development of vast amounts of taxpayer-owned energy resources on public lands.

This year, BLM issued a new public lands rule enabling radical environmental groups to lock away more of our energy reserves under a so-called conservation leasing approach. In my State of North Dakota, the Biden administration is proposing to close off leasing to 45 percent—45 percent of Federal oil and gas acreage and 95 percent of Federal coal acreage.

Let me repeat that. In my State of North Dakota—we are one of the largest energy producing States in the country. We are an energy powerhouse for this country. In my State, the Biden administration is proposing to close off leasing to 45 percent of Federal oil and gas acreage and 95 percent of Federal coal acreage. At the same time, the Biden administration's regulatory agenda is making electricity more expensive and less reliable. Think about that. We need more electricity, not less. These policies not only increase the price of the electricity that we get, but it prevents us from producing more electricity.

Under President Biden, the EPA has issued overreaching power sector regulations that inflict utilities with billions of dollars in compliance costs. Worse still, these burdensome regulations could force the premature retirement of reliable coal-fired baseload powerplants, and we need that baseload to maintain the integrity of the nationwide electric grid.

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation, or NERC, and multiple independent grid operators are sounding the alarm of a coming reliability crisis.

Each of these actions by the Biden administration was specifically designed to make traditional energy more expensive and to produce less of it. That is why, in partnership with the incoming Trump administration, we will take off the handcuffs of our energy producers and empower them to increase supply and bring down prices for American families and businesses.

I would also like to thank President Trump and offer my congratulations to Governor Doug Burgum of North Dakota on his nomination to serve as Secretary of the Interior and the head of the newly formed National Energy Council. The Department of the Interior is incredibly important in North Dakota and Western States, overseeing more than 247 million acres of Federal land and approximately 30 percent of the Nation's minerals.

As Governor of my home State of North Dakota, Doug has the right background and experience to lead the Department of the Interior and all of the new administration's energy efforts. He has been a great partner as we have worked together to make North Dakota an energy powerhouse for our country, and I know he will bring that experience to bear in a positive way for our country. He understands the importance of productive multiple use of

our vast Federal estate for energy development, grazing, recreation, tourism, and all of the multiple uses we enjoy.

I look forward to continuing our efforts together, and he will be in a tremendous position to help us roll back the harmful policies of the last 4 years and unlock our country's energy potential. That means making the best use of our Nation's abundant energy resources—including our vast oil, gas, and coal reserves—while advancing new innovations to produce more energy with better environmental stewardship. That is the right way to do it.

Like I said at the beginning, we are not just going to make our Nation energy independent; we are going to make our Nation energy dominant.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

#### BORDER SECURITY

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, after 4 years of Biden-Harris failures, our country is set to make an incredible comeback with Republican control of Congress and the White House starting next year. At the top of our agenda will be securing the southern border. Until then, though, the Biden-Harris open border remains a threat to our families, our communities, and our country. Congress should waste no time in taking action to protect this Nation.

Since taking office, the Biden-Harris administration has apprehended—get this number—nearly 400 suspected terrorists at the southern border. Now, that is a 3,000-percent increase compared with all 4 years of the Trump administration. They also released nearly 100 individuals on the Terrorist Watchlist into the country.

Unfortunately, these are just the terror suspects that we know about. Under this administration, there have been more than 2 million known “got-aways,” illegal aliens who have entered this country. They evaded apprehension by law enforcement. We do not know who they are, we do not know where they have gone, but we know that they are here from the Border Patrol accounts.

Now, on top of all of this—400 suspected terrorists, a 3,000-percent increase over the Trump years, nearly 100 that are on the Terrorist Watchlist, and the 2 million “got-aways”—there are more than 1.7 million what are called special-interest aliens who have come from countries that pose a national security threat to our Nation, including Iran.

Of course, this is the same regime that helped plan the horrific October 7 terrorist attack on Israel that claimed the lives of more than 1,200 people, including 46 American citizens. Iran-backed Hamas terrorists also took more than 250 people hostage, including a dozen American citizens, 4 of whom remain in captivity. No one connected to these barbaric attacks should be allowed in this country. Yet, under

President Biden and Vice President HARRIS, that risk remains sky high.

Earlier this year, Canada began issuing visas to Gazans with little to no vetting, meaning aliens with potential ties to Hamas could enter our country not only from the southern border but also the northern border. Instead of addressing the threat, however, President Biden issued an Executive order earlier this year that prevents many illegal aliens from Hamas-controlled Gaza from being deported.

A growing terror threat would be bad enough, but under this administration, we have also seen tens of thousands of criminal illegal aliens reach our border. These are people who have committed crimes, some of the worst imaginable—homicide, sexual assault, domestic violence, human trafficking, and more.

As a result of this influx, we are seeing a surge in violent gang activity across America, including in my State of Tennessee. Just last week, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation warned that the violent Venezuelan gang we are all hearing about, Tren de Aragua, is ramping up its human trafficking operations in Tennessee's largest cities. This is the same gang that has taken over entire apartment complexes from San Antonio to Colorado for drug dealing, sex trafficking, and other violent crimes.

Make no mistake, our country cannot afford 2 more months of this administration's broken immigration policy. By the way, that is why you are seeing all this influx, all the numbers we have talked about: the 400 suspected terrorists, the nearly 100 that have been released into this country, 55,000 criminal illegal aliens, people that are convicted of these crimes, 2,200 gang members. Why does it happen? Because this administration's border policy is an open border. That is their policy.

Last week, reports emerged that human traffickers and these human trafficking cartels in Mexico are telling everybody: You better be running to that border right now and get in before Biden leaves office.

(Ms. ROSEN assumed the Chair.)

Thankfully, the Senate can pass legislation today that would secure our border and protect our country from terrorists and criminals. Here are some pieces of legislation I have:

The PRINTS Act, which I introduced last year, would combat trafficking by giving Border Patrol the authority to fingerprint noncitizens under the age of 14 so we can protect them from being trafficked.

The CONTAINER Act, which I introduced in January, would empower border States like Texas to place temporary barriers on Federal land in order to protect their communities.

The CLEAR Act, which I introduced in March, would ensure that State and local law enforcement officials have the tools they need to help the Federal Government deport criminal illegal aliens.

The bipartisan No Immigration Benefits for Hamas Terrorists Act, which I recently introduced alongside Senator ROSEN, who is currently serving as the Presiding Officer, would ensure that no migrant tied to Hamas and the horrific terrorist attack on October 7 is ever allowed to set foot in this country.

The bipartisan Border Smuggling Crackdown Act, which I introduced last week alongside Senator OSBOFF, would ensure human smugglers are held accountable for every life they endanger.

With the growing threat of an illegal immigration surge ahead of Inauguration Day, the Senate should pass these bills immediately and send them to President Biden's desk.

#### FCC COMMISSIONER BRENDAN CARR

Madam President, over the last 2 weeks, President Trump has started to assemble an incredible team to help get our country back on track starting January 20. To be sure, President Trump's recent pick to lead the Federal Communications Commission, Brendan Carr, will be essential to that effort.

As the senior Republican on the Commission, Carr has led the FCC's work to ensure that every Tennessean and American has access to high-speed internet regardless of their ZIP code.

In fact, on just about every issue the FCC handles, Commissioner Carr has been a crucial advocate for freedom, internet access, and national security. His track record speaks for itself. Across his 7 years on the Commission, he has fought to stamp out internet censorship and to protect free speech, to end the disastrous net neutrality rules that give government bureaucrats needless control over internet carriers, reining in Big Tech, addressing communist China's threats to our digital infrastructure, and many more issues have been on his get-it-done list.

In the year ahead, I look forward to working with Commissioner Carr on each of these issues, especially on expanding rural broadband, building out a clear spectrum pipeline, and keeping children safe online.

On that last issue, I especially appreciate Commissioner Carr's efforts. With 32 State attorneys general urging—begging—Congress this week to pass the Kids Online Safety Act, we know there is strong momentum to finally establish safeguards for children online. On this issue and so many more, one thing is clear: Commissioner Brendan Carr is the right person for the job to lead the Federal Communications Commission.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

#### PAID FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, over the past few months, we heard from both sides of the aisle about how American families need more support. We have heard discussions about the child tax credit, childcare costs, and dozens more issues that affect parents and their children.

Earlier this year, Senator VANCE summed up nicely what could be a mission statement for Republicans to use on this issue. He said:

We want to provide more options so that people are raising families in a thriving and happy way in this country.

Madam President, my colleagues and I are here today to talk about Republican solutions. And I want to talk specifically about one solution to the family leave problem that has not just Republican but also bipartisan support.

Across America, only 27 percent of workers in the private sector have access to paid family leave. The other three-fourths have to choose between making ends meet and taking care of their families, whether that is welcoming a newborn or nursing an aging parent. That is not a choice that Americans should have to make.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle have proposed a few ideas to solve this problem. Some of them advocate for a new nationwide government entitlement program, some advocate for a mandate that would force businesses to pay out of pocket for their employees' leave.

Neither of those options is practical or politically realistic. Our Nation is already trillions of dollars in debt and a mandate, well, that would squash small businesses that simply don't have the resources to survive while paying an employee who is not at work.

But there is a solution, a way to offer employees paid time off without creating a new mandatory program or forcing businesses to suffer huge losses. What I am talking about here are the mom-and-pop businesses especially, Main Street businesses that maybe they have one employee, two employees, maybe five.

And we have a solution. There is a way to offer employees paid time off without creating a new mandatory program or forcing those small businesses to suffer losses. We can provide tax benefits to businesses that offer employees paid leave, which will, in turn, free up resources that businesses can use to pay the salaries of their workers on leave. This is a tried-and-true method. It works. I know because I have done it before.

In 2017, Senator ANGUS KING and I created the first nationwide paid family leave policy in the history of the United States. We created a tax credit for employers who voluntarily offer up to 12 weeks of paid leave to their employees, and President Trump signed it into law. But that tax credit is going to expire, and it is going to expire at the end of 2025.

To ensure that businesses can keep offering paid leave, we need to make sure that we make that credit permanent as well as make it easier for businesses to qualify for it and to use it. So that is why Senator KING and I have, again, introduced the Paid Family Medical Leave Tax Credit Extension and Enhancement Act. Our bill makes

that credit permanent, and it also expands it. It supports additional options for financing paid leave, such as paid family leave insurance. It also allows employers to begin offering paid family medical leave to workers sooner after being hired.

Our bill also includes a strategy for educating businesses and employees about the option to receive this credit so that more people know about it. It requires the Small Business Administration and the IRS to conduct targeted outreach and technical assistance for those who need it, which will raise awareness of the credit and expand the number of Americans who have paid leave.

This is a Republican solution, and it is one that everyone can get on board with. It already has a track record of bipartisan support here in Congress, and we have the perfect opportunity to pass this tax credit yet again in the new year.

As my colleagues on the Finance Committee begin working on tax policy for 2025 and onward, I would urge them to remember America's families; remember how much they need access to paid family leave and remember what they voted for this past November—an administration who will look out for parents and for kids. We have a solution for America's paid leave problem. It is just a matter of expanding it and enacting it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. KAYNE. Madam President, shortly, I will ask for unanimous consent to confirm Mark G. Eskenazi and Amanda Wood Laihow to serve as members on the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

Just a word about the Commission. The Commission is an independent Agency that plays a vital role in ensuring safe and healthy workplaces and working conditions for American workers.

What the Commission does is it provides fair and timely adjudication of workplace safety and health disputes between employers, employees, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. So this independent body adjudicates claims between the Federal OSHA employers and employees.

However, the three-member Commission has lacked a quorum since April 2023, which means that for 18 months, they have been unable to adjudicate these claims between employers and employees in OSHA.

Amanda Wood Laihow is a reappointment. She first served on the Commission from January 2020 until April of 2023, when her term expired. Mark Eskenazi was nominated a few months ago in June of 2024. They both received very strong bipartisan support in the HELP Committee, on which I sit, for their nominations, and I urge my colleagues to join me in confirming these

well-qualified candidates by enabling this important adjudicatory body to have a quorum so that they can take up claims by workers and employers.

For that reason, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 374 and 785; 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; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Reserving the right to object. On November 5, the American people spoke and demanded change. They demanded a wholesale revamp from the top to bottom. I am committed to working tirelessly to enact these reforms in Congress and, just as important, to confirming new nominees to carry out the next administration's agenda.

President Trump is in the process of selecting his administration even today. It would be a colossal mistake to hamstring him now in the lame-duck session before he even had a chance to review these nominations.

I will be objecting to this unanimous consent request today because we must preserve options for President-elect Trump and his administration to nominate his own choices for this Commission and others, not rubberstamp President Biden's and Leader SCHUMER's preferred candidates on their way out the door.

It is important to point out that should these nominees be confirmed, Democrats will hold a 2-to-1 majority over the Commission and its decisions, which is something that would only further constrain the next administration's commitment to dramatic and needed change.

I look forward to considering nominees to the Commission in January once President-elect Trump has had the opportunity to decide on his own nominees to serve in these roles.

For these reasons, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. KAYNE. Madam President, let me just say I do not believe it is President-elect Trump who is being hamstrung by stopping these nominations; it is workers and employers. Unless the President-elect has a current claim pending before the Committee, he is not being hamstrung by creating a quorum. The absence of a quorum is hurting American workers, and I regret that my colleague objects.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Texas.

DEFENSE PRIORITIES

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, under the misguided leadership of the Biden administration, our credibility—America's credibility—on the world stage has crumbled. Simply put, our friends no longer trust us, and our enemies no longer fear us.

The Biden administration's disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan signaled to our adversaries and our allies alike that the United States could not be trusted.

With deterrence a mere memory, this gave the green light to Vladimir Putin to continue his ambitions in Ukraine and launch a full-scale invasion after invading Crimea in 2014.

This administration took it a step further, though, unfreezing billions of dollars in Iranian assets and allowing Tehran to pour even more money behind the Houthis, Hezbollah, Hamas, and Shia militias, its terrorist proxies operating throughout the Middle East. Of course, the administration did this with full knowledge of Iran's nuclear ambitions. But they didn't stop there. By removing the designation of the Iranian-backed Houthis as a terrorist group—a decision which the President later only partially reversed—President Biden practically invited them to start attacking international commerce in the Red Sea.

The dominoes were set, and now we are seeing them fall. Iran and its proxies have been emboldened and launched the most deadly terrorist attack on the people of Israel on October 7. Then there is North Korea, which has sent more than 10,000 troops to Russia, and some intelligence estimates that they might be willing to provide up to 100,000 soldiers in the coming months as part of Russia's effort to capture Ukraine.

Then, in the South China Sea, in another part of the world, the People's Republic of China—dominated and run by the Chinese Communist Party—continues to assert excessive and illegal maritime boundary claims, at times using force against our treaty ally, the Philippines, when they have attempted to resupply their ship, the *Sierra Madre*, near the Second Thomas Shoal.

So perhaps it should be no surprise to anyone, given the absence of effective American leadership, that President Xi, the President of China, has ordered the Chinese military, the People's Liberation Army, to be ready and capable to take Taiwan by force in 2027, 2 years from now.

If China's aggression in the Indo-Pacific goes unchecked, President Xi and the Chinese Communist Party will continue to threaten, intimidate, and ultimately invade China's neighbors. The CCP, Chinese Communist Party, will likely escalate its economic war against the United States by blackballing us from the biggest market in the world and starving our country of

critical supplies, including critical minerals.

It is no secret that China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea are now working in concert to undermine the United States and our allies. It is no exaggeration to say we are perhaps at the most dangerous environment, geopolitically, since World War II.

And we know from history that the beginning of wars becomes only clear in retrospect. We know that from the runup to World War II. This is a dangerous period and environment. So the United States must reestablish deterrence and must show the world that we are serious about confronting these threats and the reality head-on.

And while I admit this paints a rather grim picture, I am confident that the United States is headed toward a new chapter of "peace through strength," as Ronald Reagan said, this time with President Trump as our Commander in Chief.

I am glad to see President Trump has selected military veteran Pete Hegseth as the next Defense Secretary, Representative MIKE WALTZ as the National Security Advisor, and our friend and colleague Senator MARCO RUBIO as Secretary of State. And I am proud that my fellow Texan and my former colleague in Congress John Ratcliffe has been selected to direct the Central Intelligence Agency.

I am looking forward to working with these terrific individuals to reverse the disastrous policies of the Biden administration, but we all have our work cut out for us. But I am confident that, in these individuals, President Trump picked the right people for the job.

The first and most significant task at hand will be shoring up our Armed Forces, specifically the U.S. Navy. A revitalization of the Navy will be critical to deterring Chinese aggression in the Indo-Pacific as well as keeping AUKUS—our partnership with Australia and the UK—alive and well.

In order to pose a credible threat to the CCP, in order to maintain deterrence—which is our ultimate goal—we need to adequately resource the Navy as well. This starts with our shipbuilding capabilities. Secretary-designate Hegseth should waste no time in working with Congress on a shipbuilding plan.

We also stand ready to work with the Trump administration on a plan to revitalize our aging shipyards, which are struggling to attract and retain necessary talent. The Pentagon can streamline its specifications for building maritime assets, ensuring that they are linked to warfighting requirements.

Another priority must be improving military recruitment. I am pleased to see Secretary-designate Hegseth's commitment to ending the politicalization of our military. Given the Biden administration's needless focus on what divides us instead of what unites us, it is really no surprise that the number of

Americans voluntarily joining our military is at an alltime low. Reducing the diversity, equity, and inclusion bureaucracy will have the benefit of freeing up resources necessary to aid recruitment and rebuilding. By ending these culture wars and reorienting the Pentagon toward a commitment to excellence as a top priority, we will be better positioned to recruit a talented military ready to deter aggression anywhere around the world.

And the Pentagon must come to terms with our depleted arsenal of critical munitions. This includes replenishing our stock of long-range anti-ship missiles, joint air-to-surface standoff missiles, and the advanced medium-range air-to-air missiles.

Secretary-designate Hegseth can do this cost effectively by returning to policies that the Pentagon has disregarded in recent years. Mandatory fixed-price commercial contracts promote cost savings for the taxpayer. Contrast this with the Department of Defense's current model of cost-plus contracting, which has stifled innovation and allowed private sector contractors to outsource R&D costs to the taxpayer.

So we have a lot of work to do as a Congress and as a nation to bolster our commitment to our allies and shore up deterrence against our adversaries. But by reversing the damage done over the last 4 years by the Biden-Harris administration, we will be well on our way to a world where America's friends trust us once again and our enemies fear us once again.

I look forward to working with Secretary-designate Hegseth, Secretary-designate RUBIO, and President Trump to move this country in a better direction. I am confident that working together with that goal in mind we can work toward a safer and more peaceful world.

I yield the floor.

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** The Senator from Illinois.

DREAM ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I rise today to discuss an issue I have been working on for 23 years, the plight of America's Dreamers. I first introduced the DREAM Act more than two decades ago with Republican Senator Orrin Hatch, who was then the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

This bipartisan bill would provide a pathway to citizenship for young immigrants who were brought to the United States as children and allow them to remain in this country, the only home many of them had ever known.

Dreamers grew up alongside our kids, with the same hopes and dreams of getting their first job, their driver's license, even going to college. Many have gone on to serve our Nation as doctors, nurses, teachers, engineers, and first responders. Some have shown their loyalty to this country by serving in the Armed Forces.

Yet without congressional action, Dreamers spend every day in fear of

their lives being uprooted by the threat of deportation. Twelve years ago, in response to a bipartisan request from myself and Senator Richard Lugar, President Obama established the DACA Program.

DACA has protected more than 830,000 young people from deportation, all of whom were brought to this country as children, some as young as a few months old.

Now, I realize for many of us the outcome of this month's elections was not what we wanted, fought for, or voted for. However, my priority of providing a safe pathway to citizenship for Dreamers has not changed because of the election. No matter who sits in the Oval Office, I will work with the President in good faith to help provide these young adults a chance, finally, at the American dream.

I would like to share the story of a talented Dreamer. He is willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for this country. He is the 146th story of Dreamers that I have highlighted on the Senate floor. His name is Chieh Wi Chen, brought to the United States from Taiwan when he was 11 years old, grew up in New York City, and believed in the importance of community and country. He eagerly registered for Junior ROTC in high school, enlisted in the Army in 2016, and earned his associate's degree in criminal justice from Queensborough Community College.

He was on Active Duty for 4 years, stationed at Fort Jackson, which was then known as Fort Lee, before being deployed to countries including Saudi Arabia and South Korea.

While he was deployed in South Korea, Chieh was able to take his oath of allegiance to the United States and become a citizen. Today, as an Army veteran, he is a proud owner of his own tea shop, creating jobs for others and supporting the local economy.

DACA opened a path for Chieh that allowed him to pursue the American dream. DACA was always intended as a temporary stopgap until Congress finally got around to fixing this broken immigration system in America. In Chieh's case, DACA was the stepping stone he needed to finally serve our Nation and reach his full potential.

Yet, since President Obama established the program, Republicans have waged a relentless campaign to overturn DACA and deport these Dreamers back to countries they never remember. Now this program is hanging by a thread in the courts due to legal challenges from Republican State attorneys general, and DACA recipients are forced to live with uncertainty every day.

Last September, a Federal judge in Texas declared the DACA Program illegal. Though the decision left in place protections for current DACA recipients while it is on appeal, Dreamers live in constant fear that the next court decision will upend their lives. The litigation has also prevented at least 100,000 additional Dreamers from registering for the program.

Madam President, our military is facing the most serious recruitment challenge in modern time. Only a quarter of Americans meet recruitment standards that would qualify them to serve in the military without receiving a waiver.

We have seen time and again that DACA holders and Dreamers are ready and willing to serve America, to risk their lives for this country. But despite the success of veterans like Chieh, DACA holders can no longer enlist in the military, even though they went to school in the United States, pledged allegiance to our flag for decades, and know no other country.

During his first term, then-President Trump tried to shut down the DACA Program, but his effort was blocked by the Supreme Court.

On a personal note, the first time I ever met Donald Trump was just minutes after he had been sworn in as President of the United States for his first term. I had a chance at a luncheon to walk up and shake his hand and congratulate him and to ask a question. My question to him was: What are you going to do about the Dreamers? What about these kids who are here in the United States, brought here as children who want to be part of our future—what will you do about them, Mr. President?

He said: Don't worry. We'll take care of those kids.

Sadly, in the 4 years of the first term of President Trump, that didn't happen. The opposite did. Many efforts were made by his Department of Justice and other Agencies to stop the DACA Program and to stop any effort to create a Dreamers Program. That is a sad reality.

I urge my colleagues to meet with these Dreamers personally. That is all I ask. Whether you support DACA or support the Dream Act, meet with them and hear their stories. Understand that decisions were made by their family which may have violated the law, but they were kids at the time those decisions were made. They have proven with their own personal lives and commitment that they truly want to be part of the future of America.

Are we better served because this man decided to enlist in the military and protect our country? Of course. His return to Taiwan would be at the expense of the safety and security of the United States.

Dreamers like Chieh have earned the right to put down roots, start their families, further their education, and continue to contribute to America. It is time for Congress to do something on a bipartisan basis and pass the Dream Act. It is not only the right thing to do; it is long overdue.

#### NOMINATION OF AMIR H. ALI

Madam President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Amir Ali to the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

Mr. Ali received his B.S.E. from the University of Waterloo and his J.D.,

magna cum laude, from Harvard Law School. He then served as a law clerk to Judge Raymond C. Fisher on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in Pasadena and Justice Marshall Rothstein on the Supreme Court of Canada in Ottawa.

Following his clerkships, Mr. Ali joined Jenner & Block LLP as a litigation associate in the firm's Washington, DC, office, where he focused on complex civil litigation, regulatory litigation, and appeals. Since 2017, he has worked for the Roderick & Solange MacArthur Justice Center in Washington, DC, where he currently serves as president and executive director. His practice at the firm has included civil and criminal litigation at all levels of Federal and State judiciaries, as well as work before Federal administrative Agencies. Notably, Mr. Ali has served as the lead counsel on merits briefing in four U.S. Supreme Court cases, and he has argued three of them.

In addition to his legal practice, Mr. Ali has directed Harvard Law School's Criminal Justice Appellate Clinic since 2019. He has also taught at the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law, Harvard Law School, and Georgetown University Law Center. His nomination has received support from groups and individuals from across a wide range of ideologies and backgrounds, and the American Bar Association rated him as "well qualified" to serve on the district court.

Mr. Ali's significant litigation experience in private practice and at a non-profit law firm makes him an outstanding nominee—and ensures that he will be a valuable addition to the district court. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting his nomination.

Madam President, I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. 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. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the rollcall vote begin immediately.

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

#### VOTE ON ALI NOMINATION

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. Braun).

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 291 Ex.]

YEAS—50

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

NAYS—49

Barrasso	Grassley	Risch
Blackburn	Hagerty	Romney
Boozman	Hawley	Rounds
Britt	Hoeven	Rubio
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Collins	Lankford	Sinema
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cramer	Lummis	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Tillis
Cruz	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	Moran	Vance
Ernst	Mullin	Wicker
Fischer	Murkowski	Young
Graham	Paul	
	Ricketts	

NOT VOTING—1

Braun

The nomination was confirmed.

(Ms. BALDWIN assumed the Chair.)

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.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

The Senator from Vermont.

MOTION TO DISCHARGE—S.J. RES. 111

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, pursuant to section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act, I move to discharge the Committee on Foreign Relations from further consideration of S.J. Res. 111, relating to the disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to the Government of Israel of certain defense articles and services.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to discharge from the Committee on Foreign Relations, S.J. Res. 111, providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to the Government of Israel of certain defense articles and services.

Mr. SANDERS. I would ask unanimous consent to dispense with further reading of the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 2

hours of debate equally divided between proponents and opponents.

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, thank you very much, and let me thank the leadership for their cooperation in setting up this debate.

Today, we will be voting on three joint resolutions of disapproval, or JRDs, to block the sale of certain offensive weapons to Israel. These resolutions are S.J. Res. 111, to block the sale of 120-millimeter tank rounds; S.J. Res. 113, to block the sale of 120-millimeter high-explosive mortar rounds; and S.J. Res. 115, to block the sale of JDMs, the guidance kits attached to many of the bombs dropped in Gaza.

I would note to my colleagues that these resolutions are strongly supported by more than 100 civil society groups, including pro-Israel groups, like J Street; some of the largest labor unions in this country, including the SEIU, the United Auto Workers, and the United Electrical Workers; humanitarian groups, like Amnesty International and Doctors of the World; and religious groups, like the United Methodist Church and the Friends Committee; and many, many other organizations.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the list of these supporting organizations.

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

S.J. RES. 111, S.J. RES. 113, AND S.J. RES. 115  
ARE SUPPORTED BY MORE THAN 118 CIVIL  
SOCIETY GROUPS.

That includes labor unions like the SEIU, the United Auto Workers and the United Electrical Workers; pro-Israel groups like J Street; humanitarian organizations like Amnesty International, ActionAid USA and Doctors of the World; and religious groups like the United Methodist Church, the Friends Committee on National Legislation, and Engage Action.

FULL LIST OF ENDORSING ORGANIZATIONS

1. Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
2. United Auto Workers (UAW)
3. United Electrical Workers (UE)
4. J Street
5. About Face: Veterans Against the War
6. Action Corps
7. ActionAid USA
8. American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)
9. Americans for Justice in Palestine Action (AJP Action)
10. Amnesty International USA
11. Arab American Institute
12. Association of US Catholic Priests
13. Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC)
14. Center for Economic and Policy Research
15. Center for International Policy
16. Center for Jewish Nonviolence
17. CommonDefense.us
18. DAWN
19. Doctors of the World
20. Engage Action
21. Friends Committee on National Legislation
22. Human Rights Watch
23. IfNotNow Movement
24. Indivisible
25. Just Foreign Policy
26. Justice Democrats

27. MADRE
28. Oxfam America
29. Oxfam America Action Fund
30. Peace Action
31. People's Action
32. Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft
33. Refugees International
34. ReThinking Foreign Policy
35. The Episcopal Church
36. The Tahrir Institute for Middle East Policy (TIMEP)
37. The United Church of Christ
38. The United Methodist Church—General Board of Church and Society
39. The United Methodist Church—General Board of Church and Society
40. Uncommitted National Movement
41. United We Dream
42. US Campaign for Palestinian Rights Action (USCPR Action)
43. Win Without War
44. Working Families Party
45. Doctors Against Genocide
46. 18 Million Rising
47. Al-Haq, Law in the Service of Mankind
48. American Baptist Churches USA
49. American Friends Service Committee
50. Arab Resource & Organizing Center Action (AROC Action)
51. Arms Control Association
52. Avaaz
53. Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies
54. Center for Constitutional Rights
55. Center for Victims of Torture
56. Center National Council of Churches
57. Charity & Security Network
58. Children Not Numbers
59. Church of the Brethren, Office of Peacebuilding and Policy
60. Civic Shout, Community Peacemaker Teams (CPT)
61. CODEPINK
62. Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes
63. Control Arms
64. Defending Rights & Dissent
65. Demand Progress
66. Democracy for America Advocacy Fund
67. Democratic Socialists of America
68. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)
69. Extend
70. Faith Strategies
71. Franciscan Action Network
72. Freedom Forward
73. Friends of Sabeel North America (FOSNA)
74. Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ
75. Hindus for Human Rights
76. Institute for Policy Studies, New Internationalism Project
77. Israel/Palestine Mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
78. Jewish Voice for Peace Action
79. Law For Palestine
80. Leadership Team of the Felician Sisters of North America
81. Legacies of War
82. Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
83. Medglobal
84. Medical Mission Sisters, Justice Office
85. MENA Rights Group
86. Mennonite Central Committee U.S.
87. Middle East Children's Alliance
88. Middle East Democracy Center (MEDC)
89. Migrant Roots Media
90. MPower Change Action Fund
91. Muslim Peace Fellowship
92. National Council of Churches
93. National Iranian American Council Action
94. Nonviolence International
95. Nonviolent Peaceforce
96. Our Revolution
97. Pax Christi USA

- 98. Peace Direct
- 99. Presbyterian Church (USA)
- 100. Progressive Democrats of America (PDA)
- 101. Quixote Center
- 102. RootsAction.org
- 103. Saferworld (US)
- 104. Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross
- 105. Society of Helpers
- 106. The Borgen Project
- 107. The Human Dignity Project (THDP)
- 108. The Religious Nationalisms Project
- 109. Transnational Institute
- 110. United Church of Christ Palestine Israel Network
- 111. United Methodists for Kairos Response (UMKR)
- 112. Washington Report on Middle East Affairs
- 113. Women for Weapons Trade Transparency
- 114. Women's March
- 115. Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics, and Ritual (WATER)
- 116. World BEYOND War
- 117. Yemen Relief and Reconstruction Foundation
- 118. Yemeni Alliance Committee

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I would also point out that poll after poll shows that a strong majority of the American people oppose sending more weapons and military aid to fund Netanyahu's war machine. I would also mention, interestingly enough, that according to a poll commissioned by J Street—this is a pro-Israel organization—62 percent of Jewish Americans support withholding weapon shipments to Israel until Netanyahu agrees to an immediate cease-fire.

These resolutions are aimed at offensive weapons that have been used to devastating effect against civilians in Gaza and Lebanon. They would not affect any of the systems Israel uses to defend itself from incoming attacks.

From a legal perspective, these resolutions are simple, straightforward, and not complicated. Bottom line: the U.S. Government must obey the law—not a very radical idea—but unfortunately that is not the case now.

Every Member of the Senate who believes in the rule of law, that our government should obey the law, should vote for these resolutions.

The Foreign Assistance Act and the Arms Export Control Act are very clear. The United States cannot provide weapons to countries that violate internationally recognized human rights or block U.S. humanitarian aid.

Let me repeat that because that is the essence of this entire debate. Not complicated. The U.S. Government cannot provide weapons to countries that violate internationally recognized human rights or block U.S. humanitarian aid. That is not my opinion; that is what the law says.

According to the United Nations, according to much of the international community, according to virtually every humanitarian organization on the ground in Gaza, Israel is clearly in violation of these laws.

Under these circumstances, it is illegal for the U.S. Government to provide Israel with more offensive weapons. These joint resolutions of disapproval

are Congress's tool to enforce the law, and that is exactly what we must do.

It has been more than 13 months since the October 7 Hamas terrorist attack on Israel, an attack which killed 1,200 innocent people and took 250 hostages, including Americans.

As I have said many, many times, Israel had the absolute right to respond to that horrific Hamas attack, as any other country would. I don't think anybody here in the U.S. Senate disagrees with that. But Prime Minister Netanyahu's extremist government has not simply waged war against Hamas; it has waged an all-out war against the Palestinian people.

Within Gaza's population of just 2.2 million people—and I want people to conceptualize that that is about the size of New Mexico, 2.2 million people—more than 43,000 Palestinians have been killed and more than 103,000 injured, a population of about the size of New Mexico. And 60 percent of those who have been killed and injured are women, children, or elderly people.

According to satellite imagery, two-thirds of all structures in Gaza have been damaged or destroyed—two-thirds of all structures. Think about that. Two-thirds of all structures have been damaged or destroyed. That includes 87 percent of the housing, 84 percent of health facilities—84 percent of health facilities—and 70 percent of sanitation plants. Right now, there is raw sewage running through the streets of Gaza, and it is very difficult for the people there to obtain clean drinking water.

Every one of Gaza's 12 universities has been bombed. They have got 12 universities; every single one of them has been bombed, as have many hundreds of schools. For 13 months, there has been no electricity in Gaza.

During the last year, millions of desperately poor people in Gaza have been repeatedly driven from their homes and forced to evacuate time and time again with nothing more than the clothes on their backs. So let's imagine millions of people driven from their homes, told to go here, told to go there, and going from one place to another. Families in Gaza have been herded into so-called safe zones, only to face continued bombardment. They are told to go to this area, and the bombs start falling, and the children start dying.

The children of Gaza have suffered a level of physical and emotional abuse that is almost beyond comprehension, abuse that will stay with them for the rest of their lives. These children today—as we speak, right now—are hungry, they are thirsty, they cannot access healthcare. And all around them, they have witnessed death and destruction. That is what the children of Gaza have experienced, and Gaza is a very young population.

And as horrific as that situation is, what has happened over the last year, what is taking place today, right now, this moment as we discuss this issue, it is even worse, if that is imaginable. As a result of Israel blocking desperately

needed humanitarian aid, the volume of aid getting into Gaza in recent weeks is lower than at any point since the war began. More aid is needed; less aid is getting through. The result? Many thousands of children are facing malnutrition and starvation. Let me repeat that: Many thousands of children today are facing malnutrition and starvation. This is not my observation; this is what the leaders of the 19 most important humanitarian organizations on the ground in Gaza, including the American head of UNICEF, Cathy Russell, and the American head of the World Food Programme, Cindy McCain, wife of our former colleague John McCain—that is what they say, according to their recent report:

The situation unfolding in North Gaza is apocalyptic . . . Basic, life-saving goods are not available. Humanitarians are not safe to do their work and are blocked by Israeli forces and by insecurity from reaching people in need.

And they continue:

[As a result,] the entire [Palestinian] population in North Gaza is at imminent risk of dying from disease, famine, and violence.

These are the 19 major humanitarian organizations operating in Gaza right now, including several of the major ones led by Americans. And Israel's recent decision to ban UNWRA, the backbone of the humanitarian response in Gaza, will only make a horrific situation even worse.

Madam President, I have met with doctors who have served in Gaza treating hundreds of patients a day without electricity, without anesthesia, without clean water, including dozens of children arriving with gunshot wounds in the head. I have seen the photographs and the videos. And we have some of them here. I have seen—I have heard from UNICEF who estimates that 10 children lose a leg in Gaza every single day. There are now more than 17,000 orphans in Gaza.

Let me quote from a New York Times opinion piece of October 9, 2024—a little more than a month ago—where American doctors and nurses in Gaza—these are Americans working in Gaza—describe what they saw on the ground.

Merril Tydings is a nurse from New Mexico, and she said, "These people were starving." She is talking about healthcare workers, her colleagues.

These people were starving. I learned very quickly to not drink my water or eat the food I had brought in front of the health care workers because they had gone so many days without.

Without food. Without water.

Dr. Ndal Farah from Ohio said:

Malnutrition was widespread. It was common to see patients reminiscent of Nazi concentration camps with skeletal features.

Abeerah Muhammad, a nurse from Dallas, TX, said:

Everyone we met showed us pictures of themselves before October. They had all lost 20 to 60 pounds of weight. Most patients and staff looked emaciated and dehydrated.

Dr. Nahreen Ahmed from Philadelphia said:

Every patient I treated had evidence of malnutrition. For example, poor wound healing and rapidly developing infections.

Dr. Aman Odeh from Texas said:

Mothers on the maternity ward delivered prematurely because of malnutrition, stress and infection. Milk production was poor due to lack of hydration and adequate food supply.

Dr. Mike Mallah from Charleston said:

All of my patients were suffering from malnutrition, 100 percent.

What is important to understand—and I am not sure that many of my colleagues do—is that the Israel of today that we are dealing with is not the Israel of Golda Meir or Yitzhak Rabin. This is a government now controlled not only by rightwing extremists but by religious zealots. National Security Minister Ben-Gvir, who oversees the police, has been convicted in Israeli courts on terrorism charges. He is the head of the police. Finance Minister Smotrich, in charge of the occupied West Bank, is also an extreme racist and has called for the expulsion of Palestinians from the land. That is the current Israeli Finance Minister.

In January, Prime Minister Netanyahu said of Gaza: We provide minimal humanitarian aid if we want to achieve our war goals.

At the start of the war, the Israeli Defense Minister said—and I hope people hear this. The Israeli defense minister—ex-minister:

We are fighting human animals and we act accordingly . . . there will be no electricity, no food . . . no fuel. Everything [is] closed.

Former Israeli Defense Minister. That is what he said and, in fact, by and large, that is exactly how this war has been waged.

What this extremist government has done in Gaza is unspeakable, but what makes it even more painful is that much of this has been done with U.S. weapons and American taxpayer dollars. In the last year alone, the United States has provided \$18 billion in military aid to Israel—\$18 billion dollars. And, by the way, a few blocks from here, people are sleeping out on the street. And we have also delivered more than 50,000 tons of military equipment to Israel—50,000 tons.

In other words, the United States of America is complicit in all of these atrocities. We are funding these atrocities. That complicity must end, and that is what these resolutions are about. It is time to tell the Netanyahu government that they cannot use U.S. taxpayer dollars and American weapons in violation of United States and international law and our moral values.

Despite receiving 18 billion from U.S. taxpayers in the last year and being the largest historical recipient of U.S. foreign aid, the Netanyahu government has completely ignored—completely ignored—the repeated requests of President Biden and the U.S. Government.

It is time to make clear to Netanyahu that he cannot take Amer-

ican money, take American arms, and continue to blind U.S. foreign policy goals.

The U.S. Government wants a ceasefire for a hostage deal. Netanyahu has prevented a deal to preserve his coalition.

The U.S. Government wants more humanitarian aid to reach the desperate people in Gaza. Netanyahu is blocking that aid.

The U.S. Government wants to contain regional escalation. Netanyahu has refused diplomatic off-ramps and launched several reckless attacks without consulting the United States.

The U.S. Government wants to stop settlement expansion and settle the violence in the West Bank. Netanyahu and his Ministers have driven record settlement expansion and armed extremists settlers.

The U.S. Government wants a plan for postwar governance in Gaza. Netanyahu will not engage.

And by the way, blocking these sales would also be in keeping with actions taken by some of our closest allies. The United Kingdom suspended 30 arms export licenses after concluding there was an acceptable risk they could be used in violation of international law. Germany, Italy, Spain, Canada, Belgium, and the Netherlands have taken similar steps. U.N. bodies have called for an end to the armed shipments fueling the conflict.

Time and time again, I have heard Members of the U.S. Senate come to this floor to denounce human rights violations taking place around the world. I have heard well-founded concerns about China's brutal reception of the Uighur ethnic minority. I have heard rightful outrage about Putin's brutal attacks against Ukraine and bombing of civilian installations. I have heard genuine concern about Iran's outrageous crackdown on peaceful protestors. I have heard repeated condemnations of Saudi Arabia's terrible treatment of women and political dissidents.

And on and on it goes. A lot of folks come to the floor to talk about human rights and what is going on throughout the world. But what I want to say to all those folks: Nobody is going to take anything you say with a grain of seriousness. You cannot condemn human rights around the world and then turn a blind eye to what the U.S. Government is now funding in Israel. People will laugh in your face. They will say to you: Are you concerned about China? Are you concerned about Russia? Are you concerned about Iran? Well, why are you funding the starvation of children in Gaza right now?

We must pass these resolutions from a legal perspective. The U.S. Government must obey the law. We must pass these resolutions from a moral perspective. The United States must not provide support to a government which has created one of the worst humanitarian disasters in modern history.

We must pass these resolutions for our own best foreign policy interests. If

we do not demand that the countries we provide military assistance to obey international law, we will lose our credibility on the world stage.

With that, I would like to yield to Senator MERKLEY of Oregon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, in 1978, between my junior and senior years in college, I hitchhiked through Israel and the West Bank. I made Israeli friends. I was invited to stay at a kibbutz. I explored the old city of Jerusalem. I negotiated the ancient tunnel built by King Hezekiah in the face of advancing armies. I climbed a snake path to the top of Masada. I swam in the Sea of Galilee and the Red Sea and the Dead Sea and the Mediterranean Sea.

I was so impressed by the energy for building a new nation, for planting forests, for making the desert bloom with new irrigation systems, constructing cities and roads.

And, in addition, peace was on the horizon. Nine months before my visit in November 1977, Anwar Sadat had visited Jerusalem to address the Knesset and pursue a path to peace.

And then, just weeks after I left, he was shaking hands with Menachem Begin and Jimmy Carter at Camp David, and a peace treaty was signed the following year in March.

I was all in on America standing in partnership with this new nation perched on a little sliver of land surrounded by hostile neighbors. And I voted here in the Senate time and again for economic support for Israel, for military support for Israel.

I have believed in the vision that it was the right way to help Israel thrive, the best path to peace and security. As many of us reasoned, if Israel's economy was thriving and their military strength ensured their security, they could, with confidence, negotiate a secure and peaceful future with their neighbors. They could, with confidence, negotiate parameters for a Palestinian State so the Palestinians could thrive as well.

Not so long ago, just over a decade, I traveled to Israel with former Senator Mark Begich of Alaska and Kay Hagan of North Carolina, and we met around a little table with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. And at that time, now 12 years ago, he expounded eloquently on his thesis that the only path for Israel's peace and prosperity was two states for two people.

In the dozen years since, much has changed. Prime Minister Netanyahu has become a public and vocal opponent of a Palestinian State. Israel has engaged in a de facto annexation of the West Bank, land essential for a Palestinian State. They have done this through settlements. They have done this through legalizing outposts. They have created innumerable checkpoints. They have created settler-only roads.

In addition, Netanyahu has formed his government now with Bezalel

Smotrich, as Minister of Finance, someone who has said the Palestinian people do not exist and called for a Palestinian town to be erased; Itamar Ben-Gvir, Minister of National Security, celebrated Baruch Goldstein's slaughter of 29 Palestinians at the Cave of Patriarchs massacre in 1994.

Today, the policies of the Netanyahu government are very different than the policies 12 years before. Under this government, attacks by Israel's West Bank settlers against Palestinian villages have become more frequent, violent, and often condoned by the Israeli Defense Forces.

Events on October 7, a year ago, took a terrible turn. Hamas terrorists attacked Israeli communities. They slaughtered 1,200 Israeli men, women, and children. They abducted 240 hostages, and the whole world was with Israel. We recalled 9/11. We grieved with Israel. We grieved with the Jewish communities in our home State. And we defended Israel's right to respond with a campaign targeted at destroying Hamas.

But I am here on the floor today because the way a war is conducted matters. And Israel's bombing campaign, described by President Biden as indiscriminate, has reduced Gaza to rubble and ruin. This destroyed most of the infrastructure needed for survival: schools, hospitals, homes, the power system, the communications phone system, the internet system, the water system, the transportation system.

Most significantly, the bombing campaign has killed tens of thousands of women, children, and seniors. It has seriously injured more than 100,000 Palestinians living in Gaza.

And Israel has chosen to restrict humanitarian aid. The consequences of that are that food and clean water are woefully short; medical supplies are minimal; and the specter of starvation haunts Gaza. The indiscriminate bombing and the obstruction of humanitarian aid violate the laws of war.

Now, President Biden and his team have consistently pressed the Netanyahu government to change tracks. They recognize that it is difficult in the setting in Gaza where Hamas imbeds itself but even so have argued to Israel that the campaign against Hamas could be much more targeted with far fewer civilian casualties. But the Netanyahu government has rejected this appeal. And Biden and his team have pushed to open the gates to Gaza, have Israel open the gates to Gaza, and to massively increase humanitarian aid. And, again, the Netanyahu government has rejected this appeal.

In mid-October, just last month, Secretary of State Blinken and Secretary of Defense Austin renewed their appeal. They warned the Netanyahu government that they must increase the amount of humanitarian aid within 30 days to comply with U.S. law. And they wrote in that letter that the amount of assistance entering Gaza in September

was the lowest of any month in the last year.

They laid out in this letter a whole series of horrific conditions that need to be addressed, just as they had argued for the same for the previous year. The result of that has simply been minimal to no action.

In November, a major evaluation was summarized in a letter by the principals of the Inner Agencies Standing Committee. These are groups like the High Commissioner for Human Rights and Oxfam and UNICEF and the World Food Programme, headed by Cindy McCain, and the World Health Organization.

These leaders who have folks on the ground, who have lots of experts evaluating the situation, they recognize this. They summarized that the situation unfolding in North Gaza is apocalyptic. And they go on to talk about the schools serving as shelters having been bombed, about rescue teams being deliberately attacked, and more.

As I described at the start of my remarks, I have, since my first trip to Israel in 1978, been all in on the special partnership between the United States and Israel, on economic support, on security support, in the belief that our partnership would maximize Israel's confidence in pursuing peace and security. But the actions of the last decade have shattered that analysis.

The Netanyahu government is systematically undermining the possibility of a Palestinian State through its settlement checkpoints, its outposts, its settler-only highways. It is conducting its war campaign in Gaza in a fashion that is producing massive civilian deaths and injuries, conditions that aid organizations consistently described as the worst they have seen anywhere in the world.

I believe that not only is this horrific for the Palestinians, but this is absolutely not in the best interest of Israel's future. The actions of the Netanyahu government are burning through a massive reservoir of good will that was overflowing after October 7. It is undoing the improved relationship with Arab neighbors won through the Abraham Accords.

It is damaging because of our connection to Israel through military arms, our advocacy and legitimacy campaigning for human rights around the world.

So I ask you, what do you do when a good friend, a partner, heads off on a disastrous course?

President Biden and his team responded by providing proposals and encouragement to get back on course, but those were rejected. So now we must weigh in here in this Chamber. And many in this Chamber may say: Let's just continue the past; let's not see the horrific circumstances in Gaza; let's not observe the systematic takeover of the West Bank; let's ignore all that and continue with this very different right-wing government without ever raising an eyebrow.

I disagree. I think that true partners do not stand idly by when their partners go way off track in destructive ways and, thus, that we should not continue to provide the munitions that we are voting on today.

We cannot remain silent in the face of Netanyahu's strategy. We must not continue to provide offensive weapons that make the United States complicit in the deaths of tens of thousands of Palestinians and the injury of 100,000 more innocents. Thus, I will choose to honor American law and respect international law and support Israel's best, long-term interests to thrive by voting to block these three weapons transfers up for consideration today.

I was fabulously impressed by Israel when I hitchhiked around the country in 1978—impressed by their can-do spirit, impressed by the future of peace with Egypt and the possibility of peace with every neighbor. I look forward to seeing that vision of peace and security realized, and my vote today supports that vision.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Ms. ROSEN. Madam President, since Hamas launched the deadliest terrorist attack in Israel's history more than a year ago, Israel has consistently faced a barrage of threats from Iran and its terrorist proxies. Earlier this year, we all saw how Iran launched two separate missile and drone attacks directly at Israel, and, just this week, Israelis were wounded and killed after Hezbollah launched more rockets at northern Israel.

The resolutions we are debating today would not only hurt Israel's ability to defend itself against these attacks; they would embolden Iran—I will repeat—they will embolden Iran and its terrorist proxies to continue and even to increase their vicious and deadly attacks. In doing so, they could prolong this war even further at a time when we are close to securing a deal in Lebanon.

I know some on my side of the aisle are going to support these resolutions because they disagree with the current Israeli Government, but your decision whether or not to help Israel defend itself is not and cannot be a political one. Government leaders and politicians, well, come and go, but our commitment to Israel's security must be ironclad, and restricting much needed arms to Israel because you don't agree with everything the current government is doing will leave our ally vulnerable to future terror.

I will repeat. Governments and leaders come and go. Will our support for our ally remain?

Israel has an absolute right to defend itself, and the aid provided by America is critical. I know some of you who are planning to vote for these resolutions agree, but you may be worried about the need for these offensive weapons that the resolutions would block. So let me explain.

Israel cannot rely on missile defense alone to protect its citizens. It also

needs to have the ability to destroy enemy threats before they can be deployed and to respond to attacks that have already been launched. It is this strategy that Israel successfully executed in the last few months in Lebanon, where it preemptively destroyed Hezbollah rocket launchers minutes—just minutes, moments—before they were set to fire on Israel. And by providing Israel with these weapons, which are more precise and more accurate, we can actually help it defend itself while also minimizing civilian casualties.

I know many of you here are torn. You want to do the right thing, and I am here to tell you that voting against these resolutions is the right thing. Banning the sale of arms will hurt Israel. It will send the wrong message to Iran and its terrorist proxies that America is abandoning its ally and that the terrorists can now act with impunity.

Let me repeat. The message to terrorists will be, again, that they can continue to act with impunity. Terrorists like Hamas, Hezbollah, the Houthis, and others will continue to receive that message loud and clear, and I can promise you that they will plan accordingly.

So, if we are serious about preventing another atrocity like October 7, if we are serious about limiting civilian casualties, if we are serious about sending a message to terrorists around the globe, I urge all of you to vote no on all three resolutions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. RISCH. Madam President, I rise in opposition to the resolutions that we have before us.

For 76 years—and, by the way, I agree and associate myself with the remarks of my friend and colleague from Nevada and not so much with my colleagues from Vermont and Oregon, but I respect them individually. I am in opposition to these resolutions before us, and I want to speak for a few minutes as to why.

For 76 years, the United States has stood with the State of Israel, our strongest ally in the Middle East, but, today, Members of this body are sending a message that the United States' support for Israel is in question. It is not. This comes after a difficult year during which this administration has egregiously undermined Israel's ability to defend itself as it fights a several-front war against Iran and our common enemies. The administration has withheld weapons and ammunition. It has issued National Security Memorandum 20, which has held Israel to arbitrary standards and interfered in Israel's domestic politics—all in an effort to placate the far left of the Democratic Party during our own domestic elections.

Today, instead of acknowledging that American support for Israel is still strong, these resolutions seek to say that support for Israel has changed. It

has not. I know these resolutions will fail, and I hope the world will hear me when I say that the people of America support Israel—full stop—but I think it is important to remember how we got here.

This administration foolishly thought we could get along with Iran and beg the Iranians to talk. When the Iranians refused, the administration released billions of dollars in frozen assets in an effort to buy the Iranians off. Meanwhile, the administration reversed U.S. sanctions policies that had cut off the flow of money to the Iranians. The Iranian ghost fleet, which Tehran uses to evade sanctions, grew from under 80 ghost ships moving oil to now over 300 ships. Awash with money and knowing the administration would not challenge Iranian bad behavior, Iran knew it could start this war in Gaza without consequences.

Rather than focusing on Iran's behavior, these resolutions before us today are the predictable evolution of the administration's horrible and failed policies that seek to both appease the critics of Israel and isolate the Jewish State in the international community at a time of its greatest need. The departure from the regular process for moving arms sales and the administration's repeated threats to halt assistance to Israel invited these resolutions that are now before us. Withholding arms sales signals to the terrorists that American support for Israel is conditional and encourages Iran's proxies to extend the war in Gaza, further risking civilians and incentivizing Hezbollah to continue its attacks on Israel from the north.

We must stand with Israel as it confronts these threats. Voting in favor of these resolutions would have significant foreign policy implications far beyond the Middle East. U.S. allies across the globe will lose confidence in the United States as a dependable security partner. Partners straddling the fence between the United States on the one hand and China and Russia on the other are watching this and watching closely. They will certainly draw the conclusion that the United States is a fickle friend that cannot be relied upon to follow through on its commitments in the hour of their greatest need.

To make it worse, these resolutions highlight that, instead of confronting our adversaries and their bad actions, the United States will, instead, call on our friends to simply take it and to threaten them if they do not just take it.

The support for Israel has traditionally enjoyed broad, bipartisan support. I know that is true today. As such, I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote no on these resolutions and to deliver a strong voice of support for Israel.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. GRAHAM. Madam President, I want to show my support for what my

colleague just said, Senator RISCH, who made perfect sense. This is a consequential vote, and we all know how it is going to end, but let me tell you why it is consequential.

A lot of people are watching what we are doing here today, and they are trying to get a signal to understand, like, where we are all coming from. Let me tell you where I am coming from. I am coming from the idea that, if you want to end the war between Israel and the Palestinians, we need to replace Hamas with somebody who doesn't want to kill all the Jews.

Hamas attacked Israel on October 7, killing more Jews than at any time since the Holocaust. What were they up to in their pledge to destroy the Jewish State? They are religious Nazis. If you don't believe me, listen to what they have said. It was barbaric. They slaughtered entire families. They decapitated children. They raped women in front of their own families. And they filmed it to create hard hearts throughout the world and the region. The Nazis hid their crimes. Hamas filmed it so you could see it. Why?

October 7, in large part—not completely—was designed to stop efforts to have Saudi Arabia and Israel recognize each other and virtually end the Arab-Israeli conflict.

I have been to the region seven or eight times since October 7. I went with a group of five Republicans and five Democrats right after October 7 to deliver two messages. I went to Saudi Arabia, the biggest power in the Islamic world, and I went to Israel.

To our friends in Israel, I said: We will give you—at least from my view—the ability to make sure there is no second Holocaust. And the weapons we have provided to Israel have resulted in the destruction of Hamas.

There is no way forward for the Palestinians until you reform the P.A., which is run by a bunch of corrupt old guys, and make sure Hamas never comes back.

The most radicalized population on the planet are the young people in Gaza. From the time they are born to the time they die, they are taught to hate and kill the Jews. Look at their education system. How do we change that? Somebody other than Israel has to come in and take over Gaza and reform the West Bank and give the Palestinians a better life. It will not be the United States. We can't do that. It certainly isn't going to be Israel. Well, who would it be? It would be the Arab world.

The Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia has a vision for his country and the region that I buy into. We have had our problems in the past, for sure, but women can drive, which is a big thing, even though it doesn't sound like it. Women can go out to dinner without a male escort. It doesn't sound like a big thing, but it really is, and 38 percent of the people working in Saudi Arabia are young women. So he has a vision to change his country and to build on the Abraham Accords.

President Trump and his team were able to get six Arab nations to recognize Israel—the United Arab Emirates and others—which was a huge deal, and we have a chance to build on it.

So, for the last 2½ years, I have been going over to Saudi Arabia and Israel, working with the Biden administration, to try to build out the Abraham Accords. The big prize would be to have Saudi Arabia make peace with Israel, take over Gaza and the West Bank with other people in the region, and give the Palestinians a better life: rebuild Gaza; create an honest government to replace a corrupt government; give them sovereignty, self-government, the ability to live dignified lives; and to give Israel security.

October 7 was designed by Hamas to stop what was imminent. I am here to tell you that, on October 6, by the way, there were discussions about how to roll out the normalization deal. Then, along comes October 7. Ever since that day, we have been dealing with this horrible situation—the rape and torture and destruction of 1,200 Jewish people, the response by Israel that has resulted in thousands of people being killed—a lot of terrorists but a lot of children, a lot of innocent people.

There are a lot of photos being presented.

I ask unanimous consent to display two photos, if I may.

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

Mr. GRAHAM. This is a photo of Hiroshima—two photos, actually. This is what happens when you drop a nuclear weapon on people. It is not good.

Now, why did we do that? After Pearl Harbor, we and the civilized world went to war against the Nazis and Imperial Japan. Millions of people lost their lives, but it was the goal of the United States to defeat Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan, and we were able to do that.

Out of the ashes of that terrible, horrible war, we now have two democracies. Japan and Germany are good allies of the United States. They are productive members of the international community. It took a generation-plus to change the radicalization of the German population to the Nazis and the same in Imperial Japan.

What will happen is, if we can find normalization between Saudi Arabia and Israel, there will be hope for the Palestinians like I have not seen before. Those who want a two-state solution, we have to sit down and talk about how you do that after October 7. But I do believe that without resolving the Palestinian issue where the Palestinian people have a hopeful life versus a glorious death, we will never move forward.

I really do believe, after October 7, Israel needs security more than ever. What is the key? The Arabs. The Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, I think, hold the key to this. If we could create a political horizon over the arc of time for the Pal-

estinians that you will have self-governance, that you will be independent, and convince the Israelis that this new entity will not threaten you, that there could never be another Oct 7, then we are well on our way to a new region. This resolution today, no matter how sincere, undercuts all of this.

Israel has had to respond to an attack that was the most vicious since World War II against the Jewish people. I blame Hamas more than any other group for the loss of life in Gaza because they use their own people as human shields.

This commitment of the United States to give Israel what they need to win a war they can't afford to lose has to be uncompromising, but what is not uncompromising is the day after.

We are getting to the point now that, with the destruction of Hamas, we have to think about, how can we prevent them from coming back? Israel cannot occupy Gaza. The West Bank needs to be reformed, but it has to be done with the Arab world leading the charge.

So what I would like to do with President Biden before he leaves office is work with President Trump, the incoming President, and President Biden, the outgoing President, to see if we can find a solution. Can we lock down a normalization agreement between Saudi Arabia and Israel that protects Saudi Arabia, a defense agreement with the United States so they will be in our column and they will have an anecdote to Iranian aggression? Can we, as a part of that, create a political horizon for the Palestinians to have hope where there is despair? Yes, we can.

But now is not the time to send this signal. This signal will be seen by the enemies of Israel and the enemies of peace that if they just stick with it, they will win.

If you want peace, you have to destroy those who hate peace. This is not a Bibi problem; this is a problem where the Islamic terrorists—Hamas, Hezbollah, and Iran—want to kill all of the Jews, not just Bibi. Now, why do they want to do that? They are religious Nazis. I don't know why Hitler wanted to kill all the Jews, but he did.

So the Ayatollah has a couple of things in mind: the purification of Islam, which means that Sunni Islam will bend to his will—if you don't believe me, ask the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia. The other goal is to destroy the Jewish State and to drive us out of the Mideast.

The religious doctrine of the Shiites in charge compel them to kill all of the Jews. It is a commandment from God. Here is what I know: That is not what Islam teaches most Muslims, but they believe it. And when we ignored Hitler, we did so not only at our own peril but the peril of millions of people.

What have I learned from Israel? When someone threatens to kill you because you are of a particular race or religion, you should take that seriously.

So how do we end this conflict? We end this conflict with the complete decimation of Hamas, a plan for the day after that will replace Hamas in Gaza, reform the PA, try to get a cease-fire in Lebanon, and reduce the impact that Hezbollah has on the Lebanese people.

All of the Shiite, Iranian-backed militia have as their goal disruption, upheaval, and tyranny. They want to control the region and remake it in their own image. Look at what they are doing in Syria. Look at what they are doing in Yemen. Look at what they are doing in Lebanon.

We have a historic opportunity here to give Israel what they need to finish a war they can't afford to lose, come up with a day-after plan that would replace Hamas with a better life, try to get Lebanon in a better space, and build on the Abraham Accords. This effort by my colleagues undercuts all of that.

You have every right to say anything you want to say in this body, but I have been there a lot, and none of you have gone with me. Making peace is hard. We have not done this together. I have been with Senator VAN HOLLEN to Israel. I have been with Senator VAN HOLLEN before in the region. I think he wants to help the Palestinians, and I don't think he is anti-Semitic. I just think there is an opportunity here.

It is not about Bibi, folks; it is about a strain of Islam that will kill every Jew, including Bibi, and come after us unless they are defeated.

So my goal is not only to reject this idea but to work with President Biden and President Trump and their teams before the next President takes office, to have a day-after plan that will allow Israel to withdraw, and there will be no more October 7ths, and allow Gaza and the West Bank to be rebuilt with dignity and hope. That is my goal. This resolution undercuts my goal.

I would urge you to vote no.

I will be going back next week to Saudi Arabia, and I am going to keep working with the Biden administration and the incoming Trump administration to the last hour, to the last minute of the last day to find a solution.

I would end with this: If we fail to find a day-after plan that allows Israel to withdraw and be secure, and fail to deliver a political horizon for the Palestinians, God help us all. This will repeat itself. Iran will come back. Hezbollah and Hamas will reemerge.

We have a moment in time to change the region and change the world. I would ask all of us to see that moment in this resolution, this counter to what I am trying to achieve. So I would urge a “no” vote because peace and a dignified life for the Palestinians rests with a viable day-after plan.

What is the proper response to people who want to kill you and your family and destroy your way of life? I can tell you what the United States did. We went to war. We dropped two atomic

bombs to end a war we couldn't afford to lose.

What is the right response to those who want to kill all the Jews? Make sure they don't have the capability to do it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam President, I rise in support of the joint resolutions of disapproval that the Senate is considering today on the sales of certain offensive weapons to the Netanyahu government.

To be clear, I do not support an arms embargo on Israel, but I do believe that the United States should pause the delivery of offensive weapons until the Netanyahu government meets the requirements of U.S. law and policy with respect to the delivery of humanitarian assistance to civilians in Gaza and the use of American weapons there.

This is not about abandoning support for Israel; this is about making sure Americans' support for Israel complies with American laws and policies and values. We would not be on this floor considering these resolutions if that was happening today, and these votes will be the one opportunity that Members of the Senate have to send that message. I urge my colleagues to support them.

Following the Hamas attacks of October 7, I have, as probably every Senator has, supported Israel's right to defend itself—in fact, argued that they have a duty to defend themselves—and end Hamas's control of Gaza, and I am steadfast in that support to this moment. There must be no more October 7ths.

At the same time, U.S. taxpayer-funded assistance should not come in the form of a blank check, even to our closest allies. We need to ensure that U.S. interests, values, and priorities will be respected by foreign governments that receive U.S. assistance. That is why our security assistance to many countries includes various conditions to encourage progress on human rights.

In some cases, as in the case of Ukraine, we have limited the use of certain systems to align with U.S. national security interests. In other cases, including even some NATO allies, we have prevented the transfer of certain advance weapons systems when our policies goals do not align.

The one minimum standard that we must apply to all recipients of American security assistance is compliance with American laws, and it is compliance with that minimum standard that we are talking about here today—nothing more, nothing less. The Netanyahu government should not be exempt from that universal requirement of American law.

The United States has provided billions and billions of dollars of American taxpayer-financed bombs and other offensive weapons systems, but

we have seen Prime Minister Netanyahu repeatedly violate the terms of American security assistance, disregard U.S. priorities, and ignore our requests, only to be rewarded by more bombs and more money. That pattern undermines the credibility of the United States around the world and creates an unacceptable double standard that our adversaries are exploiting.

Two of the conditions that every recipient of U.S. security assistance must meet are, one, they must facilitate and not arbitrarily restrict the delivery of humanitarian assistance into war zones where those U.S. weapons are being used—war zones like Ukraine and war zones like Gaza—and, two, they must use American-supplied weapons in accordance with international humanitarian law, which was well developed after World War II and what Senator GRAHAM spoke to.

The Netanyahu government is violating both of these requirements in Gaza, and by refusing to take action, the President and the United States are complicit in those violations of American laws and American values.

Let's look at the unacceptable restrictions being placed by the Netanyahu government on the delivery of humanitarian aid to desperately needy civilians in Gaza right now. It has been well documented that there was some improvement in the delivery of humanitarian supplies in Gaza last April, around the time that the Biden administration had to submit the NSM-20 report to Congress, but since then, aid levels have been on a downhill slide and then a precipitous drop. The cumulative impact of severe restrictions on the delivery of humanitarian aid has worsened an already catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza. Senator SANDERS spoke to the conditions there.

In fact, that is why President Biden directly called on Prime Minister Netanyahu to increase aid to Gaza on many occasions—most recently in an early October call—and that is why, on October 13, Secretaries Austin and Blinken expressly reminded Israeli Government officials, in a letter that I have here, of their obligations under U.S. and international law. They specifically cited section 620I of the Foreign Assistance Act and National Security Memorandum 20 to facilitate and not arbitrarily restrict the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

Here is what our two Secretaries wrote in that letter:

We are particularly concerned that recent actions by the Israeli Government—including halting commercial imports, denying or impeding nearly 90% of humanitarian movements between northern and southern Gaza in September—

And then they go on to list a number of other things—are contributing to an accelerated deterioration in Gaza's conditions.

Then Secretaries Austin and Blinken laid out a series of key measures against which they said the United

States was going to measure the Netanyahu government's compliance. They mentioned enabling a minimum of 350 trucks per day to enter Gaza. They mentioned instituting adequate humanitarian pauses across Gaza to enable humanitarian activities. They mentioned reinstating a minimum of 50 to 100 commercial trucks per day. They had a long list of items.

So what do eight very respected international NGOs that conduct humanitarian relief in Gaza and monitor it have to say about whether those conditions were met? Well, they have compiled a scorecard. I have got it right here. And what they say on the specific items I mentioned was that the Netanyahu government failed. In fact, the overall report card concludes "Israel Fails to Comply With U.S. Humanitarian Access Demands in Gaza."

In fact, they determined that not only did the Netanyahu government fail "to meet the U.S. criteria that would indicate support to the humanitarian response, but concurrently took actions that dramatically worsened the situation on the ground, particularly in Northern Gaza."

They said that the situation is even more dire today than a month ago. In other words, because of those actions that were taken, the situation was worse than when Secretaries Austin and Blinken sent their letter.

Indeed, an independent Washington Post analysis found that "Israel has largely failed to comply with the three main demands of the U.S. letter."

In that November 12 Washington Post article, they also pointed out the following:

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has refused to publicly disavow the plan, which calls for the military to take control of the north by starving out the civilian population and treating everyone who remains as combatants.

The story goes on to say:

The Israeli Defense Force says it has been given no such orders and is focused on dismantling Hamas, but the ongoing military operation in the north appears to have much in common with the strategy.

It is called the "General's Plan."

A leading Israeli newspaper, Haaretz, editorialized with the following headline:

Netanyahu's Ethnic Cleansing in Gaza Is on Display for All to See.

That is a view that has also been echoed by many Israeli human rights organizations, and I commend them on all the work that they do every day.

And I find it extraordinary that so many of our colleagues come to this floor to talk about human rights abuses across the world. They cite Human Rights Watch. They cite Amnesty International. But when it comes to those organizations writing reports about human rights violations conducted by the Netanyahu government—oh, no—they run away from that.

So let's look at what others have said in terms of monitoring the situation right now in Gaza.

On November 1, the principals of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, the leaders of 15 U.N. and humanitarian organizations—including World Food Programme Executive Director Cindy McCain and UNICEF Director Catherine Russell, two American leaders of those organizations—said:

The situation unfolding in North Gaza is apocalyptic.

And they say:

The entire Palestinian population in North Gaza is at imminent risk of dying from disease, famine and violence.

Humanitarians are not safe to do their work and are blocked by Israeli forces and by insecurity from reaching people in need.

They say:

Rescue teams have been deliberately attacked and thwarted in their attempts to pull people buried under the rubble of their homes.

Yet we keep sending more bombs.

In that statement, the U.N. and humanitarian leaders also issued this call:

Member States must use their leverage to ensure respect for international law. That includes withholding arms transfers where there is a clear risk that such arms will be used in violation of international law.

So let's look at the use of American weapons. In its May 10 NSM-20 report to Congress, the Biden administration concluded:

[I]t is reasonable to assess that defense articles covered under NSM-20 have been used by Israeli security forces since October 7 in instances inconsistent with its [International Humanitarian Law] obligations or with established best practices for mitigating civilian harm.

And in that report—and I urge my colleagues to look at it—the administration identified a sampling of cases of civilian harm incidents where U.S. weapons were used. And they said there are some ongoing investigations and we are still waiting for answers from the Netanyahu government.

Well, just a few weeks ago, there was a report that we now have 500 cases of civilian harm where U.S. weapons were used under review.

And if you look at the most recent letter from Secretaries Blinken and Austin, you will see that they reference, at the bottom of their report, the following—and I want to read this because their letter says:

Lastly, it is crucial that our governments establish a new channel to raise and discuss incidents of civilian harm. Our previous engagements have not achieved the necessary outcomes. We request the initial virtual meeting for this channel to be held by the end of October.

This is more than a year into the war, and here you have the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State saying they are not getting enough information from the Netanyahu government to be able to make decisions about whether or not U.S. weapons have been used in violation of international humanitarian law. Yet, despite not getting that information, the administration has continued to send those taxpayer-financed offensive weapons.

And it is very clear that the Netanyahu government continues to conduct operations in Gaza in a way that results in large numbers of civilian casualties, and I think our colleagues know that the fact that Hamas violates international law and does despicable tactics by operating from amongst civilians does not absolve Israel or any other country involved in that kind of situation of the duty to avoid civilian harm and avoid the destruction of civilian infrastructure.

Since President Biden's recent call with Prime Minister Netanyahu last month, we have seen continued high rates of civilian deaths, and human rights organizations continue to document cases of weapons being used in violation of international humanitarian law.

Now, Madam President, that October 13 letter not only warned the Netanyahu government about unacceptable restrictions on humanitarian aid in Gaza and not only warned them about illegal use of American weapons; they also raised two other issues. One, they said that Israel is required by international law to allow the International Committee of the Red Cross access to Palestinian prisoners who were detained without any charges.

Yet, despite them sending the letter, no change there. And that means over 3,000 Palestinian prisoners who have been imprisoned without charge under administrative detention are not—the ICRC does not have access to them.

They also warned in their letter about pending legislation before the Knesset that would cripple UNRWA. And here is what Secretaries Austin and Blinken said. They warn that enactment “of such restrictions would devastate the Gaza humanitarian response at this critical moment and deny vital educational and social services to tens of thousands of Palestinians in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, which could have implications under relevant U.S. law and policy.”

Within days of the U.S. Government sending that letter, two bills were passed by the Knesset to ban UNRWA.

So what we see, Madam President, is a continuing pattern. President Biden makes certain demands that are routinely ignored without consequence. In fact, they are rewarded. And this is an ineffective use of American leverage to accomplish our policy goals and ensure that American law is abided by.

I want to just mention a couple others, and Senator SANDERS referenced them. But we know that Prime Minister Netanyahu has repeatedly obstructed President Biden's plan for a ceasefire and the return of hostages.

Both in Washington and Israel, I have met with families of hostages who are experiencing unthinkable pain. I just met with the father of a soldier who is being held right now in Gaza as a hostage. They have stressed that Prime Minister Netanyahu has repeatedly obstructed President Biden's plan to bring home their loved ones.

In fact, in his farewell address just 2 weeks ago, former Israeli Defense Minister Gallant noted that one of the key disagreements leading to his firing by Netanyahu was over “our moral obligation and responsibility to bring our kidnapped sons and daughters back home as quickly as possible, with as many alive as possible, to their families.”

He went on to say:

Based on my role, experience, and the military achievements of the past year, with a clear-eyed view of reality, I state that this is achievable but involves painful compromises that Israel can bear, and the IDF can deal with.

There is and will not be any atonement for abandoning the captives.

This is former Defense Minister Gallant, fired by Netanyahu.

I heard Senator GRAHAM speak a lot about the “day after” plan. Well, President Biden has proposed a “day after” plan. It is to have a reformed Palestinian Authority form the nucleus of governance in Gaza. And, indeed, the Netanyahu government, led by Smotrich, not only opposes President Biden's plan, but they have worked to systematically weaken the P.A. by withholding tax revenues that it collects on behalf of the Palestinian people.

What is more, Prime Minister Netanyahu publicly rebuked President Biden's call to create a path to a two-state solution, even bragging that he had long blocked that outcome—something I heard Senator GRAHAM refer to as something that was needed.

So the Netanyahu government has refused to comply with other requests, as well, trying to change the rules of engagement on the West Bank in order to prevent the killing of innocent civilians, including the deaths of some American citizens. And contrary to longstanding policy in American Government, from Republicans and Democrats alike, about not having expanded settlements in the West Bank, something Secretary Blinken agreed was inconsistent with international law, we have seen a record number of settlements expanded by the Netanyahu government—in fact, one when Secretary Blinken was there in Israel.

So, Madam President, the issue here is not whether or not the United States is supporting Israel. The issue is whether or not, as we provide that support, we have a two-way street. A partnership should be a two-way street, not a one-way blank check. And, at a minimum, the Netanyahu government should comply with American law, as we have talked about today. And when they are not, we have an obligation to the American people and American taxpayers to make sure that we withhold that support until Netanyahu comes into compliance.

That is what we are saying here: Just meet the requirements of American law.

And all of us have an obligation to American taxpayers to make sure that

we are not complicit in violating American law and American values.

So, Madam President, that is why I encourage my colleagues to support these joint resolutions to send that message. This is the one opportunity we have to do so.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. I ask unanimous consent for 10 additional minutes for either side.

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

The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BUDD. Madam President, I rise today to voice my strong opinion to Senator SANDERS' attempt to cut off U.S. military support to our friend and ally Israel.

I don't dare denigrate my colleague's intent here or the motives, but I believe the effect is reckless and I believe it is dangerous and I believe it will lead to the loss of even more lives.

We need to remember some basic facts about the difference between the two sides of the conflict here. Israel is Middle East's only democracy. They have been a force for stability in the region that is historically beset by chaos. They have been America's strongest friend in good times and bad. Israel is an unmistakable force for good.

And then you have the terrorists of Hamas. I mean, even their founding charter calls for the destruction of the State of Israel. Hamas's largest benefactor, Iran, lends its materiel and financial support to this cause each and every day. They intentionally target civilians. They target civilians, and they fire rockets into crowded markets, and they preach not just death to Israel and to the Jewish people but death to America.

And then came October 7. On October 7, 2023, Hamas terrorists launched an unprovoked and deceitful series of terrorist attacks inside Israel. The level of barbarism that we witnessed was nothing short of evil incarnate—the mass slaughter of innocent civilians; unmistakable and unspeakable violence against women, children, and the elderly. It was the deadliest massacre of the Jewish people since the Holocaust.

These crimes against humanity were also visited upon American citizens as well. Hamas murdered 46 Americans. They kidnapped 12. Seven U.S. citizens remain hostage in Gaza. The State of Israel has every right to root out the genocidal terrorists who committed these acts and eliminate the threat once and for all.

Israel is carrying out this military action with precision, thanks, in part, to munitions from the United States. For example, one of the systems that we sell to the Israelis is tail kits with GPS receivers. These kits convert unguided free-fall bombs into precision-guided bombs. Put simply, these kits turn "dumb bombs" into "smart bombs."

But Senator SANDERS proposes blocking the sale of these systems to the Israelis. And, apparently, Senator SANDERS would prefer that Israelis use less accurate weapons to eliminate terrorists.

Now, it doesn't take anything more than common sense to realize that this would make collateral damage even more likely. In Senator SANDERS' zeal to undermine our ally, he would make it more likely that Palestinian civilians—who Hamas intentionally uses as human shields—could be killed.

The bottom line is this: Cutting off U.S. support for an ally in their time of need is just unbecoming of our country. To hamstring the very nation trying to defeat the perpetrators of the October 7 carnage is insulting to the Americans who were murdered and those who are still held hostage. It is just wrong in every conceivable way.

All of these resolutions should be soundly rejected, and this body should stand shoulder to shoulder with Israel as they take the fight to Hamas.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I come to the floor to speak on the resolutions we will be voting on shortly to share why I strongly oppose them.

Israel is surrounded by enemies dedicated to its annihilation, from Hamas to Hezbollah, to the Houthis, to most threateningly of all, Iran.

These threats, sadly, have been around for a long time and will persist for many years into the future. Israel needs to protect itself, not just today but also tomorrow and next year and beyond. It has been a cornerstone of American policy to give Israel the resources it needs to defend against its enemies. We should not stray from that policy today.

Many of the arms sales in question today will not reach Israel until years from now. We have no idea what kind of threats Israel will face by then. It could be an even more emboldened Iran or a strengthened Hezbollah or some other threat.

There are few, if any, who imagined the barbaric assault perpetrated by Hamas on October 7. The twisted and hateful ideology that underpins that violence from places like Iran will sadly continue in the region for some time to come. Israel will need to be fully prepared to face those threats. So voting to block assistance today could well very embolden Hamas and Hezbollah and Iran and endanger Israel's security on into the future.

I know there are many in this Chamber who have been strongly critical of Prime Minister Netanyahu's policies. I am certainly one of them, as I have made clear right here on the Senate floor, where I clearly stated the urgent need to diligently pursue a two-state solution.

I have also made clear that Israel must do more to reduce the suffering of innocent civilians in Gaza and do much

more to get humanitarian aid to where it is urgently needed. However, our security assistance to Israel transcends any one Prime Minister or any one government.

This is about Israel's long-term security and honoring a cornerstone of the U.S. policy that we will give Israel—a democracy and a steadfast ally—the resources it needs to protect itself in a difficult world.

There are ways to express criticism and to work on addressing these criticisms without impacting Israel's security.

So this is why I will be voting no. Again, while it is perfectly legitimate to have objections with the Netanyahu government—and I know many of my colleagues wish to express their disapproval—I believe these resolutions are the wrong way and the wrong strategy to voice those objections.

I vote no and urge others to do the same.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. WELCH. First of all, I want to thank the majority leader not only for his leadership on this issue in his straightforward, direct embrace of the cause of Israel but also your openness for a debate in the Senate about what is the best pathway forward.

Madam President, I also want to acknowledge that I had to listen carefully to the words of Senator SCHUMER, Senator ROSEN, Senator BUDD. They have given eloquent arguments in favor of opposing this resolution. They raised the questions I ask myself: Can I, as a U.S. Senator who is a strong supporter of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state; can I, as a U.S. Senator who is absolutely appalled at what Hamas did on October 7; can I, as a U.S. Senator who attended a presentation by the Israeli Embassy that displayed the horror of the rapes and the assaults on women who were taken captive; and can I, as a U.S. Senator who believes in a two-state solution, vote in favor of stopping the delivery of offensive weapons for Israel to use in Gaza? And my answer is yes. It is for two reasons.

First, we are into our 14th month in Gaza. And what has happened is over 43,000 people have been killed. Many Hamas, including the Hamas leadership, have been killed. Good riddance.

But many, many thousands of innocent Palestinians, including women and children, have been killed. Over 100,000 have been maimed and injured, and 60 to 70 percent of the structures in Gaza have been destroyed. That includes the schools. Young Gazans have not been in school for 14 months. Hospitals have been destroyed. The humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza is unparalleled and is being inflicted on innocent Palestinians.

There is a second reason that I am going to support the joint resolutions. I believe the continuation of the military action in Gaza is not only jeopardizing what hostages still are alive, but it can only make Israel weaker, not stronger.

Their own recently fired Defense Minister said there is no further military purpose of offensive action in Gaza. If there is no further reason for offensive military action in Gaza, why is there a need for the United States to be providing more offensive weapons for the Netanyahu government to be used in Gaza?

That is the question we face.

We talk about the signals that will be sent to Hamas, to Iran, to Israel. There is another reality that can't be escaped, and it isn't answered by inquiring as to what "signals" are being sent. It is what is going to happen to these kids. What is going to happen to these families that are continuing to live under bombardment where they can't be safe anywhere, in part, because Hamas will go anywhere they can to try to use them as human shields.

But even without that—being told that they can be safe here but then are bombed and being told they can be safe there—many of these families have been dislocated six to seven times.

The humanitarian catastrophe is grinding on. It comes, of course, at a cost—enormous cost—to Palestinian families. It has come at a cost to the State of Israel—which we support—with their further isolation in the international community.

So the question before us is: What is the right thing to do, not just by way of limiting and helping humanitarian catastrophe, but what is the right thing for the United States to do with its ally Israel in pursuit of the two goals we have always had with Israel? And that is to advocate and defend and support Israel as a democratic, secure Jewish State. And because we believe this is important to make that happen, that we have an independent, secure Palestinian State, a two-state solution.

So the question that I have is, Will U.S. arms, to be used offensively in Gaza at this time and with this government, enhance American policy that has been the policy of the United States through Republican and Democratic administrations?

Madam President, the answer I have come to, the judgment I have come to as a U.S. Senator is that it would harm our goals for that Jewish democratic state, for the easing of humanitarian suffering, for compliance with international law and the Leahy Law, and for what is a goal that has to be the touchstone of our policy, and that is doing everything we can to achieve a two-state solution for a secure, democratic, independent Israel and a secure, disarmed—not armed—Palestinian State side by side.

I intend to support these resolutions. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, Senator WELCH is my friend, and he is very eloquent. I just listened to his eloquent remarks in support of Senator SANDERS' resolution.

And Senator SANDERS is my friend, but he is wrong. Senator WELCH talked, as he should have, about the right thing to do. The right thing to do and the smart thing to do is not to pass Senator SANDERS' resolution.

I don't know why this is—if I make it to heaven, I am going to ask—but there is some people in this world, they are not mixed up, they are not confused, they are not sick, it is not that their mama or daddy didn't love them enough—they are just bad people. And they hurt other people, and they take other people's stuff. Why? Because they can.

And some of them are running countries, and they hate America. They hate Americans. They want to kill us and drink our blood out of a boot. That is just a fact.

Now, you do not have to be Einstein's cousin to see what is going on in the world. President Xi in China is working with President Putin in Russia who is working with the Ayatollah in Iran. Sometimes they allow Kim Jong Un from North Korea to come along, but mostly as a mascot to get them coffee.

President Xi is running the show, but that doesn't mean that President Putin of Russia and especially the Ayatollah in Iran are not right there by his side.

And what is their objective? Their objective is to have Russia dominate Central and Eastern Europe. Their objective is to have China dominate the Indo-Pacific—about which I will speak in a moment—and to have China dominate Sub-Saharan Africa and to have China have the ability to roam free in South America.

And their objective is to have Iran—the Ayatollah—dominate the Middle East, which it has done until Israel decided to fight back, which it has done through Hamas and Hezbollah and the Houthi rebels. Now that is just a fact.

And one of our best friends in the world—maybe, on some days, our only friend in the world—Israel—patient people, principled people but realistic people—they have decided to stand up to Iran. And in standing up to Iran, we are finding out very quickly they are also standing up to China and Russia. But I will save that subject for another day.

They have decided to stand up to Iran. They have beaten Hamas in Gaza. They are beating Hezbollah in Lebanon. They had to do it despite the obstacles thrown up against them every step of the way by President Biden and Vice President HARRIS.

And if we support them, Israel will beat the Ayatollah in Iran. Israel will cause a regime change. Because I can tell you, the people of Iran—not its leadership—the people of Iran are fed up with their leadership.

We have a duty—not a legal duty, a moral duty—to support our friend Israel. We have agreed to do it. But besides that, we have a moral duty to do it. And my friend Senator SANDERS' resolution would turn our back on one of the few friends that I think Amer-

ica—real friends that America has in the world. And it would precipitate a foreign policy crisis.

I don't say these words very often, but we ought to listen to the words of my friend Senator SCHUMER. He is going to vote against Senator SANDERS' resolution. Senator SCHUMER is right. Even a blind hog finds an acorn now and then. Senator SCHUMER is right: We need to defeat this resolution. It will precipitate a foreign policy crisis.

And it is not the only one we would have in the world. I want to talk for just a few minutes about another crisis that is going on quietly as we speak.

This is the Indian Ocean, as the Presiding Officer well knows, one of the most important parts of the world. Here is China; here is India. China is trying to dominate all of these sea lands for military reasons and for commercial reasons.

Here in the middle of the Indian Ocean is a group of islands called the Chagos Islands. You may not have heard of them; I hadn't before I was alerted of this crisis. America has a military base in the Chagos Islands. There are about 40 to 60 islands. One of the islands is called Diego Garcia. And we built a military base there. And it is not just any military base. It is an extraordinarily important military base.

Our military base is one of the few in the world where our military can reload submarines—hugely important. Our military base on Diego Garcia in the Chagos Islands houses a number of Navy ships. Our military base there houses long-range bombers that we use to carry out missions around the world.

Now, we have to—we and the United Kingdom—I will explain why the UK is involved in a moment—we have to work hard every day to police our military base, not just the base itself, but the land—or, rather—the water surrounding it, because China—China knows how important this military base is to the security of the world. China is constantly sending craft trying to spy on our military base there.

And we and the United Kingdom—again, I will explain in a second the United Kingdom's relevance—are constantly having to patrol and fight off the espionage of China. In fact, China has breached the security of American military bases over 100 times in the last few years. They are very aggressive.

Now, why am I talking about this military base? Because President Biden and Vice President HARRIS, as we are all working here trying—like a bunch of ants on a sugar bowl, trying to wrap up our work for the year, President Biden and Vice President HARRIS are giving away this military base. They are giving it away.

The Chagos Islands is a territory of the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom gave America permission to build our military base here.

Now, the Chagos Islands has a rich history. It has a relationship with another island in the Indian Ocean, Mauritius. And I mention that because to understand what is going on, you have to understand the relationship.

Mauritius and the Chagos Islands used to be partners. The Chagos Islands were what is called a dependency of Mauritius. And Mauritius, many, many years ago, beginning in 1715, was a colony of France. And while Mauritius was a colony of France, Mauritius established a relationship with the Chagos Islands.

And then, beginning in 1814, France said: Look, we are going to cede Mauritius and now the Chagos Islands—where we have our military base—to the United Kingdom. And they did.

Mauritius and the Chagos Islands, 250 years ago, they might have been close, but they are not today. They don't share the same culture. They don't speak the same language. They don't visit each other. In fact, many of the people from Chagos lived in the United Kingdom.

But here is what President Biden is doing and Vice President HARRIS. They say we need to grant independence to the Chagos Islands but not let the people of the Chagos Islands run their country. We need to give the Chagos Islands back to Mauritius. Why? I mean, no offense, but that is cell-deep stupid.

Why? Mauritius and the Chagos Islands don't have a relationship anymore, and we have a military base there.

I will tell you why. The United Nations—the United Nations, and particularly the International Court of Justice, which has no jurisdiction over the United States of America and has no jurisdiction over the United Kingdom and which currently controls the Chagos Islands, they have scolded the United Kingdom.

They said the United Kingdom is a colonizer, and the United Kingdom, the people of the United Kingdom are bad people.

Now, remember, this is coming from the United Nations. This is the same United Nations that has the following countries on its human rights council: Somalia, Iraq, Venezuela, China. That is who thinks we ought to get rid of this military base. OK? I mean, this is not some act of justice here.

But in any event, the United Nations is saying: United Kingdom, you bad people, give the Chagos Islands back—but not let the Chagos Islands be free; they want to give the Chagos Islands back to Mauritius. And President Biden could stop it and so could Vice President HARRIS. But they are for it, all in an effort to curry favor with the people at the United Nations who walk around with their NPR tote bags and their organic broccoli and have great relationships with members of the media who they think write history. Why on God's green Earth would we do that? Why?

China, of course, is delighted. Why is China delighted? Now, the United Na-

tions says: OK, we don't want to be too mean-spirited here; America can keep its military base for 99 years, but you have to sign a lease. And we got to start paying Mauritius to stay there.

China says: Fine. That sounds good to us. Why? Because, No. 1, China has already started currying favor with Mauritius, and No. 2, Mauritius will now be in charge of the security of the Chagos Islands and our military base and the water surrounding it.

China, Xi Jinping, he is as happy as a gopher in soft dirt. He will be hacking the Mauritius security as soon as the trade is made.

Now, President Trump, I hope you are listening to this. My good friend Senator RUBIO, soon-to-be Secretary of State, I hope you are listening to what I am talking about.

What we are debating today is important. I don't mean to say that. And I am not kidding you. I am not going to bubble wrap it. If Senator SANDERS' resolution passes, it will precipitate a foreign policy crisis. But this foreign policy crisis is being perpetrated—or prosecuted right now, and it is another foreign policy crisis, and it is going on all because President Biden—all because President Biden and Vice President HARRIS want to appease the United Nations and China.

President Trump, please, pretty please with sugar on top, pick up the phone and call the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and say: Don't sign that treaty. Don't give away the Chagos Islands. Don't give away America's military base. Don't do it.

If we object, they won't. If we don't say anything, they will.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, over the past year, we have used our voices and influence to press for the protection of civilians in Gaza, for access to vital humanitarian assistance, to bring home the hostages, and to end this conflict. We all know that it is our responsibility to do more, Israel's responsibility to do more, and the international communities' responsibility to do more to protect innocent victims.

But even as we work to address the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, we must be clear about our commitment—our longstanding, bipartisan commitment—to the State of Israel. It has been the bedrock of our foreign policy in the Middle East, a special relationship that was established in 1948 when President Truman, against the advice at that time of the State Department because there were more Arab States and just one Israel—against the advice of the State Department, President Truman recognized the State of Israel immediately after the United Nations vote.

That special relationship is based upon two countries—Israel and the United States—both democracies, shared values. We share intelligence information, military information, and

much, much more. That special relationship is important to Israel, and it is important to America's national security interest. We both benefit from it.

Part of that special relationship is the United States is committed to making available to Israel the military arms it needs in order to defend itself from the dangers in the region. We have mutual adversaries—Iran and its proxies, Hamas, Hezbollah, the Houthis, and many others. The threats are real. The adversaries are not just Israel's adversaries; they are our adversaries.

Now, to the three resolutions that we have before us and how that relates to this issue, S.J. Res 111 deals with tank munitions. These tank munitions have a delivery date 3 years from now. These are replenishments. This is so Israel has the capacity to defend itself against the future threats that we know are in the region, that are real. It is not engaged in the current conflict in Gaza or Lebanon; it is for Israel's ability to defend itself against the threats that are real in the region.

S.J. Res 113—mortar munitions. The delivery date is about a year and a half from now. Again, it is for the replenishment of their supplies. It is to make sure they are not caught in a situation where they can't defend themselves against future threats.

These are the wrong vehicles for expressing ourselves in regards to the conflict that exists today, but if we are going to talk about the conflict that exists today, then a spotlight should be on Hamas, not Israel.

The third resolution, S.J. Res 115—the JDAMs. This one, I really don't understand. These are precision kits that go on munitions; they are not the munitions themselves. Without the JDAMs, the precision of the munitions is not as great. What does that mean? It means it has a much higher likelihood of missing the target—collateral damage, civilians killed and injured. So it is counterproductive to the safety of the communities. I don't understand why we would want to prevent Israel from having the technology to have precision use of its munitions. To me, that makes no sense at all.

But, as I pointed out, the spotlight should be on Hamas. Why are we in this conflict? October 7—brutal attack by Hamas. We don't hear a lot of talk about that. The hostages. We talk about the release of the hostages; they never should have been taken. Where is the outrage in the international community and where is the outrage here about Hamas holding hostages, some of whom are Americans? That is where the outrage should be.

Hamas uses human shields. Yes, we bereave the loss of innocent life, but Hamas makes it much more likely that there are going to be the casualties of innocent life. They embedded themselves in hospitals and universities and make it so much more difficult for Israel to conduct a military campaign.

Why isn't the focus on the terrorists?

Then there is the humanitarian assistance. We have heard from our own State Department people as recently as today that the challenges for humanitarian assistance are made so much more difficult because of Hamas using it as a weapon to deny its own people humanitarian help, making it extremely difficult for the deliveries to take place.

So I am somewhat confused. I don't understand these resolutions as furthering the cause for what the sponsor has indicated. The sponsor says that he disagrees that blocking these offensive arms sales will only embolden terrorist organizations such as Hamas and Hezbollah as well as their sponsors in Iran. But if the U.S. Senate fails to provide the support to Israel now, what else would our adversaries believe? This would be a sign of weakness in our resolve to fight the terrorism in the region. It would be a gift to Iran.

Let me talk about the cost. You hear a lot about taxpayer cost. Canceling these contracts—they have cancellation clauses. This will cost the taxpayers money, not save the taxpayers money.

I want to talk lastly about the timing of this, and I want to talk about let me quote from the message we received from the Biden administration:

These resolutions are particularly untimely and counterproductive as we are working to secure a cease-fire in Lebanon. U.S. officials are in Beirut now working to finalize this deal, a deal that is only possible because of the military pressure Hezbollah is under. Disapproving arms purchases for Israel at this moment would jeopardize those talks and put wind in the sails of Iran, Hezbollah, and Hamas at the worst possible moment.

These resolutions should be defeated. As the administration said, we urge you to oppose the JRDs, which will prolong the wars, not shorten them, put Israel at risk, and inject wind in the sails of Iran and its proxies just as they are facing a historic low point and looking for a deal.

I urge my colleagues to reject all three of these resolutions. Let us continue to work together for peace in the Middle East. Let us work and isolate the terrorists in the region, Iran and its proxies. Let's work with our allies and partners in the region to do exactly that. Let's not make the matter worse by calling into question our commitment to make sure Israel has what it needs to defend itself against the future threats that are in that region.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSEOFF). The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, let me begin by pointing out—although it may not be obvious here in the Senate—that poll after poll shows that a strong majority of the American people oppose sending more weapons and military aid to fuel Netanyahu's vicious and destructive war machine. I would also add, because some of this has come up, that according to a poll commissioned

by J Street, a pro-Israel Jewish organization, 62 percent of Jewish Americans support withholding weapons shipments to Israel until Netanyahu agrees to an immediate cease-fire.

Let me just mention a few of the organizations that think the time is now to stop giving money to Netanyahu, who ignores America's laws and our values—some of the major trade unions in America: the SEIU, the United Auto Workers, United Electrical Workers; Amnesty International; the Arab American Institute; the Association of U.S. Catholic Priests; the Friends Committee on National Legislation; Oxfam America; the Episcopal Church; the United Church of Christ; the United Methodist Church General Board of Church and Society; the American Baptist Churches USA; the Global Ministries of the Christian Church.

These resolutions have strong support all across this country by people who understand that we cannot continue to fund the horrific war machine and the atrocities Netanyahu is committing.

These resolutions come down to a few basic points. First of all, should the U.S. Government obey the law? And the law is very clear that we as a government cannot fund other countries that are in violation of international human rights or that are blocking humanitarian aid.

Now, somebody here wants to come down and say: I don't like that law. The U.S. Government should give money to any government it wants no matter what they do, no matter how atrocious their behavior is.

Come down and change the law, but that ain't the law now. The law is based on moral principles that say: When the United States provides military arms, those countries that receive those weapons cannot violate international human rights and cannot block humanitarian aid. And that is precisely what Israel is doing. That is not me who says that; that is what virtually every humanitarian organization working in Gaza right now says.

So if you believe we should obey the law, you have to vote for these resolutions.

No. 2, from a moral perspective, we cannot turn a blind eye to one of the worst humanitarian disasters in the modern history of this world—a humanitarian disaster we are significantly funding.

My colleagues, as we speak, thousands and thousands of children in Gaza are starving to death.

In an area of 2.2 million people, 43,000 are dead. Over 100,000 have been injured. We cannot turn a blind eye to that humanitarian disaster, caused in part by U.S. financial support to Netanyahu.

Thirdly, I heard about the U.S. role in the world. Well, I will tell you that our role is significantly diminished if we continue to support Netanyahu and this humanitarian disaster that is currently taking place.

What is the moral standard that we have to critique other countries? How do you critique Iran for their terrible human rights record? How do you critique China or Russia for their terrible human rights records? Because you get here on the floor of the Senate and you make that critique, and people around the world will laugh at you, and they will say: Don't give us advice. Don't criticize us when you have supported the mass starvation of children with your taxpayer dollars.

This is a very important vote. It is an important vote because it tells the world that we will not continue supporting a government which violates American law, which violates international law, and which violates the humanitarian standards that I would hope every Member of this Senate upholds.

With that, I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all remaining time be yielded back.

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

#### VOTE ON MOTION

The question is on agreeing to the motion to discharge.

Mr. SANDERS. I would ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The result was announced—yeas 18, nays 79, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 292 Leg.]

#### YEAS—18

Durbin	Markley	Shaheen
Heinrich	Merkley	Smith
Hirono	Murphy	Van Hollen
Kaine	Ossoff	Warnock
King	Sanders	Warren
Luján	Schatz	Welch

#### NAYS—79

Barrasso	Fetterman	Paul
Bennet	Fischer	Peters
Blackburn	Gillibrand	Reed
Blumenthal	Graham	Ricketts
Booker	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hagerty	Romney
Britt	Hassan	Rosen
Brown	Hawley	Rounds
Budd	Helmy	Rubio
Butler	Hickenlooper	Schmitt
Cantwell	Hooven	Schumer
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Cardin	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Carper	Kelly	Sinema
Casey	Kennedy	Stabenow
Cassidy	Klobuchar	Sullivan
Collins	Lankford	Tester
Coons	Lee	Thune
Cornyn	Lummis	Tillis
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Tuberville
Cotton	Marshall	Warner
Cramer	McConnell	Whitehouse
Crapo	Moran	Wicker
Cruz	Mullin	Wyden
Daines	Murkowski	Young
Duckworth	Murray	
Ernst	Padilla	

ANSWERED “PRESENT”—1

Baldwin

NOT VOTING—2

Braun

Vance

The motion was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HELMY). The Senator from Vermont.

## MOTION TO DISCHARGE—S.J. RES. 113

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, pursuant to section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act, I move to discharge the Committee on Foreign Relations from further consideration of S.J. Res. 113, relating to the disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to the Government of Israel of certain defense articles and services.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to discharge from the Committee on Foreign Relations S.J. Res. 113, providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale of the Government of Israel certain defense articles and services.

Mr. SANDERS. I ask unanimous consent to dispense with further reading of the resolution.

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

Under the previous order, there will now be 2 minutes of debate, equally divided.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, the law is very clear. This is not a complicated issue.

U.S. weapons cannot be provided to countries who violate internationally recognized human rights or block U.S. humanitarian aid. It goes without saying that Israel had a right to defend itself from the horrific Hamas terrorist attack of October 7. But Israel did not have the right to kill 43,000 Palestinians and injure over 100,000—60 percent of whom are women, children, and the elderly. It did not have the right to destroy Gaza’s infrastructure, healthcare system, schools, and university. And it certainly does not have the right to starve thousands and thousands of children in Gaza.

The United States cannot be complicit in these atrocities. We cannot give billions of dollars to the Netanyahu government and have them defy U.S. law while they take U.S. money.

I urge a “yes” vote on this resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. In opposition to the resolution, let me just cite the views that we received from the administration, which we urge you to oppose the resolutions which will prolong the wars, not shorten them, put Israel at risk and inject wind into the sails of Iran and its proxies just as they are facing a historic low point and looking for a deal.

This resolution will only prolong the war. It will put Israel at risk fighting our mutual enemies, and I would urge my colleagues to reject the resolution.

## VOTE ON MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to discharge.

Mr. SANDERS. 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. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The result was announced—yeas 19, nays 78, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 293 Leg.]

## YEAS—19

Durbin	Markley	Smith
Heinrich	Merkley	Van Hollen
Helmy	Murphy	Warnock
Hirono	Ossoff	Warren
Kaine	Sanders	Welch
King	Schatz	
Lujan	Shaheen	

## NAYS—78

Barrasso	Ernst	Padilla
Bennet	Fetterman	Paul
Blackburn	Fischer	Peters
Blumenthal	Gillibrand	Reed
Booker	Graham	Ricketts
Boozman	Grassley	Risch
Britt	Hagerty	Romney
Brown	Hassan	Rosen
Budd	Hawley	Rounds
Butler	Hickenlooper	Rubio
Cantwell	Hooven	Schmitt
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Schumer
Cardin	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Carper	Kelly	Scott (SC)
Casey	Kennedy	Sinema
Cassidy	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Collins	Lankford	Sullivan
Coons	Lee	Tester
Cornyn	Lummis	Thune
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Tillis
Cotton	Marshall	Tuberville
Cramer	McConnell	Warner
Crapo	Moran	Whitehouse
Cruz	Mullin	Wicker
Daines	Murkowski	Wyden
Duckworth	Murray	Young

ANSWERED “PRESENT”—1

Baldwin

NOT VOTING—2

Braun

Vance

The motion was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HAS-SAN). On this vote, the yeas are 19, the nays are 78.

One Senator responded present. The motion was not agreed to.

The motion was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

## MOTION TO DISCHARGE—S.J. RES. 115

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, I move to discharge the Committee on Foreign Relations from further consideration of S.J. Res. 115, relating to the disapproval of the proposed license

amendment for the export of certain defense articles, defense services, and technical data to Israel.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion to discharge.

The bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to discharge from the Committee on Foreign Relations, S.J. Res. 115, providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed license amendment for the export of certain defense articles, defense services, and technical data to Israel.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 2 minutes for debate, equally divided.

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, two basic points: The first one is the same point that has to be made over and over again. What we are doing is in violation of the law. U.S. weapons cannot be provided to countries that violate internationally recognized human rights or block U.S. humanitarian aid.

According to all of the international and humanitarian organizations on the ground in Gaza right now, that is exactly what Israel is doing. So a “no” vote is to allow us to continue breaking the law.

As to the second point, this one deals with JDAMs, which are systems that make bombs more precise. And, on the surface, it sounds like, well, that is a good thing. You would rather use “smart” bombs than “dumb” bombs, and when you do that, you save civilian lives. The problem is that what Israel has been doing is using JDAMs to target U.N. schools packed with displaced people and to target refugee centers and kill large numbers of innocent people. So a “smart” bomb does not save civilian lives when it is directly targeting civilians.

I would ask for a “yes” vote on this resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does anyone seek time in opposition?

The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, in opposition to the resolution, quite frankly, I am perplexed with this one because, as the sponsor indicated, we are talking about the guidance system on munitions, which makes it precise, and despite what the sponsor of the resolution says, Israel targets military targets of terrorists. Yes, Hamas makes it more challenging by where they locate the targets—in hospitals, in schools, et cetera—but without the guidance system, there are going to be greater civilian losses. So, if you are concerned about humanitarian issues, I don’t know how you can possibly vote for this resolution.

In addition, of course, as the administration pointed out, they oppose this resolution because it would prolong the war, not shorten it. It would put Israel at risk and inject wind into the sails of Iran and its proxies just as they are facing a historic low point and looking for a deal.

I urge my colleagues to reject the resolution.

## VOTE ON MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to discharge.

Mr. SANDERS. 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 senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The result was announced—yeas 17, nays 80, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 294 Leg.]

## YEAS—17

Durbin	Markey	Smith
Heinrich	Merkley	Van Hollen
Hirono	Murphy	Warnock
Kaine	Sanders	Warren
King	Schatz	Welch
Lujan	Shaheen	

## NAYS—80

Barrasso	Fetterman	Padilla
Bennet	Fischer	Paul
Blackburn	Gillibrand	Peters
Blumenthal	Graham	Reed
Booker	Grassley	Ricketts
Boozman	Hagerty	Risch
Britt	Hassan	Romney
Brown	Hawley	Rosen
Budd	Helmy	Rounds
Butler	Hickenlooper	Rubio
Cantwell	Hoeven	Schmitt
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Schumer
Cardin	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Carper	Kelly	Scott (SC)
Casey	Kennedy	Sinema
Cassidy	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Collins	Lankford	Sullivan
Coons	Lee	Tester
Cornyn	Lummis	Thune
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Tillis
Cotton	Marshall	Tuberville
Cramer	McConnell	Warner
Crapo	Moran	Whitehouse
Cruz	Mullin	Wicker
Daines	Murkowski	Wyden
Duckworth	Murray	Young
Ernst	Ossoff	

ANSWERED “PRESENT” —1

Baldwin

## NOT VOTING—2

Braun	Vance
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The motion was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

RELATING TO THE DISAPPROVAL OF THE PRESIDENTIAL REPORT WITH RESPECT TO THE INDEBTEDNESS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF UKRAINE—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. PAUL. Madam President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 566, S.J. Res. 117.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 566, S.J. Res. 117, relating to the disapproval of the Presidential report with respect to the indebtedness of the Government of Ukraine.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 1 hour for debate, equally divided.

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Madam President, yesterday marked a somber milestone: 1,000 days since Russia invaded Ukraine. Over a million lives have been lost or wounded—a staggering human toll. Yet, instead of seeking a path to peace, the Biden administration is choosing escalation. Billions of taxpayer dollars have been funneled into this conflict with little or no oversight and no end in sight. It is as if writing blank checks has become our primary foreign policy strategy. This has extracted a huge human cost.

Just days ago, President Biden authorized Ukraine to use American-provided long-range weapons to strike inside Russia. Let me repeat that. We are now enabling attacks using U.S. weaponry inside Russian territory. When I first saw the headline, I didn’t believe it. I hoped it was maybe a joke or fake news. It was neither. It was real.

Now, this is not a step toward deescalation. Nothing could be further from that. In fact, this is a dangerous provocation, one that brings the United States perilously, unacceptably close to a direct conflict with a nuclear-armed adversary. In response, Russia has updated its nuclear doctrine, lowering the threshold for the use of nuclear weapons.

This is not a game. The rounds are live and flying—and, I would add, deadly. The specter of nuclear war is now looming larger than it has in decades. Yet the administration seems undeterred, even willing, as if eager to risk U.S. security for the sake of scoring one last cheap political point against the incoming Trump administration and the American people.

Now in the twilight of its tenure, the Biden administration is quietly attempting to forgive half of Ukraine’s economic aid package from the last supplemental appropriations bill—a whopping \$4.7 billion given away for free if President Biden has his way.

The American people are being deceived by the Biden administration. Americans were told Ukraine would repay that sum when this bill passed. In fact, that is part of how they got it passed. It was, you might say, a “without which not” of that bill’s passage. Now they are being stuck with the tab.

Now, let’s be clear: Forcing the American people to pick up this tab removes an essential point of leverage for the United States to bring Ukraine to the negotiating table. It prolongs a bloody war. It drains our own scarce precious resources and gives Ukraine a freebie we don’t extend even to our closest allies, all without accountability or a strategy that prioritizes America’s interest first.

But it is worse than that. It does so in a way that puts us in the firing line—the firing line of a nuclear-armed adversary. Moreover, a significant portion of this sum was allocated to fund the salaries of President Zelenskyy and Ukrainian bureaucrats.

What kind of message does that send?

At a time when American families are pinching pennies—pinching pennies—because we spent money we don’t have, causing us to print more money, causing every dollar the American people earn to buy less, it is absolutely unconscionable that their hard-earned tax dollars are being used to underwrite the administrative costs of a foreign government and the salaries of foreign bureaucrats—all in a way that makes us less safe, all in a way that puts us in a precarious position we haven’t faced since most of us were children.

Our constituents are tightening their belts and making tough decisions about healthcare, education, and basic necessities. Yet we are being asked to finance the operational expenses of another nation’s government.

Madam President, we have a duty—a solemn duty, a sacred duty—to our constituents to ensure that their hard-earned money is spent wisely and ethically and, at a minimum, not in a way that makes them less safe, not in a way that paints a target on their back or an adversary with nuclear weapons. We certainly have a constitutional duty to prevent unnecessary escalation that could lead to catastrophic consequences. And we have a duty to uphold the will of the American people who very recently—just over 2 weeks ago—voted for a different President with a different foreign policy, one that works for the American people and not against them.

Instead, as a final parting gift—and, yes, I use that word very, very euphemistically—the Biden administration wants to saddle the American people with a tab that they don’t want, that they never agreed to, that they expressly rejected at the ballot box, and that they cannot afford.

That is why I stand in full wholehearted support of Senator RAND PAUL’s joint resolution of disapproval to block this misguided, dangerous, reckless, wealth transfer to a corrupt foreign government. I call on all of my colleagues to do the same.

We need to halt this dangerous path and give the incoming administration every tool to pursue a strategy that prioritizes peace and America’s interests. The American people have spoken and resoundingly, with good reason, rejected the policies of this administration that escalate conflict and prolong wars.

The American people deserve better. They should expect more. They strive and yearn for peace. RAND PAUL’s measure would help advance that. Doing nothing would impair it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MURPHY). The Senator from Georgia.

## U.S. ARMS SALES

Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I rise not in response to the Senator from Utah or to address the matter being raised by Senator PAUL but to address the resolutions that were debated previously with respect to U.S. policy in the Middle East.

In 1982, as Israeli forces pursued the PLO deep into Lebanon, President Reagan was angered by what he viewed as excessive civilian casualties resulting from the Israeli bombardment of Beirut.

Concerned by the suffering of innocent civilians and its impact on American diplomacy, not only did President Reagan personally call Israeli Prime Minister Begin and demand a halt to the bombing—and the bombing reportedly stopped within hours—but the American President then blocked the provision of cluster munitions to Israel out of concern that their use by the IDF was killing too many innocent people.

President Reagan imposed conditions on the provision of U.S. arms, using leverage to influence the conduct of an ally. He took those steps to protect innocent life and to defend what he perceived to be America's interests. And Israel, faced by President Reagan's ultimatum, adjusted its policy to accommodate America's demands.

The United States remained Israel's closest ally, and the world kept turning.

This story is not a perfect mirror image for the agonizing situation we face today and have faced since the despicable Hamas attacks of October 7. Today, Israel faces a multifront assault by Iran and its proxies while the war in Gaza has devastated the territories and civilian population.

But I tell this story to remind my colleagues that in the pursuit of America's national interests, to use the leverage that comes with the provision of arms, as President Reagan did in 1982, is not just sometimes necessary, it is expected and appropriate. The United States is and will remain Israel's closest ally. Our commitment to Israel's security is ironclad.

But no foreign government is simply entitled as a matter of right to American weapons with no strings attached. No foreign government, no matter how close an ally, gets everything it wants whenever it wants, to use however it wants. It is entirely appropriate for the United States to insist that foreign powers use American weapons consistent with our interests, our values, and our laws.

And to insist otherwise weakens American foreign policy and undermines our ability to protect the interests of the American people. And to impose conditions on the provision of certain weapons to an ally when necessary is not a betrayal of that alliance. It is the pursuit of our national interests. Again, President Reagan understood that in 1982.

So let's apply the principle to the present moment. In November of last year, I addressed the Senate on the war in Gaza in the aftermath of the October 7 attack, affirming Israel's right to defend itself, to wage war against and defeat its enemies. And I affirmed, as I do again today, America's enduring support for our ally.

I also urged that Israel respect American requests to reduce unnecessary civilian casualties in Gaza, to provide safe passage for food and essential medical supplies, to clearly define Israeli objectives to present a credible plan for Gaza's future governance, and to prevent atrocities by Israeli extremists in the West Bank.

These requests of the Israeli political leadership have been made not just by me and many others in the Senate but repeatedly by the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, and the President over the past year.

That Israel take these reasonable and necessary steps has been and remains in America's national interests. No one in this body or the American Government has suggested that Israel lay down its arms and be overrun or that Israel does not have a right and, indeed, an obligation to defeat its enemies and defend its people. Rather, the United States has insisted that Israel's conduct of the war respect our interests and our values—the interests and values of Israel's closest ally.

And yet, for the most part, this insistence has been ignored. The United States has been ignored, in part, because the Israeli Prime Minister is beholden to Cabinet Ministers in Mr. Smotrich and Ben-Gvir, who insist there be no deviation from policies that are gratuitously brutal, even over American objections.

We should be disgusted by the spectacle of Israeli extremists running amuck in the West Bank, sometimes with the protection of Israeli security forces, shooting and maiming goat herders and olive farmers and burning and seizing their land.

And the American people are rightly horrified by the lack of sufficient concern for innocent Palestinian life that has left so many children unnecessarily dead in Gaza, without limbs, or riddled with shrapnel.

As I said on the floor last year, no one should be naive to the inherent risk to civilians that comes with warfare in a place like Gaza against an enemy like Hamas. Tragically, horribly, fighting terrorists in a dense urban environment makes civilian casualties inevitable. Yet the evidence that force has repeatedly been applied with reckless disregard for the innocent is too credible for us to ignore. We are talking about precious, innocent children and other innocent civilians who might otherwise be alive or without grievous wounds today.

These things aren't just horrific, they are inconsistent with America's national security interests. Yet we seem to have forgotten that we have the power to influence our ally's conduct and that we can do so without betraying our ally. It is often said that our efforts to influence close allies are best done in private and, where possible, done gently, and I agree. But in this case, that has not been sufficient nor have heartfelt public statements and harshly worded letters been effective.

So what would President Reagan do? Judging by his actions 40 years ago, I think he would judiciously use the power that comes with our provision of weapons in order to shape Israel's conduct.

Some have taken to the floor tonight to argue that holding up two or three arms sales today would have been an abandonment of our ally, leaving Israel naked and undefended in the face of Iranian aggression. That is nonsense.

The question on the floor today was not whether to shut off military support for Israel. The resolutions we debated accounted for less than 5 percent of American arms that will likely flow to Israel over the next 3 years, and most of the shipments debated will not even arrive until 2026 or 2027. Bipartisan American support for Israel's nonnegotiable right to exist and to defend itself is rock solid.

Had these resolutions passed, however, perhaps Israeli politicians would have received the necessary message that has so far been disregarded, which is, yes, defend yourself; yes, defeat your enemies, but have mercy for the innocent, retrain your own extremists, and respect the interests of the United States.

The realization that every shipment is not simply available on an unlimited basis with no strings attached might have resulted in changes to Israeli policy that would reduce civilian suffering and support America's regional and global interests as he believed it would when President Reagan used American power in 1982.

I remain steadfastly committed to the United States-Israel alliance. And I also believe we must be willing to say no, even to our closest friends, when we believe it is in America's national interest.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

S.J. RES. 117

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise in opposition to S.J. Res. 117, the motion to proceed. And I rise as the chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to relate to our colleagues why I am against this resolution and how we got to this vote.

This body passed aid to Ukraine by a 79-to-18 bipartisan vote. It approved the necessary funding for Ukraine to be able to defend itself against Mr. Putin's aggression—Russia's aggression—and it allowed us with our coalition partners to be able to have a unified front against Russia's attempt to change borders by force.

That legislation included the authority to the President to forgive and cancel debt. That is what President Biden did under the authority given to him by a 79-to-18 vote in this body. The President executed that authority and, yes, the Senate has the opportunity by a resolution to override that.

But I would urge my colleagues to remember why we voted by a 79-to-18 vote on this floor to help Ukraine.

Ukraine is the frontline in our defense for democracy. No one believes that Russia would stop if Ukraine were to fall with just Ukraine. We know that Russia has its eyes on Moldova and Georgia. We know the Baltic countries are very much in the eye of Russia.

Poland is concerned, and Europe is concerned. It is in our national security interest to make sure that Russia's aggression in Ukraine is stopped and Ukraine's sovereignty is protected.

Now, Russia is not alone in this. There is an alliance developing of autocratic States against our democratic systems of government. Russia is getting help from the People's Republic of China. They are getting direct help from North Korea. They are getting weapons from Iran. They are getting help from these autocratic partners.

We are literally fighting for our democratic way of life. It is not just Europe that is of concern. If Ukraine were to fall, it makes it much more likely that the People's Republic of China would think that they could take over Taiwan and the West would just let them do that, and China could very well try to take that over by force. So there is a lot at stake here.

Now, Ukraine is footing the burden. It is their soldiers that are on the battlefield. They are devoting 100 percent of their ability to the war effort, and they are asking us to help make sure that their economy can perform.

So this debt relief goes to maintain their economy, to maintain their energy and agricultural sectors, and it would unlock IMF—International Monetary Fund—to Ukraine without cost to the American taxpayer.

This debt relief makes sense from so many different points: to protect Ukraine's ability to keep its economy moving so they can pursue their defense of their nation, that we have an ally and friend that stops the aggression of Russia and says no to the alliance that is being formed against democratic states.

It is a very small price for us to pay to maintain our democracy and to prevent the need for American soldiers fighting on foreign soil.

I urge my colleagues to reject the resolution.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, earlier this year, we passed a bipartisan national security supplemental that included crucial economic aid to Ukraine, which was structured as a forgivable loan. The Senate vote was overwhelming and bipartisan—79 to 18. That is because there is wide understanding on both sides of this aisle that support for Ukraine is an investment in our own national security interests, and that includes the economic support in that package, because while weapons are important, the costs of war are not just measured in arms, and the burdens are not only borne by the military.

There are day-to-day government functions that must continue to sup-

port the war effort and for the sake of the very families and communities Ukraine is fighting for, and that includes work to defend and repair critical infrastructure, roads, bridges, energy, water; work to fight off cyber attacks and corruption, which threaten to weaken critical functions of government; work to support the energy and agricultural sectors that are crucial to Ukraine's economic stability, not to mention the global food supply. And there is work to make sure first responders can keep doing their jobs; mental health and support services can reach veterans, internally displaced families, and others in need; and teachers and schools can keep supporting kids, which are the future of every country.

These investments are crucial to Ukraine's future and its resistance of Putin's invasion, and given how important those investments are, it is worth noting that these dollars came with three layers of oversight and audits to make sure they are being used as intended.

But the vote today is a test of whether we truly understand what is at stake here, not just for Ukraine but for America's strength as a global leader. It is a test of how closely we stand by our allies in their times of need.

Our adversaries are watching for us to fail. They are hoping to tell everyone: Watch out before you accept any help from the United States. They are hoping allies start doubting our promises. They are hoping other countries start second-guessing whether to build stronger ties with America. They are hoping we weaken our position in the world and weaken Ukraine in the process.

We cannot let that happen. I urge my colleagues to send a message: American leadership is strong, and our support for our allies is unwavering. And it is in our own national security interest.

I urge all of them to join me in opposing this joint resolution of disapproval.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, here we go again with the "Ukraine First, America Last" policy. Earlier this week, President Biden delivered a report to Congress informing us that he now intends to forgive or cancel \$4.65 billion worth of U.S. loans to Ukraine.

Now, you might ask yourself: When were these loans issued?

Oh, about a month or two ago.

Well, when does Ukraine have to pay back these loans that we are forgiving?

Well, they made an agreement to start paying them back in 40 years. President Biden is forgiving loans that aren't due for 40 years.

This makes a mockery of the entire charade that this is a loan. They should have just said it was a gift.

A forgivable loan? It is not even a loan. It is not due for 40 years, and we are forgiving it now.

These funds were provided by the American taxpayer in the form of loans with the expectation that they would be repaid. We are not going to wait any period of time. They weren't even going to be repaid for 40 years, and we are forgiving them. That is a sick joke, and a sick joke on every American who has got a loan at the bank for their house, who has to pay their mortgage every month, and yet Ukraine is never going to have to pay their loans.

It seems like this is "Ukraine First, America Last." We have got a \$36 trillion debt in our country. We are paying a trillion dollars in interest. We can barely keep up. We are not keeping up with all of the things we promised Americans: Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, food stamps—all of the things that have been promised. We are \$2 trillion short.

So what do we do? We are just shipping billions to Ukraine. About \$200 billion has been sent so far.

Such blatant disregard of American citizens is unacceptable. The joint resolution of disapproval that I put forward, today, provides the Senate an opportunity to prevent the President from doing this—from canceling this debt, from making a mockery of the idea that it was ever a loan.

We will not stand idly by as the President elevates the interests of a foreign country above our own.

And let me remind President Biden that, due to his failed policies over the last 4 years, Americans across this country are struggling with their loans. Today, some 37 million Americans live under the poverty line, including 9 million children. Fifty percent of Americans say they are living paycheck to paycheck, and yet the concern is for the loans of a foreign country that will never be repaid, that were not even going to begin to be repaid for 40 years.

This is an insult to every American who has a mortgage that they have to pay. Eight out of 10 Americans who earn less than \$50,000 a year are unable to cover their future bills until their next paycheck arrives. Americans are living paycheck to paycheck, and we are shipping this money to a foreign country that will never be asked to repay it.

In 40 years, if they were somehow gloriously successful again—40 years from now—they are still not going to be asked to pay this. Americans are working two, sometimes three jobs just to make ends meet, and while millions of Americans work day in and day out to pay off their own personal loans, President Biden wants to forgive Ukraine's economic loans without any debate.

This was rushed forward. I was fortunate enough to get 16 colleagues to allow this vote to happen. But they didn't want this vote to happen. They gave us a short window, and, boom, it is going to be gone. They don't want a discussion about how obviously insulting this is to every American to do this.

The American people have been more than generous when it comes to supporting Ukraine. In the nearly 3 years of this war, Congress has appropriated nearly \$200 billion in aid. For 3 years, the American people have been sold the lie that if we only send tens of billions more of their dollars to Ukraine, Ukraine will be able to push Russians out, secure the 2014 borders, and achieve victory in the battlefield.

It won't happen. The President of Ukraine, the generals of Ukraine, the people who have followed this situation all agree: The war is at a stalemate.

Trillions of dollars more will only lead to more carnage in the battlefield, and it won't achieve victory. These assertions were always farcical, as they failed to contend with basic battlefield realities.

Despite massive assistance provided by the United States and others, Ukraine is no better off now than they were 3 years ago. It is arguable that their ability to negotiate, as they have lost more land to Russia, is actually that their leverage for negotiation with Russia is less than it was when the war began.

In fact, Ukraine is now in a worse negotiating position because they have likely incurred hundreds of thousands of casualties and now face a critical manpower shortage. That shortage is becoming impossible to ignore, as Russia consolidates its gains and continues to make progress across eastern Ukraine.

Americans may be surprised to discover that their aid has not, in fact, shifted the war in Ukraine's favor. They may also be surprised to learn that much of the money Congress sends to Ukraine isn't actually being used to support Ukraine's military.

While American families struggle to put food on the table and keep the lights on, U.S. taxpayers are paying for the salaries of thousands of Ukrainian bureaucrats, their pensions. We are paying for their teachers.

Do our teachers make enough money? Probably not. But I am guessing, if you ask an American teacher, should we be paying the salaries of Ukrainian teachers, you might get a debate.

We are paying their healthcare workers' salaries, their first responders. We are buying seeds and fertilizer for their farmers. And we are bankrolling Ukrainian small businesses.

A report conducted earlier this year found that 43 percent of small businesses in America were unable to pay their rent in full and on time in the month of April. Yet we are sending billions of dollars to Ukraine to subsidize their small businesses.

A report by CBS News discovered that U.S. taxpayers are helping a Ukrainian knitwear company find new international customers overseas. Oh boy, we are helping Ukrainian businesses expand overseas.

We don't even need independent journalists to highlight such absurdities.

USAID bragged on their own website about how they provided funding for six Ukrainian fashion brands to participate in Paris Fashion Week. I am sure they will be glad that they won't be paying back any loans.

This is what we are asking the American people to pay for—to send Ukrainian fashion brands to a Paris fashion show? I have never had one constituent in Kentucky come up to me and say: Please, send more money. We are fine in Appalachia. We are fine in rural Kentucky.

I don't think there is anybody in Asheville, NC, today that is pleading for more good money to be sent to Ukraine.

It is bad enough, but it is also impossible to ensure that this amount of money actually gets to the misguided priorities that have been set. The Government Accountability Office admits that there are a number of ways in which Federal Agencies could improve oversight and aid to Ukraine.

It has been 3 years. Why hasn't the government approved the oversight? Well, because it is impossible to send so much aid to a country as quickly as we have and expect that there won't be waste, fraud, and abuse.

I forced the Senate to vote on a special inspector general for Ukraine, and the "Ukraine First uniparty"—both sides of the aisle—voted it down. Even with a special inspector general, it is nearly impossible to ensure oversight on this vast amount of money in such a short period of time.

Adding insult to injury, Ukraine is consistently ranked as one of the most corrupt countries in the world. Transparency International ranked Ukraine 104th out of 180 countries in 2023, with respect to honesty and integrity, and also found that 23 percent of the public service users paid a bribe in the previous 12 months in Ukraine.

And yet we give billions of dollars, and we have no special inspector general.

And now in spite of all of this, President Biden wants to forgive over \$4.6 billion in loans that the U.S. taxpayer provided under the auspices that they would be repaid.

This lunacy is just another example of how the Washington establishment is completely out of touch with Americans. You ask Americans about this, they have got to pay their loans; they don't understand forgiving Ukrainian loans.

The election earlier this month made it eminently clear that the American people are sick and tired of the status quo. They are sick and tired of business as usual in Washington, and they want their elected officials to deliver change.

It is fitting that in the final months of this disastrous Presidency, Joe Biden caps off his foreign policy for the middle class by asking to cancel over 4.6 billion in aid, in loans, to Ukraine—once again prioritizing the interest of a foreign country at the expense of our own.

I urge my colleagues to vote in support of this resolution to disapprove of the President forgiving this billions of dollars' worth of loans to Ukraine and put the American people first.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I am not going to get into the debate before the floor, but I heard the city of Asheville referenced at the last debate from the gentleman from Kentucky, and I have to tell you, I am not happy with that. I sat here last week and tried to do a unanimous consent request to fund the Small Business Administration loan, and my colleague from Kentucky objected.

But don't pretend like this debate tonight has anything to do with Asheville, NC, a town that just got drinking water 2 days ago. You want to argue this, don't argue it on the merits of something that you objected to me trying to accomplish last week for the city of Asheville.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Sometimes in Washington, memories get clouded and foggy, even after a week. The Senator from North Carolina will remember that he objected to aid in North Carolina. He objected to small business loans. He objected to them simply because they were paid for.

I offered unanimous consent, and it was blocked by the Senator from North Carolina. I offered unanimous consent to immediately infuse more loans through the Small Business Administration for North Carolina that was hit hard by the flooding. The Senator from North Carolina blocked his own bill because I proposed that it be paid for by taking green energy boondoggle loans.

So don't be tricked by any flimflam or any sort of making up of history. The Senator from North Carolina last week blocked his own aid passage that I agreed to let go unanimously as long as it was paid for by taking some extra money from another part of the budget. Don't be fooled.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I understand we have about 7 or 8 minutes left. I may need to use all of them.

Let's talk about tomfoolery. Let's talk about being disingenuous. The gentleman from Kentucky knows damn well that he proposed an amendment that would have actually caused the bill to fail.

The gentleman from Kentucky also knows very well that the House has a posture that the disaster recovery bill has to be funded. The gentleman from Kentucky knows that this aid that I have tried to get to the House would have been fully funded. The gentleman from Kentucky also knows that I also support the amendment he offered, but he played the game that we play around here and tried to think that I wouldn't have the courage to stand up

against that garbage amendment because it was the right amendment at the wrong time.

I yield, Mr. President, unless there is additional time and someone else wants to speak.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. It is very important that the truth be told about what went on with aid to North Carolina. I agreed to pass it unanimously as long as it was paid for.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President. Mr. President.

Mr. PAUL. I won't be interrupted, Mr. President. I have the floor.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I rise for an—

Mr. PAUL. I have the floor.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I rise—

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Kentucky has the floor.

Mr. PAUL. I will not yield the floor.

Mr. President—

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, parliamentary inquiry—

Mr. PAUL.—what has been said here is untrue.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate will be in order. The Senator from Kentucky has the floor.

Mr. TILLIS. Is it the ruling of this Chair that it is out of order to make the parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Chair?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Kentucky has not yielded for an inquiry. The Senator from Kentucky still owns the floor.

Mr. TILLIS. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, it is important that the truth be told and that people aren't allowed to stand and lie without challenge.

The bill last week to give immediate aid to North Carolina was objected to by the Senator from North Carolina. I agreed to let it go immediately by unanimous consent as long as it was paid for. The Senator from North Carolina objected.

These are the facts. This is the Senate record. The people of North Carolina can read this in the Senate record. He objected to his own bill because he was annoyed that I had the audacity to say we have a \$2 trillion debt, and we should pay for things.

We had \$4 trillion worth of Green Energy New Deal boondoggle spending subsidies to big green energy company, big corporations. He objected to taking money from green energy boondoggle budgets and spending it in his own State. He objected to his own bill.

So what I would say is: The truth is important. The facts are important. We have had a very important debate here, and there is a general philosophical debate about whether or not we should spend money in Ukraine or in our country.

We have had flooding problems in Kentucky. I haven't met one person who suffered from this who didn't say it was more important to spend the

money in Kentucky than Ukraine. It is a debate that is worth having. The decisions we make over here should be about prioritizing spending. Where do we spend it? Do we borrow it? Where do we spend the money? This is what it is about.

And the fact that the Senator from North Carolina wants to rewrite history and say he didn't object to his own bill when he did is a lie; just simply untrue. Just simply untrue.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator will suspend.

The Senate is reminded that there are rules of decorum in the Senate. Let me read to you rule XIX:

No Senator in debate shall, directly or indirectly, by any form of words, impute to another Senator or other Senators any conduct or motive unworthy or unbecoming of a Senator.

Mr. PAUL. Thank you. I would regain the rest of my time. How much time do I have left?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. There is 6½ half minutes remaining.

Mr. PAUL. You said 6½ minutes? The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Total remaining.

Mr. PAUL. This side of the debate which has—

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Kentucky is recognized.

Mr. PAUL.—30 minutes will relinquish the remaining time on our side.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. First, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator is to state his inquiry.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I want to understand the effect of the gentleman from Kentucky relinquishing time.

Does that mean that I would need to continue debate until the time is over; or at the time that I finish speaking, will we go to a vote?

Mr. PAUL. There is no more time left on our side.

Mr. TILLIS. There is about 4 minutes left?

Mr. PAUL. There is none.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. There is 5½ minutes remaining.

Mr. TILLIS. There is 5½ minutes remaining?

Mr. PAUL. But that is not what happened. I relinquished the time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate will come to order.

Mr. TILLIS. Parliamentary inquiry.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. State the nature of your inquiry.

Mr. TILLIS. Does the Senator from North Carolina have the floor?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from North Carolina has the floor.

Mr. TILLIS. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I have been accused of lying. I don't mind that. I mean, I am a politician. People do that every single day.

But I believe that someone may be guilty of misleading this body about

my position. So I am going to take a few minutes to explain my position. It may or may not coincide with the end of time set aside for debate.

But our State motto is "Esse Quam Videri."

Mr. Chair, may I have order?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate will come to order. The Senators will take conversations outside the chamber.

Mr. TILLIS. My state motto is "Esse Quam Videri." That is Latin. It means "to be rather than to seem."

Well, ladies and gentlemen, the gentleman from Kentucky suggests that I am against clawing back the Green New Deal and certain things that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle passed through reconciliation. Why would anybody with any experience in this body think that it wouldn't be one of the first things I would vote for when we have reconciliation? Right? How can anybody possibly suggest that I am against clawing back policies that were passed through reconciliation because I am going to need it to pay for tax reform when we pass reconciliation in the next Congress. So how can it—and I have said that we are going to claw back things, and we are going to pay for it.

If you listen to the gentleman from Kentucky, he said I am against repealing that. Well, both can't be true, ladies and gentlemen. They just simply can't be true.

I am for the very things—and I hope that the Senator from Kentucky knows I would be happy to cosponsor that bill. If I have it, I will tomorrow.

But I don't play games in this Chamber. I actually fight, in this case, for the people of western North Carolina who are suffering. I will defeat any amendment to aid to North Carolina if it stands in the way. But I know a little bit about legislative procedure, ladies and gentlemen. And anybody in here who pays attention to how a bill becomes law should watch this.

We could pass the SBA funding bill out of here because 99 out of 100 Senators said it was OK. One didn't. Now we would like to think that the House would receive it and pass it out because we have a tradition of not funding disaster recovery bills, but we know the current majority won't do it.

So anybody with a modicum of experience in legislative procedure and actually passing bills that get to the President's desk would know that it will have to be funded, and my colleague from the western North Carolina 11th District is working on a paid-for now.

So if you really care about the people in North Carolina, if you really understand the legislative process, and you really understand the posture of the House, then you know—you absolutely know—that this bill will be paid for before it goes to the President's desk.

Now, I have some people asking me why I am talking. Because I am going to get the final say here, and I am not

going to let anyone else talk before we have to go to a vote. So if you are wondering why I am going on, I am not going to play the game of somebody coming up—I am only equating what they said about me—that I lied.

So, ladies and gentlemen, instead of relinquishing the time, unless I can be assured the minute I put this mic down we are going to go to a vote, then I have got to start quoting poetry or something because I am not yielding until time is out.

So, Mr. President, may I make a parliamentary inquiry?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The gentleman may state the nature of his inquiry.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, how much time is left?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. There is 7 minutes and 35 seconds remaining.

Mr. TILLIS. You said 7 minutes and 35 seconds?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Yes, 7 minutes and 35 seconds.

Mr. TILLIS. OK. Mr. President, may I make an inquiry of the lady from the State of Washington?

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I yield back all the Democratic time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Washington yields back all time.

#### VOTE ON MOTION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 37, nays 61, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 295 Leg.]

#### YEAS—37

Barrasso	Fischer	Mullin
Blackburn	Graham	Paul
Boozman	Hagerty	Risch
Britt	Hawley	Rounds
Budd	Hoeven	Rubio
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cramer	Lankford	Sullivan
Crapo	Lee	Thune
Cruz	Lummis	Tuberville
Daines	Marshall	
Ernst	Moran	

#### NAYS—61

Baldwin	Casey	Grassley
Bennet	Collins	Hassan
Blumenthal	Coons	Heinrich
Booker	Cornyn	Helmy
Brown	Cortez Masto	Hickenlooper
Butler	Duckworth	Hirono
Cantwell	Durbin	Kaine
Cardin	Fetterman	Kelly
Carper	Gillibrand	King

Klobuchar	Reed	Tillis	Warner	Warren	Whitehouse
Luján	Ricketts	Van Hollen	Warnock	Welch	Wyden
Manchin	Romney	Warner			
Markey	Rosen	Warnock			
McConnell	Sanders	Warren	Barrasso	Graham	Ricketts
Merkley	Schatz	Welch	Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Murkowski	Schumer	Whitehouse	Boozman	Hagerty	Romney
Murphy	Shaheen	Wicker	Braun	Hawley	Rounds
Murray	Sinema	Wyden	Britt	Hoover	Rubio
Ossoff	Smith	Young	Budd	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Padilla	Stabenow		Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Peters	Tester		Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (SC)

#### NOT VOTING—2

Braun Vance

The motion was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Sooknanan cloture motion be waived.

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

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 601, Sparkle L. Sooknanan, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, Amy Klobuchar, Jack Reed, Tina Smith, Tammy Duckworth, Richard Blumenthal, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Catherine Cortez Masto, Margaret Wood Hassan, Peter Welch, Sheldon Whitehouse, Raphael G. Warnock, Laphonza R. Butler, Brian Schatz, Debbie Stabenow.

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 Sparkle L. Sooknanan, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 296 Leg.]

#### YEAS—51

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Murray
Bennet	Hassan	Ossoff
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Padilla
Booker	Helmy	Peters
Brown	Hickenlooper	Reed
Butler	Hirono	Rosen
Cantwell	Kaine	Sanders
Cardin	Kelly	Schatz
Carper	King	Schumer
Casey	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Coons	Luján	Sinema
Cornyn	Manchin	Smith
Helmy	Stabenow	
Hickenlooper	Duckworth	Markley
Hirono	Durbin	Merkley
Kaine	Fetterman	Tester
Kelly	Gillibrand	Murphy
King		Van Hollen

#### NAYS—49

Warren	Welch	Whitehouse
Welch		Wyden

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 49.

The motion is agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Cloture having been invoked, the Senate will resume executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Sparkle L. Sooknanan, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, if cloture is invoked on the Sooknanan nomination, the Senate immediately vote on the Murphy, Hwang, Dixon, and Henry cloture motions in the order in which cloture was filed; further, that during Thursday's session of the Senate, at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Republican leader, the Senate vote on the Wise and Weilheimer cloture motions in the order in which the cloture was filed; further, that if cloture is invoked on any of the above nominations, all postcloture time be considered expired and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Republican leader, no earlier than Monday, December 2, 2024; further, that the mandatory quorum calls for the above cloture motions be waived; finally, that the cloture motion with respect to the Desai nomination be withdrawn and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Republican leader, during Thursday's session of the Senate.

For the information of Members in plain English, this means we are going to have four votes tonight. We are going to—and we are not going to have those 2-hour intervening times so we can get them done quickly if we stay in our seats.

We then will vote tomorrow. We have two votes tomorrow morning and one vote before 1:45.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 650, Brian Edward Murphy, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Debbie Stabenow, John W. Hickenlooper, Sheldon Whitehouse, Tina Smith, Alex Padilla, Tammy Baldwin, Tammy Duckworth, Christopher Murphy, Patty Murray, Jack Reed, Angus S. King, Jr., Gary C. Peters, Peter Welch, Margaret Wood Hassan, Brian Schatz.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Brian Edward Murphy, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 297 Ex.]

#### YEAS—50

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

#### NAYS—49

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

#### NOT VOTING—1

Manchin

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 49. The motion is agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Brian Edward Murphy, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the next and all subsequent rollcalls be 10 minutes in duration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

The 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. 707, Anne Hwang, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, Laphonza R. Butler, Peter Welch, Gary C. Peters, Chris Van Hollen, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tina Smith, Jack Reed, Christopher Murphy, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Tim Kaine, Catherine Cortez Masto, Tammy Duckworth, Sheldon Whitehouse.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Anne Hwang, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California, 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 West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 298 Ex.]

#### YEAS—51

Baldwin	Hassan	Reed
Blackburn	Heinrich	Rosen
Boozman	Blumenthal	Sanders
Braun	Helmy	Schatz
Britt	Hickenlooper	Shaheen
Budd	Booker	Schumer
Capito	Brown	Whitehouse
Cassidy	Butler	Welch
Collins	Kaine	Shaheen
Cornyn	Coons	Sinema
Cotton	Cardin	Smith
Cramer	Carper	Stabenow
Crapo	Luján	Tester
Cruz	Markey	Van Hollen
Daines	Merkley	Welch
Ernst	Murphy	Warnock
Fischer	Murray	Warren
	Durbin	Whitehouse
	Fetterman	Wyden
	Gillibrand	

#### NAYS—48

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

#### NOT VOTING—1

Manchin

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 48.

The motion is agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Anne Hwang, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

#### 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. 711, Cynthia Valenzuela Dixon, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, Laphonza R. Butler, Peter Welch, Cory A. Booker, John W. Hickenlooper, Martin Heinrich, Gary C. Peters, Elizabeth Warren, Jack Reed, Margaret Wood Hassan, Catherine Cortez Masto, Sheldon Whitehouse, Tammy Baldwin, Debbie Stabenow, Brian Schatz.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination

of Cynthia Valenzuela Dixon, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California, 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 West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 299 Ex.]

YEAS—50

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

NAYS—49

Barrasso	Graham	Ricketts
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hagerty	Romney
Braun	Hawley	Rounds
Britt	Hooven	Rubio
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Collins	Lankford	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lee	Thune
Cotton	Lummis	Tillis
Cramer	Marshall	Tuberville
Crapo	McConnell	
Cruz	Moran	Vance
Daines	Mullin	Wicker
Ernst	Murkowski	Young
Fischer	Paul	

NOT VOTING—1

Manchin

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. KLOBUCHAR). The yeas are 50, the nays are 49.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Cynthia Valenzuela Dixon, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

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. 779, Catherine Henry, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Peter Welch, Cory A. Booker, John W. Hickenlooper, Martin Heinrich, Laphonza R. Butler, Elizabeth Warren, Jack Reed, Margaret Wood Hassan, Catherine Cortez Masto, Alex Padilla, Sheldon Whitehouse, Tammy Baldwin, Debbie Stabenow, Gary C. Peters, Brian Schatz.

Mr. SCHUMER. This is the last vote, everybody.

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 Catherine Henry, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 300 Ex.]

YEAS—50

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

NAYS—49

Barrasso	Graham	Ricketts
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hagerty	Romney
Braun	Hawley	Rounds
Britt	Hooven	Rubio
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Collins	Lankford	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lee	Thune
Cotton	Lummis	Tillis
Cramer	Marshall	Tuberville
Crapo	McConnell	
Cruz	Moran	Vance
Daines	Mullin	Wicker
Ernst	Murkowski	Young
Fischer	Paul	

NOT VOTING—1

Manchin

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 49.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Catherine Henry, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

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.

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. 20-62 concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$655 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. 20-62

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

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment\* \$653 million.

Other \$2 million.

Total \$655 million.

Funding Source: National Funds.

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

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Two Thousand Five Hundred Three (2,503) AGM-114R3 Hellfire II Missiles (3 for lot acceptance testing).

Non-MDE: Also included are support and test equipment; integration and test support;

spare and repair parts; software delivery and support; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; storage; and other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (SR-B-WCZ).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: SR-B-WAL.

(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: October 11, 2024.

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

#### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—AGM-114R3

Hellfire II Missiles

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has requested to buy Two Thousand Five Hundred Three (2,503) AGM-114R3 Hellfire II missiles (3 for lot acceptance testing). Also included are support and test equipment; integration and test support; spare and repair parts; software delivery and support; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; storage; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The total estimated cost is \$655 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a friendly country that continues to be an important force for political and economic progress in the Middle East.

The proposed sale will improve Saudi Arabia's capability to meet current and future threats and improve interoperability with systems operated by U.S. Forces and other Gulf countries. Saudi Arabia's continued investment in its defensive capabilities is crucial to protecting its borders, energy infrastructure, and its residents. Saudi Arabia will have no difficulty absorbing these missiles 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 will be The Lockheed Martin Corporation, Troy, AL. The purchaser typically requests offsets. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Saudi Arabia. The only additional U.S. military support required would be Technical Assistance Field Team (TAFT) visits during training phases.

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

#### TRANSMITTAL NO. 20-62

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 AGM-114R3 Hellfire II missile is a precision strike, Semi-Active Laser (SAL)-guided missile and is the principal air-to-ground weapon for the Army. The AGM-114R3 Hellfire II missile provides the warfighter with an air-to-ground, point-target precision strike capability to defeat advanced armor and an array of traditional and nontraditional targets.

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 hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures or equivalent systems which might reduce system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that the Government of Saudi Arabia can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

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

#### ARMS SALES NOTIFICATIONS

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

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

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

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 24-0G. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 15-68 of October 19, 2015.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,  
Director.

Enclosures.

#### TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-0G

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

(i) Prospective Purchase: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 15-68; Date: October 19, 2015; Implementing Agency: Navy.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description: On October 19, 2015 Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 15-68 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of a comprehensive naval modernization program referred to as the Saudi Naval Expansion Program II

(SNEP-II). This 2015 notification of the next phase of that program will include Multi-Mission Surface Combatant (MMSC) ships and program office support. The MMSC will consist of the following Major Defense Equipment (MDE): four (4) MMSC ships (a derivative of the Freedom Variant of the U.S. Navy Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) Class) that incorporate five (5) COMBATSS-21 Combat Management Systems (four (4) installed, one (1) spare) with five (5) TRS-4D Radars (four (4) installed, one (1) spare); five (5) Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) (Mode 4 and Mode 5-capable) UPX-29 (four (4) installed, one (1) spare); five (5) Compact Low Frequency Active Passive Variable Depth Sonar (four (4) installed, one (1) spare); eight (8) MK-41 Vertical Launch Systems (VLS) (two (2) eight-cell assemblies per ship for 16 cells per hull); five-hundred thirty-two (532) tactical RIM-162 Evolved Sea Sparrow Missiles (ESSM) (one hundred twenty-eight (128) installed, twenty (20) test and training rounds, three hundred eighty-four (384) spares); five (5) AN/SWG-1 (Y) Harpoon Ship Command Launch Control Systems (four (4) installed (one (1) per ship), one (1) spare); eight (8) Harpoon Shipboard Launchers (two (2) installed four-tube assemblies per ship); forty-eight (48) RGM-84 Harpoon Block II Missiles (thirty-two (32) installed, sixteen (16) test and training rounds); five (5) MK-15 Mod 31 SeaRAM Close-In Weapon System (CIWS) (four (4) installed, one (1) spare); one-hundred eighty-eight (188) RIM 116C Block II Rolling Airframe Missiles (RAM) (forty-four (44) installed, twelve (12) test and training rounds, one hundred thirty-two (132) spares); five (5) MK-75 76mm OTO Melara Gun Systems (four (4) installed, one (1) spare); and forty-eight (48) 50-caliber machine guns (forty (40) installed (ten (10) per ship), eight (8) spares); ordnance; and Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM) Global Positioning System/Precise Positioning Service (GPS/PPS) navigation equipment. Also included in this sale in support of the MMSC are: study, design and construction of operations; support and training facilities; spare and repair parts; support and test equipment; communications equipment employing Link 16 equipment; Fire Control System/Ceros 200 Sensor and Illuminator; 20mm Narwhal Gun; Nixie AN/SLQ-25A Surface Ship Torpedo Defense System; MK-32 Surface Vessel Torpedo Tubes; WBR-2000 Electronic Support Measure and Threat Warning System; Automatic Launch of Expendables (ALEX) Chaff and Decoy-Launching System; ARC-210 Radios; Combined Enterprise Regional Information Exchange System (CENTRIXS); Automated Digital Network System; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support. In addition, this case provided overarching program office support for the SNEP II to include: U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support, and other related elements of program support to meet necessities for program execution. The estimated cost was \$11.25 billion. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$4.30 billion of this total.

On May 24, 2019, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 0P-19 of the inclusion of four (4) Multi-functional Information Distribution System Joint Tactical Radio Systems (MIDS JTRS) to be installed on Saudi Arabia's Multi-Mission Surface Combatant (MMSC) ships, support equipment, engineering and technical support, training, and other related elements of program support. The estimated total value remained at \$11.25 billion. The total

MDE value increased by \$7 million to a revised MDE total of \$4.307 billion.

This transmittal notifies the inclusion of one hundred forty-eight (148) RGM-114-L Longbow Hellfire missiles (32 for each of 4 ships, 20 for testing); five (5) Indra Rigel Electronic Attack Systems (1 per ship, 1 for training); and sixteen (16) M240B machine guns (4 per ship) for installation on the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Multi-Mission Surface Combatant (MMSC) ships. Also included is engineering and technical support; training; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total case value will remain \$11.25 billion. The total MDE value will increase by \$403 million to a revised \$4.71 billion.

(iv) Significance: This notification is being provided as the additional MDE items were not enumerated in the original notification. The proposed sale will support the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with added protection in the Persian Gulf to meet current and future maritime threats. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia intends to use the capability to support interoperability with U.S. forces and to support joint and coalition warfighting capabilities in the region.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by ensuring the readiness of a friendly country that continues to be an important force for political stability and economic growth in the Middle East.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology:

Longbow Hellfire (LBHF) is a short-range, precision strike, air-to-surface missile that uses millimeter wave (MMW) radar guidance. LBHF was developed as an anti-armor weapon for helicopters. As part of the U.S. Navy's Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) program, the missile was modified to serve in a shipboard surface-to-surface role. This modified missile was adapted for use in a quad pack canister installed into the Mk-41 Vertical Launch System (VLS) for the Multi-Mission Surface Combatant (MMSC) ships.

The Indra Electronic Warfare (EW) suite will provide electronic surveillance, electronic protection, and electronic attack capabilities for the MMSC ships. The EW suite that will be installed on the MMSC ships is comprised of radar electronic support measures, which detect and identify enemy communications, and active radar electronic countermeasures, which jam and disrupt enemy radar performance and communications. The Indra EW suite will not be integrated with the ship's combat management system, will not exchange classified data, and the U.S. Navy will not provide threat library information. The EW suite is available internationally through Indra.

The M240B machine guns will provide shipboard self-defense for MMSC ships in the Arabian Gulf, helping to protect critical ports and waterways while ensuring freedom of navigation.

The Sensitivity of Technology Statement contained in the original notification applies to additional items reported here.

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

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: October 11, 2024.

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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. 21-15 concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$139 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. 21-15

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

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment\* \$9 million.

Other \$130 million.

Total \$139 million.

Funding Source: National Funds.

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

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Ten thousand (10,000) M456 Series, 105mm, High Explosive Anti-Tank Tracer Cartridges.

Non-MDE: Also included are various types of tank, howitzer, and machine gun ammunition; propelling charges; fuzes; primers; grenades; support and test equipment; integration and test support; spare and repair parts; software delivery and support; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; storage; and other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (SR-B-UDA, SR-B-UDC).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(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: October 11, 2024.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—Ammunition for Artillery Systems, Machine Guns, and Tanks

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has requested to buy ten thousand (10,000) M456 series, 105mm, High Explosive Anti-Tank Tracer cartridges. Also included are various types of tank, howitzer, and machine gun ammunition; propelling charges; fuzes; primers; grenades; support and test equipment; integration and test support; spare and repair parts; software delivery and support; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; storage; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The total estimated cost is \$139 million.

This proposed sale will support U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives by helping to improve the security of a friendly country that continues to be an important force for political stability and economic growth in the Middle East.

The proposed sale will improve Saudi Arabia's capability to meet current and future threats and improve interoperability with systems operated by U.S. Forces and other Gulf countries. Saudi Arabia's continued investment in its defense capabilities is crucial to protecting its borders, energy infrastructure, and its residents. Saudi Arabia will have no difficulty absorbing these munitions into its armed forces.

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

This ammunition will come from a combination of U.S. Army stock and new procurement. The procurement vendors are unknown at this time. The purchaser typically requests offsets. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Saudi Arabia.

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

TRANSMITTAL NO. 21-15

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 105mm M456A2 High Explosive, Anti-tank Multipurpose, with Tracer, Cartridge (DODIC C508) is designed for use against armored targets and contains Composition B Explosive (an explosive consisting of castable mixtures of RDX and TNT) and a copper shaped charge liner inside a steel body. Saudi Arabia will use them in their M60A3 tanks.

2. The 155mm M795 High Explosive Projectile (DODIC D529), will be used in Saudi Arabia's M109 series howitzers. This item is employed against personnel; trucks; electronic surveillance and target acquisition devices; supply points; command and control and communications (C3) installations; and mechanized and armored forces.

3. The 155mm M231 Propelling Charge (DODIC DA12) will be used in Saudi Arabia's M109 series howitzers. The Modular Artillery Charge System (MACS) consists of two propelling charge module types, the M231 and the M232/M232A1, and their associated packaging. The system is compatible with all current and planned 155mm field artillery weapons.

4. The 155mm M232A1 Propelling Charge (DODIC DA13), will be used in Saudi Arabia's M109 series howitzers. The Modular Artillery Charge System (MACS) consists of two propelling charge module types, the M231 and

the M232/M232A1, and their associated packaging. The system is compatible with all current and planned 155mm field artillery weapons.

5. The .50 Cal M8 Armor Piercing Incendiary/M20 Armor Piercing Incendiary-Tracer, linked 4/1 (DODIC A576), is machine gun ammunition. The cartridges contain a manganese molybdenum steel core, a point filler of incendiary composition, and a lead-antimony base seal. This configuration combines the functions of an armor piercing bullet and an incendiary bullet, and is used against flammable targets and light-armored or unarmored targets, concrete shelters, and similar bullet-resisting targets. The addition of a tracer in the M20 enables the shooter to follow the projectile trajectory to make aiming corrections.

6. The M67 Fragmentation Hand Grenade (DODIC G881) is an anti-personnel munition used to supplement small arms fire against enemies in close combat.

7. The M739A1 Artillery Point Detonating/Delay Fuze (DODIC N340) will be used in Saudi Arabia's M109 series howitzers. This item is the U.S. Army's preferred, primary fuze for 105mm and 155mm projectiles to address point detonating/delay artillery functions.

8. The M82 Percussion Primer (DODIC N523) will be used in Saudi Arabia's M109 series howitzers.

9. The 120MM Insensitive Munitions High Explosive—Tracer Non-US Inventory will be used in the M1A2 tanks. Insensitive munitions are munitions that are designed to withstand stimuli representative of severe but credible accidents. The current range of stimuli are shock, heat and adjacent detonating munitions.

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

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

12. A determination has been made that the Government of Saudi Arabia can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

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

#### 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. 21-15 concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$139 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. 21-15

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

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:  
Major Defense Equipment\* \$9 million.  
Other \$130 million.  
Total \$139 million.

Funding Source: National Funds.

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

Ten thousand (10,000) M456 Series, 105mm, High Explosive Anti-Tank Tracer Cartridges.

Non-MDE: Also included are various types of tank, howitzer, and machine gun ammunition; propelling charges; fuzes; primers; grenades; support and test equipment; integration and test support; spare and repair parts; software delivery and support; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; storage; and other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (SR-B-UDA, SR-B-UDC).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(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: October 11, 2024.

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

#### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—Ammunition for Artillery Systems, Machine Guns, and Tanks

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has requested to buy ten thousand (10,000) M456 series, 105mm, High Explosive Anti-Tank Tracer cartridges. Also included are various types of tank, howitzer, and machine gun ammunition; propelling charges; fuzes; primers; grenades; support and test equipment; integration and test support; spare and repair parts; software delivery and support; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, tech-

nical and logistics support services; storage; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The total estimated cost is \$139 million.

This proposed sale will support U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives by helping to improve the security of a friendly country that continues to be an important force for political stability and economic growth in the Middle East.

The proposed sale will improve Saudi Arabia's capability to meet current and future threats and improve interoperability with systems operated by U.S. Forces and other Gulf countries. Saudi Arabia's continued investment in its defense capabilities is crucial to protecting its borders, energy infrastructure, and its residents. Saudi Arabia will have no difficulty absorbing these munitions into its armed forces.

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

This ammunition will come from a combination of U.S. Army stock and new procurement. The procurement vendors are unknown at this time. The purchaser typically requests offsets. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Saudi Arabia.

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

TRANSMITTAL NO. 21-15

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 105mm M456A2 High Explosive, Anti-Tank Multipurpose, with Tracer, Cartridge (DODIC C508) is designed for use against armored targets and contains Composition B Explosive (an explosive consisting of castable mixtures of RDX and TNT) and a copper shaped charge liner inside a steel body. Saudi Arabia will use them in their M60A3 tanks.

2. The 155mm M795 High Explosive Projectile (DODIC D529), will be used in Saudi Arabia's M109 series howitzers. This item is employed against personnel; trucks; electronic surveillance and target acquisition devices; supply points; command and control and communications (C3) installations; and mechanized and armored forces.

3. The 155mm M231 Propelling Charge (DODIC DA12) will be used in Saudi Arabia's M109 series howitzers. The Modular Artillery Charge System (MACS) consists of two propelling charge module types, the M231 and the M232/M232A1, and their associated packaging. The system is compatible with all current and planned 155mm field artillery weapons.

4. The 155mm M232A1 Propelling Charge (DODIC DA13), will be used in Saudi Arabia's M109 series howitzers. The Modular Artillery Charge System (MACS) consists of two propelling charge module types, the M231 and the M232/M232A1, and their associated packaging. The system is compatible with all current and planned 155mm field artillery weapons.

5. The .50 Cal M8 Armor Piercing Incendiary/M20 Armor Piercing Incendiary-Tracer, linked 4/1 (DODIC A576), is machine gun ammunition. The cartridges contain a manganese molybdenum steel core, a point filler of incendiary composition, and a lead-antimony base seal. This configuration combines the functions of an armor piercing bullet and an incendiary bullet, and is used against

flammable targets and light-armored or unarmored targets, concrete shelters, and similar bullet-resisting targets. The addition of a tracer in the M20 enables the shooter to follow the projectile trajectory to make aiming corrections.

6. The M67 Fragmentation Hand Grenade (DODIC G881) is an anti-personnel munition used to supplement small arms fire against enemies in close combat.

7. The M739AI Artillery Point Detonating/Delay Fuze (DODIC N340) will be used in Saudi Arabia's M109 series howitzers. This item is the U.S. Army's preferred, primary fuze for 105mm and 155mm projectiles to address point detonating/delay artillery functions.

8. The M82 Percussion Primer (DODIC N523) will be used in Saudi Arabia's M109 series howitzers.

9. The 120MM Insensitive Munitions High Explosive—Tracer Non-U.S. Inventory will be used in the M1A2 tanks. Insensitive munitions are munitions that are designed to withstand stimuli representative of severe but credible accidents. The current range of stimuli are shock, heat and adjacent detonating munitions.

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

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

12. A determination has been made that the Government of Saudi Arabia can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

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

#### ARMS SALES NOTIFICATIONS

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

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

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

#### DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 24-0A. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 15-17 of May 20, 2015.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,  
*Director.*

Enclosures.

#### TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-0A

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

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

(ii) Sec. 36(B)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 15-17; Date: May 20, 2015; Implementing Agency: Navy.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description: On May 20, 2015, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 15-17 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of ten (10) MH-60R multi-mission helicopters with fourteen (14) APS-153(V) Multi-Mode radars (10 installed, 2 spares and 2 for testing); twenty-four T-700 GE 401 C engines (20 installed and 4 spares); twelve (12) APX-123 Identification Friend or For transponders (10 installed and 2 spares); fourteen (14) AN/AAS-44C(V) Multi-Spectral Targeting Systems Forward Looking Infrared Radars (10 installed, 2 spares, and 2 for testing); twenty-six (26) Embedded Global Positioning System/Inertial Navigation Systems with Selective Availability/Anti-Spoofing Module (20 installed and 6 spares); Link-16 capability; one-thousand (1,000) AN/SSQ-36/53/62 Sonobuoys; thirty-eight (38) AGM-114R Hellfire II missiles; five (5) AGM-114 M36-E9 Captive Air Training missiles; four (4) AGM-114Q Hellfire Training Missiles; three-hundred eighty (380) Advanced Precision Kill Weapons Systems rockets; twelve (12) M-240D crew served weapons; and twelve GAU-21 crew served weapons. Also included were spare engine containers, facilities study and design; spare and repair parts; support and test equipment; communication equipment; aerial refueling services; ferry support; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; and other elements of logistical and program support. The estimated cost was \$1.90 billion. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$1.25 billion of this total.

On September 15, 2015, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 0J-15 of the inclusion of two (2) AN/AQS-22 Airborne Low Frequency Sonar (ALFS). The AN/AQS-22 was declared Major Defence Equipment (MDE) in early June 2015, after transmittal number 15-17 was notified to Congress. Prior to this determination, the units were included in the value of the original transmittal but not enumerated or valued as MDE. Upgrading the status of this equipment to MDE resulted in an increase in MDE of \$9 million, but the total case value remained at \$1.90 billion.

On May 24, 2019, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 00-19 of the inclusion of ten (10) Link 16 Multifunctional Information Distribution

System—Low Volume Terminals (MIDS-LVT) Block Upgrade Two terminals to be installed on Saudi Arabia's MH-60R Helicopters; twenty-four (24) spare Link 16 MIDS-LVT Block Upgrade Two terminals; support equipment; engineering and technical support, training, and other related elements of program support. The total MDE value was \$10.9 million. The revised MDE total value was \$1.269 billion. The total value remained \$1.90 billion.

This transmittal notifies inclusion of the following additional MDE items: six hundred eighty-two (682) Advanced Precision Kill Weapons System (APKWS) rockets; one hundred fifty-three (153) AGM-114R Hellfire II missiles; and one (1) M240D 7.62mm machine gun. The following non-MDE items will also be included: engineering and technical support; training; and other related elements of program support. The estimated total value of the new items is \$71 million. This will result in a net increase in MDE value of \$71 million, and a revised total MDE value of \$1.34 billion. The estimated total case value will remain \$1.90 billion.

(iv) Significance: This notification is being provided as the additional MDE items were not enumerated in the original notification. The proposed articles and services will support the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by improving security in the Arabian Gulf, interoperability with U.S. forces, and the ease in conducting coordinated operations.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a partner country that is a force for political stability and economic progress in the Gulf Region.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology:

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

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

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: October 11, 2024.

#### ARMS SALES NOTIFICATIONS

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

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

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

#### DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY, Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of

the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 24-46, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$251.8 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. 24-46

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

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment\* \$192.4 million.

Other \$59.4 million.

Total \$251.8 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 twenty (220) AIM-9X Block II Sidewinder Tactical Missiles.

Non-MDE: Also included are missile containers; support equipment; spares; missile software; training; U.S. Government and contractor technical assistance; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (SR-P-ACD).

(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: October 11, 2024.

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

#### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—AIM-9X Block 11 Sidewinder Missiles

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has requested to buy two-hundred twenty (220) AIM-9X Block II Sidewinder Tactical Missiles. Also included are missile containers; support equipment; spares; missile software; training; and U.S. Government and contractor technical assistance; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$251.8 million.

This proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by ensuring the readiness of a friendly country that continues to be an important force for political stability and economic growth in the Middle East.

The proposed sale will improve the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's capability to meet current and future threats, provide increased air defense capabilities, and support conducting self-defense and regional security missions in the Middle East. Saudi Arabia 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 will be RTX Corporation, located in Arlington, VA. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require the assignment of three U.S. Govern-

ment and two to four contractor representatives annually to Saudi Arabia for a period of one week. However, ad hoc travel may be required for engineering and other support.

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

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-46

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 AIM-9X Block II Sidewinder Missile represents a substantial increase in performance over the AIM-9M and replaces the AIM-9X Block 1 Missile configuration. The missile includes a high off-boresight seeker, enhanced countermeasure rejection capability, low drag and high angle of attack airframe, and the ability to integrate the Helmet Mounted Cueing System. The most current AIM-9X Block II Operational Flight Software developed for all International Partner countries, which is authorized by U.S. Government export policy, provides fifth-generation infrared missile capabilities such as Lock-On-After-Launch, Weapons Data Link, Surface Attack, and Surface Launch. No software source code or algorithms will be released.

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 the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

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

#### 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. 20-79 concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of the United Arab Emirates for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$1.2 billion. 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. 20-79

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 the United Arab Emirates.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment\* \$1.15 billion.

Other \$.05 billion.

Total \$1.20 billion.

Funding Source: National Funds.

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

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Two hundred fifty-nine (259) Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System (GMLRS) M31A1 Unitary Pods (1,554 missiles at six missiles per pod).

Two hundred three (203) Army Tactical Missile Systems (ATACMS) M57 Unitary Missiles.

Non-MDE: Also included are publications; personnel training and training equipment; software development; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (AE-B-ZUZ).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: AE-B-ZVE.

(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: October 11, 2024.

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

#### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

United Arab Emirates—GMLRS and ATACMS Munitions

The Government of the United Arab Emirates has requested to buy two hundred fifty-nine (259) Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System (GMLRS) M31A1 Unitary Pods (1,554 missiles at six missiles per pod) and two hundred three (203) Army Tactical Missile Systems (ATACMS) M57 Unitary Missiles. Also included are publications; personnel training and training equipment; software development; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated total cost is \$1.2 billion.

The proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the security of an important regional partner. The United Arab Emirates has been, and continues to be, a vital U.S. partner for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East.

The proposed sale will improve the United Arab Emirates' capability to meet current and future threats by modernizing its armed forces. This sale will contribute to the United Arab Emirates' military goals of updating capability while further enhancing interoperability with the United States and other partners. The United Arab Emirates will have no difficulty absorbing these articles 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 will be Lockheed Martin, Grand Prairie, TX. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require the temporary assignment of four (4) U.S. Government and four (4) U.S. contractor representatives to the United Arab Emirates for a duration of no longer than ten (10) days to support new software equipment training and the stockpile reliability program.

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

#### TRANSMITTAL NO. 20-79

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

#### Annex Item No. vii

##### (vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System (GMLRS) is a solid propellant artillery rocket for the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS). GMLRS uses GPS-aided inertial guidance to accurately and quickly deliver a single high-explosive blast fragmentation warhead to targets. The GMLRS has an operational range of 15–70km.

2. The M57 Army Tactical Missile Systems (ATACMS) is a conventional, semi-ballistic missile for the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS). ATACMS is a guided by GPS-aided inertial navigation systems to provide precise targeting over ranges of up to 300km.

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

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

5. A determination has been made that the United Arab Emirates can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

6. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have authorized for release and export to the Government of the United Arab Emirates.

#### 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. 24-116, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of the United Kingdom for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$70 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. 24-116

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 the United Kingdom.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment\* \$45 million.

Other \$25 million.

Total \$70 million.

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

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Forty-six (46) Tactical Combat Training System Increment II (TCTS II) air combat training systems.

Non-Major Defense Equipment: The following non-MDE items will also be included: containers; integration and test support; spare and repair parts; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (UK-P-LYI).

(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: November 18, 2024.

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

#### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

United Kingdom—Tactical Combat Training System Increment II

The Government of the United Kingdom has requested to buy forty-six (46) Tactical Combat Training System Increment II (TCTS II) air combat training systems. The following non-MDE items will also be included: containers; integration and test sup-

port; spare and repair parts; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$70 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a key NATO Ally that is an important force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

The proposed sale will improve the United Kingdom's capability to meet current and future threats by improving live, virtual, and constructive tactical combat training. The Royal Air Force's use of the TCTS II furthers United States–United Kingdom operational training interoperability. The United Kingdom 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 contractors will be Collins Aerospace, located in Cedar Rapids, IA, and Leonardo DRS Systems, located in Fort Walton Beach, FL. 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 the United Kingdom.

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

#### TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-116

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 Tactical Combat Training System Increment II (TCTS II) is a software-configurable, next generation air combat training system built to support 4th and 5th generation fighter training on all air combat training ranges. The TCTS II consists of ground equipment, including Common Ground Subsystem and Remote Range Units, and an airborne subsystem pod installed on the aircraft. The airborne subsystem pod interfaces through a secure connection with an aircraft's weapon and data buses and transmits data to Remote Range Units via L-band or S-band radio frequency (RF) signal. The Remote Range Units then route data via RF, fiber, or cellular to the Common Ground Subsystem for live monitoring and post mission replay.

2. The TCTS II provides aircraft and weapons performance information in real time to assist in accurate and immediate feedback to aircrews on both offensive and defensive tactics and weapons employment. Unsuccessful training missions can be repeated within minutes of restaging instead of waiting for post mission debriefs to learn of mistakes and then having to re-fly the same missions at a later date. This has significant cost savings implications (using fewer flying hours to achieve results) while simultaneously bringing better and more relevant training to pilots.

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

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

5. A determination has been made that the United Kingdom can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

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

## NATO

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the attached article entitled “NATO at 75” by Alan W. Dowd in the American Legion Magazine, be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

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

[From The American Legion Magazine, Oct. 2024]

### NATO AT 75

(By Alan W. Dowd)

Rather than scaring NATO to death, Vladimir Putin’s war in Ukraine has scared NATO back to life. For years, the alliance had been drifting. But with Putin trying to rebuild the Russian Empire and NATO returning to its core mission of deterrence, there’s broader support—and clearer need—for NATO than at any time since the Cold War.

### ORIGINS

After World War II, Britain, France, Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg forged a mutual-defense pact. Prime Minister Paul-Henri Spaak of Belgium warned that any alliance without the United States would be “without practical value.”

1946-1948 Moscow violates agreements made at Yalta to hold free elections in post-war Europe, supports communist forces in the Greek Civil War, pressures Turkey for basing rights, topples Czechoslovakia’s democratic government and blockades West Berlin. The United States and Britain respond with the Berlin Airlift.

1949 The United States, Britain, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway and Portugal sign the North Atlantic Treaty. The heart of the treaty is Article V, which declares that “an armed attack against one or more . . . shall be considered an attack against them all.” The U.S. Senate ratifies the treaty 82-13.

1950 Moscow greenlights the invasion of South Korea, supplies Pyongyang with weapons and sends advisers to support the assault. NATO members Britain, Canada, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg and the United States—plus future members Turkey and Greece—send troops to defend South Korea.

1951 NATO opens its headquarters near Paris. Taking the reins as NATO military commander, Gen. Dwight Eisenhower calls NATO “the last remaining chance for the survival of Western civilization.”

### GROWTH

NATO has been growing since it was born—not by conquest but by consent, not by the force of arms of its members but by the desire for security of its aspirants. It’s all there in Article X: The allies may “by unanimous agreement invite any other European state in a position to further the principles of this treaty.”

1952 Greece and Turkey join NATO.

1955 West Germany joins NATO. The USSR, Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland and Romania create the Warsaw Pact. The bloc fields 100 divisions, NATO 25.

1956 Soviet tanks crush Hungary’s efforts to form a multiparty government.

### HEADACHES

In its second decade, NATO began to deal with internal problems and external challenges.

1959 After Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev boasts about his army’s conventional advantage in Germany, Eisenhower—now president—warns, “If you attack us in Germany, there will be nothing conventional about our response.”

To commemorate NATO’s 10th birthday, Bing Crosby records “The NATO Song,” which cheers, “NATO went on guard and free men ceased to yield. We live again in peace and strength behind the NATO shield.”

1960 Turkey’s army seizes power.

1961 Spurred by an exodus from Eastern Europe, the Soviets and East Germans wall off West Berlin.

1962 President John Kennedy in West-Berlin declares, “Ich bin ein Berliner!”

1966 French President Charles de Gaulle pulls France out of NATO’s military command and insists that NATO’s headquarters—and all U.S. military personnel—leave France. Secretary of State Dean Rusk responds, “Does that include the dead Americans in military cemeteries?”

1967 NATO headquarters moves to Brussels. The Greek army seizes power.

1968 Warsaw Pact forces invade Czechoslovakia, ending the Prague Spring.

1974 Greece supports a coup in Cyprus; Turkey occupies Northern Cyprus.

1975 Under the Helsinki Accords, Western and Warsaw Pact nations formally recognize the post-World War II political-territorial settlement.

### CROSSROADS

As the 1980s approached, NATO was at a crossroads: continue to give ground to Moscow, or return to deterrence and answer Moscow’s aggression. A president and a pope helped the alliance choose the right course.

1979 Moscow deploys SS-20 nuclear missiles in Central Europe. Soviet troops invade Afghanistan. Pope John Paul II declares, “There can be no just Europe without the independence of Poland,” exhorting his countrymen: “Do not be afraid.”

1980 Led by Lech Walesa, Polish workers form the Solidarity trade union. Warsaw institutes martial law. Turkey’s military retakes power.

1982 Spain joins NATO.

1983 Washington deploys Pershing II missiles in response to Moscow’s SS-20 deployment. President Ronald Reagan labels the USSR “an evil empire.” Misreading NATO’s Able Archer exercise as the first move in a preemptive war, Moscow nearly launches a preemptive strike.

1985 Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev meet in Geneva, the first of five summits that end the Cold War. 1987 in Berlin, Reagan demands, “Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!” Reagan and Gorbachev sign the Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, the first eliminating an entire class of nuclear missiles.

November 1989 The Berlin Wall falls.

### NEW MISSION

President George H.W. Bush declares, “Let Europe be whole and free. To the founders of the alliance, this aspiration was a distant dream . . . now it’s the new mission of NATO.”

1990 Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia declare independence from the USSR. East and

West Germany are unified. Germany remains in NATO. The Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe is signed, sweeping huge numbers of conventional weapons from Europe.

February 1991 The Warsaw Pact dissolves.

April 1991 Georgia declares independence from the USSR.

June 1991 Boris Yeltsin wins Russia’s first popular presidential election.

July 1991 Bush and Gorbachev sign the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, reducing nuclear arsenals.

August 1991 Hardliners launch an unsuccessful coup against Gorbachev. Ukraine and Belarus declare independence.

December 1991 Gorbachev resigns; the USSR formally ends.

### EASTWARD

With ethnic warfare flaring in the Balkans, many observers called on NATO to play a stabilizing role. “There is an antidote to chaos,” Reagan said. “Its name is NATO.”

1993 Walesa, now Poland’s president, warns, “If Russia again adopts an aggressive foreign policy, that aggression will be directed toward Ukraine and Poland.”

1994 President Bill Clinton declares, “The question is no longer whether NATO will take on new members, but when and how.”

Russia agrees to “respect the independence . . . sovereignty and existing borders of Ukraine.” Ukraine surrenders its nuclear arsenal.

1995 NATO conducts airstrikes to protect Bosnian-Muslims from Serbian attacks. NATO and Russia share peacekeeping duties in postwar Bosnia.

1997 NATO and Russia renounce the “threat or use of force against each other.”

March-June 1999 Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary join NATO. NATO launches airstrikes to protect Kosovo from Serbia. After Belgrade agrees to ceasefire terms, Russian forces attempt to seize an airfield in Kosovo. When NATO commander U.S. Gen. Wesley Clark orders British Gen. Mike Jackson to block the Russians, Jackson defiantly answers, “I’m not going to start World War III for you.”

December 1999 Yeltsin resigns and installs Putin as Russia’s president.

### ANOTHER CROSSROADS

After outlasting the Soviet Empire, wading into Eastern Europe and laying the foundations of a Europe “whole and free,” NATO would be forced to confront a range of new and old threats in a new century.

2001 Al-Qaida attacks New York City and Washington, D.C. For the first time, NATO invokes Article V, and deploys planes to U.S. airspace.

2002 Washington and Moscow sign the Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty, slashing deployed nuclear missiles to around 2,000 warheads apiece.

2003 Taking command of Afghanistan operations, NATO continues to struggle waging war by committee: Italian fighter-bombers deploy without bombs. Germany requires its troops to warn enemy forces—in three languages—before engaging. Non-NATO members Australia, Georgia and Sweden deploy more troops than several NATO members. Germany and France oppose U.S.-British efforts to secure U.N. authorization to disarm Iraq. Turkey blocks U.S. forces from transiting Turkish territory into Iraq. Eighteen NATO members (plus Ukraine and Georgia) send troops to Iraq.

2004 Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia join NATO.

2005 Putin declares, “The demise of the Soviet Union was the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the (20th) century.”

2006 NATO urges members to invest at least 2% of GDP in defense. Only eight members reach that target by 2022.

2007 Putin claims NATO's growth violates post-Cold War agreements, calling it "a serious provocation." Gorbachev counters that "the topic of NATO expansion was not discussed" as the Cold War thawed. Russia-based hackers launch crippling cyberattacks against Estonia.

April 2008 Germany and France block Ukraine and Georgia from NATO membership. Though NATO agrees that "these countries will become members of NATO," no timetable is set. Due to disputes over Macedonia's name, Greece blocks Macedonia from joining NATO. NATO endorses U.S. missile-defense deployments in Eastern Europe.

August 2008 Russia invades Georgia. The U.S. Air Force transports thousands of Georgian troops from Iraq to Georgia, likely preventing Russia from taking Tbilisi.

2009 President Barack Obama cancels missile-defense deployments in Eastern Europe; Warsaw calls the decision "catastrophic." Albania and Croatia join NATO. France returns to NATO's military-command structure.

2010 Washington and Moscow agree to New START, further reducing nuclear arsenals.

2011 NATO enforces a U.N. no-fly zone over Libya. Washington deactivates the Navy's North Atlantic-focused 2nd Fleet.

2012 Washington deactivates the Army's Germany-based V Corps.

2013 Washington withdraws every U.S. tank from Europe. Britain announces the closure of its garrison in Germany.

2014 Russia seizes Ukraine's Crimea and arms separatists in eastern Ukraine. Washington sends "nonlethal aid." Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko jabs, "One cannot win a war with blankets." Russia violates the INF and CFE treaties. NATO allies Belgium, Britain, Canada, Denmark, France, Netherlands and the United States conduct airstrikes against ISIS.

#### WARNINGS

As the 2020s neared, two U.S. presidents openly expressed frustration with NATO. Yet NATO would again prove its worth. "If we did not have NATO today," Gen. James Mattis said in 2017, "we would need to create it."

2016 NATO establishes battlegroups to deter Russian attacks against Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and Poland. Obama tells British Prime Minister David Cameron, "You have to pay your fair share." Suspecting a coup, Turkish President Recep Erdogan arrests 40,000 Turkish citizens.

2017 President Donald Trump complains that NATO members "aren't paying what they should." At the height of the Cold War, the United States accounted for 56% of NATO's defense spending; by 2017, it's closer to 70%. Montenegro joins NATO. U.S. generals accuse Russia of arming the Taliban. Turkey purchases Russian air-defense systems.

2018 Asked during a NATO summit, "Would you leave us if we don't pay our bills?" Trump responds, "I would consider it." Washington reactivates the 2nd Fleet.

2020 The Republic of North Macedonia joins NATO. Washington reactivates V Corps-Forward in Poland.

May 2021 Russian cyberattacks hit U.S. energy infrastructure.

August 2021 President Joe Biden orders U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan. As operations come to a close, 74% of troops deployed in the country that spawned 9/11 are not American.

December 2021 Putin demands NATO not expand, cease military activities in Eastern Europe, and withdraw forces to where they were before Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic joined NATO.

#### CORNERSTONE

With threats to the free world metastasizing, NATO solidified its role not only as the cornerstone of America's security, but as the coordinating hub for international security.

2022 Putin launches his second invasion of Ukraine, an all-out effort to seize Kyiv and erase Ukraine's independence. NATO members rush military aid to Kyiv. Although Ukraine isn't a NATO member, the allies recognize, finally, that Putin's war threatens what the North Atlantic Treaty calls the "stability and . . . security of the North Atlantic area."

NATO establishes battlegroups in Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz announces a near-doubling of defense spending, declaring, "The world will no longer be the same."

In a visit to Poland, Biden echoes Pope John Paul II, urging Ukrainian refugees and their Polish hosts, "Be not afraid."

Longtime neutrals Sweden and Finland seek NATO membership. With Australia, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand attending the NATO summit, the alliance identifies China as a challenge and commits to working with Indo-Pacific partners on "shared security interests."

2023 Russia violates the New START Treaty. Washington establishes Army Garrison-Poland.

Finland joins NATO. Turkey and Hungary delay Sweden's accession. Germany deploys 4,000 troops to Lithuania; Britain announces deployment of 20,000 troops to NATO's northern flank. Putin deploys nuclear weapons in Belarus.

Allies unveil the NATO-Ukraine Defense Council.

2024 Sweden joins NATO. Twenty-three NATO members invest at least 2% of GDP on defense. The United States and Germany announce deployment on German territory of hypersonic weapons and Tomahawk land-attack missiles.

On its 75th anniversary, NATO—now 32 members—calls Russia a "direct threat to allies' security."

#### TRIBUTE TO KATHLEEN CATHEY

• Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I rise today to honor Kathleen Cathey, my friend and long-time field representative for eastern Oregon, who has dedicated her career to making our State an even better place for everyone to live and work.

Kathleen is retiring at the end of the year after nearly 20 years of service closing the 2,500 mile gap between eastern Oregon and Washington, DC.

Before I go into the long list of Kathleen's many achievements delivering for the people of eastern Oregon, I want to briefly mention the unique circumstances of her service to 11 of Oregon's 36 counties.

Distances between communities in Baker, Gilliam, Grant, Malheur, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Wasco, and Wheeler Counties are measured in hours, not miles. In the colder months, snow and ice often makes traveling through this part of our State that much more grueling. In the hotter months, wildfires can do the same.

Yet, from Arlington to Zumwalt and everywhere in-between, Kathleen showed up each and every time a wild-

fire, snowstorm, flood, drought, or any crisis struck. She showed up to help Oregonians and their families, small businesses, farmers, ranchers, county commissioners, you name it. She showed up to help everyone in the most rural parts of our State navigate the bureaucratic labyrinth of Federal Agencies operating thousands of miles away.

During the 2020 floods in Umatilla County, Kathleen worked around the clock to get help to everybody who needed it.

As a former basketball player, I am especially fond of the coaching maxim about coming to play every day.

Kathleen Cathey came to play every day for eastern Oregon.

In her final months on the job, she showed up with the same passion and dedication she has brought over the past two decades to her work. She has been working tirelessly to find a legislative solution before the end of this year for the Owyhee Canyonlands around Malheur County, the only part of Oregon that is in the mountain time zone.

The Owyhee is a natural treasure of extraordinary beauty that is home to all sorts of endangered species, including ranchers and their way of life. And as I speak on the floor at this very moment, Kathleen is working to get this community-driven solution over the finish line, which sets an example for the rest of our country about reaching across divides and coming up with solutions that leave everyone better off.

Kathleen made her way onto Team Wyden after working on the school board in her hometown of La Grande, working with the Union County Commission on Children and Families; and as a mental health training coordinator.

She came to that public service after moving to Union County 50 years ago with her family when she was just entering her freshman year in high school.

Kathleen followed the path of community service carved out by her parents John and Elinor Riley, who both volunteered in local projects like the Eastern Oregon Livestock Show, the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Union, the Union Family Clinic, Habitat for Humanity and the Union Planning Commission.

From day one on the job as my eastern Oregon field representative, Kathleen got to work for veterans after the Veterans Administration had announced plans to close the nearby Walla Walla VA hospital.

The result? She helped make the successful case that the VA needed to keep services nearby at Walla Walla because veterans deserved to get their healthcare close to home.

But Kathleen didn't stop there. In 2008, she pressed for the VA to open the La Grande Community Based Outpatient Clinic, and she has continued her work to stop the VA from closing the nearest alcohol and drug residential treatment facility in Walla Walla

and moving services 150 miles farther away to Spokane.

Agriculture plays a huge role in communities in eastern Oregon, a connection between land and life that Kathleen knows from growing up in Union County. As chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, I lead a committee that has jurisdiction over things like tax policy, Medicare, and Medicaid. Understandably, it can be hard for folks in Eastern Oregon to understand how exactly those policies impact them. Kathleen has always known how to help connect the dots. She made the case for a national review of drug manufacturing and quotas for ADHD medicines in eastern Oregon. She was our leading voice when the Baker Hospital closed its maternity ward with less than 30 days notice to the community.

One of the biggest ways Kathleen helped connect the dots was through the Finance Committee's work on trade.

With such a robust agricultural sector, trade policy has a deep impact on the farmers, ranchers, and producers in the eastern part of our State. Kathleen, among her many talents, is a master convener. She put her expertise and connections to good use, working with local ranchers and the State of Oregon, as well as the USDA, to support Oregon in reinstating its State meat inspection program.

This program is helping protect Oregon our ranchers from inflationary pricing of larger national meat processors, while striking a blow against national and international meat monopolies. It is also more humane for the animals and helps cut down on carbon emissions associated with cattle ranching and meat processing.

With accomplishments like these, it is no surprise that Kathleen's teamwork in eastern Oregon earned her the 2023 Above and Beyond Award from the Oregon Wheat Growers.

Simply put, Kathleen Cathey came to play every day for rural Oregon and always fought to improve the lives of those in its small communities. She battled to expand rural broadband in recent years into every nook and cranny of our State. And she worked just as hard each year to ensure eastern Oregon secures its fair share of Federal funds for roads, schools, and more from the Secure Rural Schools or Payment in Lieu of Taxes programs.

Bottom line, I have always counted on Kathleen for her good counsel, even temperament, and deep community connections. I have no doubt that a public service dynamo like Kathleen will find many ways to keep helping eastern Oregon in the future.

Kathleen leaves my office with all my best wishes for a happy retirement with her husband Larry, hugging and doting on their grandkids—all while she carves out time for peaceful walks, smooth bike rides, quiet reading, and preparing pumpkin muffins and other tasty offerings in her kitchen.

As we like to say in our little corner of the world: once a member of Team

Wyden, always a member of Team Wyden. I will miss Kathleen's passion, guidance, and friendship immensely. I will always be grateful that she chose to share her talents with our team, and I take comfort in knowing that her good counsel will never be more than a phone call away. •

#### TRIBUTE TO HAROLD HIRSCH

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I rise on behalf of myself and Senator CRAPO, speaking as chair and ranking member of the Finance Committee. Today, we commend Harold Hirsch on his service to the U.S. Congress for over 47 years. Mr. Hirsch served as a lawyer and tax expert on the staff of the nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation of the United States Congress from the beginning of 1977 to October 2024, when he retired. Prior to 1977, Mr. Hirsch had worked as a lawyer for the office of the Judge Advocate General and for the legislation and regulations section at the Internal Revenue Service, government service for which we also thank him.

As is well known, the staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation staff performs useful or at times indispensable functions to the Members as the Congress develops tax legislation. Mr. Hirsch's legal acumen, drafting brilliance, and deep understanding of tax policy issues contributed to the quality of tax legislation in numerous tax bills over the period he served on the JCT staff. Though reserved, even self-effacing, Mr. Hirsch brought thoughtful commentary to the development of proposed tax legislation. He gave an extremely careful reading of proposed legislative text, and his keen eye for possible statutory errors averted problems that would otherwise have plagued taxpayers, practitioners, and government administrators alike. Mr. Hirsch's technical skills and expertise in the craft of helping the Congress produce the best statutory representation of Members' intent redounded to the benefit of the American taxpayer.

This dedicated work should not go unknown and unrecognized. The Congress thanks Mr. Hirsch for his service in the field of tax legislation.

#### TRIBUTE TO MAJOR MATTHEW "MADDOG" GUERTIN

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, I would like to take a few moments to recognize Maj. Matthew "Maddog" Guertin who has worked in my Senate office this year as a defense fellow. Major Guertin—soon to be lieutenant colonel—is a patriot who has served our country nobly and made it a safer place. In 1 short year, he has proven to be an invaluable member of my staff.

Major Guertin commissioned into the Air Force in 2010 as a distinguished graduate from the U.S. Air Force Academy. After completing his graduate degree from Rice University, he trained at the prestigious Euro-NATO Joint

Jet Pilot Training in Texas before becoming an F-22 pilot. He quickly became a proven combat leader, having flown 150 combat hours in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE, including 10 sorties over Syria and Iraq and dozens of defensive counter air hours to protect American ground troops. The Air Force stated that his actions "directly contributed to the defeat of Islamic State insurgents." Major Guertin also flew hundreds of hours on Operation NOBLE EAGLE and alert missions in defense of the Alaskan coast and National Capital Region.

Following his deployment to the Middle East, Major Guertin spent 3 years at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Alaska, flying and instructing pilots on the F-22. There, he earned the Meritorious Service Medal for outstanding work in leading 206 airmen, increasing the base's operational capability, and playing a pivotal role advancing Air Force capabilities during Arctic exercises. In 2021, he moved to Joint Base Langley-Eustis in Virginia where he quickly distinguished himself as the Air Force's F-22 subject matter expert.

During his time in Virginia, Major Guertin led all requirements and force structure planning for a fleet of 185 F-22 aircraft, affecting about \$7 billion in investment over a 5-year period. He secured a \$1.4 billion budget increase for the F-22 and successfully executed 30 program requirements. That is three times more program requirements than the last 19 years of F-22 history combined. Major Guertin ultimately championed the upgrades to the F-22 being implemented today that will secure the fighter as the United States' premier air superiority platform throughout the decade and beyond.

For his contributions to such a critical aspect of U.S. military strategy, the Air Force awarded Major Guertin the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Defense Department gave him the 2023 Defense Acquisition Workforce Award for Requirements Management.

I could not have been assigned a more knowledgeable and skilled pilot to join my office in January 2023, representing the Air Force in Congress as a defense fellow.

During his time in my office, Major Guertin staffed high level meetings and helped prepare me for numerous committee hearings, briefings, and legislative efforts. His colleagues deeply appreciated his initiative, dedication, and good cheer. He clearly demonstrated his passion and dedication to making this great Nation safer every single day working in the Senate.

Thankfully, the Air Force also recognizes his commitment to service, as it recently announced Major Guertin's upcoming promotion to lieutenant colonel.

Finally, I cannot honor Major Guertin without also thanking his family: his wife Jamie and his four children Abigail, Benjamin, Madison, and Nathan. Major Guertin is clearly a great father and a great husband, and I

am grateful to his family for sharing him with my team.

Major Guertin has had an extraordinary career, and he will serve his country well in the years ahead. He is exactly the kind of man and leader that our military needs. For these reasons and many more, I was honored to have Major Guertin in my office this year. Maddog, thank you for your service to Arkansas and to the United States of America.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING JUDGE ANDY JACKSON

• Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, this year, Tennessee lost a great leader, public servant, and American: Judge A. Andrew “Andy” Jackson.

For 33 years, Judge Jackson served as judge of the juvenile and probate Court of Dickson County, where he worked to safeguard the interests of his community while putting the juvenile offenders in his courtroom on the path to becoming responsible, law-abiding citizens. While on the court, Judge Jackson became a leading figure in our State’s juvenile justice system, helping author Tennessee’s first rules of juvenile procedure and serving as president of the Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

Beyond his legal career, Judge Jackson was an exemplary friend and neighbor whose generosity, patriotism, and passion for life inspired so many who knew him. From his early days as an Eagle Scout to pursuing his love for deep-sea fishing, hunting, marksmanship, aviation, cattle rearing, agriculture, or just telling jokes, Judge Jackson lived a life in full.

On behalf of all Tennesseans, I extend my heartfelt condolences to Judge Jackson’s family, including his beloved wife Elaine, daughters Kelly and Sally, and grandchildren Evelyn, Michael, and Catherine. While our State has lost a great man, Judge Jackson’s legacy will endure in Dickson County and across Tennessee for many years to come.●

##### REMEMBERING JUDGE DUANE SLOWE

• Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, I rise today to honor an exemplary community leader, public servant, and Tennessean: Judge Duane Sloane, who tragically passed away at the age of 61.

For 26 years, Judge Sloane served on Tennessee’s 4th Judicial District Court, where he pioneered innovative efforts to combat drug addiction and the opioid crisis. In 2009, he founded his district’s first drug recovery court, which provides many east Tennesseans the resources and support they need to end their substance abuse and become law-abiding citizens. Four years later, Judge Sloane built on this effort by

founding the Tennessee Recovery Oriented Compliance Strategy, which provides similar support to those struggling with addiction but who do not qualify for recovery court.

Judge Sloane’s work has been credited with decreasing crime and substance abuse while keeping vulnerable Tennesseans, including countless pregnant women and single mothers, out of jail. Replicating his success, 14 Tennessee counties now use Judge Sloane’s Tennessee Recovery Oriented Compliance Strategy, which has helped more than 1,000 people. In recognition of his work, Judge Sloane in 2019 received the National Center for State Courts William H. Rehnquist Judicial Excellence Award, the Nation’s highest honor for State court judges.

We join all Tennesseans in mourning the loss of this incredible leader, who had such a profound impact on our State and every person who passed through his courtroom.●

##### REMEMBERING DR. MILDRED THORNTON STAHLMAN

• Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, I rise today to honor an incredible Tennessean: Dr. Mildred Thornton Stahlman, whose research and innovations transformed how generations of physicians have saved newborn lives.

In 1961, Dr. Stahlman established one of the first intensive care units for newborns in the country at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center. There, Dr. Stahlman pioneered the use of miniature iron lung machines—typically used for children with polio—to treat premature babies suffering from respiratory lung disease. By helping the newborns draw air into their lungs, Dr. Stahlman’s innovation significantly improved outcomes for babies who otherwise faced little chance of surviving.

As head of the hospital’s neonatology unit from 1961 to 1989, Dr. Stahlman led lifesaving medical research, including on pulmonary function and respiratory distress syndrome. At the same time, she developed an emergency response system that brought premature babies to VUMC for treatment from community hospitals across 30 counties in Tennessee, a groundbreaking endeavor that saved countless lives.

After a life full of care, generosity, and courage, earlier this year Dr. Stahlman passed away at the age of 101. We join all Tennesseans in mourning the loss of this truly remarkable woman, whose legacy will live on for generations to come.●

##### TRIBUTE TO ALEC FARMER

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Alec Farmer on his upcoming retirement from the Arkansas State Highway Commission after 10 years of dedicated service, including as chairman since 2023.

In 2015, Governor Asa Hutchinson appointed Alec to the Arkansas State

Highway Commission in light of his exemplary record of public service. As a native of northeast Arkansas, he has spent a lifetime contributing to and uplifting his community, the region, and our State.

After graduating from Arkansas State University, he earned a J.D. from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock School of Law. Farmer has operated his family’s farm and property investment and management company while also playing an active role on numerous boards and commissions throughout his professional life. That commitment has encompassed roles on the Craighead Conservation District, Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, the Arkansas State Police Commission, the Arkansas Agricultural Board, as well as several positions on various municipal and economic development-focused organizations in Jonesboro including 4 years on the city council.

Since his appointment to the Highway Commission, he has devoted himself to helping lead the diligent maintenance, construction, and expansion of our State’s highways and broader transportation infrastructure.

During his tenure as a commissioner, he has provided invaluable leadership and vision, which has helped facilitate projects across the State including 2,600 miles of roads and over 800 projects in northeast Arkansas alone. His efforts have been instrumental in the passage of permanent funding for State, municipal, and county roadways; designating two interstates; and granting safe passage for farm equipment. Most recently, Chairman Farmer helped coordinate the redesignation of U.S. Highway 67 into Interstate I-57, a major milestone in the effort to further connect Arkansas with the rest of the country.

He has consistently prioritized meeting the public’s expectations for quality surface transportation in their own communities and across Arkansas. That mindset has helped deliver tremendous progress that will continue to be felt for years to come.

His commitment, over 25 years of public service, has been so significant that Craighead County Judge Marvin Day declared Friday, September 13, 2024 as “Alec Farmer Day.”

I know he has been gratified to follow in his father’s footsteps in serving on the Arkansas Highway Commission, and our State is better for their efforts. As he prepares to depart the commission, I want to extend our deepest gratitude on behalf of all Arkansans for using his time, skills and resources for such important work. I greatly appreciate his friendship, partnership and dedication, and wish him all the best in his next chapter.●

##### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:35 a.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, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1449. An act to amend the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 to increase the frequency of lease sales, to require replacement sales, and for other purposes.

#### ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 12:39 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 5464. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Guntersville, Alabama, as the "Colonel Ola Lee Mize Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic".

H.R. 5861. An act to extend reemployment services and eligibility assessments to all claimants for unemployment benefits, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6324. An act to authorize major medical facility projects for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2024, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7333. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in West Palm Beach, Florida, as the "Thomas H. Corey VA Medical Center".

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

#### MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 1449. An act to amend the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 to increase the frequency of lease sales, to require replacement sales, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

#### MOTION TO PROCEED PETITION

We the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of Public Law 118-50 Sec. 508(e)(2)(A) do hereby move to proceed to S.J. Res. 117, A Joint Resolution Relating to the disapproval of the Presidential report with respect to the indebtedness of the Government of Ukraine.

Rand Paul, Mike Lee, Roger Marshall, Ron Johnson, Tommy Tuberville, Lindsey Graham, Kyrsten Sinema, Kevin Cramer, Joni Ernst, Marsha Blackburn, Eric Schmitt, Rick Scott, Josh Hawley, Cynthia M. Lummis, John Barrasso, Ted Budd.

#### MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following resolution was discharged from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and referred as indicated:

S. Res. 894. A resolution designating December 1, 2024, as "Drive Safer Sunday"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### 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-6600. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on

the national emergency with respect to global illicit drug trafficking that was declared in Executive Order 14059 of December 15, 2021; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6601. 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 13611 with respect to Yemen; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6602. 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 13667 with respect to the Central African Republic; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6603. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the advancement by countries of concern in sensitive technologies and products critical to the military, intelligence, surveillance, or cyber-enabled capabilities of such countries that was declared in Executive Order 14105 of August 9, 2023; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6604. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Vessel Incidental Discharge National Standards of Performance; Correction" (RIN2040-AF92) (FRL No. 7218-04-OW) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 30, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6605. A communication from the Supervisor of Executive Services Branch, Executive and Employee Services Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, four (4) reports relative to vacancies in the Environmental Protection Agency, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6606. A communication from the Senior Attorney Advisor/Regulations Officer, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Interstate System Access" (RIN2125-AF89) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6607. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Election to Exclude Certain Unincorporated Organizations Owned by Applicable Entities from Application of the Rules on Partners and Partnerships" (RIN1545-BR09) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6608. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Determination under section 7034(k)(5) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2024 (Div. F, P.L. 118-47), as carried forward by the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (Div. A, P.L. 118-83)"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6609. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation: Federal Acquisition Circular 2025-01; Introduction" (Docket No. FAR-2024-0051, Sequence No. 6)

received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6610. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6611. A communication from the President and CEO, Inter-American Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Foundation's Annual Management Report for fiscal year 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6612. A communication from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6613. A communication from the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semi-annual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6614. A communication from the Director, Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6615. A communication from the Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6616. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6617. A communication from the Attorney for Regulatory Affairs, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Standard for Infant Support Cushions" ((16 CFR Part 1112, 1130, 1243) (Docket No. CPSC-2023-0047)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 18, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6618. A communication from the Director, U.S. Trade and Development Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6619. A communication from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2024 Agency Financial Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6620. A communication from the Agency Representative, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Setting and Adjusting Patent Fees During Fiscal Year 2025" (RIN0651-AD64) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2024; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-6621. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Requirement to File FEC Form 3-Z" (Notice 2024-26) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2024; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. SCHATZ, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment:

S. 4370. A bill to amend the Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004 to improve that Act, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-249).

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

S. 5019. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 340 South Loudon Avenue in Baltimore, Maryland, as the "United States Representative Elijah E. Cummings Post Office Building".

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

H.R. 6162. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 379 North Oates Street in Dothan, Alabama, as the "LaBruce 'Bruce' Tidwell Post Office Building".

H.R. 6188. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 420 Highway 17 North in Surfside Beach, South Carolina, as the "Nancy Yount Childs Post Office Building".

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

H.R. 6750. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 501 Mercer Street Southwest in Wilson, North Carolina, as the "Milton F. Fitch, Sr. Post Office Building".

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".

## EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. CARPER for the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

\*Matthew Kaplan, of Maryland, to be Federal Cochairperson of the Great Lakes Authority.

\*Matthew James Marzano, of Illinois, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the term of five years expiring June 30, 2028.

By Mr. PETERS for the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

\*Val Butler Demings, of Florida, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2030.

\*William Zollars, of Kansas, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2029.

\*James Graham Lake, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for a term of fifteen years.

\*Nicholas George Miranda, 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.

\*Gordon Hartogensis, of Connecticut, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2031.

By Mr. SCHATZ for the Committee on Indian Affairs.

\*Patrice H. Kunesh, of Minnesota, to be Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission for the term of three years.

\*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

## 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. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 5349. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure prompt coverage of breakthrough devices under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HELMY, Mr. Kaine, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 5350. A bill to make available necessary disaster assistance for families affected by major disasters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BARRASSO:

S. 5351. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to upgrade existing public safety answering points in units of the National Park System to Next Generation 9-1-1 systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 5352. A bill to amend title VI of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to establish a Federal renewable electricity standard for retail electricity suppliers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SCHMITT (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 5353. A bill to establish a national plan to coordinate research on epilepsy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CASEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. HELMY, Mr. Kaine, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 5354. A bill to amend the civil rights remedies equalization provision of the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1986 to clarify civil rights remedies; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 5355. A bill to ensure that the National Advisory Council on Indian Education includes at least 1 member who is the president of a Tribal College or University; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAPO, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. 5356. A bill to establish clear and consistent biological definitions of male and female; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. BUDD):

S. 5357. A bill to require certain reports on small business disaster assistance to be pub-

lished on the website of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 5358. A bill to protect the right of law-abiding citizens to transport knives interstate, notwithstanding a patchwork of State and local prohibitions that burden citizens; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

S. 5359. A bill to amend the National Marine Sanctuary Act to prohibit requiring an authorization for the installation, operation, maintenance, repair, or recovery of undersea fiber optic cables in a national marine sanctuary if such activities have previously been authorized by a Federal or State agency; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 5360. A bill to establish the Sutton Mountain National Monument, to authorize certain land exchanges in the State of Oregon, to convey certain Bureau of Land Management land in the State of Oregon to the city of Mitchell, Oregon, for conservation, economic, and community development purposes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 5361. A bill to improve the lead time, accuracy, and dissemination of forecasts of atmospheric rivers throughout the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. HICKENLOOPER):

S. 5362. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 regarding the application of wage and hour provisions to minor league baseball players, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 5363. A bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to authorize grants for toxic substances remediation in schools, to reauthorize healthy high-performance schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 5364. A bill to provide a private right of action regarding children's exposure to covered content on apps, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

## 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, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 901. A resolution supporting the goals and principles of Transgender Day of Remembrance by recognizing the epidemic of violence toward transgender people and memorializing the lives lost this year; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. McCONNELL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, 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, Mr. HAGERTY, 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. OSOFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, 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. 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. 902. A resolution relating to the death Timothy Peter Johnson, former Senator for the State of South Dakota; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. WARNOCK (for himself, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. Res. 903. A resolution expressing support for the designation of November 8, 2024, as “National First-Generation College Celebration Day”; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 904. A resolution recognizing the 75th anniversary of the Antiquarian Booksellers’ Association of America; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. HAGERTY):

S. Res. 905. A resolution recognizing the role of the Scarboro 85 in the desegregation of public schools following the landmark decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in *Brown v. Board of Education*; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BOOZMAN:

S. Res. 906. A resolution commending and congratulating the United States Team for winning the 2024 Solheim Cup; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. McCONNELL):

S. Res. 907. A resolution to authorize representation by the Senate Legal Counsel in the case of *Dr. Ralph de la Torre v. Bernard Sanders, et al.*; considered and agreed to.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 363

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 363, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the individuals and communities who vol-

unteered 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. 652

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 652, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to require a group health plan or health insurance coverage offered in connection with such a plan to provide an exceptions process for any medication step therapy protocol, and for other purposes.

S. 746

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, his 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. 789

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 789, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint a coin in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the United States Foreign Service and its contribution to United States diplomacy.

S. 1024

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1024, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to eligible entities to develop and implement a comprehensive program to promote student access to defibrillation in public elementary schools and secondary schools.

S. 1110

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1110, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to rebase the calculation of payments for sole community hospitals and Medicare-dependent hospitals, and for other purposes.

S. 1183

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1183, a bill to prohibit discrimination on the basis of mental or physical disability in cases of organ transplants.

S. 1301

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1301, a bill to provide highly-skilled nonimmigrant visas for nationals of the Republic of Korea, and for other purposes.

S. 1558

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1558, a bill to award a Congressional

Gold Medal, collectively, to the brave women who served in World War II as members of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps and U.S. Navy Nurse Corps.

S. 1591

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1591, a bill to authorize dedicated domestic terrorism offices within the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to analyze and monitor domestic terrorist activity and require the Federal Government to take steps to prevent domestic terrorism.

S. 2975

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2975, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve payment and processing of payments or allowances for beneficiary travel, and for other purposes.

S. 3058

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3058, a bill to award a congressional gold medal to the United Negro College Fund, Inc. and the institutions that make up its membership on the occasion of its 80th year of existence.

S. 3071

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3071, a bill to amend section 324 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to incentivize States, Indian Tribes, and Territories to close disaster recovery projects by authorizing the use of excess funds for management costs for other disaster recovery projects.

S. 3193

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3193, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to allow for the use of telehealth in substance use disorder treatment, and for other purposes.

S. 3580

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3580, a bill to require institutions of higher education participating in Federal student aid programs to share information about title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, including a link to the webpage of the Office for Civil Rights where an individual can submit a complaint regarding discrimination in violation of such title, and for other purposes.

S. 3671

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3671, a bill to provide that

an individual who uses marijuana in compliance with State law may not be denied occupancy of federally assisted housing, and for other purposes.

S. 3711

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3711, a bill to provide tax relief with respect to certain wildfire relief payments.

S. 3832

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3832, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure appropriate access to non-opioid pain management drugs under part D of the Medicare program.

S. 4141

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor 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. 4243

At the request of Ms. BUTLER, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) were added as cosponsors of S. 4243, a bill to award posthumously the Congressional Gold Medal to Shirley Chisholm.

S. 4419

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4419, a bill to require the Science and Technology Directorate in the Department of Homeland Security to develop greater capacity to detect, identify, and disrupt illicit substances in very low concentrations.

S. 4510

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4510, a bill to amend the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 to delay implementation of the inclusion of oral-only ESRD-related drugs in the Medicare ESRD prospective payment system.

S. 4532

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 4532, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish requirements with respect to the use of prior authorization under Medicare Advantage plans.

S. 4569

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4569, a bill to require covered platforms

to remove nonconsensual intimate visual depictions, and for other purposes.

S. 4812

At the request of Ms. BUTLER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. HELMY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4812, a bill to establish a pilot program to address behavioral health needs among children, adolescents, and young adults, and for other purposes.

S. 4832

At the request of Mrs. BRITT, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) 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. 5102

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSBOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5102, a bill to require annual reports on counter illicit cross-border tunnel operations, and for other purposes.

S. 5137

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5137, a bill to identify property located in the territory of certain foreign trade partners that is owned or controlled by United States persons, necessary to access a port, harbor, or marine terminal, and has been nationalized or expropriated, and to prohibit certain actions by vessels that have landed at such ports, harbors, or marine terminals, and for other purposes.

S. 5243

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 5303

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5303, a bill to amend the United Nations Participation Act of 1945 to provide for a prohibition on contributions to the United Nations related to discrimination against Israel.

S. 5315

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5315, a bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to enhance border security by seeking to expand partnerships with appropriate law enforcement entities in Mexico and Central American and South American countries to combat human smuggling and trafficking operations in Mexico and such countries, and for other purposes.

S. 5320

At the request of Mr. WELCH, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S.

5320, a bill to amend the National Energy Conservation Policy Act to authorize certain long-term contracts for Federal purchases of energy, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 2

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 2, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to limiting the number of terms that a Member of Congress may serve.

S.J. RES. 39

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 39, a joint resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the article of amendment commonly known as the "Equal Rights Amendment" has been validly ratified and is enforceable as the 28th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and the Archivist of the United States must certify and publish the Equal Rights Amendment as the 28th Amendment without delay.

S. RES. 540

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 540, a resolution requesting information on Azerbaijan's human rights practices pursuant to section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 5361. A bill to improve the lead time, accuracy, and dissemination of forecasts of atmospheric rivers throughout the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to introduce the Improving Atmospheric River Forecasts Act. This bill would require the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to establish a new program to improve prediction of these important storm systems.

This bill would direct the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to establish a new program within the National Weather Service to improve atmospheric river forecasts. This includes better data acquisition, like new radar systems that can track the heart of atmospheric rivers hours before storms hit. It also includes developing a quantitative scale for events on a scale of 1 to 5 to better inform emergency managers and the public about the severity of incoming AR events. The bill also directs NOAA to develop this program in collaboration with public and private partners across the weather enterprise.

As Scripps Institution of Oceanography's Marty Ralph said, "Atmospheric rivers are the hurricanes of

the west coast.” Why, then, are we not treating them with the same attention in forecasting? This bill will take a pivotal first step in bringing atmospheric rivers to the same forecasting sophistication as hurricanes by establishing a new program at NOAA to coordinate these efforts and create accurate, effective, and actionable predictions to minimize loss of life and property.

These steps are especially necessary under a changing climate. As temperatures increase, water bands in atmospheric rivers widen and storms increase in duration. By 2090, NOAA predicts that atmospheric river caused flood damages may increase to between \$2.3 and \$3.2 billion in annual impact.

I want to thank my colleague Senator MURKOWSKI for introducing this important legislation with me in the Senate and Representative MIKE GARCIA for leading the House companion that recently passed the House as part of the Weather Act. I hope all of our colleagues will join us in supporting this bipartisan bill to improve our Nation’s resilience to atmospheric river events.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. HICKENLOOPER):

S. 5362. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 regarding the application of wage and hour provisions to minor league baseball players, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

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

S. 5362

*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 “Fair Ball Act”.

**SEC. 2. APPLICATION OF THE FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT OF 1938 TO MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL PLAYERS.**

Section 13(a)(19) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 213(a)(19)) is amended by striking “a contract” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “an unexpired collective bargaining agreement.”

**SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS**

**SENATE RESOLUTION 901—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND PRINCIPLES OF TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE BY RECOGNIZING THE EPIDEMIC OF VIOLENCE TOWARD TRANSGENDER PEOPLE AND MEMORIALIZING THE LIVES LOST THIS YEAR**

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms.

DUCKWORTH, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 901

Whereas Transgender Day of Remembrance was created following the 1998 killing of Rita Hester, a transgender woman of color, whose murder has yet to be solved;

Whereas the following year on November 20, 1999, Gwendolyn Ann Smith created the first Transgender Day of Remembrance in honor of Rita Hester and other transgender people whose lives were lost due to violence;

Whereas Transgender Day of Remembrance 2024 honors the memory of the lives of transgender people tragically lost in acts of violence between October 1, 2023, and September 30, 2024;

Whereas the United States is currently experiencing an epidemic of violence against transgender people of the United States;

Whereas at least 38 transgender or gender nonconforming people were violently killed in the United States between October 1, 2023, and September 30, 2024, a number many believe to be much higher due to the prevalence of underreporting or misreporting violence against this community;

Whereas the lives of Chyna Long, A’nee Johnson, Lisa Love Turman, Dominic Dupree (Dominic Palace), London Price, Amiri Reid, Kejuan Richardson, Jean Butchart, Savannah Ryan Williams, Meghan Riley Lewis, Amber Minor, Kitty Monroe (Marcos Lugo), Righteous TK “Chevy” Hill, Diamond Brigman, Alex Franco, Meraxes Medina, Africa (“Emma”) Parrilla Garcia, Tee Arnold (“Legend Billions”), Nevaeh River Goddard, Adrea Doria Dos Passos, Sasha Williams, Starr Brown, Kita Bee, Reyna Hernandez, Brandon “Tayy Dior” Thomas, Michelle Henry, Yella (Robert) Clark Jr., Jazlynn Johnson, Liara Tsai, Pauly Likens, Shannon Boswell, Kenji Spurgeon, Monique Brooks, Dylan Gurley, Tai’Von Lathan, Vanity Williams, Redd (Barbie), and Kassim Omar were tragically lost in acts of violence between October 1, 2023, and September 30, 2024;

Whereas following the introduction of the Transgender Day of Remembrance Resolution of 2023, the lives of LaKendra Andrews and Skyler Gilmore were reported to have been lost to acts of violence between October 1, 2020, and September 30, 2023;

Whereas at least 327 transgender or gender nonconforming people have been murdered worldwide between October 1, 2023, and September 30, 2024, according to the Transgender Day of Remembrance memorial page from Trans Lives Matter;

Whereas non-fatal anti-transgender violence can still have lethal impacts, such as in the suicide of 16-year-old Nex Benedict in Oklahoma, who took their own life following months of school based bullying and a physical attack in their school restroom;

Whereas violence against transgender people of the United States disproportionately impacts transgender women of color;

Whereas Black transgender women are the most targeted group to experience violence in the United States;

Whereas transgender people of the United States face barriers to health care, such as lack of health insurance, stigma and discrimination, higher rates of unemployment, and, in an increasingly higher number of States, legal barriers to accessing medical care;

Whereas transgender people disproportionately suffer from higher rates of homelessness, with reports suggesting as many as 1/3 of transgender women and 1/2 of transgender women who are Black, Middle Eastern, multiracial, or undocumented have ever experienced homelessness;

Whereas almost 1/2 of all transgender people in the United States will attempt suicide at least once, and over 1 in 20 will attempt suicide each year, a rate that is almost 10 times higher than the rest of the United States population;

Whereas over 1/2 of all transgender youth in the United States have considered attempting suicide at least once in the last year and over a quarter have attempted suicide, almost 2.5 times that of United States youth as a whole;

Whereas asylum seekers and refugees who are transgender experience disproportionate rates of violence, including sexual violence, as they seek safety;

Whereas transgender immigrants have died in detention centers in the United States due to medical neglect, injury, and abuse at the hands of staff;

Whereas transgender people who are housed in institutional settings such as jails and prisons are subject to high levels of violence and discrimination;

Whereas transgender students are significantly more likely to experience bullying or harassment at school due to their gender identity;

Whereas understanding and addressing the challenges faced by transgender people of the United States is hampered by a severe lack of data;

Whereas Congress and the executive branch must act to protect and preserve the lives of all people of the United States, including transgender people, through inclusive legislation and policies that treat everyone with dignity and respect;

Whereas the continued introduction of anti-transgender legislation has fueled violence against transgender people of the United States;

Whereas efforts to restrict access to gender-affirming healthcare has stripped many transgender people of access to medically-necessary care, led to a spike in poor mental health and suicidality among transgender youth and adults, increased bullying and assault in schools, and left parents afraid their children may be removed from their homes because they support their transgender child;

Whereas the transgender community has shown great resilience in the face of adversity in all aspects of their lives, including housing, education, employment, and health care; and

Whereas the transgender community has demonstrated tremendous leadership since the courageous actions of many community members, including Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera at the Stonewall uprising of 1969; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and principles of Transgender Day of Remembrance by recognizing the epidemic of violence toward transgender people and memorializing the lives lost this year;

(2) recognizes that the alarming trends of increased violence against transgender people of the United States, particularly transgender women of color, are unacceptable, and that finding solutions to these issues must be a pressing priority for the United States Government;

(3) supports efforts to study, respond to, and prevent violence against transgender people;

(4) affirms the principle that every person is endowed with basic human rights and that the commitment of the United States to this

principle must encompass every single individual;

(5) recognizes the bravery and resilience of the transgender community as it fights for equal dignity and respect; and

(6) recognizes the multitude of contributions and cultural impact the transgender community has had on the society of the United States.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 902—RELATING TO THE DEATH OF TIMOTHY PETER JOHNSON, FORMER SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. McCONNELL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, 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, Mr. HAGERTY, 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. 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. 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. 902

Whereas Tim Johnson, a fourth generation South Dakotan, was born in Canton, South Dakota, and was raised in Vermillion, South Dakota;

Whereas Tim Johnson graduated from Vermillion High School, where he held the record for the most touchdowns ever scored in a single season;

Whereas Tim Johnson earned his bachelors, masters, and juris doctor degrees from the University of South Dakota;

Whereas Tim Johnson was first elected to the State legislature in 1978, and became the longest-serving public official in South Dakota history, serving in the South Dakota House, the South Dakota Senate, the Senate, and the House of Representatives before retiring in 2015;

Whereas Tim Johnson served as Chairman of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate from 2011 to 2015;

Whereas Tim Johnson was honored by the Lakota people with the name “Wacante Ognake”, which means “holds the people in his heart”;

Whereas Tim Johnson, despite suffering a life-threatening brain aneurysm in 2006, served as an inspiration to millions when he returned to work in the Senate, learned to write with his left hand, learned to drive again and then won re-election in 2008;

Whereas Tim Johnson served the people of South Dakota in the Senate and elsewhere for decades with honor and distinction and was known for his work ethic and commitment to South Dakota constituents; and

Whereas Tim Johnson is survived by his wife, Barbara, 3 children, and 8 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 the Honorable Timothy Peter Johnson, former member of the Senate;

(B) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate—

(i) communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives; and

(ii) transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased; and

(2) when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the Honorable Timothy Peter Johnson.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 903—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF NOVEMBER 8, 2024, AS “NATIONAL FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE CELEBRATION DAY”**

Mr. WARNOCK (for himself, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. BOOKER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 903

Whereas a “first-generation college student” means an individual whose parents did not complete a baccalaureate degree, or in the case of any individual who regularly resided with and received support from only 1 parent, an individual whose parent did not complete a baccalaureate degree;

Whereas November 8 honors the anniversary of the signing of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) by President Lyndon B. Johnson on November 8, 1965;

Whereas the Higher Education Act of 1965 was focused on increasing postsecondary education access and success for students, particularly low-income and first-generation college students;

Whereas the Higher Education Act of 1965 helped usher in programs necessary for low-income, first-generation college students to access, remain in, and complete postsecondary education, including the Federal TRIO programs under chapter 1 of subpart 2 of part A of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a-11 et seq.) and the Federal Pell Grant program under section 401 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a);

Whereas the Federal TRIO programs are the primary national effort supporting underrepresented students in postsecondary education and are designed to identify individuals from low-income backgrounds that would be first-generation college students and prepare them for postsecondary education, provide them support services, and motivate and prepare them for doctoral programs;

Whereas the Federal Pell Grant program under section 401 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a) is the primary Federal investment in financial aid for low-

income college students and is used by students at institutions of higher education of their choice;

Whereas first-generation college students may face additional academic, financial, and social challenges that their peers do not face in pursuing higher education;

Whereas 54 percent of all current college students currently pursuing degrees are first-generation college students;

Whereas the Council for Opportunity in Education and the Center for First-generation Student Success jointly launched the inaugural First-Generation College Celebration in 2017; and

Whereas the First-Generation College Celebration has continued to grow, and institutions of higher education, corporations, non-profit organizations, and elementary and secondary schools now celebrate November 8 as “First-Generation College Celebration Day”; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for the designation of November 8, 2024, as “National First-Generation College Celebration Day”; and

(2) urges all people of the United States to—

(A) celebrate “National First-Generation College Celebration Day” throughout the United States;

(B) recognize the important role that first-generation college students play in helping to develop the future workforce; and

(C) celebrate the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) and its programs that help underrepresented students access higher education.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 904—RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANTIQUARIAN BOOKSELLERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**

Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 904

Whereas the Antiquarian Booksellers’ Association of America (referred to in this preamble as the “ABAA”), founded in 1949 in New York City, is the oldest association of professional antiquarian booksellers in the United States;

Whereas, in all parts of the country, the ABAA’s member businesses advocate the highest standards in the book trade, maintaining trust and integrity with the public by upholding a strict code of ethics while striving to create harmony between sellers, librarians, scholars and collectors;

Whereas the ABAA promotes interest in rare and antiquarian books and book collecting by supporting educational programs and research, including the Elisabeth Woodburn Educational Fund, which provides scholarships to rare book schools and offers ongoing financial support to the Bibliographical Society of America and the National Collegiate Book Collecting Contest;

Whereas the ABAA fosters collegial relations between members of the trade, runs a mentorship program for new booksellers, and administers the Antiquarian Booksellers’ Be-nevolent Fund to support member and non-member businesses alike in times of unexpected hardship;

Whereas the ABAA is a member of the International League of Antiquarian Booksellers and, therefore, is part of a global network that promotes and connects booksellers worldwide;

Whereas the ABAA has consistently worked for booksellers and the book community at large in a rapidly changing world;

Whereas the ABAA has adapted to new arenas of collecting, including handmade ephemera, games, photographs, historic documents, letters, and electronic media;

Whereas the ABAA promotes the progression of the skill and general knowledge that is particular to the trade;

Whereas the ABAA has arranged special events in combination with its annual fairs to commemorate its 75th anniversary;

Whereas the ABAA is committed, through internships, prizes, and educational programming, to cultivating a vibrant and welcoming community of booksellers and book buyers; and

Whereas the ABAA continues to innovate and adapt, searching for new ways to expand and serve the evolving community of collectors; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes and celebrates the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association of America; and

(2) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit enrolled copies of this resolution to the president and executive director of the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association of America.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 905—RECOGNIZING THE ROLE OF THE SCARBORO 85 IN THE DESEGREGATION OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOLLOWING THE LANDMARK DECISION OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES IN BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. HAGERTY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 905

Whereas, on May 17, 1954, the Supreme Court of the United States delivered a unanimous opinion in *Brown v. Board of Education*, 347 U.S. 483 (1954), holding that—

(1) separate educational facilities are inherently unequal; and

(2) the “separate but equal” doctrine violated the 14th Amendment of the Constitution of the United States, which states that no citizen may be denied equal protection under the law;

Whereas, in a second opinion issued on May 31, 1955, the Supreme Court of the United States decreed that schools should be desegregated “with all deliberate speed”;

Whereas, on September 6, 1955, Oak Ridge High School and Robertsville Junior High, located in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, became the first public schools in the Southeast region to implement the ruling of the Supreme Court of the United States in *Brown v. Board of Education*;

Whereas the integration of Oak Ridge High School and Robertsville Junior High was conducted in a peaceful manner;

Whereas the “Scarboro 85” consisted of the 85 African American students from Oak Ridge, Tennessee, who led the historic integration of public schools in the Southeast, including—

- (1) Ernestine Avery;
- (2) Donald Avery;
- (3) Willis Lee Avery;
- (4) Richard Bates;
- (5) Robert Berry;
- (6) Will C. Booker;
- (7) Stella Brantley;
- (8) Marshall Butler;

- (9) Jacqueline Bynam;
- (10) William Henry Carroll;
- (11) Pete Clark;
- (12) Randolph Collins;
- (13) E vindies Copeland;
- (14) Ethel Davidson;
- (15) Minnie Davidson;
- (16) Lola B. Dowdell;
- (17) Georgia Lee Dowdell;
- (18) James Drake;
- (19) Willie Lee Edwards;
- (20) Shirley Reed Freeman;
- (21) John D. Ghosten Jr.;
- (22) L.C. Gipson;
- (23) Nannie Mae Goodman;
- (24) Lawrence Graham;
- (25) Mazine Graham;
- (26) Rufus Graham;
- (27) Henry Fred Guinn;
- (28) Gwendolyn Guinn;
- (29) Margaret Strickland Guinn;
- (30) Eugene Hawkins;
- (31) Roberta Hawkins;
- (32) Shirley Hawkins;
- (33) Helen Hill;
- (34) Mable Jean Hill;
- (35) Robert Hill;
- (36) Deloris Holmes;
- (37) Edward Holmes;
- (38) Dorothy Ann Hudgens;
- (39) A.C. Hunter Jr.;
- (40) Webster Jackson;
- (41) Leroy Justice;
- (42) Willie Frank Kirk;
- (43) Archie Lee;
- (44) Jo Ann Lee;
- (45) Charles Lewis;
- (46) Dorothy Kirk Lewis;
- (47) Jimmy Lewis;
- (48) Spencer Lindsay;
- (49) Ernestine Maddox;
- (50) Bernice Mahone;
- (51) Leon Mahone;
- (52) Mary Ellen Mahone;
- (53) Winfred Malone;
- (54) Barbara Jean Mason;
- (55) Emma McCaskill;
- (56) Paul Kylene McCaskill;
- (57) Jesse McClanahan;
- (58) Alma McKinney;
- (59) Eloise Mitchell;
- (60) Maxine Officer;
- (61) Barbara Sue Perry;
- (62) Bobby Phillips;
- (63) Amos William Robinson;
- (64) Arthur Charles Robinson;
- (65) Hazel Marie Robinson;
- (66) C.H. Shannon;
- (67) Mary Jo Shannon;
- (68) Barbara Jean Sims;
- (69) Willy Smith;
- (70) Sarah Mae Spratling;
- (71) Emma Jean Strickland;
- (72) Pearl Strickland;
- (73) Frank Summerville;
- (74) Joe Summerville;
- (75) Edward Lewis Threat;
- (76) Joe Torry;
- (77) Charles Walker;
- (78) Estelle Warmley;
- (79) Donald Washington;
- (80) Joe West Jr.;
- (81) Roy Lee White;
- (82) Leroy Williams;
- (83) Nehemiah Williams; and
- (84) 2 additional students, names unknown;

Whereas Lawrence Graham Jr., Henry Fred Guinn, and Robert Berry of the Scarboro 85 were the first African American students to participate in public school and university athletics in the Southeast region;

Whereas African American staff members of Oak Ridge High School and Robertsville Junior High included—

- (1) Fred Brown;
- (2) Douglas Freeman;
- (3) Hurley Hardin;
- (4) Ms. McSwain;

- (5) Mrs. Roach;
- (6) Madeline Scales; and
- (7) Mrs. Vernon; and

Whereas the Scarboro 85 were aided by pillars of the Oak Ridge community, including—

- (1) the Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church;
- (2) the Oak Valley Baptist Church;
- (3) the Spurgeon Chapel African American Methodist Episcopal Zion Church; and
- (4) the Scarboro Church of Christ: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate recognizes and celebrates—

- (1) the Scarboro 85 as the first group of African American students to integrate public schools in the Southeast region following the landmark decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in *Brown v. Board of Education*; and

- (2) the role of the Scarboro 85 in leading the desegregation movement in the Southeast region.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 906—COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE UNITED STATES TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2024 SOLHEIM CUP**

Mr. BOOZMAN submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 906

Whereas the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) was founded in 1950, with a mission to change the face of golf by providing a platform for women to play professional golf;

Whereas the Solheim Cup is a biennial, transatlantic team match-play competition, featuring the 12 leading United States players from the LPGA and the top 12 European players from the Ladies European Tour (LET);

Whereas the LPGA members competed for the Solheim Cup from September 13 to September 15, 2024, at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Club in Gainesville, Virginia;

Whereas United States Team reclaimed the Solheim Cup by defeating Team Europe with a score of 15.5 to 12.5;

Whereas the United States leads Europe in winning the Solheim Cup, having won 11 out of 19 competitions;

Whereas Stacy Lewis led the 2024 United States Solheim Cup Team as the captain, using her expertise in the sport of golf and in competing for the Solheim Cup, as she—

(1) became the youngest captain in the history of the United States Solheim Cup Team in the 2023 competition;

(2) served as an assistant captain in 2021; and

(3) has played in the Solheim Cup 4 times (in 2011, 2013, 2015, and 2017); and

Whereas the United States Solheim Cup Team and the LPGA should all be congratulated and celebrated for their triumph and commitment to the game of golf, highlighting women in sports, and their contributions to the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

- (1) congratulates the United States Team for its victory at the 2024 Solheim Cup;

- (2) recognizes the achievements, excellence, dedication, and teamwork of the members of the United States Solheim Cup Team;

- (3) commends the LPGA and its members for their contributions to the game of golf and their efforts to make golf accessible; and

- (4) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the United States Solheim Cup Team captain, Stacy Lewis; and  
 (B) the Commissioner of the LPGA, Mollie Marcoux Samaan.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 907—TO AUTHORIZE REPRESENTATION BY THE SENATE LEGAL COUNSEL IN THE CASE OF DR. RALPH DE LA TORRE V. BERNARD SANDERS, ET AL**

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

S. RES. 907

Whereas, the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, Committee Chairman Bernard Sanders, Ranking Member Bill Cassidy, and 18 other Members of the Committee have been named as defendants in the case of *Dr. Ralph de la Torre v. Bernard Sanders, et al.*, Civil Action No. 1:24-cv-02776-TNM, pending in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(1) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§ 288b(a) and 288c(a)(1), the Senate may direct its counsel to defend Committees and Members of the Senate in civil actions relating to their official responsibilities: Now therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, Committee Chairman Bernard Sanders, Ranking Member Bill Cassidy, and 18 other Committee Members named as defendants in the case of *Dr. Ralph de la Torre v. Bernard Sanders, et al.*

**AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED**

**SA 3304.** Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. PETERS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1153, to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish the National Manufacturing Advisory Council within the Department of Commerce, and for other purposes.

**TEXT OF AMENDMENTS**

**SA 3304.** Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. PETERS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1153, to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish the National Manufacturing Advisory Council within the Department of Commerce, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “National Manufacturing Advisory Council for the 21st Century Act”.

**SEC. 2. NATIONAL MANUFACTURING ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **ADVISORY COUNCIL.**—The term “Advisory Council” means the National Manufacturing Advisory Council established under subsection (b).

(2) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.**—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

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

(B) the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate;

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

(D) the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;  
 (E) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;  
 (F) the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate;  
 (G) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives;  
 (H) the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives;  
 (I) the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives;  
 (J) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives;  
 (K) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and  
 (L) the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives.

(3) **ECONOMICALLY DISTRESSED AREA.**—The term “economically distressed area” means an area that meets 1 or more of the requirements described in section 301(a) of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3161(a)).

(4) **RURAL AREA.**—The term “rural area” means an area located outside a metropolitan statistical area, as designated by the Office of Management and Budget.

(5) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce.

(b) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Energy, the United States Trade Representative, and the Secretary of Education, shall establish within the Department of Commerce the National Manufacturing Advisory Council.

(c) **MISSION.**—The mission of the Advisory Council shall be to—

(1) provide a forum for—

(A) regular communication between the Federal Government and the manufacturing sector, including manufacturing workers, in the United States; and

(B) discussing and proposing solutions to problems relating to the manufacturing sector in the United States, including the manufacturing workforce, supply chain interruptions, and regulatory and other logistical challenges;

(2) advise the Secretary regarding policies and programs of the Federal Government that affect manufacturing, including the manufacturing workforce, in the United States; and

(3) annually produce a national strategic plan, as described in subsection (g), that provides recommendations to the Secretary and the appropriate committees of Congress regarding how to help the United States remain the preeminent destination throughout the world for investment in manufacturing, which shall be based on the execution of the duties of the Advisory Council.

(d) **DUTIES.**—The duties of the Advisory Council shall include the following:

(1) Meeting not less frequently than once every 180 days, in a manner to be determined by the Secretary and that is in compliance with chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code, in order to provide independent advice and recommendations to the Secretary regarding issues involving manufacturing in the United States.

(2) Identifying and assessing the impact that technological developments, critical production capacity, skill availability, investment patterns, and emerging defense needs have on the manufacturing competitiveness of the United States and providing advice and recommendations to the Secretary regarding that impact.

(3) Soliciting input from the public and private sectors and academia relating to emerging trends in manufacturing, and the responsiveness of Federal programming with

respect to manufacturing, and providing advice and recommendations to the Secretary for areas of increased Federal attention with respect to manufacturing.

(4) Identifying, and providing advice and recommendations to the Secretary regarding, global and domestic manufacturing trends, including on matters such as supply chain interruptions, logistical challenges, and demographic and technological changes affecting the manufacturing base in the United States.

(5) Providing advice and recommendations to the Secretary on matters relating to investment in, and support of, the manufacturing workforce in the United States, including on matters such as—

(A) worker participation in planning for the deployment of new technologies across the manufacturing sector in the United States and within workplaces in that sector;

(B) training and education priorities for the Federal Government and employers to assist workers in adapting the skills and experiences of those workers to fit the demands of the manufacturing sector in the United States in the 21st century;

(C) how the development of new technologies and processes have impacted, and will impact, the manufacturing workforce of the United States and the economy of the United States, which shall be based on input from manufacturing workers;

(D) policies and procedures that expand access to jobs, career advancement opportunities, and management opportunities in the manufacturing sector in the United States for low-income individuals in the United States, or new entrants into that sector, in both urban and rural areas; and

(E) how to improve access to demand-driven manufacturing-related education, training, and re-training for workers, including at community and technical colleges, through other institutions of higher education and through apprenticeships and work-based learning opportunities.

(6) Providing recommendations to the Secretary on ways to—

(A) provide—

(i) manufacturing-related worker education, training, and development; and

(ii) entrepreneurship training relating to manufacturing;

(B) connect individuals and businesses with services described in subparagraph (A) that are offered in the communities of those individuals or businesses;

(C) coordinate services relating to manufacturing employee engagement, including employee ownership and workforce training;

(D) connect manufacturers with community and technical colleges, other institutions of higher education, State or local workforce development boards established under section 101 or 107 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3111, 3122), labor organizations, and nonprofit job training providers to develop and support training and job placement services, and apprenticeship and online learning platforms, for new and incumbent manufacturing workers;

(E) integrate new technologies and processes into the manufacturing sector in the United States and address the workforce impacts of those new technologies and processes; and

(F) develop best practices for manufacturers to incorporate, or transition to, employee ownership structures.

(7) With respect to the matters described in paragraphs (1) through (6), soliciting input from—

(A) economically distressed areas;

(B) geographically diverse regions of the United States, including both urban and rural areas; and

(C) areas of the United States that have suffered mass layoffs in the manufacturing sector.

(8) Identifying Federal, State, or other regulations that may have caused, or will cause, unnecessary supply chain disruptions, impaired business operations, increased prices, or other costly burdens for consumers and the manufacturing sector in the United States and recommending to the Secretary steps to—

(A) mitigate those consequences; and

(B) foster an environment in the United States that is favorable to manufacturers, manufacturing workers, and consumers.

(9) Completing other specific tasks requested by the Secretary.

(e) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory Council shall—

(A) consist of not more than 30 individuals appointed by the Secretary with a balance of backgrounds, experiences, and viewpoints; and

(B) include individuals with manufacturing experience who represent—

(i) private industry, including small and medium-sized manufacturers and any relevant standards development organizations or relevant trade associations;

(ii) academia; and

(iii) labor.

(2) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—The Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, accept recommendations from the public regarding the appointment of individuals under paragraph (1).

(3) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Each member of the Advisory Council shall be appointed by the Secretary for a term of 3 years.

(B) RENEWAL.—The Secretary may renew an appointment made under subparagraph (A) for not more than 2 additional terms.

(C) STAGGER TERMS.—The Secretary may stagger the terms of the members of the Advisory Council to ensure that the terms of those members expire during different years.

(D) VACANCIES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), a member appointed to fill a vacancy on the Advisory Council occurring before the expiration of the term for which the predecessor of the newly appointed member was appointed shall be appointed only for the remainder of that term of the predecessor.

(ii) FURTHER SERVICE.—A member of the Advisory Council who is appointed for the remainder of a term of a predecessor under clause (i) may serve after the expiration of that term of the predecessor and until the date on which the Secretary has appointed a successor.

(f) TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—All functions of the United States Manufacturing Council of the International Trade Administration of the Department of Commerce, as in existence on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, shall be transferred to the Advisory Council.

(2) DEEMING OF NAME.—Any reference in any law, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States Manufacturing Council of the International Trade Administration of the Department of Commerce shall be deemed a reference to the Advisory Council.

(3) EXISTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—Any Federal advisory committee of the Department of Commerce that is operating on the day before the date of enactment of this Act under a charter filed in accordance with section 1008(c) of title 5, United States Code, for the purpose of addressing the purposes and duties described in this section shall satisfy the requirement under subsection (b) to establish the Advisory Council if, not later

than 180 days after that date of enactment, the Federal advisory committee is modified, as necessary, to comply with the requirements of this section.

(g) NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Advisory Council holds the initial meeting of the Advisory Council, and annually thereafter, the Advisory Council shall submit to the Secretary and the appropriate committees of Congress—

(1) a national strategic plan for manufacturing in the United States that is based on the execution of the duties of the Advisory Council under subsection (d); and

(2) a detailed statement of the activities that the Advisory Council conducted to carry out the duties of the Advisory Council under subsection (d).

(h) DEPARTMENTAL SUPPORT.—In accordance with prevailing laws and regulations, the Secretary, as the Secretary considers appropriate, shall furnish to the Advisory Council relevant information that—

(1) is in the possession of the Department of Commerce; and

(2) relates to the mission of the Advisory Council.

(i) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section.

(j) SUNSET.—The Advisory Council shall terminate on September 30 of the fifth year after the year in which the Advisory Council holds the first meeting of the Advisory Council.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I have eight requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

##### COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at 9:45 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

##### COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

##### COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at 3 p.m., to conduct a classified briefing.

##### 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, November 20, 2024, at 11 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, November 20, 2024, at 3 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, November 20, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

##### SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC POLICY

The Subcommittee on Economic Policy of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet in open session during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. KAINA. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that my legislative fellows Julia Burnell, Steven Ramdilal, and Ryan Gallagher be granted floor privileges for the duration of their fellowships with my office.

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

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Paul Ghiotto, a State Department fellow in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the 118th Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection.

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the following intern from my office be granted floor privileges until November 21, 2024: Jameson Sheehan.

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

#### NATIONAL MANUFACTURING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THE 21ST CENTURY ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 285, S. 1153.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1153) to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish the National Manufacturing Advisory Council within the Department of Commerce, 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 with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the “National Manufacturing Advisory Council for the 21st Century Act”.*

##### SEC. 2. NATIONAL MANUFACTURING ADVISORY COUNCIL.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADVISORY COUNCIL.—The term “Advisory Council” means the National Manufacturing Advisory Council established under subsection (b).

(2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

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

(B) the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate;

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

(D) the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

(E) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(F) the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate;

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

(H) the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives;

(I) the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives;

(J) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives;

(K) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(L) the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives.

(3) ECONOMICALLY DISTRESSED AREA.—The term “economically distressed area” means an area that meets 1 or more of the requirements described in section 301(a) of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3161(a)).

(4) RURAL AREA.—The term “rural area” means an area located outside a metropolitan statistical area, as designated by the Office of Management and Budget.

(5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Energy, the United States Trade Representative, and the Secretary of Education, shall establish within the Department of Commerce the National Manufacturing Advisory Council.

(c) MISSION.—The mission of the Advisory Council shall be to—

(1) provide a forum for—

(A) regular communication between the Federal Government and the manufacturing sector, including manufacturing workers, in the United States; and

(B) discussing and proposing solutions to problems relating to the manufacturing sector in the United States, including the manufacturing workforce, supply chain interruptions, and other logistical challenges;

(2) advise the Secretary regarding policies and programs of the Federal Government that affect manufacturing, including the manufacturing workforce, in the United States; and

(3) annually produce a national strategic plan, as described in subsection (g), that provides recommendations to the Secretary and the appropriate committees of Congress regarding how to help the United States remain the preeminent destination throughout the world for investment in manufacturing, which shall be based on the execution of the duties of the Advisory Council.

(d) DUTIES.—The duties of the Advisory Council shall include the following:

(1) Meeting not less frequently than once every 180 days, in a manner to be determined by the Secretary and that is in compliance with chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code, in order to provide independent advice and recommendations to the Secretary regarding issues involving manufacturing in the United States.

(2) Identifying and assessing the impact that technological developments, critical production capacity, skill availability, investment patterns,

and emerging defense needs have on the manufacturing competitiveness of the United States and providing advice and recommendations to the Secretary regarding that impact.

(3) Soliciting input from the public and private sectors and academia relating to emerging trends in manufacturing, and the responsiveness of Federal programming with respect to manufacturing, and providing advice and recommendations to the Secretary for areas of increased Federal attention with respect to manufacturing.

(4) Identifying, and providing advice and recommendations to the Secretary regarding, global and domestic manufacturing trends, including on matters such as supply chain interruptions, logistical challenges, and demographic and technological changes affecting the manufacturing base in the United States.

(5) Providing advice and recommendations to the Secretary on matters relating to investment in, and support of, the manufacturing workforce in the United States, including on matters such as—

(A) worker participation, including through labor organizations and through other methods determined by the Advisory Council, in planning for the deployment of new technologies across the manufacturing sector in the United States and within workplaces in that sector;

(B) training and education priorities for the Federal Government and employers to assist workers in adapting the skills and experiences of those workers to fit the demands of the manufacturing sector in the United States in the 21st century;

(C) how the development of new technologies and processes have impacted, and will impact, the manufacturing workforce of the United States and the economy of the United States, which shall be based on input from manufacturing workers;

(D) policies and procedures that expand access to jobs, career advancement opportunities, and management opportunities for underrepresented populations in both urban and rural areas; and

(E) how to improve access to demand-driven manufacturing-related education, training, and re-training for workers, including at community and technical colleges, through other institutions of higher education, and through apprenticeships and work-based learning opportunities.

(6) Providing recommendations to the Secretary on ways to—

(A) provide—

(i) manufacturing-related worker education, training, and development; and

(ii) entrepreneurship training relating to manufacturing;

(B) connect individuals and businesses with services described in subparagraph (A) that are offered in the communities of those individuals or businesses;

(C) coordinate services relating to manufacturing employee engagement, including employee ownership and workforce training;

(D) connect manufacturers with community and technical colleges, other institutions of higher education, State or local workforce development boards established under section 101 or 107 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3111, 3122), labor organizations, and nonprofit job training providers to develop and support training and job placement services, and apprenticeship and online learning platforms, for new and incumbent manufacturing workers;

(E) integrate new technologies and processes into the manufacturing sector in the United States and address the workforce impacts of those new technologies and processes; and

(F) develop best practices for manufacturers to incorporate, or transition to, employee ownership structures.

(7) With respect to the matters described in paragraphs (1) through (6), soliciting input from—

(A) economically distressed areas;

(B) geographically diverse regions of the United States, including both urban and rural areas; and

(C) areas of the United States that have suffered mass layoffs in the manufacturing sector.

(8) Completing other specific tasks requested by the Secretary.

(e) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory Council shall—

(A) consist of not more than 30 individuals appointed by the Secretary with a balance of backgrounds, experiences, and viewpoints; and

(B) include individuals with manufacturing experience who represent—

(i) private industry, including small and medium-sized manufacturers and any relevant standards development organizations or relevant trade associations;

(ii) academia; and

(iii) labor.

(2) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—The Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, accept recommendations from the public regarding the appointment of individuals under paragraph (1).

(3) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Each member of the Advisory Council shall be appointed by the Secretary for a term of 3 years.

(B) RENEWAL.—The Secretary may renew an appointment made under subparagraph (A) for not more than 2 additional terms.

(C) STAGGER TERMS.—The Secretary may stagger the terms of the members of the Advisory Council to ensure that the terms of those members expire during different years.

(D) VACANCIES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), a member appointed to fill a vacancy on the Advisory Council occurring before the expiration of the term for which the predecessor of the newly appointed member was appointed shall be appointed only for the remainder of that term of the predecessor.

(ii) FURTHER SERVICE.—A member of the Advisory Council who is appointed for the remainder of a term of a predecessor under clause (i) may serve after the expiration of that term of the predecessor and until the date on which the Secretary has appointed a successor.

(f) TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—All functions of the United States Manufacturing Council of the International Trade Administration of the Department of Commerce, including the personnel, assets, and obligations of the United States Manufacturing Council of the International Trade Administration of the Department of Commerce, as in existence on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, shall be transferred to the Advisory Council.

(2) DEEMING OF NAME.—Any reference in any law, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States Manufacturing Council of the International Trade Administration of the Department of Commerce shall be deemed a reference to the Advisory Council.

(3) UNEXPENDED BALANCES.—Unexpended balances of appropriations, authorization, allocations, or other funds related to the United States Manufacturing Council of the International Trade Administration of the Department of Commerce shall be available for use by the Advisory Council for the purpose for which the appropriations, authorizations, allocations, or other funds were originally made available.

(4) EXISTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—Any Federal advisory committee of the Department of Commerce that is operating on the day before the date of enactment of this Act under a charter filed in accordance with section 1008(c) of title 5, United States Code, for the purpose of addressing the purposes and duties described in this section shall satisfy the requirement under subsection (b) to establish the Advisory Council

if, not later than 90 days after that date of enactment, the Federal advisory committee is modified, as necessary, to comply with the requirements of this section.

(g) NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Advisory Council holds the initial meeting of the Advisory Council, and annually thereafter, the Advisory Council shall submit to the Secretary and the appropriate committees of Congress—

(1) a national strategic plan for manufacturing in the United States that is based on the execution of the duties of the Advisory Council under subsection (d); and

(2) a detailed statement of the activities that the Advisory Council conducted to carry out the duties of the Advisory Council under subsection (d).

(h) DEPARTMENTAL SUPPORT.—In accordance with prevailing laws and regulations, the Secretary, as the Secretary considers appropriate, shall furnish to the Advisory Council relevant information that—

(1) is in the possession of the Department of Commerce; and

(2) relates to the mission of the Advisory Council.

(i) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section.

(j) SUNSET.—The Advisory Council shall terminate on September 30 of the fifth year after the year in which the Advisory Council holds the first meeting of the Advisory Council.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be withdrawn; that the Peters substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; and that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

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

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 3304), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to as follows:

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

The bill, as amended, 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, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the bill, as amended?

Hearing none, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill, as amended, pass?

The bill (S. 1153), as amended, was passed as follows:

S. 1153

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Manufacturing Advisory Council for the 21st Century Act".

#### SEC. 2. NATIONAL MANUFACTURING ADVISORY COUNCIL.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADVISORY COUNCIL.—The term "Advisory Council" means the National Manufacturing Advisory Council established under subsection (b).

(2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term "appropriate committees of Congress" means—

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

(B) the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate;

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

(D) the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

(E) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(F) the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate;

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

(H) the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives;

(I) the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives;

(J) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives;

(K) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(L) the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives.

(3) ECONOMICALLY DISTRESSED AREA.—The term "economically distressed area" means an area that meets 1 or more of the requirements described in section 301(a) of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3161(a)).

(4) RURAL AREA.—The term "rural area" means an area located outside a metropolitan statistical area, as designated by the Office of Management and Budget.

(5) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Commerce.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Energy, the United States Trade Representative, and the Secretary of Education, shall establish within the Department of Commerce the National Manufacturing Advisory Council.

(c) MISSION.—The mission of the Advisory Council shall be to—

(1) provide a forum for—

(A) regular communication between the Federal Government and the manufacturing sector, including manufacturing workers, in the United States; and

(B) discussing and proposing solutions to problems relating to the manufacturing sector in the United States, including the manufacturing workforce, supply chain interruptions, and regulatory and other logistical challenges;

(2) advise the Secretary regarding policies and programs of the Federal Government that affect manufacturing, including the manufacturing workforce, in the United States; and

(3) annually produce a national strategic plan, as described in subsection (g), that provides recommendations to the Secretary and the appropriate committees of Congress regarding how to help the United States remain the preeminent destination throughout the world for investment in manufacturing, which shall be based on the execution of the duties of the Advisory Council.

(d) DUTIES.—The duties of the Advisory Council shall include the following:

(1) Meeting not less frequently than once every 180 days, in a manner to be determined by the Secretary and that is in compliance with chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code, in order to provide independent advice and recommendations to the Secretary regarding issues involving manufacturing in the United States.

(2) Identifying and assessing the impact that technological developments, critical production capacity, skill availability, investment patterns, and emerging defense needs have on the manufacturing competitiveness of the United States and providing advice and recommendations to the Secretary regarding that impact.

(3) Soliciting input from the public and private sectors and academia relating to emerging trends in manufacturing, and the responsiveness of Federal programming with respect to manufacturing, and providing advice and recommendations to the Secretary for areas of increased Federal attention with respect to manufacturing.

(4) Identifying, and providing advice and recommendations to the Secretary regarding, global and domestic manufacturing trends, including on matters such as supply chain interruptions, logistical challenges, and demographic and technological changes affecting the manufacturing base in the United States.

(5) Providing advice and recommendations to the Secretary on matters relating to investment in, and support of, the manufacturing workforce in the United States, including on matters such as—

(A) worker participation in planning for the deployment of new technologies across the manufacturing sector in the United States and within workplaces in that sector;

(B) training and education priorities for the Federal Government and employers to assist workers in adapting the skills and experiences of those workers to fit the demands of the manufacturing sector in the United States in the 21st century;

(C) how the development of new technologies and processes have impacted, and will impact, the manufacturing workforce of the United States and the economy of the United States, which shall be based on input from manufacturing workers;

(D) policies and procedures that expand access to jobs, career advancement opportunities, and management opportunities in the manufacturing sector in the United States for low-income individuals in the United States, or new entrants into that sector, in both urban and rural areas; and

(E) how to improve access to demand-driven manufacturing-related education, training, and re-training for workers, including at community and technical colleges, through other institutions of higher education and through apprenticeships and work-based learning opportunities.

(6) Providing recommendations to the Secretary on ways to—

(A) provide—

(i) manufacturing-related worker education, training, and development; and

(ii) entrepreneurship training relating to manufacturing;

(B) connect individuals and businesses with services described in subparagraph (A) that are offered in the communities of those individuals or businesses;

(C) coordinate services relating to manufacturing employee engagement, including employee ownership and workforce training;

(D) connect manufacturers with community and technical colleges, other institutions of higher education, State or local workforce development boards established under section 101 or 107 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3111, 3122), labor organizations, and nonprofit job training providers to develop and support training and job placement services, and apprenticeship and online learning platforms, for new and incumbent manufacturing workers;

(E) integrate new technologies and processes into the manufacturing sector in the United States and address the workforce impacts of those new technologies and processes; and

(F) develop best practices for manufacturers to incorporate, or transition to, employee ownership structures.

(7) With respect to the matters described in paragraphs (1) through (6), soliciting input from—

(A) economically distressed areas;

(B) geographically diverse regions of the United States, including both urban and rural areas; and

(C) areas of the United States that have suffered mass layoffs in the manufacturing sector.

(8) Identifying Federal, State, or other regulations that may have caused, or will cause, unnecessary supply chain disruptions, impaired business operations, increased prices, or other costly burdens for consumers and the manufacturing sector in the United States and recommending to the Secretary steps to—

(A) mitigate those consequences; and

(B) foster an environment in the United States that is favorable to manufacturers, manufacturing workers, and consumers.

(9) Completing other specific tasks requested by the Secretary.

(e) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory Council shall—

(A) consist of not more than 30 individuals appointed by the Secretary with a balance of backgrounds, experiences, and viewpoints; and

(B) include individuals with manufacturing experience who represent—

(i) private industry, including small and medium-sized manufacturers and any relevant standards development organizations or relevant trade associations;

(ii) academia; and

(iii) labor.

(2) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—The Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, accept recommendations from the public regarding the appointment of individuals under paragraph (1).

(3) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Each member of the Advisory Council shall be appointed by the Secretary for a term of 3 years.

(B) RENEWAL.—The Secretary may renew an appointment made under subparagraph (A) for not more than 2 additional terms.

(C) STAGGER TERMS.—The Secretary may stagger the terms of the members of the Advisory Council to ensure that the terms of those members expire during different years.

(D) VACANCIES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), a member appointed to fill a vacancy on the Advisory Council occurring before the expiration of the term for which the predecessor of the newly appointed member was appointed shall be appointed only for the remainder of that term of the predecessor.

(ii) FURTHER SERVICE.—A member of the Advisory Council who is appointed for the remainder of a term of a predecessor under clause (i) may serve after the expiration of that term of the predecessor and until the date on which the Secretary has appointed a successor.

(f) TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—All functions of the United States Manufacturing Council of the International Trade Administration of the Department of Commerce, as in existence on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, shall be transferred to the Advisory Council.

(2) DEEMING OF NAME.—Any reference in any law, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States Manufacturing Council of the International Trade Administration of the Department of Commerce shall be deemed a reference to the Advisory Council.

(3) EXISTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—Any Federal advisory committee of the Department of Commerce that is operating on the day before the date of enactment of this Act under a charter filed in accordance with section 1008(c) of title 5, United States Code, for

the purpose of addressing the purposes and duties described in this section shall satisfy the requirement under subsection (b) to establish the Advisory Council if, not later than 180 days after that date of enactment, the Federal advisory committee is modified, as necessary, to comply with the requirements of this section.

(g) NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Advisory Council holds the initial meeting of the Advisory Council, and annually thereafter, the Advisory Council shall submit to the Secretary and the appropriate committees of Congress—

(1) a national strategic plan for manufacturing in the United States that is based on the execution of the duties of the Advisory Council under subsection (d); and

(2) a detailed statement of the activities that the Advisory Council conducted to carry out the duties of the Advisory Council under subsection (d).

(h) DEPARTMENTAL SUPPORT.—In accordance with prevailing laws and regulations, the Secretary, as the Secretary considers appropriate, shall furnish to the Advisory Council relevant information that—

(1) is in the possession of the Department of Commerce; and

(2) relates to the mission of the Advisory Council.

(i) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section.

(j) SUNSET.—The Advisory Council shall terminate on September 30 of the fifth year after the year in which the Advisory Council holds the first meeting of the Advisory Council.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

## TRANSPORTATION SECURITY SCREENING MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2024

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 484, S. 3959.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3959) to require the Transportation Security Administration to streamline the enrollment processes for individuals applying for a Transportation Security Administration security threat assessment for certain programs, including the Transportation Worker Identification Credential and Hazardous Materials Endorsement Threat Assessment programs of the Administration, 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 with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the “Transportation Security Screening Modernization Act of 2024”.*

### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

*In this Act:*

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration.

(2) HAZMAT ENDORSEMENT.—The term “HAZMAT Endorsement” means the Hazardous

Materials Endorsement Threat Assessment program authorized under section 5103a of title 49, United States Code.

(3) STATE.—The term “State” means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, and the territories and possessions of the United States.

(4) TSA.—The term “TSA” means the Transportation Security Administration.

(5) TWIC.—The term “TWIC” means the Transportation Worker Identification Credential authorized under section 70105 of title 46, United States Code.

### SEC. 3. STREAMLINING OF APPLICATIONS FOR CERTAIN SECURITY THREAT ASSESSMENT PROGRAMS OF THE TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION.

(a) STREAMLINING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall take such actions as are necessary, including issuance of an interim final rule if needed, to streamline the procedures for individuals applying for or renewing enrollment in more than one TSA security threat assessment program, in particular, the TWIC and HAZMAT Endorsement programs, and any other credentialing programs as determined by the Administrator, by—

(A) permitting an individual to enroll at any TSA authorized enrollment center once for a threat assessment program endorsement and use the application, including associated biometric and biographic data, as well as information generated by TSA’s vetting, for one of such programs to enroll in any other of such programs;

(B) permitting an individual to visit any TSA authorized enrollment center and enroll in more than one TSA security threat assessment program at the same time for a fee that is less than the cumulative fee that would otherwise be incurred for each such program separately;

(C) permitting an individual to undergo a streamlined and expeditious renewal process;

(D) aligning the expiration of an individual’s successful, valid eligibility determination with the expiration of that individual’s eligibility to participate in subsequent TSA security threat assessment programs to which the individual applies;

(E) providing to States the expiration dates for each individual’s TSA security threat assessment to ensure a commercial driver’s license of an individual who holds a HAZMAT Endorsement does not indicate the individual is authorized to transport hazardous materials after the expiration date of the enrollment of the individual in the HAZMAT Endorsement security threat assessment program if such commercial driver’s license has an expiration date that is different from the expiration date of such enrollment; and

(F) enrolling an individual in a subsequent TSA security threat assessment program at the minimum cost necessary for the TSA to cover printing, issuance, and case management costs, costs associated with the collection of any additional biometric and biographic data in accordance with paragraph (3), and other costs that are not duplicative.

(2) STATE REQUIREMENTS FOR STREAMLINING.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the States shall carry out the responsibilities of the States pursuant to section 5103a of title 49, United States Code.

(3) SPECIAL RULE.—If an individual under this subsection is at different times applying for or renewing enrollment in more than one TSA security threat assessment program, such individual may be required to revisit a TSA authorized enrollment center for the collection of additional data, such as biometrics, necessary for any such program that were not so collected in connection with any other such program.

(b) PUBLICATION.—The Administrator shall post on a publicly available website of the TSA information relating to the streamlining of the

enrollment processes for individuals applying for more than one TSA security threat assessment program described in subsection (a).

(c) EXPEDITED RULEMAKING.—Notwithstanding sections 551 through 559 of title 5, United States Code, nothing in this section shall require notice and comment rulemaking, and to the extent it is necessary to add additional requirements for which limited rulemaking may be advisable, the Administrator shall implement such requirements through publication of an interim final rule.

(d) BRIEFING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall brief Congress on progress made toward the implementation of this section.

#### SEC. 4. ELIMINATING DUPLICATIVE COSTS.

(a) AUDIT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall audit the administration of the security threat assessment programs by the TSA and the States, including the TWIC and HAZMAT Endorsement programs.

##### (b) ELEMENTS.—

(1) **TSA AUDIT.**—In conducting the audit of the TSA required by subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall—

(A) identify any redundancies and duplications in costs and administration of security threat assessment programs that if eliminated would not impact national security and any benefits of eliminating such redundancies and duplications and improving the experiences for individuals applying for or renewing enrollment in more than one TSA security threat assessment program;

(B) review the impacts of the implementation by the TSA of recommendations from previous studies conducted by the Comptroller General, including GAO-07-756 and GAO-17-182, on increasing the efficiency and effectiveness, and reducing costs, of processing applications for enrollment and renewal in TSA security threat assessment programs;

(C) review the findings of the assessment required by section 1(b) of the Act entitled “An Act to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to prepare a comprehensive security assessment of the transportation security card program, and for other purposes”, approved December 16, 2016 (46 U.S.C. 70105 note; Public Law 114-278) and determine whether the TSA has implemented any remedies to redundancies and duplication identified by that assessment and whether such implementation impacted national security;

(D) determine whether there are unique challenges rural applicants have with accessing TSA security threat assessment programs;

(E) assess the numbers and locations of enrollment centers for meeting the needs of such programs, including determining the access provided to rural applicants;

(F) identify potential opportunities that exist to improve the enrollment center operations of and customer experience with such programs;

(G) identify potential opportunities to harmonize the enrollment, vetting, and renewal processes of such programs in which similar information is collected for similar security threat assessment processes for different vetted credentials while not impacting national security;

(H) identify other ways the TSA can reduce the costs of the TSA security threat assessment programs while not impacting national security; and

(I) review the vetting, application, and enrollment processes of each TSA security threat assessment program.

(2) **STATE AUDIT.**—In conducting the audit of the States required by subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall review—

(A) the administration of the HAZMAT Endorsement program by the States;

(B) methods by which the States could streamline the HAZMAT Endorsement program; and

(C) any potential barriers States face administering TSA security threat assessment programs for individuals applying to TWIC and the HAZMAT Endorsement program or individuals that already have a TWIC credential.

(c) REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the completion of the audit required by subsection (a), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Administrator, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

(1) a summary and analysis of the costs associated with the operation and administration of each individual TSA security threat assessment program;

(2) a summary and analysis of the application and enrollment costs associated with providing an individual multiple credentials under TSA security threat assessment programs;

(3) an identification of any potential duplicative processes associated with an applicant applying for, or the vetting or enrollment by the TSA of an individual in, a subsequent or multiple TSA security threat assessment programs;

(4) a breakdown of costs borne by applicants for current enrollment and renewal processes of such programs;

(5) ways to improve access to such programs, including for rural applicants;

(6) any potential recommendations to the TSA for reducing costs and streamlining the administration and operation of each TSA security threat assessment program while not impacting national security;

(7) any potential recommendations for the TSA to administer such programs in a way that would improve national security; and

(8) any potential recommendations for ways States can improve their role in administering the HAZMAT Endorsement program and streamline the application process or reduce costs for individuals seeking multiple transportation security credentials.

##### (d) IMPLEMENTATION.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the receipt of the report required by subsection (c), the Administrator shall—

(A) implement the recommendations from such report;

(B) provide to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives a written notification detailing—

(i) the timeline for implementation of each recommendation from the report;

(ii) justifications for any implementation timeline lasting longer than 2 years; and

(iii) justifications for recommendations that the Administrator has declined to pursue or implement.

(2) **BRIEFINGS.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of the receipt of the report required by subsection (c), and annually thereafter until the date that the TSA has implemented each recommendation made in such report, the Administrator shall brief the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives on the implementation of recommendations from the report.

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. 3959), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

#### BOLD INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ALZHEIMER'S REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2024

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 7218, 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. 7218) to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to extend the program for promotion of public health knowledge and awareness of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. 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 a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. SCHUMER. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the bill?

Hearing none, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 7218) was passed.

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.

#### FAFSA DEADLINE ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 8932, 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. 8932) to establish an earlier application processing cycle for the FAFSA.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I further ask 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 with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (H.R. 8932) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

#### DISCHARGE AND REFERRAL—S. RES. 894

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and

Transportation be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 894 and the resolution be referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

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RELATING TO THE DEATH OF TIMOTHY PETER JOHNSON, FORMER SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 902, which is at the desk.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 902) relating to the death of Timothy Peter Johnson, former Senator for the State of South Dakota.

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 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. 902) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

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RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following resolutions: S. Res. 903, S. Res. 904, S. Res. 905, S. Res. 906, S. Res. 907.

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

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, this resolution concerns a lawsuit filed in Federal court in the District of Columbia against the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, Chairman SANDERS, Ranking

Member CASSIDY, and 18 other members of the committee. That suit was brought by an individual, Dr. Ralph de la Torre, who had been subpoenaed to testify at a hearing before the Committee but chose to disregard his legal duty and failed to appear at the committee's hearing. After Dr. de la Torre failed to appear, the Committee reported to the Senate, and the Senate agreed to, a resolution directing the President of the Senate to certify the fact of his default to the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia for consideration of prosecution for contempt of Congress.

Dr. de la Torre then filed suit to try to prevent any sanction from being imposed on him for his default of a duly authorized Senate committee subpoena, claiming that the subpoena served no valid legislative purpose and that requiring him to appear at the hearing violated his Fifth Amendment rights, despite the fact that the committee made clear that he could assert a Fifth Amendment privilege in response to questions at the hearing, if applicable.

Dr. de la Torre's suit against the committee and its members seeking to prevent any consequences for his default on the subpoena threatens to interfere with the independence of the Senate in conducting its legislative and oversight duties and improperly seeks to use a civil suit to forestall a criminal matter. This resolution would authorize the Senate legal counsel to represent the committee and the members named as defendants in this suit in order to seek its dismissal.

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 were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

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

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ORDERS FOR THURSDAY,  
NOVEMBER 21, 2024

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, finally, I ask unanimous consent that

when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned, under the provisions of S. Res. 902, until 10 a.m. on Thursday, November 21; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceeding 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 Wise nomination; further, that at 11 a.m., the Senate vote on the cloture motions with respect to the Wise and Weilheimer nominations in the order listed; further, that following the cloture vote on the Weilheimer nomination, the Senate resume consideration of the Desai nomination and that the Senate vote on the nomination of Desai at 1:45 p.m.; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Thursday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

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ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.  
TOMORROW

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. 902, as a further mark of respect to the late Tim Johnson, former Senator from South Dakota, the Senate, at 12:34 a.m., adjourned until Thursday, November 21, 2024, at 10 a.m.

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CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate November 20, 2024:

THE JUDICIARY

AMIR H. ALI, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

REBECCA L. PENNELL, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON.