



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 170

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2024

No. 183

## Senate

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

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O God of light and truth, in these tumultuous times, enable our Senators to hear Your still, small voice. May this awareness of Your presence renew their spirit and lift their vision of what this Nation can become by Your grace. May they be people dedicated to moral values and determined to live by the highest ethical standards possible.

Lord, keep them from success that is purchased by deviating from the path of wholehearted obedience. Enable them to experience the constancy of Your presence so that they will choose the harder right and leave a legacy that honors You.

We pray in Your mighty 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 assistant bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, December 10, 2024.

To the Senate:

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

appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,  
President pro tempore.

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

### RESERVATION OF 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 assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Lauren McGarity McFerran, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring December 16, 2029. (Reappointment)

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

#### CHIPS AND SCIENCE ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, when we passed the bipartisan Chips and Science Act 2 years ago, we promised to bring semiconductor manufacturing back to our shores, to strengthen our national security, and shore up our domestic supply chains. Today, that promise is coming to fruition in Upstate New York.

Micron just finalized, this morning—early this morning—a \$6.1 billion—that is billion, \$6.1 billion—award that was made possible by the bipartisan Chips and Science law, to bring advanced memory chip manufacturing to Upstate New York and to America. Most importantly, Micron's Chips award is now locked in. It is signed, sealed, and ready to deliver for Central New York, all of Upstate New York, and for America.

Micron's Chips award is more than just a once-in-a-generation investment in Upstate New York. It is an investment that will span multiple generations, create over 50,000 jobs, and spur historic amounts of private investment in the region.

And the chips Micron will make are essential—essential—for America's future. They are critical for our national security, for AI, our smart phones, our cars, our computers, and so much else. And the benefits go beyond New York.

This award is also fueling expansion of Micron in Idaho, and, today, the Commerce Department has struck yet another deal with Micron to expand their Virginia facility. So Micron is investing and expanding in States big and small, from coast to coast. This is just the latest in a flurry of good news, showing that chip production is expanding in America from New Hampshire and New York to Arizona; New Mexico to Ohio.

That is what Chips and Science is all about: making sure that America harnesses all our potential to stay No. 1 in chip manufacturing.

And when I conceived the Chips and Science bill, I had Upstate New York in mind. We knew that manufacturing had left New York, and we wanted it to return. And that is now coming to fruition from one end of the State to the other. And the I-90 corridor, from Buffalo to Albany, will be known as the "semiconductor superhighway," where close to a quarter of all chips made in America will be made.

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



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It is great news, not only for this generation but for future generations, whose kids and grandkids will want to live in Uptate New York.

#### SENATE BUSINESS

Mr. President, on Senate business, we will continue the work of confirming more nominations this week. Last night, I filed cloture on the nominations of Lauren McFerran and Joshua Ditelberg to sit on the NLRB, the National Labor Relations Board.

Ms. McFerran is a current member of the NLRB, but her term will expire soon, unless she is reconfirmed for another 5 years.

The Senate will take the first votes to advance these NLRB nominees on Wednesday. If you truly care about working families, then you should be in favor of advancing the NLRB nominees. The NLRB is essential for protecting workers' rights so employees can speak up for better pay, stronger protections, and the right to organize without retaliation.

If we are worried about income inequality and too much of a gap between working people and those who are very, very wealthy, the NLRB is a great, great way to deal with that problem because, again, it strengthens the worker's hand.

So anyone who says they stand with working Americans should care immensely about getting these NLRB nominees done.

#### NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, on Senator RUBIO, on the topic of nominees, today, I will later sit down with the President-elect's nominee for Secretary of State, our longtime colleague Senator MARCO RUBIO. I have known Senator RUBIO for many years and have worked with him on many issues. So I expect we will have a good and productive conversation.

I look forward to giving him the same fair chance to make his case that all nominees, regardless of party, deserve.

#### DISASTER RELIEF

Mr. President, on disaster aid, in 2024, at least 24 major disasters have battered communities across the United States, killing—killing—over 400 Americans, costing over \$60 billion in damages. The true cost is certainly higher. These disasters and disasters of recent years have left the Federal Government's emergency resources all but depleted.

So, for the last month, I have worked with my colleagues to try and get a comprehensive disaster aid package done before the end of the year. I believe we must try as much as possible to get it done, and we on the Democratic side have been persistent in getting as many dollars as possible to help both blue and red States affected by the disasters.

I remain hopeful and determined that we can reach a deal with our Republican counterparts, but the only way we are going to get a disaster package

done is with a serious show of bipartisan cooperation. That is how the CRs work. Disaster aid is not a Democratic or Republican issue whatsoever. Mother Nature comes for us all, as we have seen in every part of the country, time and time again.

#### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Mr. President, on artificial intelligence, for more than a year, I have worked relentlessly with Senators on both sides of the aisle to find a way forward on strong bipartisan AI legislation. I created a bipartisan working group with Senators HEINRICH, BROWN, and YOUNG. With the help of many of our chairs and ranking members, we created a never-before-seen, bipartisan AI Insight Forum—many forums, nine of them—to bring top experts from across the country.

Democrats and Republicans also worked together on writing bills, and through hard work, we came to significant compromises that would have led to meaningful AI legislation and kept America No. 1 on AI, both in keeping innovation our North Star, but making sure there were safeguards so that the worst could not happen.

In fact, Speaker JOHNSON and I agreed that all our committees should keep working together to figure out a way to get AI legislation done before the end of the year. We were feeling quite good about that until, unfortunately, the November elections occurred, and following those elections, Senate Republicans chose to walk away from the bipartisan negotiations, abandoning over a year of good-faith hard work.

This is deeply unfortunate because, if we want America to remain the technological leader of the 21st Century, we can't turn a blind eye to the changes AI will bring, nor can we let AI become a partisan issue. That is why I will never walk away from AI talks. I remain committed to working with both sides to make AI a top priority here in the Senate.

As I said, Speaker Johnson and I have had productive talks on AI for months, and I am glad to say we are still having those talks with the hope of finding opportunities for action in the future. It is not going to be easy. It isn't. It is a difficult issue, but we have some opportunities to move the ball forward on AI next year.

I know that many of my Republican colleagues here in this Chamber are just as committed as I am to finish the job. There are two Senators I would like to thank in particular on the Republican side, Senators YOUNG and ROUNDS, who have been excellent bipartisan partners with Senator HEINRICH and myself for over a year. I thank them for their hard work. I thank their staffs for their hard work and tell them we must keep going. We can't let a handful few on this Senate Republican side stop us from moving forward on AI.

Again, no matter how difficult it may be, my commitment to Members

in both Chambers remains steadfast. I will work with anyone, regardless of party, to get meaningful, sustainable, and transformational AI done—transformational because of what AI could do to cure heart disease, to educate young people around the globe, to deal with our climate crisis; and sustainable so that we have guardrails that prevent AI if some bad force, whether it is a country or a rogue group, get hold of it. We would prevent them from doing bad things and keep AI sustainable.

We must get both done. Our outline and our work are a good step in that direction. We must continue to move forward.

#### TRIBUTE TO BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

Mr. President, finally, saying goodbye to Senator BEN CARDIN. Today, one of the most beloved Members of our caucus and this Chamber, and a very near and dear friend of mine, will deliver his farewell address on the floor: Senator CARDIN. Everyone knows BEN. He is humble and modest, and I expect his speech will reflect that. But make no mistake about it. BEN's legacy is giant, and he has left an indelible mark on this institution, on his home State of Maryland, and on America.

Now, it is no surprise that BEN and I became so close—and, frankly, our wives, Iris and Myrna, have become very close friends—because we are cut from the same cloth. We both began our careers in the State assembly before coming to Congress.

BEN, I believe, stayed—he was elected when he was 23 years old, as I was, to the assembly. And we both have strong Jewish values. We are both known for showing up to any event, big or small. We both married up. And another thing, we took great inspiration from our fathers.

When BEN was just 23 years old and a newly elected member of the Maryland House of Delegates, his father told him something that BEN still draws upon to this day:

He had something people worked for a lifetime for . . . the opportunity to make a difference.

BEN has made an immense difference in Maryland, whether you are enjoying the beautiful views of the Chesapeake Bay, which BEN has fought so ardently to restore, protect, and conserve; or riding the many roads and bridges and trails and rails across Maryland that BEN helped secure billions in Federal funding for; or talking to the millions of Marylanders who today have access to better health and dental care and the promise of a secure retirement because of BEN's efforts. BEN has been a difference maker.

As chair of the Foreign Relations Committee, he has made a huge difference on human rights and foreign policy. When I asked BEN last year to serve as chair, I knew he would be up to the task, and he sure was. Despite the many challenges facing America at home and abroad, BEN is one of the reasons that America has the power today to hold accountable the gross violators

of human rights, even when their home countries fail to act.

He worked closely with Senator John McCain on this and the Magnitsky Act, and so many ramifications of what was done to Magnitsky inspired BEN, and he moved forward on legislation in that regard.

As chair of Small Business, he made a difference for Main Street businesses, especially in the pandemic. I worked closely with BEN to make sure small businesses would get the money that they needed. Because of his leadership, the small business economy—and we worked together to get nonprofits, when I said our churches and our synagogues and our mosques and our theaters and our museums needed help as well, BEN joined me, and they were saved.

And he made a difference on many other issues, coleading legislation to affirm the ratification of the ERA, the Equal Rights Amendment; serving as cochair of the Helsinki Commission; and more.

The reason BEN was able to accomplish so much was because he took the road less traveled here in Congress, oftentimes. He put substance over flash. He dived deeply into issues, got to their roots, and then worked across the aisle.

He was all about details: What was the problem? Who was it affecting? Who can I find common ground with? Those are questions he asked.

That has been him from his first day in office, and it will be him until his last—smart, decent, humble, loyal, hard-working; a great man, a great Senator, and a great friend.

We will miss him deeply. But Iris and I continue every year—Myrna and BEN would come up to New York, and we would go to see Shakespeare in the Park. We did it for the last 10 years or so. BEN and Myrna, that tradition will continue, as will our friendship, but we will miss you.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

#### NLRB

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, on January 20, 2021, President Biden broke with longstanding precedent and fired the general counsel of the National Labor Relations Board. I guess if you campaign on establishing “the most pro-union administration in American history,” then replacing duly appointed officials with Big Labor acolytes is certainly a day one priority. As we know, this was an area where the President really did do his level best to make good on his campaign promises.

Setting aside his Acting Secretary of Labor’s record presiding over perhaps the biggest state UI fraud in American history, President Biden’s NLRB has worked overtime to pollute employer-employee relations across the country with vague new standards, distort longstanding free speech principles, and wage all-out war on small business franchisers.

The NLRB member who has held primary responsibility for executing on the Biden Big Labor agenda is its Chair, Lauren McFerran, and she is up for confirmation to another term.

If the Board’s public actions over the last 4 years are not telling enough, I would urge our colleagues to consider the gross mismanagement on Ms. McFerran’s watch that took an independent inspector general report to uncover—serious violations of electoral procedures and coverup attempts, to boot. This is to say nothing of the fact that her confirmation would give a lameduck President control of an independent Board well into his successor’s term.

In this case, there are any number of reasons not to reward bad behavior, and whichever our colleagues choose, I hope they will join me in opposing the McFerran nomination tomorrow.

#### FEDERAL JUDICIARY

Mr. President, on another matter, regarding the Federal judiciary, its membership, its independence, and its ethics, I have often found myself at increasingly stark odds with many of my Democratic colleagues. It is unfortunate, but I don’t intend to stop policing the separation of powers any sooner than the left stops trying to undermine it.

But over the last year, one corner of the judiciary’s operation where the Senate rightly holds sway has become the site of rare bipartisan agreement, and that is Federal courts’ capacity to hear and decide cases in a timely manner.

Across the country, Federal district courts’ case backlogs are preventing them from rendering swift justice. This past spring, the judiciary’s own data recorded a 1-year uptick in civil filings before district courts of 22 percent.

The solution to this clear challenge—more district judgeships—has earned wide support. In April, the senior Senator from Indiana introduced legislation that would steadily apportion larger benches to districts across the country over the next decade.

In August, the JUDGES Act passed the Senate by unanimous consent, proving that the right to a speedy trial still enjoys overwhelming popularity. I was particularly encouraged by the vocal endorsement of my friend the Democratic leader, who recognized the measure as a “very responsible, bipartisan, and prudent bill” that would lead to “a better functioning judiciary.” Soon, we expect to House to take up and pass the JUDGES Act with similar overwhelming support.

Normally, we could rest assured that such popular action would be signed

into law without further ado, but maybe not this time. Last week, the White House seemed to suggest, through anonymous comment, that President Biden had concerns with the bill. I, for one, would be curious to hear the President’s rationale. It is hard to imagine a justification for blocking the JUDGES Act that doesn’t smack of naked partisanship. It is almost inconceivable that a lameduck President would consider vetoing such an obviously prudential step for any reason other than selfish spite.

Litigants across America deserve their day in court, and they deserve to know the Federal judiciary has the bandwidth to carefully and thoroughly consider their cases. The President—a former chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee—is well-equipped to appreciate this fact, and I hope he acts accordingly.

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.

#### BORDER SECURITY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, 10 million. Between official U.S. Customs and Border Protection encounters and known “got-aways,” there have been roughly 10 million migrant encounters at our southern border during the Biden-Harris administration.

To put that number in perspective, that is roughly 10 times the population of my home State of South Dakota. Ten million is larger than the population of Colorado. It is larger than the population of Tennessee. It is larger than the population of Maryland, of Massachusetts, of Indiana. I could keep going. Ten million is larger than the population of the vast majority of U.S. States.

Needless to say, a crisis of this size has had consequences. Shelters have been overwhelmed. Border cities have been overwhelmed. Blue cities far from the border have been overwhelmed. Border Patrol agents are exhausted, as their Chief noted in an interview last week.

I haven’t even mentioned the national security implications. There is no question that the chaos at our southern border represents a serious security risk for our country. And you don’t have to take my word for it. The Department of Homeland Security’s 2025 threat assessment notes:

Over the next year, we expect some individuals with terrorism ties and some criminal actors will continue their efforts to exploit migration flows and the complex border security environment to enter the United States.

That is from the Biden Department of Homeland Security’s 2025 threat assessment.

The June arrest of 8 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 kinds of threats we face.

Then there is the fact that chaos at the border creates opportunities for cross-border illegal activity, like the deadly trade in fentanyl, which affects communities around our country. My State of South Dakota is about as far away from the southern border as you can get, but law enforcement officials consistently tell me that the illegal drugs they are dealing with have entered the country across our southern border.

Four years of recordbreaking illegal immigration at our southern border under the Biden-Harris administration. Ten million encounters—and those are the migrants that we know of. It has been a dangerous 4 years, but the end is in sight. When President Trump and Republicans take control in January, stemming the flood of illegal immigration will be one of our first priorities. Under Republicans, national security here at home, at our borders and in our communities, will be just as important as taking care of our national security priorities abroad.

We are going to start right away with a once-in-a-generation investment in border security and immigration enforcement here in Congress. Among other things, that package will include substantial resources to increase the number of Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers and Border Patrol agents, increase detention space, and provide the barriers and technology we need to fully secure the border.

There is a lot of work to do and a big mess to clean up.

A recent article reported that there are around 1.4 million individuals who have been ordered to be deported but are still here in the United States, and most of them are not in immigration custody. And that is just one small corner of the problem.

As I said, we have a lot of work to do, but Republicans are committed, for the sake of our national security and for the sake of our rule of law. Four years of recordbreaking illegal immigration, but the end is in sight.

I yield the floor.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

CHINA

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, Joseph Stalin was rumored to have once said:

We will hang the capitalists with the rope they sell us.

Unfortunately, the United States has been selling the Chinese Communist

Party a lot of rope in recent years. At this very moment, American entities are fueling China's aggression by funneling huge amounts of capital into capabilities that could eventually be used against the United States and our allies. From advanced semiconductors to quantum computing to artificial intelligence it is high time that the United States becomes serious about limiting the flow of U.S. dollars into the arsenal of our biggest strategic adversary.

By some estimates, U.S. investments in Chinese communities totaled more than \$2.3 trillion in market value in 2020. That is American investments in Chinese companies—\$2.3 trillion in market value at the end of 2020. That includes \$21 billion in semiconductors, \$54 billion in military companies, and a whopping \$221 billion in artificial intelligence. According to a report from the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, "The United States is the most important foreign source of investment to semiconductors, quantum computing, and AI in China."

Because of China's strategy of military-civil fusion, these investments are not simply benefiting China's economy; they are directly bolstering China's military. China is the greatest national security threat of our time. I think we all understand that, and it is incomprehensible to me that American investors are continuing to bankroll its rise, and we are essentially blind to what that scale and what the focus of those investments really are.

The Chinese Communist Party has become increasingly aggressive in its efforts to gain power and influence, embracing illicit tactics like intellectual property theft, forced technology transfer, and predatory lending. According to findings of the House Select Committee on Strategic Competition between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party, China subsidizes the sale of fentanyl and illicit narcotics abroad and has fueled addiction and death in the United States. The Drug Enforcement Administration reports that fentanyl is the leading cause of death among Americans between the ages of 18 and 45. We know where the precursors are coming from. We know where they go—to Mexico—and then they are combined and then produced to look like normal pharmaceutical drugs, much to the chagrin and misery and death of so many of our young people. And then, 2 years ago, the United States intercepted a surveillance balloon from China that crossed across our country.

Meanwhile the Chinese Communist Party continues to assert excessive and illegal maritime boundary claims in the South China Sea, at times using force against our treaty ally, the Philippines, when they have attempted to resupply their ship near the Second Thomas Shoal. President Xi has ordered the Chinese military to be ready and capable of taking Taiwan by force in 2027—just 2 years from now.

So it should go without saying that the United States should exercise cau-

tion before continuing to sell the Chinese Communist Party rope in the form of sensitive technology, like advanced semiconductors and artificial intelligence.

I have been working with my colleagues here to address legislation that would provide some transparency for this outbound investment from the United States to the PRC. Last year, the Senate made good progress on this issue by including a provision to address outbound investment transparency in the Senate-passed National Defense Authorization Act. The Senate voted 91 to 6 to include my amendment in the NDAA last year, showing an overwhelming bipartisan consensus on the need to address this issue. We all know how hard it is to find consensus around here. A 60-vote threshold can be hard to come by on many important issues, but upward of 90 votes should send a clear message that this issue is one that we deem of utmost importance on a bipartisan basis. We all are acutely aware of our competition with China and our need to counter some of China's aggression, and including prohibitions on certain outbound investments is a critical step to that end.

I must say we have had some great partners in the House. I want to thank, in particular, JOHN MOOLENAAR, chair of the Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party; Congressman MICHAEL MCCAUL, chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the House; and Speaker of the House of Representatives MIKE JOHNSON, who have all contributed to our efforts to advance this issue, but this isn't where the story ends.

The Senate has—or had—another opportunity to include these provisions in the Defense Authorization Act this year, but House minority leader HAKEEM JEFFRIES chose to block these provisions. One person is standing in the way. It is simply unconscionable that anyone who claims to care about the China threat would be opposed to outbound investment transparency, and it is unacceptable to play political games with such an essential national security provision.

I understand, over the last day, Leader JEFFRIES has listened to the voice of reason and come back to the negotiating table. And I am hopeful that these conversations will continue to be productive and yield a positive outcome. The national security of our country depends on it, and we must not squander this opportunity to confront the Chinese Communist Party. Time is running out.

We all know that we are living in the most dangerous time since World War II. Our adversaries are not shy about the fact that they are working together. Earlier this year, China and Russia pledged to deepen their trust and cooperation, while they have continued to conduct joint military exercises. North Korea has sent 10,000 troops to Russia, and some intelligence estimates suggest they may be willing

to provide up to 100,000 soldiers in the coming months, from North Korea to Russia, to fight in Ukraine.

Meanwhile, Iran and its proxies have been attacking U.S. shipments in the Red Sea and have launched a terrorist attack against our greatest strategic ally in the Middle East, which is Israel. It is no secret—it is well-known—that China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea are working in concert to undermine American interests and to threaten the stability of the global world order. So we should not add our name to the list by helping them with the gift of unrestrained, nontransparent American investment.

I would urge all of our colleagues to not let politics stand in the way of our national security. We cannot stand by and continue selling the communists in China the rope they will use to hang the United States of America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 10 minutes prior to the scheduled roll-call vote.

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

#### RADIATION EXPOSURE COMPENSATION ACT

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, we are come to the end now of 2024, to the end of another legislative session—indeed, to the end of another Congress. And before this Congress congratulates itself on finishing its legislative work next week, I must come again here to this floor and remind my colleagues that hundreds of thousands of good Americans are still waiting for this Congress to act, waiting for justice to be done in their cases.

I am talking about the hundreds of thousands of Americans who have been poisoned by nuclear radiation by their own government. I am talking about the people of St. Louis, MO, an original uranium processing site dating back to the Manhattan Project 50, 60 years ago now.

The people of St. Louis did their duty proudly, patriotically; but the government didn't do right by them. What did the government do when the Manhattan Project was shut down? The government took that nuclear waste, that radioactive material, and dumped it into a public landfill. They allowed it to seep into our groundwater. They allowed it to be distributed across the region so that now, in the greater St. Louis area and the greater St. Charles area, thousands upon thousands of Missourians have been exposed to nuclear waste and radiation for decades.

And even as I stand here today, the radiation continues. The groundwater is still in doubt. Coldwater Creek is still contaminated. Just a few weeks ago, the Army Corps of Engineers discovered additional nuclear radioactive material under residents' homes in suburban St. Louis. Weldon Spring is still not fully remediated. And no one—I emphasize "no one"—in the State of

Missouri has received a dime in compensation from the Federal Government for the decades of radioactive exposure that this government forced upon them.

And the people of Missouri are not alone. The same story is repeated over and over in places like New Mexico and Arizona and in Idaho and in Colorado and in Wyoming and Montana—and I could go on—hundreds of thousands of Americans, exposed through no fault of their own, many of them veterans, I might add, many of them miners who went to work in uranium mines to provide the critical material that allowed us to support our nuclear program, that allowed us to win both the Second World War and the Cold War.

And what has the U.S. Government done for these good Americans—veterans, laymen, one and all? What has the government done for them? Nothing. It has exposed them to nuclear radiation and done nothing.

That is why this body finally acted this year, passing with a huge bipartisan majority legislation that would finally compensate and honor those Americans who served their country, who gave their health and in many cases, yes, gave their lives for this country's national security as part of our nuclear program.

Mr. President, while this body has acted, the House has not. And here we are now, at the end of this calendar year, at the end of this legislative session; and because the House has waited and because the House has stalled and because the House has failed to act, the Radiation Exposure Compensation Program has now fully expired—fully expired—so that no American, no veteran, no one across the country who has been exposed by the government to this radioactive waste—not a single person has been compensated for the cancers that they have contracted, compensated for the loved ones whom they have lost to radioactive-related diseases—nobody. It is completely dark. No one is getting anything.

And now we are told, Mr. President, that at this eleventh hour, after this body has passed legislation, not once but twice, to fairly compensate these good Americans, after this body has acted to ensure that these good Americans get the justice that they deserve, now, at this eleventh hour, after the House has allowed the program to expire, we are told that now House leadership is considering a backroom deal, a backroom deal to be shoved into an end-of-the-year package next week that would select just a few counties in one State, the State of Utah—just a few counties to compensate and exclude everybody else. I cannot emphasize to the Presiding Officer enough what an offense this would be.

For months now, victims have met with House leadership and negotiated with them a path forward. I have negotiated with House leadership. Many here have engaged in this effort to find a way to get the House to act and com-

pensate these good Americans who have been poisoned. And now, at this last minute, for House leadership to be preparing, as reports indicate they are, to shove down the throats of these victims across the country a backroom deal that excludes almost all of them—almost all of them—is not only unacceptable, but it is absolutely offensive. It is unjust. It is wrong.

President Reagan used to say that sometimes there really are simple answers, just not easy ones. Let's be direct about this. What House leadership is considering here, there is a simple way to describe it: It is wrong. It is just flat out wrong. There is no more nuance needed than that.

And who will suffer if House leadership puts up a backroom deal, rigged for only a few insiders, excluding most of the country? Who will suffer? I will tell you who will suffer. It will be people like the young children of Jana Elementary in my home State of Missouri, an elementary school that had to close over a year ago because of continuing radioactive contamination right there in the St. Louis area. This elementary school is right near the creek that is still contaminated. The entire school had to shut down. Who knows how many children had been exposed, by the way, before that happened. The entire school closed. It is still closed. It will remain closed, and every child will remain uncompensated and exposed until the House chooses to act.

Think about Leslie Begay, a member of the Navajo Nation. No one contributed more to the defense of this country than the proud members of the Navajo Nation. In the Second World War, in the Cold War, and still today, their rates of volunteer service for our military are higher than any other community in the entire country. And nobody suffered more from the fallout of the nuclear program than the Navajo Nation, including Leslie, who has had a double lung transplant.

If the House fails to act, if the House forces a backroom deal through this body, Leslie and thousands of others like him will be uncompensated, will be unhonored, will be unrecognized. It is wrong, Mr. President.

Consider Claire, a young girl from Missouri, diagnosed with a radiation-related illness when she was born, going through chemotherapy when she was just a child, age 2.

Consider Bernice Gutierrez, from the great State of New Mexico. Every member of Bernice's family for three generations now has had cancer and multiple radiation-related illnesses because they were downwind of the original Oppenheimer tests that carried that radioactive nuclear cloud over so much of our country.

Consider Zach Visintine from the State of Missouri: born with cancer, died at the age of 2. He never had a chance. Why? Well, because his mother grew up along Coldwater Creek in the St. Louis region of Missouri that is still, to this day, contaminated.

None of these people—none of them—have been helped by their government with the expenses, with the losses, with the pain that the government forced on them—not a one of them.

Mr. President, it is time to act, and I want to be crystal clear about this. If the House persists, if House leadership persists and attempts to force into a CR package a partial, backroom, special-interest deal that excludes these good people, I will object; and if they come to this body asking for a time agreement at the end of the session to pass that package, I will object.

I want to be clear about this. There is no way forward for a partial, backroom deal—no way. I will stand in the way, on behalf of every one of these Americans, as long as it takes, until justice is done. This is the time. This body has acted, and I call on the House to act. What we should do instead of their backroom deal is pass what this body has already passed: generous compensation—fair, just compensation, with a spending limit, that will fairly honor, recognize, and help these good Americans who deserve it. This isn't a handout; this is justice. This is recognition of what these good Americans have done and what they have suffered.

You know, we are near upon Christmas now, and it is sort of old-fashioned, but it used to be around Christmas time sometimes we would talk about the Christmas feeling or the Christian feeling. Well, I would just observe this: What does that Christian feeling consist of if not, in the words of Micah, "doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with our God"? This is a chance, I might just say, to do just that: to do justice, to show kindness, to fulfill our duty to our fellow Americans.

The Scripture admonishes us to be not just hearers but doers as well. As this year comes to a close, let's be doers of justice. Let's be demonstrators of kindness. Let's do what is right by our fellow Americans. Let's honor our countrymen for what they have done. Let's right this wrong finally, this 50-year wrong. Let's right it. Let's end the year and end the Congress with this historic righting of a wrong, and then we can say to our constituents and to our fellow Americans "Merry Christmas." Then we can say we have truly done our jobs here.

Until that time, Mr. President, I will be here, I will be standing, and I will be advocating on their behalf.

I yield the floor.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Keli Marie Neary, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

#### NOMINATION OF KELI M. NEARY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Keli Marie Neary to the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. She is an accomplished litigator who has devoted her entire legal career to public service in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

After receiving her undergraduate degree from the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown and her law degree from Widener University Commonwealth Law School, Ms. Neary clerked on the 41st Judicial District of Pennsylvania for Perry and Juniata Counties.

Following her clerkship, Ms. Neary served as an assistant counsel in the Governor's Office of General Counsel, assigned to the Pennsylvania State Police's Office of Chief Counsel. She specialized in enforcement of the Gaming Act, personnel litigation, contract interpretation, and firearms-related due process hearings.

Since 2012, Ms. Neary has worked at the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General (OAG), currently serving as the executive deputy attorney general for the civil law division. At the OAG, she represents and defends a broad array of different government agencies, officials, and employees in matters before State and Federal courts and defends constitutional challenges to Pennsylvania statutes and regulations.

Over the course of her career, Ms. Neary has tried 13 cases to verdict. She has also participated in the briefing of hundreds of trial and appellate matters in State and Federal courts and argued numerous motions and injunctions.

Ms. Neary has the strong support of her home State Senators, Mr. CASEY and Mr. FETTERMAN. In addition, she was unanimously rated "qualified" by the American Bar Association.

I urge my colleagues to support Ms. Neary's nomination.

#### VOTE ON NEARY NOMINATION

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The result was announced—yeas 49, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 318 Ex.]

#### YEAS—49

Baldwin	Cardin	Durbin
Bennet	Carper	Fetterman
Blumenthal	Casey	Gillibrand
Booker	Coons	Hassan
Brown	Cortez Masto	Heinrich
Cantwell	Duckworth	Hickenlooper

Hirono  
Kaine  
Kelly  
Kim  
King  
Klobuchar  
Lujan  
Manchin  
Merkley  
Murphy  
Murray

Ossoff  
Padilla  
Peters  
Reed  
Rosen  
Sanders  
Schatz  
Schiff  
Schumer  
Shaheen  
Smith

Stabenow  
Tester  
Van Hollen  
Warner  
Warnock  
Warren  
Welch  
Whitehouse  
Wyden

#### NAYS—48

Barrasso  
Blackburn  
Boozman  
Braun  
Britt  
Budd  
Capito  
Cassidy  
Collins  
Cornyn  
Cotton  
Cramer  
Crapo  
Cruz  
Daines  
Ernst

Fischer  
Graham  
Grassley  
Hagerty  
Hawley  
Hoeven  
Hyde-Smith  
Johnson  
Kennedy  
Lankford  
Lee  
Lummis  
Marshall  
McConnell  
Moran  
Mullin

Murkowski  
Paul  
Ricketts  
Risch  
Romney  
Rounds  
Rubio  
Schmitt  
Scott (FL)  
Scott (SC)  
Sullivan  
Thune  
Tillis  
Tuberville  
Wicker  
Young

#### NOT VOTING—3

Markey

Sinema

Vance

The nomination was confirmed.

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

The Senator from Minnesota.

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, on behalf of the majority leader, at 3:45 p.m. today, I ask the Chair to execute the order of November 20 with respect to the Dixon nomination.

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

#### RECESS

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

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:42 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. LUJÁN).

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

#### FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to say good-bye, as difficult as this may be.

Marylanders have trusted me to represent them for 20 years in the Maryland General Assembly, 8 years as speaker of the house, 20 years in the House of Representatives, and 18 years in the U.S. Senate, including now chairing the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Let me start by thanking Marylanders for giving me your trust to represent you in this august body. You have supported me in 18 elections. The Hebrew letter for 18 is chai, which also means life—58 years of my life.

My grandparents came to this country over 100 years ago to escape the pogroms of Europe, and they settled in

Baltimore and built a life for their family. Their grandson now serves in the U.S. Senate. This is a great country.

Marylanders have allowed me to pursue my ambition of public service, to help others whose voices and needs are often ignored in the halls of power. In my family, I was taught from a young age that it is our responsibility to make the world a better place—*tikkun olam*, repair the world—and help those who are less fortunate and are in need—*tzedakah*, charity.

These principles were demonstrated to me by the communal activities of my parents. These principles—these values—have been my North Star that has guided my public service as a legislator. Of course, the work of a legislator is not always easy. It requires perseverance, patience, a sense of humor, and optimism that we can make the world a better place, even in the face of often horrible, seemingly insurmountable challenges.

But as I look back at my time here, it is the hardest battles that were some of the most rewarding. Each one reflects the values I cherish and the collective will to help make the world around us and our communities a better place to live.

On the Senate Finance Committee, I have had a front seat advancing health policy. I was fortunate to serve with the champion of healthcare, Senator Ted Kennedy. He was a mentor to me as to steps we can take so that all Americans have access to affordable, quality healthcare.

Healthcare should be a right for everyone in this country and not a privilege only for those who can afford it.

I was proud to be part of the Congress that passed the Affordable Care Act. That law included my legislation that elevated the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities at NIH. As much progress as this has brought, the struggle for healthcare equality continues.

Today, Medicare coverage includes legislation I authored for screening and preventive care, saving lives and dollars. And all health insurance now covers pediatric dental care, which was legislation I authored after the tragic death of Demonte Driver, a 12-year-old in Maryland whose life could have been saved with a simple tooth extraction.

I partnered with Senator Rob Portman in both the House and in the Senate to expand retirement security, particularly for lower wage workers. Thanks to legislation we coauthored that has been enacted into law, more employers are providing opportunities for their employees to participate in retirement plans. Our legislation included a saver's credit for lower wage workers and automatic enrollment provisions that have dramatically increased participation by employees. In the last 10 years, participation in retirement savings for the lowest income quintile of Americans has increased by 135 percent.

In affordable housing and economic development in underserved communities, I have worked with Senator CANTWELL on improvements to the low-income housing tax credit. I have authored successful legislation to expand the new markets tax credits and historic tax credits, which have been used for economic development and affordable housing opportunities across Maryland and our Nation.

Examples of the use of these tools in Maryland include the Justice Thurgood Marshall Center in Baltimore, the Natty Boh building in Baltimore, and the Wiley H. Bates Legacy Center in Annapolis. And, yes, just yesterday, Senator VAN HOLLEN and I were at the Southern Stream Health and Wellness Center, which used new markets tax credits with Bishop Hickman, which is energizing and revitalizing communities in East Baltimore.

On the Environment and Public Works Committee, I have had the opportunity to expand the Federal Government's commitment to our infrastructure. The recently enacted bipartisan infrastructure law included many of my priorities. For example, it included funding for reconnecting communities that had been divided and disadvantaged through ill-conceived transportation projects. The poster child for this initiative is the Franklin-Mulberry corridor in Baltimore. It was not surprising that Baltimore received funding in the first round of Federal grants.

I am equally proud of the expansion of the Transportation Alternatives Program, or TAP. I was the author of the TAP program, which allows governments to make their own priority decisions on the use of part of the Federal highway funds. That has been a favorite source of funds to provide trails for local communities that connect neighborhoods for walkers and bikers, including, for example, the rehabilitation of the C&O Towpath in Washington, Frederick, and Montgomery Counties.

Myrna and I take advantage of these paths to absorb the beauty of our communities that are now connected through paths and trails.

Older communities still have lead pipes bringing drinking water into their homes and schools, threatening the health of our children. The bipartisan infrastructure law provides significant help to eliminate this public health threat, including \$82 million in Federal grants for Maryland. It also provides unprecedented increases in transit funding, a priority of mine which is particularly important to traditionally underserved and underrepresented communities.

This law allows Maryland to move forward again with the transit Red Line in Baltimore. Funding for Amtrak enabled Baltimore to begin construction of the Frederick Douglass Tunnel to expedite travel along the Northeast corridor.

One of my top priorities as a Maryland Senator has been to promote the

health of the Chesapeake Bay, and the Federal partnership has been essential in this cause. The bay is a national treasure, the largest estuary in our hemisphere and iconic to Maryland. It is in our DNA, particularly important to our economy and our way of life.

I first started fighting for the bay in the Maryland General Assembly. When I was speaker of the house, I partnered with Governor Harry Hughes to establish the multi-State effort to save the bay. It led to the partnership with six States and the District of Columbia and the Federal Bay Program.

Maryland Senators have taken the Federal lead, starting with Senator Mac Matthias, then Senators Paul Sarbanes and Barbara Mikulski, and now Senator CHRIS VAN HOLLEN and myself.

During my years in the Senate, I have worked with my colleagues to increase funds for the bay, including the EPA, NOAA, the Army Corps of Engineers, wastewater treatment funds, watershed grant funds, agriculture land preservation funds, oyster restoration funds, removal of invasive species—from the nutria to the blue catfish—and many, many more.

I particularly want to note with pride funding for Poplar Island and Mid-Bay—location for dredging disposals—that have been used for environmental restoration and a non-controversial location necessary to keep our channels commercially competitive.

Our work on the Chesapeake Bay is working and has become a global model of multijurisdictional cooperation.

The Environment and Public Works Committee helps each region of our country that suffers from a catastrophic event that destroys infrastructure. I thank the leadership of the committee for reaching out to Maryland after the tragic loss of the Francis Scott Key Bridge. The Biden administration has been there every step of the way to help Maryland, and I am confident that Congress will provide the resources and authority to move forward on the construction of the new bridge as quickly as possible.

I have been both a chair and ranking member on the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee. I am so proud of the bipartisan work of the committee, working with Senator RUBIO, particularly during COVID. The historic relief packages we designed not only saved many small businesses but truly helped to save our economy during the pandemic.

I am particularly proud of the focus I brought to help traditionally underserved communities. Senator WARNER and I worked to provide support for the CDFIs so financing options were available in underbanked communities. Including nonprofits and returning citizens to the program once again provided help and services in often forgotten neighborhoods.

During my chairmanship, Maryland expanded from one to four women's business centers. Two are located at



HBCUs. In addition, Maryland opened its first Veterans Business Outreach Center. Because of these programs, small businesses are thriving in Maryland, especially those led by women and, particularly, women of color.

My service in Congress built on my record of inclusion started with my service in the Maryland General Assembly. As a Baltimore City legislator, I fought for equalization in State educational funds to favor poorer property wealth jurisdictions, such as Baltimore City. I helped develop the Maryland hospital all-payer rate system for equal healthcare access regardless of economic circumstances. Under this system, Maryland has avoided having charity hospitals. As a Member of the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, I have helped preserve and strengthen the Maryland hospital rate system.

I was the leader in the State of Maryland for the development of the Circuit Breaker Property Tax Credit Program, which allows seniors to remain in their homes.

And as speaker of the house, I appointed the first woman and the first African American to chair a standing committee.

One of my proudest accomplishments as a legislator came in the U.S. Senate. It was the passage and enactment of the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act. This law was inspired by the death of Sergei Magnitsky, a Russian tax attorney who was murdered, 15 years ago last month, for uncovering corruption. His story has been told to the world by his client Bill Browder and came to my attention as the chair of the Helsinki Commission.

When I was first elected to Congress in 1987, my family was deeply involved in the cause of getting Soviet Jews out of the Soviet Union. My wife Myrna was a leader of the Maryland Committee for Soviet Jewry. My close friend, Representative STENY HOYER, chaired the U.S. Helsinki Commission that took up the cause of Soviet Jews and gave me the opportunity to become involved. STENY and I traveled together to several countries behind the Iron Curtain to give hope to those who were living in countries where their leaders denied their citizens basic human rights.

So when Sergei Magnitsky was killed, it was clear to me that those who violated his basic rights needed to be held accountable, even if the Russian Government refused to act. The Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act targeted those individuals who were complicit in his jailing and murder. It blocked these individuals from enjoying the benefits of America, from traveling to our country and using our banking system. It put their reputation, ability to travel, and access to their assets at risk.

These policies were influenced by Senator Scoop Jackson's legislation, the Jackson-Vanik Law, that denied trade privileges to countries that

blocked their citizens from emigrating. When Jackson-Vanik was repealed because its purpose had been accomplished, it was appropriate that that legislation was used as the vehicle to replace Jackson-Vanik with Magnitsky.

The original Magnitsky Law focused on human rights abuses in Russia, and, in 2016, I authored the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act, which expanded the legislation around the world.

These laws have given birth to a whole new international legal framework for upholding human rights and deterring corrupt actors. The European Union and other governments around the world have replicated the Magnitsky system. As of this year, the U.S. program has sanctioned more than 650 foreign persons and entities.

But I have to underline a really important point. These laws were not easy to pass. The pushback from Russia alone was historic and continues to this day. But it was the bipartisan support that allowed these bills to make it through the process. I want to acknowledge Senators Dick Lugar, John McCain, and ROGER WICKER, my partners in getting the Magnitsky Laws enacted. As a result, they have not only been enacted, but they have been very effective.

Despite setbacks and opposition, we never gave up hope, and, today, corrupt leaders fear the Magnitsky sanctions. The safety of human rights defenders has benefited from these laws.

Over and over again, in my work as a legislator, I have seen the importance of never giving up. Across my years in Congress, I have seen what I thought would be a dream come true. I have seen the Soviet Jews liberated from the former Soviet Union, the Berlin Wall torn down, former communist-controlled countries now NATO allies, and political prisoners released to freedom. It is great to see my friend Vladimir Kara-Murza free from being imprisoned in Russia.

As Vaclav Havel, the reform leader of the Czech Republic, said, "There is only one thing I will not concede: that it might be meaningless to strive in a good cause." Each of us can make a difference. Never give up hope.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said, "Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve."

As my friend and classmate in the House of Representatives—along with my classmate KWEISI MFUME—Representative John Lewis, said, we should all be willing to get into "good trouble."

As that famous philosopher from Baltimore, Babe Ruth, stated, "Never let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game."

I often speak about the need for a value-based approach to policymaking. This has rung true in healthcare and the environment, promoting a dignified retirement, creating economic opportunities for all. Perhaps nowhere has

this been more fundamental than when it comes to foreign policy and national security.

President Biden got it right when he spoke about our international engagement. He said:

We must start with diplomacy rooted in America's most [cherished] democratic values: defending freedom, championing opportunity, upholding universal rights, respecting the rule of law, and treating every person with dignity.

As chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I made promoting value-based foreign policy decisions a top priority. In addition to the Magnitsky Act, I am especially proud of my work with TODD YOUNG on the Combating Global Corruption Act that was enacted in 2023. That legislation requires each of our Embassies around the world to evaluate how effective the country in which our Embassy is located is in fighting corruption. The model used for this legislation is similar to the trafficking in persons tier rankings and reports, with consequences against countries that are not making acceptable progress to improve their rankings against human trafficking.

Leading globally against human trafficking and corruption is America's value-based foreign policy at its finest. America's strength is in our values. We need to lead globally with our strength.

My ability to promote legislation and policies that uphold core universal values was made possible because of my incredible partners, because of their deep values and commitment. There is no way I could have achieved what I have been able to achieve if it weren't for my incredible staff. Their loyalty, their dedication to public service, and their talent made the Cardin Team.

In 38 years in Congress, I have only had two chiefs—Dave Koshgarian and Chris Lynch. Both led by example and recruited the very best to public service.

For over 25 years, Debbie Yamada has attempted to manage the impossible—me.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a complete list of the staff I have been blessed to have during my terms in the U.S. Senate.

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

SENATOR BEN CARDIN'S STAFF  
HOUSE AND SENATE

Derek Abrams, Femeia Adamson, Geoffrey Alexander, Audrey Allen, Kevin Alvarez, Beatrice Amoateng, Nina Anand, Michelle Ash, Carleton Atkinson, Elizabeth Baden, Bhavjeet Basson, Katharine Beamer, Beth Bell, Jill Berger, Shameka Bloyce, Tommy Bredar, Carol Brey, Helen Brocato, Royce Brooks, Shailee Bruck, Andy Buchsbaum, Katie Byerly, LaJuan Calhoun, Heather Campbell, David Carroll.

Sean Cavanaugh, Staphanie Chin, Mark Clack, Benjamin Clark, Erin Clarke, Katherine Close, Renee Cohen, Jonathan Cohen, Joel Cohen, Andre Coleman, Angel Colon-Rivera, Jessica Cook, Titus Cornell, Katie



Corr, Shayna Cram, Martha Cramer, Loraine Crompton, Debbie Curtis, Amy Daiger, Jennifer Dailey, Destiny Davis, Gil de Jesus, Sandra Delaney, Meera Dheer, Megan Dickey.

Teresa Dingboom, Amy diRusso, Nia Duggins, Geni Dunnells, Lauren Dunnock, Venetta Edwards, Andy Elias, Michael Enright, Danny Evans, Lienna Feleke-Eshete, Karen Fields, Bailey Fine, Philip Flannery, Weezie Foster, Chris Fowler, Shannon Frede, Nellie Freeman, Daniel Friedman, Michelle Galdamez, Laura Gamble, Flannery Geoghegan, Caleb Gibson, Sarah Gisriel, Caroline Goodbody, Linda Grahne.

Max Green, Sarah Greenberger, Walt Greenhalgh, Jesse Haladay, Stephen Ham, Peter Hammen, Tiffany Hannon, Denise Harrison, Jarryd Hawkins, Margo Hecht, Bill Henry, Mike Henry, Jonathan Heppen, Yvonne Hernandez, Jim Hettelman, Shelly Hettelman, Julia Hooks, Alexandra Hughes, Anne Irby, Jolene Ivey, Joshua Izaak, Ann Jacobs, Lauren Jee, Rachel Jessee, Dina Johns.

Emily Johnson, Katherine Johnson, Rachel Jones, Dana Jones, Matthew Kasper, Sue Kopen Katcef, Jenn Kaufmann, Matt Kearney, David Klein, Josh Klein, Stephen Knable, Shane Knisley, Dave Koshgarian, Sam Koshgarian, Rori Kramer, Kimberly Kratovil, Vikram (Vik) Kulkarni, Flip Kreitner, Patricia Kullen, Aiko Lane, Jordan Law, Annalisa Leandri, Ann Lee, Renae Lee, Liz Leibowitz.

Joyce Leviton, Roderick Lewis, Unice Lieberman, Arnell Limberry, Paige Linardi, Alicia Linthicum-Amos, Chris Lynch, Lindsey MacGregor, Kevin Mack, Colin Maczka, Joe Mastrangelo, Bill Mathias, Hammad Matin, Chris Matthai, Gray Maxwell, Sean McClintock, Joe McKelvey, Sean McKew, Marlon Medrano, Tomas Melia, Tom Melia, Elise Mellinger, Alexandra Menardy, Ian Mendelsohn, Amanda Mendoza.

Dawana Merritt, Rob Metz, Ryan Middleton, Michele Moghis, Katherine Mongé, Elysa Montfort, Sean Moore, Michael Morgan, Demetrius Morris, Erin Morton, Mary Jo Neville, Jonathan Ng, Aaron Ng, Anh Nguyen, Bianca Oden, Jinmi Odunlami, Katie O'Neill, Stephanie Oviedo, Sanjay Palat, Shivani Pampati, Lydia Parker, Marga Pasternak, Bill Paton, Brianna Paterson.

Corinne Paul, Ashley Peddicord-Austin, Alex Pederson, Lynn Pekkanen, Jessica Pellegrino, Carolyn Perlmutter, Andrew Perlstein, Chris Pumphrey, Ken Reichard, Andrew Remo, Joyce Revell, Edgar Rodriguez, Lucia Rodriguez, Helen Rogers, Joan Rombro, Erwin Rose, Lauren Rosenthal, Priscilla Ross, Algene Sajery, Isaac Salazar, Abdul Sanee, Joe Sangillo, Valli Sanmugalingam, Rita Santibanez, Sandy Sause.

Mariel Schwartz, Jodi Schwartz, Joe Scovitch, Lily Anna Segalman, Habiba Shebita, David Shulman, Oren Shur, Tessa Silverman, Katie Sloan, Kyle Smith, Arnold Solamillos, Danyelle Solomon, Sierra Solomon, Paul Somers, Matthew Spikes, Charlie Stek, Jerome Stephens, Sarah Stevens, Ron Storhaug, Susan Sullam, Robin Summerfield, Kelly Swaine, Dea Thomas, Mike Thomas.

William Tucker, Jen Tuddenham, James Ulwick, Juan Urcia-Barea, Bill Van Horne, Thalia Venetoulis, Mary Vrabel, Susan Walitsky, Suzanne Walsh, Troy Ware, Claire Warner, Jonathan Weadon, Lara Weinstein, Martin Welch, Lee Whaley, Elise Whorton, Jayson Williams, Sarita Williams, Dexter Williams, Dave Wilson, Michael Wolfe, Debbie Yamada, June Zhu, and Tim Zink.

Mr. CARDIN. Our staff works long hours for less compensation than many

of them could make in the private sector because of their commitment to public service.

To my staff, you have made Team Cardin a championship team.

I also want to salute the people who make this institution work. My heartfelt thanks to the floor staff, committee staffs, security staff, and all those who work behind the scenes to make the Senate work. I recognize and salute your dedication.

As I said at the beginning, I don't want to say goodbye. This is especially true of my colleagues, my Senate family—and you are family. These past 18 years have been the honor of my life. You have my undying gratitude for partnering with me to serve our country.

I started in the Senate in 2007 with a class of 10 new Senators. Senators Webb, McCaskill, and Corker are no longer in the Senate. I regret that Senators TESTER, BROWN, and CASEY will be leaving with me at the end of this term. To the remaining three—Senators KLOBUCHAR, SANDERS, and WHITEHOUSE—we count on you to carry on our class traditions.

I was blessed to have two seat mates during my 18 years in the Senate who are trusted friends. Senator Barbara Mikulski welcomed me to the Senate and made my transition so productive. Senator CHRIS VAN HOLLEN and I have worked in unity for the people of Maryland. I know that he will continue to serve the people well as the senior Senator along with newly elected Angela Alsobrooks.

But the partners that made public service possible for me are my family. Myrna and I met in elementary school. Last month, we celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary—amazing that she put up with all those years. She is my strongest supporter. I could not have had the career that I had without her unconditional support and confidence.

Myrna shares my commitment of giving back to the community, and she keeps me properly grounded. When I became speaker of the house, she sent me a card to remind me of this. The card read: "To the rest of the world you may be a roaring lion, but in this house, you are just a pussycat."

(Laughter.)

I put that card on my desk in Annapolis as a constant reminder.

My son of blessed memory and my daughter Deborah supported my public career, never complaining about the family sacrifices they had to make, and I know there were many.

Finally, some parting advice. I know that many people across this country and around the world are concerned about the direction of the United States, but I am optimistic we will get through these challenges.

Now, some people might say: Optimistic? How can that be?

They read the news and say: What about our justice system? What about the rule of law? What about our democ-

racy? What about the threat of autocracies around the world and here at home? What about the resurgence of corrupt, blatantly transactional politics?

I recognize these threats. I am not naive to the dangers and challenges as we all look ahead. There are many challenges ahead of us, but we must not give up hope.

The Senate—this body of 100 Members in a nation of 335 million Americans—sustains my hope. In a 6-year term representing constituents across the United States, we have the time and resources to engage each other. We have the time to constructively work across the aisle to find areas of common agreement.

There is no institution like this in the world. It is a great honor to be a Senator, but it comes with responsibilities—to debate and vote on important issues of our times.

Over the last 18 years, I have seen firsthand how the Senate works best when we work together. I cited many examples of my successful efforts to do just that—working across the aisle to enact pension reform, small business COVID relief, advancing value-based foreign policy, and many more.

We don't have to agree on every single issue, and we never will, but when we defend the constitutional powers of this institution and the prerogatives of the legislative branch together, we create positive results for this country. The Senate is where the rubber meets the road. It is the dividing line between democracy and autocracy.

To my colleagues in the Senate, you play an important role in our democratic check and balance system. Never has it been more important for us to fight to protect our democracy, to defend the rule of law, and to stand up for our common values.

As Senators, you need to demonstrate to the American public by your actions that you can practice civility, that differences can be resolved constructively without harsh terms. We need to remember that compromise was how our Nation was formed. It can be a good thing and bring people together.

Compromise on policy but never on principles or values. Treat people with respect even when you disagree. I made that the guiding principle in my office. My staff call it Cardinesque.

Finally, let us all make it a priority to promote better knowledge and understanding of history, civic engagement, and, again, civility.

Whether promoting American values or investing in domestic priorities here at home, I ask you to let your values guide you to leave our world and our community a fairer place, a healthier place, a more peaceful place, a more prosperous place for all to benefit. Let that be our North Star.

I yield the floor.

(Applause. Senators rising.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

TRIBUTE TO BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, it is with great pride that on behalf of the Maryland congressional delegation, I pay tribute to our incredible senior Senator and thank him for his service to our State and our country and, in fact, all he has done around the world.

I want to recognize the fact that STENY HOYER, Congressman HOYER, is with us on the floor as well.

Thank you, Mr. Leader, for being here.

For those of you who don't know, when BEN CARDIN was speaker of the Maryland House, STENY HOYER was president of the Maryland Senate, so they have gone way back together.

Thank you, Steny, for being here.

Colleagues, I think all of us here know BEN CARDIN for his many, many achievements and accomplishments and the fact that he is a wonderful colleague to work with. He has gone over some of those major highlights, so I am not going to repeat them all, but I do just want to flag a number of them, because the Magnitsky Act is the legislation that said the United States—it not only says we are going to stand up and protect fighters for human rights around the world, but we are going to create an enforcement mechanism to do exactly that.

We had a hearing just the other day in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee reviewing that legislation. That legislation would not exist but for the fact that BEN CARDIN made it happen—first through the original Sergei Magnitsky Act and then the Global Magnitsky Act—as a champion of human rights.

So this is why Senator CARDIN is known not only for his accomplishments in Maryland and in the United States but indeed around the world, as is true with his service on the Helsinki Commission—his partner, of course, Senator ROGER WICKER—which has been standing up for human rights, fighting against hate and anti-Semitism around the world, and doing more here at home. It is a fight against discrimination.

I want to thank him for his global reach but also for all he has done here in the United States when it comes to healthcare. He recounted the story of a Marylander whose name was Deamonte Driver who died because he did not get the dental care he needed. Senator CARDIN worked to make sure that never happens again.

Whether it is housing or protecting the Chesapeake Bay or many other areas that are so important to our national life, BEN CARDIN has been a leader.

In Maryland, we are very proud of all of those achievements, but in Maryland, Senator CARDIN is known as “our friend Ben.” If you look at his TV commercials when he runs for reelection, you can find everyday people, whether it is a waterman on the Chesapeake Bay, whether it is a construction worker near the Port of Baltimore and oth-

ers, saying: Thank you to my friend Ben. And because of his great length and quality of service, many people around the State of Maryland have had a chance to meet their friend BEN.

And he began to serve the State of Maryland when he was 22 years old. When he ran for the State delegate, he was still a law student at the University of Maryland Baltimore; and for 58 consecutive years, he has served the people of our State.

And he didn't just dream of winning elections. That was not the goal; that was the means to achieve his efforts in public service. And that ethic, as he has said, began in the Cardin family long before he first ran for office.

He is the son of Dora, a school teacher, and Meyer, a State legislator and judge. His wife Myrna and his late cousin Shoshana made their names as champions for Soviet Jewry. The Cardin family believes in America as a beacon of liberty and human rights, a beacon that first inspired BEN's grandparents to immigrate here from Russia at the turn of the last century.

So I think it is fair to say that BEN CARDIN did not fall far from the Cardin tree of public service, but he has taken that family's commitment to public service to new heights, becoming, at 35 years old, the youngest ever speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates.

And I want to talk a little bit about his role here in the U.S. Senate on behalf of Team Maryland. Because he is a dear friend, there are many congressional delegations that don't have the spirit of unity that we have had in the State of Maryland, and that is a tribute to BEN CARDIN's leadership. He has been the quarterback for Team Maryland, bringing us together to make sure that we work on behalf of the priorities of the people of our State—all parts of our State, from the Baltimore area to the Washington suburbs, Eastern Shore, and Western Maryland.

I could not ask for a better partner and a better friend in the U.S. Senate, somebody who welcomed me here after I served in the House of Representatives.

I do want to relay briefly to our colleagues in the Democratic caucus something that is not as well-known, but when BEN CARDIN first arrived in the Senate from the House, having served previously as the speaker of the house of delegates in Maryland, he was interested in what the rules are of the Democratic caucus. It turns out, at the time, that the rules were not publicized among the Democratic Members of the caucus. Former Democratic leaders clearly viewed it as in their interest to keep them secret, to keep the Members of the caucus in the dark.

And so when BEN CARDIN asked for the rules, it took a little search to find them. But it is an indication, both of his attention to detail but also his understanding of his responsibility to his colleagues and in the body, that every Member, whether they are a long-serving Member or a new Member has a

chance to participate in the process. And we have since used the good work of Senator CARDIN as rules, as the chairman of the Senate Caucus Rules Committee to help expand democracy, little D, in the Democratic caucus.

Finally, I just want to say that while much has changed over those 58 years that Senator CARDIN has served our State, one thing has remained constant—bedrock—and that is the character of BEN CARDIN. You will not find a person of greater decency, a person of greater integrity than BEN CARDIN. And whether you agree or disagree with him on any particular issue, you always know that the position he has taken is one that is based in values and principles that he brings to the debate. And for that, we should all be eternally grateful.

So I know that he will be leaving this body. I have said—as I have traveled around the State, I have just been marveling at the fact that while Senator CARDIN announced that he wasn't running for reelection over a year ago, he is running so hard through the finish line. It is hard to keep up with him. In fact, he just mentioned that we were at one of the Baptist Churches in Baltimore the other day—we had been on the Eastern Shore, Western Maryland, all over the State.

So I want to thank him for that deep commitment he has to our country and the State of Maryland. I want to thank his beloved partner and wife Myrna Cardin for giving him all that strength over many years. And while he will be leaving the Senate, both myself and our incoming Senator Angela Alsobrooks know he is only a phone call away. So don't turn off your phone too often, BEN CARDIN.

To my colleagues, thank you all for being here to celebrate an incredible U.S. Senator, someone we are so proud of in the State of Maryland, our friend, my friend BEN CARDIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, after Senator BEN CARDIN announced his retirement in the spring of 2023, he and his wonderful wife Myrna recorded an extraordinary video reflecting on a life in public service nearly as long as their 60 years of marriage.

Touching on the highlights of a career that ranged from enacting the Magnitsky sanctions, about which we have heard so much today, to protecting Maryland's precious Chesapeake Bay, BEN said the unifying force behind his work has always been tzedakah, the Jewish tradition of helping wherever and whenever help is needed.

Observing BEN for the past 18 years, I have seen a statesman of keen intellect and profound decency. He is always guided by the ideals of America, his service to Maryland, and by his faith. He consistently has demonstrated the character that earned him the trust of the people of Maryland from the house of delegates to the third congressional district to the U.S. Senate.

BEN's hometown newspaper, the Baltimore Sun, described him this way:

He is a man of substance who understands complicated issues and the art of compromise.

Having partnered with Ben on initiatives to move our Nation forward, I heartily agree with that description. For example, following the tumultuous aftermath of the 2020 election, BEN was an essential leader in a bipartisan working group that crafted the Electoral Count Reform and Presidential Transition Act to better ensure smooth transfers of power between Presidential administrations.

I remember, for example, in one meeting, BEN bringing up a legal question that was absolutely essential that we resolve. It was indicative of the kind of careful legislating in which he engages.

As members of the Small Business Task Force, we coauthored the Paycheck Protection Program that helped so many businesses and employees survive the COVID pandemic.

From expanding Medicare access to improving home healthcare services to addressing opioid use disorder, BEN has been a strong and effective leader in healthcare. One of BEN's most enduring legacies will be the example, his leadership, as a champion of human rights around the world and his fearless persistent dedication to fighting anti-Semitism.

And one of my most enduring memories of BEN will be standing by his side in Tel-Aviv last October following the horrific Hamas attack on Israel.

In the aftermath of that incomprehensible evil, BEN offered words of consolation and peace as he made crystal clear that the United States will always stand shoulder to shoulder with the State of Israel.

It is significant that just before our bipartisan delegation traveled to Israel, BEN was presented with the Anne Frank Award for Human Dignity and Tolerance from the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Well deserved.

It has been such an honor to serve with Senator BEN CARDIN, a leader of integrity, intelligence, and civility. I am so grateful for his efforts to strengthen our institutions, to elevate our national discourse, and to bring people together to find common ground and solve problems.

I wish BEN and Myrna much happiness in the years to come. You will be missed, BEN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I would like to rise and join some of my colleagues in speaking about BEN CARDIN, but I perhaps want to take a little bit more of a personal approach to sharing my thoughts about my departing colleague.

I don't know if he remembers this, but I was elected in a special election, and I came here plopping down, sworn in on the auspicious day of Halloween. And I knew I had to meet my col-

leagues, so I started the process of going to their offices. They took me to meet everybody from John McCain sitting in his office, obviously, to Harry Reid who was here then.

But my journey to go see BEN CARDIN was different than any of my other meetings because we sat down, and he asked me about myself, and before I knew it, we were talking about Judaism.

Now, it was an amazing conversation to me because I did not realize how deep his faith was, how knowledgeable he was of the Torah, something I have been studying for decades as a non-Jew, and I found this incredible connection to him around the principles that he spoke about at the top of his speech, principles of hesed, principles of tzedakah, this idea of living a good and moral life. But what was amazing to me over these last 11 years that I have been at the Senate is that maybe some joking from time to time about Judaism, but we really haven't had much of a Torah discussion as we did on that very first day. He has never invited me to a minyan; he and I have never prayed together. He never talked to me about his religion. I have traveled around the whole world, but that first conversation was the most we ever talked about his religion and his faithfulness.

But what is amazing to me is even though we haven't spoken about it, as someone who knows and loves the religion, I will say I have seen it in him every single day. In my faith, there is a theologian that says: Everywhere you go, preach the gospel, but only sometimes use words.

I am a big believer that before you tell me about your religion, first show it to me in how you treat other people; before you preach to me how much you love your God, show it to me in how you love all of God's children; before you tell me about your passion for your faith, show it to me in your compassion for other people.

This has been the beauty of serving with my colleague BEN CARDIN because I have seen through the work and the dedication and the labors and the attention to detail and the leadership how deep his integrity is and his alignment between his beliefs and how he conducts himself in the world.

And so in honor of that, Ben, I am going to try to do something that I am sure has never been done in the history of the Senate is I am going to say goodbye to you in a d'var Torah. Now, maybe there has been a d'var Torah on the Senate floor, but I am confident in the history of America there has never been on the Senate floor a d'var Torah given by a big Black guy.

And so here it is. There is a moment in the Torah where Moses, a great leader, has been given the 10 Commandments, but the Jewish people are worshipping a golden calf. We all know the story of him crumbling, smashing the tablets, but what I didn't know until I started studying Judaism and doing

Torah studies on Fridays, I didn't know there was a moment where God said: OK. I will destroy these people and give you new people to lead.

And what was amazing to me, astonishing to me, about this story from the Torah is you would think that devotion, this fealty to God, that whatever God says goes, but Judaism struck me when I started studying the Torah as a strange faith that all of these major figures get into fights with God, whether it was the incredible story of Abraham arguing with angels about defending a city, Sodom and Gomorrah. But in this moment, what Moses said to God was:

(English translation of statement made in Hebrew is as follows:)

If you destroy these people, then erase me from your book. I want no part of you, God.

I have watched you for 11 years. And like that ideal of Moses, despite all of the imperfections of humanity, despite our faults and our foibles, despite the tragedies we have wrought unto ourselves, you have shown that leadership of Moses, not accepting the world's happenings as God's will but standing up and standing in the breach.

You have, through your work, both here in America and across the globe, you have been one of those people who has defended the weak, who has protected the vulnerable, and who has championed the best of humanity.

Yes, you have preached the gospel, my friend, but you have more profoundly dedicated your life to its work. There is an ideal in Judaism that we should all be dedicated toward tikkun olam, to healing this world.

I believe there is a God in Heaven. I share your sense of faith, and I believe at the end of this chapter of your life, God is saying: Well done, my good and faithful servant. And I know God is not done with you yet, so as you go on into the world, I simply say, as your brother, yasher koach.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Mr. WELCH.) The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I am tempted to simply say: Amen and amen to yield back, but I didn't want this moment to pass without rising, on behalf of my wife Gayle and me, to say how much we have appreciated the friendship of BEN and Myrna CARDIN and the leadership that they have shown to us as we have represented the United States of America to citizens around the world and particularly to our friends in Europe.

Myrna has been a wonderful friend to Gayle. She is deserving of all of the accolades that she has received and will receive.

I have had an opportunity in this city several times in the last few weeks to make remarks on behalf of BEN CARDIN. He suggested to me almost that he had heard enough and that I need not say anymore. But I do want to say how much I appreciate his leadership and the list of accomplishments

that he has listed and to say how grateful I will always be for BEN allowing me to be a part of the Magnitsky struggle and getting the Magnitsky Act passed and Global Magnitsky, which is renowned around the world as an effective tool against totalitarianism and corruption.

And so I would simply say that people in the audience may have happened by—I know a number of people here came for this particular purpose—but if you happened simply to be in the Gallery at this particular time, you have been—these people, Mr. President, have been subject to the testimony of a magnificent public servant. And if I serve decades more, which I do not feel that I will, if I live to be 100, I will not see a finer leader in terms of intellect, talent, in terms of savvy, in terms of accomplishment, in terms of leadership and statesmanship than I have known in the person of BEN CARDIN, and I am grateful to have been his colleague and his friend.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, first, I am incredibly grateful for the kind comments that my Senate family has said. I have said that my colleagues are my family, and they were certainly a lot less objective than my real family has been about some of my legislative actions.

So, first, to Senator VAN HOLLEN, he pointed out that we work together; we trust each other; and we have been able to get more done because of it. That trust has never been broken. And the two of us have been able to share information. We share a common vision of what we want for Maryland and this Nation, and it has made my service in the U.S. Senate so much more rewarding knowing that my colleague is a person who shares the burdens of our office of representing the people of Maryland and takes equal responsibility to make sure we get things done in a unified way.

So, Senator VAN HOLLEN, thank you for those very kind comments, and it is mutual. Your leadership here has benefited our State to an incredible degree.

And to Senator COLLINS, I have been at several bipartisan groups with Senator COLLINS. She has a way of just reaching out and bringing people together. And I must tell you, she sort of glossed over what we did in response to January 6 and the passage of the electoral college reforms. That was not an easy task to get that to the finish line, and Senator COLLINS was the leader on that effort and allowed me to have input where it was needed in order to bring people together. But that is what she does all the time; she always looks for common ways. There is a reason why our appropriators seem to be able to get along through the leadership of Senator MURRAY and Senator COLLINS. I think it is a real example for all of us.

And then to Rabbi BOOKER.

(Laughter.)

I want to know when he is going to start a synagogue because I am going to join that synagogue. I want everyone to know. His d'var Torah is a lot better than a lot of Rabbi's d'var Torahs. He is just an incredible addition to our Senate family, and I will follow him anywhere.

And to Senator WICKER, you know, what we have been able to do together, it has been an incredible run. I have been with you around the world. We have stood up to dictators, and we have helped friends. We stood by people who had no other help around them so that their rights could be heard, and we have gotten a lot done together.

There is no question that we would not have had the victories on the Magnitsky bills without your personal involvement, working within your caucus to make sure that it was not politicized and we got it to the final line, and you took a lot of hours for us, and I very much appreciate that. More importantly, human rights defenders appreciate your gallantry in the U.S. Senate to get those bills to the finish line and bills that don't have your name on it. As I mentioned, you were responsible to make sure we had vehicles to get them completed.

So I thank you for your friendship. I thank you for Gayle. And it has been, as I said, a real pleasure to have that type of relationship.

I am often asked by my colleagues: Do you ever talk to Republicans? I mean, they think we are so divided here, and this is a family. And that is why I said in my parting comments, I really see the hope of our future in the relationships that have been developed here in the U.S. Senate. We can work together. We can resolve these issues. We know what our responsibilities are about. We know we have challenges in this country, but we also know we need to listen to each other, and that is what I think we do here in the Senate. We have got to do it in a more effective way. And my colleagues that are with me today have been champions in listening to each other to get the work done for the American people.

Mr. President, I am deeply honored to serve in this body, and I thank you for your attention.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the scheduled vote occur immediately.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will re-

sume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Cynthia Valenzuela Dixon, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

#### NOMINATION OF CYNTHIA VALENZUELA DIXON

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Cynthia Valenzuela Dixon to the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California.

Born in Tucson, AZ, Judge Valenzuela earned her B.A. at the University of Arizona in 1991 and her J.D. at the University of California at Los Angeles School of Law in 1995. After graduating from law school, she worked as special assistant to Vice Chair Cruz Reynoso on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights from 1995 to 1998.

Between 1998 and 2000, Judge Valenzuela served as a trial attorney in the Voting Section of the Civil Rights Division at the U.S. Department of Justice. From 2000 to 2006, she served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of California.

After that, Judge Valenzuela worked at the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, first as the western regional counsel in 2006 and then as the national vice president and director of litigation from 2006 to 2011.

Between 2011 and 2016, Judge Valenzuela served as the Criminal Justice Act supervising attorney on the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California.

Since 2016, Judge Valenzuela has served as a judge on the State Bar Court of California. She served as the supervising judge of that court from 2020 to 2022.

The American Bar Association rated Judge Valenzuela as "qualified," and her nomination is strongly supported by her home State Senators, Mr. PADILLA and Ms. BUTLER.

Judge Valenzuela's substantial litigation background and service on the State Bar Court of California have prepared her to serve as a district judge on the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. I am proud to support her nomination.

#### VOTE ON DIXON NOMINATION

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 49, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 319 Ex.]

YEAS—49

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Bennet	Hirono	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kaine	Schiff
Booker	Kelly	Schumer
Brown	Kim	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Smith
Cardin	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Carpenter	Lujan	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	
Heinrich	Rosen	

NAYS—47

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

NOT VOTING—4

Manchin	Sullivan
Sinema	Vance

The nomination was confirmed.

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

The majority leader.

PRESS ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I thank my friend Senator WYDEN for coming to the floor to champion something I have been very supportive of and he has carried, the bipartisan PRESS Act, a bill every person in this room—whether they are Senators, journalists, citizens—should want to see become law.

No democracy can survive without a free and open and thriving press. The free press keeps governments accountable to the people, exposes abuse and wrongdoing, informs the public about what is happening in government.

But if government can unduly harass the press or when leaders smear journalists as enemies of the people and when there are too few protections for journalists, our democracy is at the very real risk of eroding away.

We have seen in some countries—in Hungary, Orban—a dictator tells his friends to buy the press so there can be no real freedom and no real counter-argument. And they do. They buy newspapers, televisions, et cetera.

And so we have to protect the press. It is sacred—sacred—to America. The

PRESS Act is a commonsense and strongly bipartisan bill to ensure journalists can do their job without with facing undue harassment.

I am so proud to support this act. Senate Democrats all support this bill. And the bill has already passed the House unanimously. I hope every single Senate Republican joins us to pass it today. I know many of them are ready to do the right thing. I think it has a majority support in both parties.

This bill, again, is common sense and balanced. It would prohibit the Federal Government from using subpoenas or search warrants or other measures to force journalists or third parties to reveal confidential information without their knowledge. It has exceptions carefully tailored to address matters of national security. And it would ensure that the decision to seize journalists' records and compel them to reveal sources falls to the Federal courts, not to the Department of Justice. It is more important now than ever before, when we have heard so many in the incoming administration talk about going after the press one way or another.

And 99 percent of the work to enact the PRESS Act into law is already done; all we need is for no Senator to stand in the way today.

So thank you, Senator WYDEN, for championing this bill. Thank you to the many reporters, news organizations, press leaders, and press associations for championing this bill.

Being a journalist is a hard job. It is hard enough. Journalists shouldn't have to fear baseless government harassment on top of that for just doing their jobs. So let's pass the bipartisan PRESS Act and send it to the President's desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, before he leaves the floor, let me just thank the Senate majority leader. We have talked about this often. And I am particularly struck by the readings of the Founding Fathers because several of the Founding Fathers seem to think that a free press was at least as important as government. So the case that you are making today, Mr. Leader, is well stated.

Mr. SCHUMER. Again, let me thank the Senator from Oregon for his leadership. Thank you.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 4250

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, in a few minutes, I am going to ask unanimous consent to pass my bipartisan bill, the PRESS Act. And this legislation is deeply personal to me.

I am very proud to be the son of Peter Wyden, who was an award-winning journalist. My dad fled the Nazis in the 1930s, and members of his family died at the hands of the Nazis.

In the United States, my dad became such a good writer, he became part of our Army's elite group, the Ritchie Boys, that wrote the propaganda pamphlets that we dropped on Nazis.

Growing up, my dad always mentioned that several of our Founding Fathers—as I indicated to the majority leader here—stressed how important the free press was to our country. And my dad emphasized how important it is that American journalists can do their jobs without unneeded government interference.

So our bipartisan bill shields journalists from being forced by the courts to disclose their sources or information provided by their sources, with—as the majority leader and I have emphasized—key exceptions exist in our legislation for national security and other critical matters. And our bill also does not otherwise limit the government's ability to pursue leakers.

So this is so common sense that nearly every State in the country has some form of reporters' shield on the books. Democratic and Republican State legislators alike have found value in preserving the free flow of information and codifying these fundamental freedoms.

My bill, with Senator LEE—and I want to thank our colleague on the other side of the aisle on all his good counsel here. Our bill would finally ensure that these protections make it to the Federal level. This is a bill—and I note this. My colleague, the Presiding Officer, knows that sometimes it is pretty hard around the Congress to be able to get folks to agree to order a 7 Up or something. This bill passed this House unanimously and has the support of both the chair of the Judiciary Committee and ranking member Senator GRAHAM. Not only that, but our bill has been endorsed by people from across the political spectrum.

I would say to my friend from Nevada, Tucker Carlson is on board. FOX News is on board. This is about as bipartisan as you can get. Past administrations, both Democratic and Republican, have exploited the lack of a Federal shield law to curtail the freedom of the press and, in some cases, even jailed journalists who have refused to break their journalistic ethics and reveal their sources.

It is long overdue that these abuses be stopped. So my substitute amendment that I put together with Senator LEE addresses feedback that we heard on this Senate floor and elsewhere.

My colleague from Arkansas, a member of the Intelligence Committee, spoke about this before, and we heard feedback from the Department of Justice that they wanted some key national security exceptions for section 702 and threats to critical infrastructure, and ensuring that the Federal Government can still respond to cases that require exigency.

I want it understood that, between the time this came up on the floor previously and today, we have reached out for feedback that addresses a number of the concerns that I heard from my colleague from Arkansas, a member of the Intelligence Committee whom I work with, that I hope addresses his concerns.

So as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4250 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; further, that the Wyden substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). Is there objection?

The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, in reserving the right to object, this bill is a threat to U.S. national security and an insult to basic fairness and the principle of equality before the law. It is the biggest giveaway to the liberal press in American history.

The so-called PRESS Act would turn reporters into a protected class, free to hold, share, and publish highly classified and dangerous information that no other American is allowed to possess. The passage of this bill would turn the U.S. Senate into an active accomplice of deep state leakers, traitors, and criminals along with the America-hating and fame-hungry journalists who help them out. This legislation would make it all but impossible to ever compel a reporter to reveal their sources or compel them to return classified information in their possession.

Reporters would become the only class of people legally permitted to possess classified information in an unsecured and unmonitored environment. It gives reporters rights that no other American possesses. No Senator even has these protections. In fact, if the Senator from Oregon was given unsecured classified information and refused to turn it over, he could be censored, prosecuted, and possibly put in jail. And we wouldn't want that to happen. We would miss him dearly.

Even former Presidents don't have the rights that this legislation provides to liberal journalists. Just remember, the FBI raided President Trump's house on the mere accusation that he held unsecured classified information. And unlike President Trump, President Biden actually committed this crime and only escaped prosecution because the prosecutor concluded he was too addled to be convicted. Thanks to this bill, reporters at CNN, MSNBC, and the New York Times would have more rights and privileges than former Presidents and Vice Presidents.

This bill would also embolden every leaker and would-be traitor in the Federal Government within arm's reach of classified or damaging information. Leakers could reveal anything from the placement of American troops in foreign countries to the location of nuclear weapons, with only the thinnest and hardest to prove exceptions. They could release embarrassing or incriminating information from FBI background checks. They could also release information provided by allied nations,

endangering America's alliances around the world. If this bill became law, every leaker would sleep well at night knowing their accomplices in the media would never have to turn them in.

The leakers could also release, say, phone records of discussions between the President of the United States and foreign leaders, and this bill would protect any reporter who released or possessed the contents of those calls. Maybe it should be called the "Alexander Vindman Protection Act."

Not surprisingly, President Trump recently wrote:

REPUBLICANS MUST KILL THIS BILL!

And, for the benefit of those who missed it, he wrote it in all capital letters with an exclamation point at the end.

The bill's advocates often say too much stuff is classified. I agree. On the intelligence committee, I am often asked: Why is this classified? But some information ought to be classified, and the solution to overclassification is to classify less stuff, not to enable liberal deep staters to leak to liberal journalists.

Another argument I hear is government employees often violate the law and abuse our citizens—I agree, especially when Democrats are in office—but whistleblowers have plenty of legal and effective avenues to raise those concerns. If their superiors refuse to listen to them, they can contact their Departments' inspectors general or ombudsmen. They can also contact congressional oversight committees or Federal law enforcement. What they shouldn't do—what the law, in fact, forbids them from doing—is run off to the liberal media.

Even with its present protections, which I think are excessive, the liberal media has a long record of endangering our troops and our interests around the world. The liberal media doesn't deserve more privileges, protections, and perks. Releasing classified information is a serious crime, and it should be punished seriously.

Contrary to what members of the press may think, a press badge doesn't make you better than the rest of America or put you above the law.

For several years, the media has conducted itself in a disgraceful manner and destroyed its reputation with the American people. Yet some in Congress—maybe the only institution less popular than the press—now want to give it more privileges? I don't think so. My message is simple: No one is entitled to the privileges provided in this bill, certainly not the press.

Therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, let me be brief here.

This legislation that we have been discussing passed the House of Representatives early this year, and it was unanimous. So for people who are fol-

lowing the debate, every single Republican—everyone in the other body—in effect, approved this legislation.

Why did they do that? Because it clearly is sensitive to these national security concerns. We put in express exceptions for national security, including an area my colleague and I know a lot about, section 702 of FISA.

My colleague was very kind to me. He said, gosh, if I wasn't here, he would miss me. Well, that is very kind and thoughtful, but what we are really missing is the overwhelming support from Republicans for this legislation. I spoke about the Members in the other body, and no one else is objecting here.

I just think that, if we look at the writings of the Founding Fathers and their importance of a free press, what we ought to be saying is, yes, we should be listening to each other. That is why I made those changes since the last time my colleague from Arkansas objected. This is going to also—and I think my colleague and I would agree on this—protect citizen journalists who don't have the legal budget to fight subpoenas the way big newspapers can. That is why my bill has been endorsed by independent journalists like Catherine Herridge.

I understand that we don't have unanimous consent today. I think it is unfortunate. I think America would be stronger and freer if we were passing this legislation today, but we will be back, and my hope is that we can work with the Senator from Arkansas to get his support.

I want it understood from the standpoint of good faith that I listened the last time. My colleague and I were here on the floor of the U.S. Senate, and I thought he made good arguments. I am not here to say he is without good arguments. That is why I went out and I told our staff and all the folks on the Intel Committee and the people who work with us on it to make these changes to see if we can come aboard.

I realize we don't have unanimous consent this afternoon, but I would just say to my colleagues this is about as important as it gets. Free speech is fundamental to what makes our country so special. I have had more than 1,100 townhall meetings at home, and people always come and say: I don't agree with you about "this," or I don't agree with you about "that," but we are using our First Amendment. We are making sure we can always be heard.

I will tell my colleague, my door is open, and we will be talking to your folks to see if we can get this resolved. As I say, I made those changes since the last time we were on the floor for the express purpose of our being able to see if we could find agreement.

So I respect my colleague's right to dissent in spite of the fact that every single House Republican voted for it, and I am going to be coming back and seeing if we can find ways to work it out.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.



Mr. COTTON. Madam President, I appreciate the remarks of the Senator from Oregon.

The Founding Fathers designed the Senate to be the sober second thought to the House of Representatives or even transient and fleeting public opinion. The Senator from Oregon cited the unanimous vote in the House. Sometimes, that is an indication of widespread support for a sound and wise policy, but on occasion, it is an indication that a rash, impetuous, hasty, impulsive decision by the House deserves a sober second thought in the U.S. Senate. And not for the first time, I am pleased to provide the sober second thought on this and other issues.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

POLITICAL PRISONERS IN ERITREA, SAUDI ARABIA, TAJIKISTAN, AND VIETNAM

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, periodically, I have come to the Senate floor to raise the issue of political prisoners languishing in jails around the world. You would wonder why I do this. Well, it came to my attention that there are some real miscarriages of justice in terms of these political prisoners, and it also came to my attention that when I make a speech on the floor, sometimes people hear it and it makes a difference.

Thanks to the good work of Chris Homan, my chief staffer on this project, we have been party to and assisting in many releases of prisoners around the world. Some have come to visit me in my office here at the Capitol, saying they were languishing in prison and nobody even knew they were alive and that I gave a speech and I talked to the Ambassador and, the next thing you know, they are home.

So on the off chance that good fortune will come through again, I am going to make this effort this evening and am joined by Senator WELCH of Vermont.

There are journalists, activists, opposition candidates, and everyday citizens who are too often victims of petty, repressive regimes for simply trying to exercise basic democratic freedoms we take for granted in this country. Over the years, many of those eventually released have come to see me here in DC. Without fail, they say that their jailers cruelly tried to make them think they were forgotten and shared how sustaining it was to know voices around the world kept attention on their plight. So I will raise a few more cases today, and I am glad to be joined by my friend, the junior Senator from Vermont Senator WELCH, who is also taking up this effort.

I would like to first start with the country of Eritrea—an abysmal human rights record in that country. It has the nickname, the distinction, of being the North Korea of Africa. Eritrea has been ruled, since its independence three decades ago, by President Afwerki, whose regime has a well-documented history of arresting or forcibly

disappearing thousands of political prisoners into secret detention centers known for appalling conditions, usually without any charges, trial, or sentencing.

In September 2001, Eritrea banned all independent media and arbitrarily arrested journalists for any criticism of the government. Let me highlight a few who have been jailed for more than two decades—two decades: Dawit Isaak, an award-winning Swedish-Eritrean journalist; Amanuel Asrat, a distinguished poet and publisher; Seyoum Tsehay, a war journalist and television executive; and, finally, Temesgen Gebreyesus, an actor and journalist. All are depicted on this sign.

They remain imprisoned, along with thousands of Eritreans, under unimaginable conditions, with no end in sight. I urge President Afwerki: End this madness. Free these political prisoners. It would be an important step toward establishing your reputation in the world and ending international sanctions and Eritrea's isolation.

Next, Saudi Arabia, a country with which we have shared many interests and also in which unacceptable political repression continues to complicate our relationship.

I have long advocated for the case of writer Raif Badawi—over in this corner—who, in 2022, was at last released after spending 10 years in a Saudi prison for the crime of exercising his right to free speech. Yet, to this day, he remains subject to a cruel travel ban, preventing him from reuniting with his family in Canada.

Waleed Abu al-Khair, a women's rights activist, and Salma al-Shehab are other such prisoners. Waleed has been in prison since 2014 for his human rights work, and in 2022, Salma was given an outrageous 34-year prison sentence for this. Let me tell you what her crime was. Ready? She used Twitter. That was it. Enough—34 years; throw away the key.

For too long, the Saudi Crown Prince has silenced dissidents and pro-democracy activists while claiming to embrace reform. Such reform should include allowing Raif to unite with his family in Canada as well as unconditionally releasing Waleed, Salma, and countless other political prisoners without delay.

Next, the Asian country of Tajikistan, which wants to increase security and economic cooperation with the United States. As I have long said, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, especially for opposition parties, remains critical for countries that want a closer relationship with the United States.

As such, I urged the release of human rights lawyer Buzurgmehr Yorov, who is serving 28 years in prison for simply representing Tajikistan's legal opposition in court.

Lastly, I want to focus on the nation of Vietnam, with whom, amid China's bullying in the region, the United

States has built a remarkably good reputation over the years. Yet Vietnam remains at the bottom of World Press Freedom Index. In 2024, Vietnam ranked 174th out of 180 nations. The Vietnamese Government continues to heavily restrict free speech, with too many journalists and human rights defenders facing harassment, detention, and harsh prison sentences under so-called anti-state propaganda laws.

This includes people like Pham Chi Dung, one of the most popular writers on Voice of America's Vietnamese service, who was sentenced to 15 years in prison in 2021—he helped create the Independent Journalists Association of Vietnam—and Pham Doan Trang, considered one of the most prominent Vietnamese dissidents, who so far has served 4 years of a 9-year prison sentence. Just this year, she was awarded PEN America's Barbey Freedom to Write Award, adding to an already long list of awards from several governments and press freedom groups.

In 2020, just before her arrest, she wrote very movingly—and I want to quote her:

I don't want freedom for just myself; that's too easy. I want something greater: freedom for Vietnam.

That is an amazing show of courage. I have seen the same from so many other political prisoners around the world, willing to go to prison for their freedom.

Before I turn the floor over to Senator WELCH, I want to remind these brave individuals in Eritrea, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, and Vietnam that you are not forgotten. We will continue to advocate for your well-being and release and speak your names to the world. And when you are free, please come visit me here at the Capitol. I will be waiting to shake your hand.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. WELCH. Madam President, I want to thank Senator DURBIN for his ongoing commitment to highlighting the plights of people who have been imprisoned for doing nothing more than exercising free speech, for doing nothing more than speaking up on behalf of the oppressed in their own country, for speaking up on behalf of human rights and justice.

What Senator DURBIN said inspires me, and that is: We don't know what the outcome will be. Is anyone paying attention? We don't know, but what we do know and we have seen is that this does help and make a difference and get some attention on people who were unjustly imprisoned for doing something that is noble.

And our goal here is not always to have everything be instrumental immediately, but it is to reassert the commitment that this U.S. Senate has to do what is within our power—sometimes it is very limited, as in this case of advocacy and attention to highlight and hopefully result in the highlighting of an oppressive situation—to



have a release of a person who has been unjustly detained.

So I just want to express my gratitude to Senator DURBIN. And over the years, I have met people who used to be political prisoners and were shaking the hand of Senator DURBIN. His advocacy made a difference. The advocacy of other Members of the Senate makes a difference.

And the most compelling thing for me is just think about what it is like to be a person who has made a statement, who used Twitter and you are suddenly arrested; you are suddenly cut off from your family; you are suddenly cut off from any visitation; you have no idea whether you have a future. And you have to feel, day in and day out, in that captivity, that people have completely forgotten who you are, that you have become invisible.

So the act of trying to make visible people who, as a result of the use of state power, have been made invisible is something that each and every one of us should do our best—using this office that we have and this forum we have—to stand up and remember people who have been made forgotten because they have done decent things.

I am really grateful to work with Senator DURBIN on this, and I want to focus attention on other political prisoners.

The first is Maryia Kalesnikava. Maryia is a professional musician. Think about that—a gifted musician. Think of the discipline that goes into becoming a professional musician. She was admired throughout Belarus for her talents and as a leading member of the political opposition. She left aside just being a musician to speak out on behalf of her people.

She called for free and fair elections. Arrest follows. After every leading opposition candidate had either been jailed in Belarus or fled the country, Maryia was apprehended in 2020 by officials driving an unmarked vehicle and taken to the Belarus border, where they attempted to forcibly deport her to Ukraine. She wouldn't allow herself to be forcibly deported. Think about that. She had to risk coming back when she was in the custody of unknown people who had no good intention for her. They put her on trial. She was tried, and she was sentenced to 11 years in a penal colony—11 years—for the crime of calling for free and fair elections.

Her situation is obviously concerning for many reasons, not the least of which is that between February 2023 and November 2024—1 year and 9 months—she was not allowed any visits by her family. I mean, just think about that: Your son or your daughter is cut off from you, and you have no idea of how they are doing, whether they are alive, are they suffering. Only after nearly 600 days was Maryia's father finally permitted to visit her last month.

Now, I am speaking about this with some passion because I met her sister

just recently. Her sister Tatsiana came to my office, and she has been out and about telling her sister's story and seeking for her release. Tatsiana was joined in my office by two human rights defenders who are courageously working to help secure the release of Maryia and other Belarusian political prisoners.

There have been a small number of Belarusian prisoners convicted of "extremism" who have been released, and I am hopeful that Maryia will also be released. And while the United States and Belarus have profound disagreements, including over human rights and Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine, I believe that officials of both governments should speak respectfully toward each other and seek opportunities to work together to address issues of common interest. My hope is that her release will be one of them.

Madam President, secondly, I want to speak about Maykel "Osorbo" Castillo. Maykel is an Afro-Cuban musician and writer who won a Latin Grammy Award while imprisoned in a Cuban jail. How do you do that? He won a Latin Grammy while he was in jail. He helped write a hit pro-democracy anthem that won Song of the Year at the 2021 Latin Grammys.

One of the things that are so extraordinary about folks like this who are illegally, wrongly imprisoned is that it doesn't somehow quell their spirit to express themselves and their joy of life.

Maykel is definitely one of them. He was arrested in May 2021 following months of police harassment, including intensive surveillance, movement restrictions, and "preventative" detention. He was sentenced a year later on politically motivated charges of evading police custody and sharing social media critical of the government.

Maykel is one of the many who have been unjustly imprisoned, and I urge the Cuban Government to release him. I also hope the incoming Trump administration will not do what many fear, which is to tighten, really, a lot of further sanctions on Cuba even more.

Finally, I want to mention Dr. Salah Soltan. Salah is a 65-year-old U.S. permanent resident, academic scholar, and prisoner of conscience in Egypt. Dr. Salah has quite a smile, as you can see. He is a husband, he is a father, and he is a grandfather to 11 grandchildren—American citizens, by the way—with deep roots in Michigan and the Midwest.

He has been unjustly imprisoned for 12 years, and he is in fragile health. In recent years, there has been growing bicameral, bipartisan, domestic, regional, and international support for his release on medical and on humanitarian grounds.

President Sisi has taken some modest steps towards justice for political prisoners, including removing more than 700 Egyptians with tangential ties to opposition political parties from domestic terrorism lists. That is good, what President Sisi did.

We want him and urge him to release Salah on humanitarian grounds so he can rejoin his family in the United States.

Madam President, these are only three of the tens and probably hundreds of thousands of prisoners of conscience in the world. The arbitrary arrest and imprisonment of individuals for nothing more than peacefully expressing views in support of democracy, in support of freedom of expression and other human rights, is abhorrent. These folks are accused of all sorts of fabricated charges. And it is really abuse of the awesome power of the state to essentially oppress people who are critical of the state. These folks are apprehended. They are subjected oftentimes to inhumane conditions, often solitary confinement in decrepit prisons, without access to lawyers or families. They are erased. They become invisible, as Senator DURBIN was discussing. Some of these folks die in prison from torture or untreated medical conditions. So anytime we can raise the possibility of their getting some attention so their case can be heard, so they have some possibility of release, is a good use of our time.

The question about why we do it kind of surprises me, actually, because the answer is simple. Americans care about people whose fundamental rights are denied, and whoever and wherever they are, we should continue to express that concern. I am proud to say that certainly is a legacy of my predecessor, Senator Patrick Leahy, who served in this body for 48 years. In fact, that right is every person's responsibility under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which no country voted against when it was adopted on December 10, 1948—66 years ago today.

I want to finish where I started by thanking my colleague from Illinois not just for his advocacy but for his inspiration to all of us to do what we can with this office that we hold for whatever period of time we have been entrusted to speak out on behalf of wonderful people like the people I mentioned and Senator DURBIN mentioned.

I yield to my colleague Senator DURBIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. I want to thank my colleague Senator WELCH from Vermont. He is a great partner in this effort. His heart is in the same place mine is.

One of the things that just struck me that some of the prisoners said to me when they came home and made it to the United States, to my office—one of them said: You don't realize that your mentioning my name on the floor of the U.S. Senate could have saved my life.

Many of the jailers and oppressive governments that have these people imprisoned beat them, torture them, starve them, and believe no one knows or no one cares. But if all of a sudden the name of that prisoner becomes conversation at the Embassy or at the

State Department or even in some of the halls of leadership of governments around the Nation, they think twice before they hurt them or kill them.

It is hard to imagine that our simple speech on the floor could have that impact, but it has. I thank you for joining me in this effort. I hope our colleagues will join us as well.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. 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.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 835.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Matthew James Marzano, of Illinois, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the term of five years expiring June 30, 2028.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant bill 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. 835, Matthew James Marzano, of Illinois, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the term of five years expiring June 30, 2028.

Charles E. Schumer, Thomas R. Carper, Tammy Baldwin, Gary C. Peters, Peter Welch, Richard Blumenthal, Sheldon Whitehouse, Tim Kaine, Jack Reed, Michael F. Bennet, Tammy Duckworth, Catherine Cortez Masto, Debbie Stabenow, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Tina Smith, Christopher A. Coons, Brian Schatz.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent 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 ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### GUATEMALA

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to celebrate the 175th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Guatemala and the United States.

As we mark this milestone, I want to highlight the strength of the U.S.-Guatemala bilateral relationship today. Earlier this year, I led a congressional delegation to Guatemala, and we met with President Bernardo Arevalo. He is a leader who was elected last year by voters who were sick of widespread corruption. He ran by focusing on corruption and insecurity, as well as generating employment and promoting climate change policies. And I was impressed. Prior to serving in elected office, Arevalo worked in Guatemala's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He served as First Secretary and Minister Counselor in Israel in the 1980s and as Ambassador to Spain and Deputy Foreign Minister in the 1990s. For several years, Arevalo was active as a leader in civil society, promoting anticorruption initiatives.

The Guatemalan President clearly cares—as do I—about upholding the rule of law, promoting democratic values, and combatting corruption. I believe that Guatemala stands at one of the most pivotal and potentially transformative moments since the end of the 1996 civil war.

But the path it takes going forward will largely depend on the extent that President Arevalo is able to govern. I was deeply concerned by attempts to undermine his democratic election last year and by the concerted efforts by the previous government to obstruct the peaceful transfer of power.

Attorney General Maria Consuelo Porras led the charge in weaponizing the justice system against him. She criminalized the President's political party. She jailed journalists. She has forced former prosecutors and judges investigating corruption into exile. She continues to use the Public Ministry to protect her personal financial and political interests—working without any practical check on her power.

This makes it difficult to combat corruption, to go after transnational crime, and to seek justice for human rights defenders persecuted under the previous government.

And yet despite these challenges, President Arevalo has not given up. He hasn't given up on his commitment to

rooting out corruption at home, as we have seen with the launch of the National Commission Against Corruption.

He has continued to build on our strong economic relationship; the U.S. is Guatemala's largest investor and trading partner. Just this year, our countries held a High-Level Economic Dialogue with discussions across all sectors of society, including private businesses and indigenous groups.

President Arevalo has also continued to have the courage to support liberty across the globe. Despite economic coercion by the People's Republic of China, he has maintained Guatemala's diplomatic relations with Taiwan. And on the question of migration, his government has been supportive of the Biden administration's safe mobility office in Guatemala. This effort has been critical to reducing irregular immigration on our southern border and providing legal pathways to vulnerable populations.

I know we will continue working together to address the root causes of migration, whether it is corruption, poverty, violence, crime, or climate change.

Now, I recognize these are immense challenges. And we are going to have a new administration coming into office here in the United States in January with very different views of America's role in the world—especially with regards to our relationship to the Western Hemisphere.

But for those of us who believe deeply in values-based policy making, for those of us who understand the importance of democracy and the rule of law, for those of for whom respect for human rights is paramount, we must not give up.

Making the world a better place is hard, but it is not impossible. So whether you live in Guatemala—or in the United States—let us come together in mutual respect to address the challenges we face.

And let us commit to making the next 175 years of our relationship one of prosperity, security, and peace.

#### ENDING IMPROPER PAYMENTS TO DECEASED ACT

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I am announcing my intention to object to any unanimous consent request to proceed to S. 2492, the Ending Improper Payments to Deceased Act.

I support my colleagues' efforts to identify opportunities to reduce Federal improper payments by indefinitely extending the cooperative data exchange agreement between the Social Security Administration and the Department of the Treasury's Do Not Pay (DNP) working system, as established by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 (P.L. No. 116-260). However, this bill rushes to make this data exchange permanent without evaluating the efficacy of the data exchange.

As my colleagues may know, the purpose of the 2021 law was to expand access to the State-owned death information to Federal Agencies for the purposes of reducing improper payments while ensuring Social Security Administration and States are fully reimbursed for the cost of creating, compiling, and maintain the data. To ensure those goals were achieved, we established a 3-year trial period so we could evaluate the performance, usefulness, and downstream effects of the exchange with DNP and to provide us the opportunity to determine the best path forward for Federal Agencies' access to State death data.

As required by law, the SSA-DNP exchange began operating on December 27, 2023, less than a year ago. In my conversations with the Treasury Department and the Social Security Administration, both Agencies acknowledged they do not have sufficient data to evaluate the efficacy of the data exchange, including whether SSA is fully reimbursed for the costs of collecting and maintaining the state death data. Without that information, it is difficult to determine whether this exchange is the best path forward for Federal Agencies' accessing State death data. For these reasons, I will object to any unanimous consent request in relation to this legislation.

#### TRIBUTE TO C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to our colleague, and more importantly, my dear friend Congressman DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER. By any standard, DUTCH has had an exceptional career with 38 years in public office, beginning when he was first elected to the Baltimore County Council in 1985. Even before our time together in Congress, DUTCH and I shared a common bond as we are both proud graduates of Baltimore City College High School. Maryland is grateful to be the home of City College as it is our Nation's third oldest public high school and its alumni include three Maryland Governors and the late U.S. Representative Elijah Cummings.

DUTCH's decision to seek public office began after a serious car crash while he was working as a prosecutor a decade earlier which nearly claimed his life. DUTCH credits the facility now known as the R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center at the University of Maryland for two things: saving his life and setting him on his political path. I am dually grateful to the doctors at the University of Maryland for their quick thinking and expertise which has, in turn, presented DUTCH with the grit, determination, and circumstances to run for office and serve 11 successful terms in the House of Representatives.

DUTCH is a Marylander through and through, born and educated in Baltimore, and his quick rise in the Baltimore County State's Attorney office was therefore not surprising. After al-

most a decade of taking on organized crime, drug trafficking, and political corruption in Baltimore as a county executive, he was elected to serve as the Representative for Maryland's second district in 2002. DUTCH immediately broke new ground by becoming the first ever Democratic freshman to be appointed to the coveted House Intelligence Committee. A decade later, DUTCH served as the ranking member for the very same committee during a tumultuous time for our Nation's national security. DUTCH, and then House Intelligence Committee chairman MIKE ROGERS, became the first dual recipients of the William Oliver Baker Award, which recognizes excellence in nonpartisan security. The presentation of this prestigious award was due to their superb work on the high-profile Osama bin Laden capture, Benghazi attacks, and Edward Snowden leaks.

DUTCH also served on the powerful House Appropriations Committee for 12 years, now serving on both the Defense and Commerce, Justice, and Science Subcommittees. He had previously served on the Armed Services Committee, as well as the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. He has been a staunch advocate for community project funding and leveraged his role as an appropriator to ensure the Port of Baltimore, the Chesapeake Bay, and the local communities received their fair share of funding from the hundreds of billions of Federal dollars in which the House Appropriations Committee is responsible for each fiscal year. I am proud of his dedication to improving the lives of Marylanders at every opportunity.

His support of the local community extends to local governments as well. In 2016 DUTCH founded the House Municipal Bond Caucus for both sides of the aisle to better advocate for the tools local and State governments require to fund schools, roads, libraries, local law enforcement, and emergency services. DUTCH's focus on enhancing the quality of life for public servants through legislation promoted by this caucus has had a net effect of lower taxes and new jobs for the everyday Marylander.

Maryland's second district was formally home to two Army bases: Fort Meade, which houses the codemakers and codebreakers of the National Security Agency and U.S. Cyber Command, and Aberdeen Proving Ground. In addition to these bases, DUTCH was also responsible for the oversight of the U.S. Coast Guard Yard in Baltimore, as well as dozens of other defense support equities. DUTCH also chairs the U.S. Naval Academy's Board of Visitors, of which I am also a member, and is the cochair of the bipartisan House Army Caucus.

DUTCH has always been a man of action, from his days as a police officer during law school, to his time as a life-guard on the beaches of Ocean City, MD—where I am sure he will be spending much of his retirement.

This same drive for action has benefited our Nation's men and women in

uniform in many ways, like establishing the Peer Reviewed Orthopedic Program, which revolutionized the way traumatic combat injuries to extremities were treated from troops returning home from the Middle East, often saving them from amputation. DUTCH also created the "Operation Hero Miles" program in concert with Fisher House after he learned that our servicemembers and their families were paying out of pocket to visit their wounded or ill loved ones who were undergoing treatment at a military or Veteran's Affairs medical center. This program allowed any American to donate their frequent flyer miles to our Nation's heroes.

These are just a few of DUTCH's many accomplishments, and on behalf of our beloved Marylanders and all Americans, I thank him for his decades of service. I am equally thankful for the continued friendship of DUTCH and his wife Kay, and I am thrilled for him to be able to spend more time with Kay, his two children, and his five grandchildren. DUTCH's cheery wit and unwavering patriotism will be missed by me, the entire delegation, and in the Halls of Congress. I offer congratulations to DUTCH on his well-deserved career of public service.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOHN P. SARBANES

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to my dear friend, Congressman JOHN SARBANES. Next Congress will be the first without a Sarbanes representing Maryland in 54 years. The Sarbanes family will be sorely missed in this body.

I had the great fortune to working with JOHN's father, the late Senator PAUL Sarbanes, who is referred to as "The Senator's Senator." I met Paul when he first ran for public office in 1966. We both were elected to the Maryland General Assembly that year, and we became good friends. Delegate Sarbanes at that point made a name for himself on the house judiciary committee in the Maryland General Assembly and was a rising star from his first day in the Maryland General Assembly.

He shortly thereafter ran for the U.S. House of Representatives, where he served three terms, then moved over to the Senate where he served for five terms with a very distinguished record. His service in the House occurred during the Watergate scandal, and his time in the Senate marked by the Enron scandal. During both periods of crisis, Senator Sarbanes stepped into the breach as a steady hand to help regain the American peoples' confidence in their institutions. Like his father, Congressman SARBANES' legacy in Congress has been focused on protecting the integrity of our Nation's most cherished institutions.

JOHN is the product of a household ethic of public service. That is evident in his actions in Congress and how he conducts himself as a public official. JOHN shares his father's intellect and

thoughtful approach to politics. He speaks substantively and honestly, and his approachability has made working on behalf of his constituents appear second nature. Since he was elected in Congress in 2007, he has put his head down and worked hard for the people of Maryland and the Nation. He serves on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the Subcommittees on Health; Energy, Climate, and Grid Security; and Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Minerals.

In addition to his environmental record, one of his most notable accomplishments has been his long-term work on campaign finance reform and voting rights reform. His work on this issue began long before his bill, H.R. 1, For the People Act, became a top priority in Congress. Indeed, then-Democratic Leader PELOSI appointed JOHN to chair a new Democracy Reform Task Force in 2017. The comprehensive legislative package JOHN developed would ultimately propose to strengthen democratic institutions, enhance Federal ethics standards, and reign in unlimited and secret dark-money campaign spending by wealthy and powerful special interests. In particular, JOHN was known for promoting a matching system for small donations and more effective oversight of campaign finance and spending by the Federal Election Commission.

This legislation ultimately became the Freedom to Vote Act, a signature piece of democracy reform legislation in the last few Congresses. This transformational anticorruption and clean elections reform package builds on his previous efforts to pass H.R. 1, the For the People Act.

On five separate occasions, the House of Representatives passed various versions of H.R. 1 and ultimately succeeded in putting these issues squarely before the Senate. Unfortunately, in 2022, the Senate failed to muster the votes necessary to overcome the filibuster and vote on this critical package of reforms.

In addition to his work on election reform, Congressman SARBANES has demonstrated a lifelong devotion to environmentalism. I have been particularly grateful to work with him on the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay, which his father famously declared “the soul of Maryland.” JOHN has led the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Task Force to several victories, including securing Federal funding and policy changes that support a healthier bay. His Chesapeake Bay legacy, however, will be his work to connect more Marylanders to the bay by improving access and environmental literacy.

Congressman SARBANES saw that many Marylanders lacked meaningful experiences with the Chesapeake Bay and worked to expand public access to the bay and its tributaries, most dramatically through legislation to create a Chesapeake National Recreation Area. He also worked hard to expand educational opportunities so that the

general public is empowered to steward our shared natural resources. His No Child Left Inside legislation helps expand outdoor education opportunities for students, which provide incredible benefits to students and supports a new generation of environmental champions. It has been an honor to work with him on Chesapeake Bay issues, which has been close to my heart during my time in public office.

I thank Congressman SARBANES for his work in Congress and for so honorably carrying on his father's legacy as a public servant. He has set an outstanding example for Congresswoman-elect Elfreth. I will miss working with JOHN, but am grateful for our time in office together and wish him success and joy as he enters this new chapter.

#### TRIBUTE TO DAVID TRONE

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge a colleague of mine and a valued member of Team Maryland, Representative DAVID TRONE. Since coming to Congress in 2018, Representative TRONE has demonstrated a passion for tackling some of the most pressing issues that face our country and a persistent drive to advocate for the people of western Maryland.

I am proud to have worked closely with Representative TRONE over the years to fight for Marylanders on a variety of issues. The progress that Representative TRONE has made in combatting the opioid crisis stands out in my mind as an example of his tenacity and effectiveness.

Many regions in our country have seen the harm opioid and substance use disorders can bring to their communities, and western Maryland is no exception. When Representative TRONE took office, he made it clear to his constituents that this would be a top priority of his.

He quickly backed it up with action, by hitting the ground running in the House of Representatives. Representative TRONE launched the Bipartisan Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Task Force, bringing together more than 140 Members of Congress from across the country and aisle. Twenty-six of their bills became law in the 117th Congress. Representative TRONE serves on the House Appropriations Committee, Budget Committee, and the Joint Economic Committee.

Outside of specific legislative work, Representative TRONE has played an important role in shifting the narrative to see addiction as a disease and a public health crisis, rather than a personal shortcoming. That is why he has supported mental health offerings like passing a bill to provide confidential mental health support to first responders. He worked to expand the Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program to include coverage for first responders whose deaths are a result of suicide or are permanently disabled as a result of traumatic service-related experiences.

I will miss working with Representative TRONE, but I am grateful for his service to the Maryland delegation. I wish Representative TRONE, his wife June, and his entire family only the best going forward. I wish him only happiness and success in what follows his career in the House. And I thank him for sharing his dedication to Maryland's sixth district with the American people and his fellow colleagues.

#### REMEMBERING DR. CHARLIE MCMILLAN

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. President, I am here today to commemorate a life of public service dedicated to the expansion of human knowledge and the greater good.

On September 6 of this year, New Mexico and the Nation suffered a tremendous loss as Dr. Charles McMillan tragically passed away.

Dr. McMillan, or Charlie as he insisted he be called by all who knew him, is perhaps best known for his work as a groundbreaking physicist and visionary leader of Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Fittingly, Charlie's early career focused on developing tools and diagnostics for eye surgery. His innovations resulted in several patents and benefited countless patients.

Over nearly 20 years at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Charlie was instrumental to maintaining and enhancing our Nation's security posture, leading experimental physics, and computing programs that were critical to modernizing the nuclear stockpile.

In 2006, Charlie moved to New Mexico and became the tenth director of Los Alamos National Laboratory in 2011. Capturing the Lab's achievements under Charlie's leadership would be nearly impossible, but one area that shines particularly bright is Charlie's work on supercomputing.

Charlie not only recognized the critical role of these revolutionary machines for the advancement of scientific discovery and national security, he was able to bring together diverse teams and inspire them to execute his ambitious vision: He was instrumental in bringing Roadrunner online and acquiring Trinity, two of the fastest supercomputers in the world at the time.

These computers did critical work on nuclear stewardship and contributed to scientific advancements in areas ranging from advanced battery design to medical drug simulations. The foundations Charlie established resonate to this day through the Department of Energy's Exascale Program, which continues to host the world's fastest supercomputers.

Charlie retired as director in 2017, but was recently called back to the Department to help steward its transition into the next age of advanced computing: artificial intelligence. In this capacity, Charlie continued to be both

a visionary leader and a scientist's scientist, serving as the connective tissue to unite and inspire the Department during this paradigm shift in technology, exactly as he had done so many times in the past.

Charlie's sudden passing came as a devastating shock to the multitude of people he touched throughout his life; the Department of Energy and the national labs are still reeling from this loss. Charlie dedicated his life to his Nation, and always did so with tremendous humility and an infectious curiosity.

But he was so much more than a public servant and scientist; he was a dedicated husband, father, and grandfather. He had a passion for the outdoors, the night sky, and regularly went backpacking with his family to share both. He was also an accomplished musician and shared his talents by performing in several local Los Alamos theater productions.

He is survived by his wife of 47 years Janet Robb McMillan, son Paul McMillan and spouse Suzanne Long, daughters Caroline McMillan and Katherine McCurry, her spouse Paul McCurry, and their son Oliver McCurry.

Charlie leaves behind an incredible legacy of national service, scientific achievement, and deep personal connections. We are proud that he chose to make New Mexico his home and grateful for the time he spent with us in our community. His significant contributions to the world and his generous spirit will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

#### TRIBUTE TO KATE M. KÄUFER

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate Kate M. Käufer, the fearless leader of my defense staff, on more than 20 years of distinguished Federal service and on her well-earned retirement.

For the last 4 years, it has been a privilege of a lifetime to serve as chairman of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee supporting our military and our intelligence community. The subcommittee's unique jurisdiction appropriates more than half of the Nation's discretionary funding: \$852 billion in this year's Senate bill. It is almost impossible for any one human being to wrap their arms around such an enormous national security enterprise. But I can think of at least one exception: Kate M. Käufer.

Born in Germany, Kate began her Federal service as a Presidential Management Intern for the U.S. Marine Corps in June 2003; she joined the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee in December 2004. In her 20 years on the subcommittee, she has managed just about every appropriations account and issue in our jurisdiction with an incisive hungry analytical mind. Shipbuilding, satellites, intelligence activities, research, and innovation—you name it, Kate has left her mark. I want to extend my particular thanks to her

and her loved ones these last 2 years as my clerk, for the late nights and weekends, the interrupted family vacations, and the weight of leading an indispensable subcommittee.

Kate exemplifies the unique spirit and culture of our subcommittee. Her mantra was always, "We solve problems." In every interaction—whether with me, my colleagues, or fellow staff—she focused on getting real things done, in the most bipartisan way possible. That is quite an achievement in Washington these days. In short, she was always an upbeat professional of the first order. The Senate will miss her, as will this subcommittee.

In addition, Kate is a tremendous mentor to those around her, teaching defense appropriations courses at Georgetown University, University of North Carolina, and Defense Acquisition University. She somehow also finds the time to be an accomplished triathlete, an avid traveler and hiker, and a passionate soccer fan.

In closing, I wish continued success and happiness to Kate, her partner, and her family as she embarks on her next great adventure.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING MARTIN COPELAND GRISWOLD

• Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I rise to honor the life of Martin Copeland Griswold, who died on November 30, 2024, at the age of 92. Martin Copeland was a sixth generation Florida farmer, starting his career as a member of the Future Farmers of America with 80 acres of land and working his way to serve as FFA State president in 1951–52. He was the chief executive officer of Griswold Farms, producing food, fiber, and timber on a 4,800-acre family farm, and at the time of his death, Copeland was still farming. Copeland also served on the Northwest Florida Water Management District governing board for 8 years. As an influential and dedicated Florida farmer making a significant impact in northwest Florida, and across the State, Copeland was inducted into the Florida Agriculture Hall of Fame. Martin Copeland Griswold of Chumuckla, FL, is survived by his wife of 72 years Winona; his children Marty (Diane), Von (Lisa), Vicki (Jeff) Miller, Paul (Alesia); 12 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Kelly, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages

from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:50 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 bills, without amendment:

S. 50. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to give priority consideration to selecting Pensacola and Perdido Bays as an estuary of national significance, and for other purposes.

S. 310. An act to establish an advisory group to encourage and foster collaborative efforts among individuals and entities engaged in disaster recovery relating to debris removal, and for other purposes.

S. 1478. An act to designate United States Route 20 in the States of Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, and Massachusetts as the "National Medal of Honor Highway", and for other purposes.

S. 3475. An act to amend 49, United States Code, to allow the Secretary of Transportation to designate an authorized operator of the commercial driver's license information system, and for other purposes.

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

2672. An act to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide for the authority to reimburse local governments or electric cooperatives for interest expenses, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2892. An act to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the effectiveness of emergency alerting systems, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7671. An act 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.

H.R. 8689. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to require Amtrak to include information on base pay and bonus compensation of certain Amtrak executives, and for other purposes.

H.R. 9541. An act to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to authorize Federal agencies to provide certain essential assistance for hazard mitigation for electric utilities, and for other purposes.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 2672. An act to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide for the authority to reimburse local governments or electric cooperatives for interest expenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 2892. An act to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the effectiveness of emergency alerting systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 8689. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to require Amtrak to include information on base pay and bonus compensation of certain Amtrak executives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 9541. An act to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to authorize Federal agencies to provide certain essential assistance for hazard mitigation for electric utilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

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

H.R. 7671. An act 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.

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 82. An act to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

#### ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on December 10, 2024, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 91. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal collectively to 60 diplomats, in recognition of their bravery and heroism during the Holocaust.

S. 4243. An act to award posthumously the Congressional Gold Medal to Shirley Chisholm.

#### 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-6730. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Second Remedial Amendment Cycle for section 403(b) Pre-approved Plans: Issuance of Opinion Letters, Plan Adoption Deadline, Opening of Determination Letter Program, and Related Issues" (Announcement 2024-38) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6731. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report on Unobligated Balances for Appropriations Re-

lating to Quality Measurement"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6732. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2024 Report to Congress—Annual Update: Identification of Quality Measurement Priorities and Associated Funding for the Consensus-Based Entity and Other Entities"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6733. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Income Tax Treatment of Certain Amounts Paid or Incurred Pursuant to Agreements with the Department of Commerce Required Under the CHIPS Act of 2022" (Announcement 2024-40) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6734. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Recourse Partnership Liabilities and Related Party Rules" (RIN1545-BL21) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6735. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Disclosures of Return Information Reflected on Returns to Officers and Employees of the Department of Commerce, including the Bureau of the Census, for Certain Statistical Purposes and Related Activities" (RIN1545-BQ74) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6736. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Definition of Energy Property and Rules Applicable to the Energy Credit" (RIN1545-BQ40) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6737. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Federal Vacancies Reform Act, changes that occurred as of November 22, 2024, and additional report on departure of ambassadors"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6738. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the intent to exercise under section 614(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, to provide assistance to Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6739. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Determination Under Section 614(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to Provide Assistance to Ukraine"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6740. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Israel and Romania for the manufacture of significant

military equipment abroad (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-071); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6741. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data and defense services in the amount of \$100,000,000 for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad to various countries (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-072); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6742. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report and the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the report on other U.S. contributions to the United Nations and its affiliated agencies during fiscal year 2023; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6743. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Clinical Trials Registration and Results Information Submission" (RIN0925-AA71) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6744. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Sixteenth Annual Report on Delays in Approvals of Applications Related to Citizen Petitions and Petitions for Stay of Agency Action: FY 2023"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6745. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease: 2024 Update"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6746. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Prescription Drug Spending, Pricing Trends, and Premiums in Private Health Insurance Plans"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6747. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the Department's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6748. A communication from the Acting Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Semiannual 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-6749. A joint communication from the Chairman and the General Counsel, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report for the period of April 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6750. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Semiannual 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-6751. A communication from the Chair of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024 and the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6752. A communication from the Chairman, National Railroad Passenger Corporation, Amtrak, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Inspector General's Semiannual Report to Congress for the period from April 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6753. A communication from the Inspector General of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Inspector General's Semiannual Report to Congress for the period from April 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6754. A communication from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's Semiannual Report of the Office of Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6755. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report and the Management Response for the period of April 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6756. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6757. A communication from the Director of Financial Management, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6758. A communication from the Treasurer, National Gallery of Art, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Gallery's Performance and Accountability Report for the year ended September 30, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6759. A communication from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2024, including the Office of Inspector General's Auditor's Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6760. A communication from the Chairman, Board of Governors, United States Postal Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Postal Services' Semiannual 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-6761. A communication from the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the fiscal year 2023 annual report for the Department's Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6762. A communication from the Director of Communication and Legislative Affairs, Equal Employment Opportunity Com-

mission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6763. A communication from the Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2024 received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6764. A communication from the Chair of the Nuclear Regulatory 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-6765. A communication from the Chief of Legal, External Affairs, and Performance Branch, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Director, Office of Government Ethics, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6766. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Semiannual 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-6767. A communication from the Chief Regulatory Officer, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Exercise of Time-Limited Authority to Increase the Numerical Limitation for FY 2025 for the H-2B Temporary Nonagricultural Worker Program and Portability Flexibility for H-2B Workers Seeking to Change Employers" ((RIN1615-AC95) (RIN1205-AC20)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2024; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. CANTWELL, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with amendments:

S. 4579. A bill to reauthorize the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative Act to promote the protection of the resources of the Northwest Straits, and for other purposes.

## 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. MORAN (for himself and Mr. KING):

S. 5460. A bill to modify the Precision Medicine for Veterans Initiative of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. HAGERTY, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 5461. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to prevent unnecessary resource expenditures relating to methamphetamine prosecutions; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 5462. A bill to prohibit data brokers from selling and transferring certain sensitive data; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. PETERS:

S. 5463. A bill to establish the Department of Homeland Security Northern Border Mission Center; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 5464. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require the collection of data regarding graduate medical education; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 5465. A bill to clarify where court may be held for certain district courts in Texas and California; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 5466. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an advance refundable credit to offset certain flood insurance premiums, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. REED, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 5467. A bill to codify Executive Order 14115 imposing certain sanctions on persons undermining peace, security, and stability in the West Bank; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. CRUZ, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 5468. A bill to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. SMITH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. WARREN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 5469. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a National Climate Adaptation Science Center and Regional Climate Adaptation Science Centers to respond to the effects of extreme weather events and climate trends, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 5470. A bill to amend chapter 423 of title 49, United States Code, to prohibit air carriers from paying ancillary fee incentives and discriminating on the basis of a covered characteristic in charging or setting fares or ancillary fees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. PETERS):

S. 5471. A bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to require applicants for grants that propose to use digital infrastructure or a software component to certify the applicant has an approved security plan that addresses the cybersecurity risks of such digital infrastructure or software component, 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 Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. Res. 923. A resolution recognizing the critical importance and contributions of



global civil society in advancing human rights, condemning the use of political imprisonment as a tool of repression, and calling for the release of political prisoners across the world in commemoration of Human Rights Day on December 10, 2024; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. KING):

S. Res. 924. A resolution designating December 14, 2024, as “National Wreaths Across America Day”; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Mr. MULLIN, 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. 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. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KIM, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEE, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. VANCE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 925. A resolution relating to the death of the Honorable Fred R. Harris, former Senator for the State of Oklahoma; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. Res. 926. A resolution to constitute the majority party’s membership on certain committees for the One Hundred Eighteenth Congress, or until their successors are chosen; considered and agreed to.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 971

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 971, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to remove the Medicaid coverage exclusion for inmates in custody pending disposition of charges, and for other purposes.

S. 1159

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1159, a bill to amend the Equal Credit Opportunity Act to modify the requirements associated with small business loan data collection, and for other purposes.

S. 1266

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1266, a bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United State Code, to improve benefits and services for surviving spouses, and for other purposes.

S. 1375

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) and the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) were added as cosponsors of S. 1375, a bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to apply additional payments, discounts, and other financial assistance towards the cost-sharing requirements of health insurance plans, and for other purposes.

S. 2371

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2371, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income interest received on certain loans secured by rural or agricultural real property.

S. 2603

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2603, a bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to streamline conservation practice standards, and for other purposes.

S. 3055

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3055, a bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to update the modeling used for lifecycle greenhouse gas assessments for approved fuel pathways under the Renewable Fuel Standard, and for other purposes.

S. 4041

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4041, a bill to support local educational agencies in addressing the student mental health crisis.

S. 4113

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4113, a bill to allow States to require payment of State fees related to boating as a condition for issuance of a vessel number and to collect such fees in conjunction with other fees related to vessel numbering.

S. 4715

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr.

WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4715, a bill to require the National Cyber Director to submit to Congress a plan to establish an institute within the Federal Government to serve as a centralized resource and training center for Federal cyber workforce development.

S. 5268

At the request of Mr. LUJÁN, the names of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 5268, a bill to prohibit Federal judges from receiving certain gifts, and for other purposes.

S. 5283

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5283, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Robert M. Gates, in recognition of his service to the United States as an intelligence professional, Secretary of Defense, and educator and leader for young people of the United States.

S. 5408

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 5408, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the life and legacy of Roberto Clemente.

S. 5457

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5457, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a portion of general business credit carryforwards to be transferred by certain taxpayers affected by Federally declared disasters.

S. RES. 869

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 869, a resolution designating the week beginning November 11, 2024, as “National Pregnancy Center Week” to recognize the vital role that community-supported pregnancy centers play in saving lives and serving women and

men faced with difficult pregnancy decisions.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

### SENATE RESOLUTION 923—RECOGNIZING THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF GLOBAL CIVIL SOCIETY IN ADVANCING HUMAN RIGHTS, CONDEMNING THE USE OF POLITICAL IMPRISONMENT AS A TOOL OF REPRESSION, AND CALLING FOR THE RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS ACROSS THE WORLD IN COMMEMORATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DAY ON DECEMBER 10, 2024

Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. TILLIS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 923

Whereas the Senate passed S. Res. 731, which designated December 10, 2018, as “Human Rights Day”;

Whereas December 10, 2024, marks the 76th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

Whereas the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a landmark document that established the inalienable rights to which all humans are entitled, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property ownership, birthplace, or other status;

Whereas, in light of immense difficulties, civil society and civil society organizations contribute to the promotion, protection, and advancement of human rights, democratic governance, and rule of law across the world every day;

Whereas the state of global human rights and civil liberties has declined during the past 2 decades, with Freedom House notably tracking 18 consecutive years of decline in rights and freedoms around the world;

Whereas Freedom House reports that political rights and civil liberties in 2023 diminished in 52 countries and improved in only 21 countries;

Whereas, since 2016, 91 countries have proposed or enacted more than 260 legal measures affecting civil society, of which 72 percent have restricted human rights;

Whereas increasing restrictions on civil society organizations directly impedes the ability of such organizations to advance human rights advocacy and democracy-building work and obstructs the rights of citizens to exercise freedom of speech and assembly;

Whereas the Department of State estimates that 1,000,000 individuals find themselves unjustly behind bars as political prisoners for exercising human rights and fundamental freedoms, because of their race, religion, or ethnicity, or due to their private relationships;

Whereas political imprisonment is employed by authoritarian actors as a tool for limiting political and social dissent, stifling freedom of expression and assembly, and undermining public participation in free and fair elections;

Whereas authoritarian countries operate vast networks of political prison camps and labor camps used to indiscriminately detain thousands of individuals;

Whereas countless political prisoners in these detention facilities are subjected to

torture, inhumane conditions, enforced disappearance, or other forms of abuse;

Whereas, according to Freedom House, throughout 2023, widespread problems with elections, including violence and electoral manipulation, drove deterioration in rights and freedoms across the world, especially in countries that experienced pre- and post-election violence;

Whereas, in many countries, political opposition figures and civil society members continue to be unjustly detained for their role in demanding free and fair elections and leading peaceful democratic protests in opposition to illiberal regimes;

Whereas anti-corruption prosecutors and pro-democracy activists are arbitrarily imprisoned on baseless charges for their advocacy of greater judicial independence and transparency in countries where judicial systems are weaponized against human rights advocates;

Whereas religious minorities, religious freedom advocates, and missionaries are unjustly targeted, detained, and repressed for exercising their freedom to believe or not to believe and advocating for those same freedoms for others;

Whereas the Department of State has determined that religious minorities continue to be victims of genocides relating to religious freedom;

Whereas women face significantly higher risks of harassment and imprisonment when participating in civil society and political advocacy and heightened vulnerabilities to mental and physical abuse during arrest, questioning, and imprisonment;

Whereas authoritarian governments and nonstate actors around the world enforce systems of impunity and discrimination to systematically dismantle women's and girls' access to their civil liberties and imprison female human rights defenders and members of civil society who speak out against such oppression;

Whereas journalists face political imprisonment for fighting to report the truth, advocating for greater protections for freedom of press, and holding governments accountable to their citizens;

Whereas during 2023, according to Reporters Without Borders, nearly 800 journalists were jailed and 45 were killed for simply doing their jobs: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for Human Rights Day and recognizes its global significance;

(2) recognizes the critical importance and contributions of global civil society in advancing human rights, democracy, and the rule of law;

(3) condemns the use of political imprisonment as a tool of repression to restrict civil liberties and human rights;

(4) calls upon governments that are unjustly detaining individuals for their human rights and civil society advocacy work to immediately and unconditionally release these political prisoners;

(5) encourages the Department of State to continue robust campaigns to advocate for the release of political prisoners and to leverage all necessary diplomatic tools in support of such advocacy, including by—

(A) coordinating with other executive agencies on priority cases of political prisoners for any principals or high-level United States officials traveling to specific countries where a known case requires attention or diplomatic intervention;

(B) working with congressional partners, such as the Senate Human Rights Caucus and the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, to coordinate advocacy on priority cases for members of Congress, including advocacy preceding official congressional travel;

(C) consulting with civil society and non-governmental organizations in countries with priority political prisoners' cases on plans of engagement and advocacy;

(D) supporting bilateral and multilateral engagement with allies and like-minded countries on issues involving the global protection of human rights, democratic governance, and the rule of law; and

(E) working with multilateral organizations and fora to devise joint efforts to advance human rights and democracy; and

(6) encourages the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, in collaboration with the Office of the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs, to devise joint strategies to deter authoritarian regimes from using their judicial systems (particularly arrests, detentions, and sentencings) as tools to silence dissent or for political leverage.

### SENATE RESOLUTION 924—DESIGNATING DECEMBER 14, 2024, AS “NATIONAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY”

Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. KING) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 924

Whereas, 33 years before the date of adoption of this resolution, the Wreaths Across America project began with an annual tradition that occurs in December, of donating, transporting, and placing 5,000 Maine balsam fir veterans' remembrance wreaths on the graves of the fallen heroes buried at Arlington National Cemetery;

Whereas, in the 33 years preceding the date of adoption of this resolution, more than 20,000,000 wreaths have been sent to various locations, including national cemeteries and veterans' memorials in every State and overseas;

Whereas the mission of the Wreaths Across America project, to “Remember, Honor, and Teach”, is carried out in part by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies in all 50 States and overseas, including at—

- (1) Arlington National Cemetery;
- (2) veterans' cemeteries; and
- (3) other memorial locations;

Whereas the Wreaths Across America project carries out a week-long veterans' parade between the States of Maine and Virginia, stopping along the way to spread a message about the importance of—

(1) remembering the fallen heroes of the United States;

(2) honoring those who serve and have served in the Armed Forces; and

(3) teaching the next generation of children about the service and sacrifices made by our veterans and their families to preserve freedoms enjoyed by all in the United States;

Whereas, in 2023, approximately 3,000,000 veterans' remembrance wreaths were delivered to over 4,200 locations across the United States;

Whereas, in December 2024, the tradition of escorting tractor-trailers filled with donated wreaths from Harrington, Maine, to Arlington National Cemetery will again be continued by—

- (1) the Patriot Guard Riders; and
- (2) other patriotic escort units, including—
  - (A) motorcycle units;
  - (B) law enforcement units; and
  - (C) first responder units;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of individuals volunteer each December to help lay veterans' wreaths;

Whereas the trucking industry in the United States will continue to support the

Wreaths Across America project by providing drivers, equipment, and related services to assist in the transportation of wreaths across the United States to more than 4,600 locations;

Whereas the Senate designated December 16, 2023, as “Wreaths Across America Day”; and

Whereas, on December 14, 2024, the Wreaths Across America project will continue the proud legacy of bringing veterans’ wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates December 14, 2024, as “National Wreaths Across America Day”;;

(2) honors—

(A) the Wreaths Across America project;

(B) patriotic escort units, including—

(i) motorcycle units;

(ii) law enforcement units; and

(iii) first responder units;

(C) the trucking industry in the United States; and

(D) the millions of volunteers and donors involved in the worthy tradition of the Wreaths Across America project; and

(3) recognizes—

(A) the service of veterans and members of the Armed Forces; and

(B) the sacrifices that veterans, members of the Armed Forces, and their family members have made, and continue to make, for the United States, a great Nation.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 925—RELATING TO THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE FRED R. HARRIS, FORMER SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Mr. MULLIN, 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. 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. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KIM, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEE, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. VANCE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

#### S. RES. 925

Whereas the Honorable Fred R. Harris (referred to in this preamble as “Senator Harris”) was born in Walters, Oklahoma, on November 13, 1930, to Fred Byron Harris and Eunice Alene Pearson Harris;

Whereas, in 1948, Senator Harris graduated with honors from Walters High School;

Whereas Senator Harris attended the University of Oklahoma where he graduated with a bachelor’s degree in 1952 and a bachelor of laws degree in 1954;

Whereas Senator Harris practiced law in Lawton, Oklahoma;

Whereas Senator Harris founded the law firm of Harris, Newcombe, Redman, and Doolin;

Whereas, in 1956, Senator Harris was elected to the Oklahoma Senate, where he served for 8 years as one of its youngest members;

Whereas, in 1959, Senator Harris was chosen as Junior Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Young Man of Oklahoma;

Whereas, in 1964, Senator Harris won a runoff election to serve as a Senator representing the State of Oklahoma;

Whereas Senator Harris was first elected to the Senate at age 33;

Whereas, in 1966, Senator Harris was re-elected to serve a full 6-year Senate term;

Whereas Senator Harris served as a member of several Senate committees, including—

(1) from 1965 to 1973—

(A) the Committee on Government Operations of the Senate; and

(B) the Select Committee on Small Business of the Senate;

(2) from 1965 to 1967, the Committee on Public Works of the Senate; and

(3) from 1967 to 1973, the Committee on Finance of the Senate;

Whereas, in 1971, Senator Harris appointed Julie Price as one of the first female Senate pages;

Whereas, while serving in the Senate, Senator Harris—

(1) was instrumental in the creation of the Subcommittee on Executive Reorganization and Government Research of the Senate; and

(2) focused on improving the welfare system in the United States;

Whereas, in 1968, Senator Harris served as co-chair of the presidential campaign of Hubert Humphrey;

Whereas, in 1969 and 1970, Senator Harris served as Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, where he ushered in reforms to allow more women and minorities to serve as delegates and in leadership positions;

Whereas, in 1967, Senator Harris was appointed by President Lyndon B. Johnson to the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders;

Whereas, following his time in the Senate and politics, Senator Harris moved to New Mexico;

Whereas, from 1976 to 2006, Senator Harris served as a professor of political science at the University of New Mexico;

Whereas Senator Harris founded the Fred Harris Congressional Internship Program within the University of New Mexico Political Science Department;

Whereas Senator Harris served as the Director of the Fred Harris Congressional Internship Program and a faculty member until 2018;

Whereas Senator Harris continued authoring books on political topics; and

Whereas, on November 23, 2024, Senator Harris died at the age of 94, leaving behind his wife, Margaret, and 3 children, Kathryn, Byron, and Laura: 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 Fred R. Harris, former Senator for the State of Oklahoma; and

(B) respectfully request that the Secretary of the Senate—

(i) communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives; and

(ii) transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of the Honorable Fred R. Harris; and

(2) when the Senate adjourns on the date of adoption of this resolution, the Senate stands adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the Honorable Fred R. Harris.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 926—TO CONSTITUTE THE MAJORITY PARTY’S MEMBERSHIP ON CERTAIN COMMITTEES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS, OR UNTIL THEIR SUCCESSORS ARE CHOSEN

Mr. SCHUMER submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

*Resolved*, That the following shall constitute the majority party’s membership on the following committees for the One Hundred Eighteenth Congress, or until their successors are chosen:

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS: Mr. Brown (Chair), Mr. Reed, Mr. Tester, Mr. Warner, Ms. Warren, Mr. Van Hollen, Ms. Cortez Masto, Ms. Smith, Mr. Warnock, Mr. Fetterman, Mr. Schiff, Mr. Kim.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE: Mr. Wyden (Chair), Ms. Stabenow, Ms. Cantwell, Mr. Carper, Mr. Cardin, Mr. Brown, Mr. Bennet, Mr. Casey, Mr. Warner, Mr. Whitehouse, Ms. Hassan, Ms. Cortez Masto, Ms. Warren, Mr. Kim.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS: Mr. Cardin (Chair), Mrs. Shaheen, Mr. Coons, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Kaine, Mr. Merkley, Mr. Booker, Mr. Schatz, Mr. Van Hollen, Ms. Duckworth, Mr. Kim.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS: Mr. Peters (Chair), Mr. Carper, Ms. Hassan, Ms. Sinema, Ms. Rosen, Mr. Ossoff, Mr. Blumenthal, Mr. Schiff.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY: Mr. Durbin (Chair), Mr. Whitehouse, Ms. Klobuchar, Mr. Coons, Mr. Blumenthal, Ms. Hirono, Mr. Booker, Mr. Padilla, Mr. Ossoff, Mr. Welch, Mr. Schiff.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION: Ms. Klobuchar (Chair), Mr. Schumer, Mr. Warner, Mr. Merkley, Mr. Padilla, Mr. Ossoff, Mr. Bennet, Mr. Welch, Mr. Schiff.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3314. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. SANDERS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 4776, to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2025 through 2029, and for other purposes.

SA 3315. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. CARPER) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 43, expressing support for the designation of September 29, 2024, as “Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Day”.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3314. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. SANDERS) proposed an amendment to

the bill S. 4776, to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2025 through 2029, 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 “Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2024”.

#### SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title.
- Sec. 2. Table of contents.
- Sec. 3. References.
- Sec. 4. Definitions.

#### TITLE I—STRENGTHENING THE AGING NETWORK TO MEET THE NEEDS OF OLDER INDIVIDUALS

- Sec. 101. Declaration of objectives.
- Sec. 102. Addressing mental health and substance use disorders and cognitive impairments of older individuals.
- Sec. 103. List of national resource centers.
- Sec. 104. Awareness of relevant Federal programs.
- Sec. 105. Evaluations and surveys.
- Sec. 106. Contracting.
- Sec. 107. Guidance on reallocation of funding between area agencies on aging.
- Sec. 108. Right to first refusal.
- Sec. 109. Area agency on aging capabilities.
- Sec. 110. Supporting older individuals with disabilities through improved coordination.
- Sec. 111. Business acumen, fiscal training, and technical assistance.
- Sec. 112. Enhancing access to assistive technology.
- Sec. 113. White House Conference on Aging.
- Sec. 114. Technical amendments.

#### TITLE II—IMPROVING HEALTH OUTCOMES AND ENCOURAGING INDEPENDENCE FOR OLDER INDIVIDUALS

- Sec. 201. Disease prevention and health promotion services.
- Sec. 202. Improving health outcomes.
- Sec. 203. Technical assistance on evidence-based programs.
- Sec. 204. Enhancing multipurpose senior centers.
- Sec. 205. Addressing home modifications.
- Sec. 206. National resource center for engaging older adults.
- Sec. 207. Multigenerational and civic engagement activities.
- Sec. 208. Report relating to health outcomes for older individuals living with or near family members.
- Sec. 209. Improving broadband coordination and reducing social isolation.

#### TITLE III—ENHANCING INNOVATION AND FLEXIBILITY IN NUTRITION SERVICES

- Sec. 301. Medically tailored meals.
- Sec. 302. Grab-and-go meals.
- Sec. 303. GAO study on Nutrition Services Incentive Program.
- Sec. 304. Innovations in nutrition programs and services.

#### TITLE IV—SUPPORTING FAMILY CAREGIVERS

- Sec. 401. Improving the National Family Caregiver Support Program.
- Sec. 402. Emphasizing respite care.
- Sec. 403. Clarifying supportive services.
- Sec. 404. Direct care workforce resource center.
- Sec. 405. Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Act.
- Sec. 406. RAISE Family Caregivers Act.

#### TITLE V—COMMUNITY SERVICE SENIOR OPPORTUNITIES ACT

- Sec. 501. Improving the Community Service Employment Program.

Sec. 502. GAO report on alignment within the Community Service Employment Program.

#### TITLE VI—IMPROVING SERVICES FOR NATIVE ELDERLY

- Sec. 601. Older Americans Tribal Advisory Committee.
- Sec. 602. Supportive services; set aside.
- Sec. 603. GAO report on Tribal services.
- Sec. 604. Technical amendments.

#### TITLE VII—STRENGTHENING THE LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAMS AND ELDER ABUSE PREVENTION

- Sec. 701. Director of the Office of Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs.
- Sec. 702. Legal assistance training resources relating to elder abuse prevention.
- Sec. 703. Improving training of volunteers under the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.
- Sec. 704. Reporting on State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs.
- Sec. 705. Study on State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs.

#### TITLE VIII—AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS

- Sec. 801. Administration on Aging.
- Sec. 802. Grants for State and community programs on aging.
- Sec. 803. Activities for health, independence, and longevity.
- Sec. 804. Community Service Senior Opportunities Act.
- Sec. 805. Grants for Native Americans.
- Sec. 806. Allotments for elder rights protection activities.

#### SEC. 3. REFERENCES.

Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Act, wherever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or a repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to that section or other provision of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.).

#### SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act, the terms “area agency on aging”, “Assistant Secretary”, “older individual”, and “Secretary” have the meanings given such terms in section 102 of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3002).

#### TITLE I—STRENGTHENING THE AGING NETWORK TO MEET THE NEEDS OF OLDER INDIVIDUALS

##### SEC. 101. DECLARATION OF OBJECTIVES.

Section 101 (42 U.S.C. 3001) is amended—

- (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “of the following objectives:” and inserting “of the objectives of—”;
- (2) in each of paragraphs (1) through (10), by amending the first word so that it begins with a lowercase letter;
- (3) in each of paragraphs (1) through (8), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon;
- (4) in each of paragraphs (9) and (10), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;
- (5) in paragraph (2), by inserting “to improve health outcomes and reduce health care expenditures” after “economic status”;
- (6) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (10) as subparagraphs (A) through (J), respectively, and adjusting the margins accordingly;
- (7) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) (as so redesignated), by striking “our democratic society, the older people” and inserting the following: “our democratic society—

- “(1) the older people”; and
- (8) by adding at the end the following:
  - “(2) the families of older individuals and community-based organizations, including

faith-based organizations, also play a vital role in supporting and honoring older individuals and their happiness, dignity, and independence.”.

#### SEC. 102. ADDRESSING MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS AND COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENTS OF OLDER INDIVIDUALS.

Section 201(f) (42 U.S.C. 3011(f)) is amended to read as follows:

“(f)(1) The Assistant Secretary may designate an officer or employee who shall be responsible for the administration of services for mental health and substance use disorders and cognitive impairments authorized under this Act and serve as an effective and visible advocate for the related needs of older individuals within the Department of Health and Human Services, including by ensuring that relevant information disseminated and research conducted or supported by the Department takes into consideration such services.

“(2) It shall be the duty of the Assistant Secretary, acting through the individual designated under paragraph (1), and in consultation with the heads of relevant agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services, including the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, to develop objectives, priorities, and a long-term plan for supporting State and local efforts under this Act involving education about, and prevention, detection, and treatment of, mental health and substance use disorders and cognitive impairments, including age-related dementia, depression, and Alzheimer’s disease and related neurological disorders with neurological and organic brain dysfunction.

“(3) Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2024, the Assistant Secretary shall report to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, the Special Committee on Aging of the Senate, and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives on the activities of the officer or employee designated under paragraph (1) in carrying out the requirements under this subsection, including any activities to identify and reduce duplication and gaps across the Department in such information disseminated and research conducted or supported by the Department.”.

#### SEC. 103. LIST OF NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTERS.

Section 202 (42 U.S.C. 3012) is amended—

- (1) in subsection (d)(4), by striking “Resource Center on Elder Abuse” and inserting “Center”; and

(2) by striking subsection (h) and inserting the following:

“(h)(1) The Assistant Secretary shall publish online in a publicly accessible format, on an annual basis, a list of national resource centers and demonstration projects authorized under, or administratively established through funds provided under, this Act.

“(2) The Assistant Secretary shall ensure that the list published pursuant to paragraph (1)—

- “(A) includes—
  - “(i) a description of each such center and demonstration project, including the projected goals and activities of each such center and demonstration project;
  - “(ii) a citation to the statutory authorization of each such center and demonstration project, or a citation to the statutory authority that the Assistant Secretary relies upon to administratively establish each such center and demonstration project;
  - “(iii) the award amount for each such center and demonstration project; and
  - “(iv) a summary of any evaluations required under this Act for each such center,

including a description of any measures of effectiveness; and

“(B) is directly provided to State agencies, area agencies on aging, and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Special Committee on Aging of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives.”.

#### SEC. 104. AWARENESS OF RELEVANT FEDERAL PROGRAMS.

Title II (42 U.S.C. 3011 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 203A (42 U.S.C. 3013a) the following:

#### “SEC. 203B. AWARENESS OF RELEVANT FEDERAL PROGRAMS.

“In carrying out section 203(a)(1), the Assistant Secretary shall coordinate with the heads of relevant Federal departments and agencies to ensure that the aging network and individuals served under this Act are aware of, and, subject to applicable eligibility criteria, have access to, Federal programs that may advance the objectives of this Act, including programs described in section 203(b) and other programs to meet housing, health care, and other supportive service needs to help such individuals age in place.”.

#### SEC. 105. EVALUATIONS AND SURVEYS.

Section 206 (42 U.S.C. 3017) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

“(d)(1) In carrying out evaluations under this section, the Secretary shall—

“(A) award grants to, or enter into contracts with, public or nonprofit private organizations or academic or research institutions to survey State agencies, area agencies on aging, and other program and project participants about the strengths and weaknesses of the programs and projects; and

“(B) conduct, where appropriate, evaluations that compare the effectiveness of related programs in achieving common objectives.

“(2) The surveys and evaluations under paragraph (1) shall include information on programs, services, use and sources of funding (including any transfer of funding between area agencies on aging), identified unmet need for services and related indicators, and any other challenges faced by State agencies and area agencies on aging in carrying out the activities of this Act.

“(3) The Secretary shall, in carrying out the evaluations under paragraph (1), consult with organizations concerned with older individuals, including organizations that represent minority individuals, older individuals residing in rural areas, and older individuals with disabilities.”; and

(2) in subsection (g), by striking “him” and inserting “the Secretary”.

#### SEC. 106. CONTRACTING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 212 (42 U.S.C. 3020c) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “AND GRANT AUTHORITY”;

(2) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), this Act shall not be construed to prevent a recipient of a grant or a contract under this Act (other than title V) from entering into a contract, commercial relationship, or other business arrangement (referred to in this section as an ‘agreement’) with a profitmaking organization for the recipient to provide services to individuals or entities not otherwise receiving services under this Act, provided that—

“(1) in the case funds provided under this Act are used in developing or carrying out the agreement—

“(A) such agreement guarantees that the cost is reimbursed to the recipient;

“(B) if such agreement provides for the provision of 1 or more services, of the type provided under this Act by or on behalf of such recipient, to an individual or entity seeking to receive such services—

“(i) the individuals and entities may only purchase such services at their fair market rate;

“(ii) all costs incurred by the recipient in providing such services (and not otherwise reimbursed under subparagraph (A)), are reimbursed to such recipient; and

“(iii) except in the case of an agreement with a health plan or health care provider, the recipient reports the rates for providing such services under such agreement in accordance with subsection (c) and the rates are consistent with the prevailing market rate for provision of such services in the relevant geographic area as determined by the State agency or area agency on aging (as applicable); and

“(C) any amount of payment to the recipient under the agreement that exceeds reimbursement under this subsection of the recipient's costs is used to provide, or support the provision of, services under this Act; and

“(2) subject to subsection (e), in the case no funds provided under this Act are used in developing or carrying out the agreement—

“(A) not later than 45 days after the agreement first goes into effect, and annually thereafter until the termination of such agreement, the recipient of a grant or contract under this Act shall, in writing—

“(i) notify the State agency of—

“(I) the existence of the agreement; and

“(II) the services provided and populations served under the agreement; and

“(ii) provide assurances to the State agency that—

“(I) nothing in the agreement—

“(aa) undermines—

“(AA) the duties of the recipient under this Act; or

“(BB) the provision of services in accordance with this Act; or

“(bb) violates any other terms and conditions of an award received by the recipient under this Act; and

“(II) any potential real or perceived conflict of interest with respect to the agreement has been prevented, mitigated, or otherwise addressed, including providing a description of any such conflicts of interest and a description of the actions taken to mitigate such conflicts of interest; and

“(B) not later than 45 days after the population or services under the agreement substantially change due to an amendment to the agreement, the recipient shall, in writing—

“(i) notify the State agency of such change; and

“(ii) provide the assurances described in subparagraph (A)(ii) with respect to such change.”;

(3) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b) ENSURING APPROPRIATE USE OF FUNDS.—An agreement—

“(1) described in subsection (a)(1) may not—

“(A) be made without the prior approval of the State agency (or, in the case of a grantee under title VI, without the prior recommendation of the Director of the Office for American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Programs and the prior approval of the Assistant Secretary), after timely submission of all relevant documents related to the agreement including information on all costs incurred; or

“(B) directly or indirectly provide for, or have the effect of, paying, reimbursing, subsidizing, or otherwise compensating an individual or entity in an amount that exceeds

the fair market value of the services subject to such agreement; and

“(2) described in subsection (a) may not—

“(A) result in the displacement of services otherwise available to an older individual with greatest social need, an older individual with greatest economic need, or an older individual who is at risk for institutional placement; or

“(B) in any other way compromise, undermine, or be inconsistent with the objective of serving the needs of older individuals, as determined by the Assistant Secretary.”;

(4) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) MONITORING AND REPORTING.—To ensure that any agreement described in subsection (a)(1) complies with the requirements of this section and other applicable provisions of this Act, the Assistant Secretary shall develop and implement uniform monitoring procedures and reporting requirements consistent with the provisions of subparagraphs (A) through (E) of section 306(a)(13) in consultation with the State agencies and area agencies on aging. The Assistant Secretary shall conduct a review on the impact of such agreements on the provision of services under this Act, including the number of agreements per State, summaries of such agreements, and the impact of such agreements on access to services consistent with the goals of this Act. The Assistant Secretary shall annually prepare and submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, the Special Committee on Aging of the Senate, and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives the findings of such review.”; and

(5) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

“(e) REQUESTING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR CERTAIN NON-OAA AGREEMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an agreement described in subsection (a)(2), if the State agency has a reasonable belief that an agreement may violate the assurances provided under subsection (a)(2)(A)(ii), the State agency may request additional information from the recipient of funds under this Act that is a party to such agreement, which may include a request for a copy of such agreement. Such recipient shall make a good faith effort to address such request for additional information, except that such recipient shall not provide agreements or other data that are restricted under the terms of a non-disclosure agreement signed by such recipient. If such recipient declines to provide a copy of an agreement to a State agency, such recipient shall provide a justification to the State agency within 30 days of receiving such request.

“(2) CONFIDENTIALITY.—A State agency shall keep confidential, as required by applicable Federal and State law, all information received under this subsection that is—

“(A) a trade secret;

“(B) commercial or financial information; and

“(C) information obtained from an individual that is privileged and confidential.

“(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) COST.—The term ‘cost’ means an expense, including an administrative expense, incurred by a recipient in developing or carrying out an agreement described in subsection (a), whether the recipient contributed funds, staff time, or other plant, equipment, or services to meet the expense.

“(2) RECIPIENT.—The term ‘recipient’ means an area agency on aging in a State with multiple planning and service areas.”.

(b) AREA PLANS.—Section 306 (42 U.S.C. 3026) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(13)—

(A) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking “any service to older individuals” and inserting “any service under this Act to older individuals or caregivers”; and

(B) in subparagraph (E), by inserting “or caregivers under this Act” after “older individuals”; and

(2) in subsection (g), by inserting “, except as provided under section 212(a)(2),” after “Nothing in this Act”.

#### **SEC. 107. GUIDANCE ON REALLOCATION OF FUNDING BETWEEN AREA AGENCIES ON AGING.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary shall disseminate one-time guidance to State agencies (as defined in section 102 of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3002)) and area agencies on aging on circumstances under which funds appropriated pursuant to part B and subparts 1 and 2 of part C of title III of the Older Americans Act (42 U.S.C. 3030d et seq., 42 U.S.C. 3030e et seq., 42 U.S.C. 3030f et seq.) may be appropriate to reallocate between area agencies on aging within a single State, with the approval of the State agency and the concurrence of any involved area agencies on aging, within a budget year.

(b) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—In disseminating the guidance under subsection (a), the Assistant Secretary may consider circumstances that affect the expenditure of the funds described in such subsection.

#### **SEC. 108. RIGHT TO FIRST REFUSAL.**

Section 305(b)(5)(B) (42 U.S.C. 3025(b)(5)(B)) is amended to read as follows:

“(B) Whenever a State agency designates a new area agency on aging after the date of enactment of the Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2024, the State agency shall give the right to first refusal to a unit of general purpose local government if—

“(i) such unit can meet the requirements of subsection (c);

“(ii)(I) such unit has demonstrated experience administering services for older individuals; or

“(II) the State agency determines that there is not another entity eligible under subsection (c)(1) within the planning and service area with such demonstrated experience; and

“(iii) the boundaries of such unit and the boundaries of the planning and service area are reasonably contiguous.”.

#### **SEC. 109. AREA AGENCY ON AGING CAPABILITIES.**

(a) **ORGANIZATION.**—Section 305(c) (42 U.S.C. 3025(c)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (5) as subparagraphs (A) through (E), respectively, and moving such subparagraphs 2 ems to the right;

(2) by striking “shall be” and inserting the following: “shall—

“(1) be—”;

(3) in subparagraph (E), as so redesignated—

(A) by striking “(b)(5)” and inserting “(b)(5)(A)”; and

(B) by inserting “and” after the semicolon; and

(4) by striking “and shall provide assurance, determined adequate by the State agency, that the area agency on aging will have the ability to develop an area plan and to carry out, directly or through contractual or other arrangements, a program in accordance with the plan within the planning and service area.” and inserting the following:

“(2) provide assurance, determined adequate by the State agency, that the area agency on aging will have the ability, and maintain the capabilities necessary, to develop an area plan as required under section 306(a), and carry out, directly or through contractual or other arrangements, and oversee activities in accordance with—

“(A) the plan within the planning and service area;

“(B) any other relevant requirements of this Act;

“(C) other applicable Federal and State laws; and

“(D) other terms and conditions of awards received under this Act.”.

(b) **PLANS.**—Section 306(f)(1) (42 U.S.C. 3026(f)(1)) is amended—

(1) by inserting “the assurances required under section 305(c)(2),” after “of this section,”; and

(2) by striking the period at the end and inserting “, and if the State agency determines, in the discretion of the State agency, that an area agency on aging failed in 2 successive years to comply with the requirements under this title, then the State agency may require the area agency on aging to submit a plan for a 1-year period that meets such requirements, for subsequent years until the State agency determines that the area agency on aging is in compliance with such requirements.”.

#### **SEC. 110. SUPPORTING OLDER INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES THROUGH IMPROVED COORDINATION.**

(a) **AREA PLANS.**—Section 306(a)(5) (42 U.S.C. 3026(a)(5)) is amended by striking “with agencies that develop or provide services for individuals with disabilities” and inserting “with entities that develop or provide services for individuals with disabilities, which may include centers for independent living, relevant service providers, and other community-based organizations, as appropriate”.

(b) **SUPPORTING OLDER INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES THROUGH IMPROVED COORDINATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator of the Administration for Community Living of the Department of Health and Human Services (referred to in this section as the “Administrator”) shall identify—

(A) opportunities to improve coordination between the aging and disability networks, which may include the formation of partnerships to serve individuals eligible for programs under the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.);

(B) lessons learned from disability networks, including centers for independent living, State developmental disabilities councils, university centers for excellence in developmental disabilities education, research, and service, and State protection and advocacy agencies that could improve operations and service delivery within the aging network; and

(C) any technical assistance needs related to subparagraphs (A) and (B).

(2) **GUIDANCE.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall issue guidance to State agencies and area agencies on aging on strategies to leverage disability networks, including centers for independent living, State developmental disabilities councils, university centers for excellence in developmental disabilities, education, research, and service, and State protection and advocacy agencies, as appropriate, to strengthen the provision of services under the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.).

(3) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—The Administrator shall coordinate across the Administration for Community Living to address any technical assistance needs identified under paragraph (1)(C) in a manner that does not unnecessarily duplicate other technical assistance activities carried out prior to the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—Section 102 (42 U.S.C. 3002) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4), by striking “(as defined in section 3 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12102))”; and

(2) in paragraph (13), by striking “The term” and all that follows through “adjustment,” and inserting “The term ‘disability’ has the meaning given such term in section 3 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12102).”; and

(3) in paragraph (49)(B), by striking “of the major life activities specified in subparagraphs (A) through (G) of paragraph (8)” and inserting “major life activities specified in section 3(2) of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12102(2)).”.

#### **SEC. 111. BUSINESS ACUMEN, FISCAL TRAINING, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**

Section 307(a) (42 U.S.C. 3027(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(31) The plan shall provide assurances that the State agency, to the extent feasible and when applicable and appropriate, provides technical assistance for area agencies on aging related to the development of business acumen, sound fiscal practices, capacity building, organizational development, innovation, and other methods of growing and sustaining the capacity of the aging network to carry out activities funded under this Act to serve older individuals and caregivers most effectively.”.

#### **SEC. 112. ENHANCING ACCESS TO ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY.**

Section 307(a) (42 U.S.C. 3027(a)), as amended by section 111 of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(32) The plan shall provide assurances that the State will coordinate services, to the extent feasible, with lead agencies designated to carry out State assistive technology programs under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) and with area agencies on aging to assist eligible older individuals, including older individuals with disabilities, in accessing and acquiring assistive technology.”.

#### **SEC. 113. WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON AGING.**

Title II of the Older Americans Act Amendments of 1987 (42 U.S.C. 3001 note; Public Law 100-175) is amended by striking title II and inserting the following:

#### **“TITLE II—WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON AGING**

##### **“SEC. 201. AUTHORIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE.**

“(a) **AUTHORITY TO CALL CONFERENCE.**—Not earlier than January 21, 2025 and not later than December 31, 2025, the President shall convene the White House Conference on Aging in order to fulfill the purpose set forth in subsection (c) and to make fundamental policy recommendations regarding programs that are important to older individuals and to the families and communities of such individuals.

“(b) **PLANNING AND DIRECTION.**—The Conference described in subsection (a) shall be planned and conducted under the direction of the Secretary, in cooperation with the Assistant Secretary for Aging, the Director of the National Institute on Aging, the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Social Security Administrator, and the heads of such other Federal agencies serving older individuals as are appropriate. Planning and conducting the Conference includes the assignment of personnel.

“(c) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of the Conference described in subsection (a) shall be to gather individuals representing the spectrum of thought and experience in the field of aging to—

“(1) evaluate the manner in which the objectives of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) can be met by using



the resources and talents of older individuals, of families and communities of such individuals, and of individuals from the public and private sectors;

“(2) evaluate the manner in which Federal policies, programs, and activities meet and respond to the needs of older individuals, including an examination of innovative and fiscally responsible strategies relating to retirement security, caregiving, nutrition and supportive services, health care, elder justice, and long-term services and supports;

“(3) be informed by the work and recommendations of the Interagency Coordinating Committee on Healthy Aging and Age-Friendly Communities, evaluate the recommendations of the Committee, and, as appropriate, suggest implementation strategies for such recommendations; and

“(4) develop recommendations to guide the President, Congress, and Federal agencies in improving Federal programs that serve older individuals, which may relate to the prevention and mitigation of disease, injury, abuse, social isolation, loneliness, and economic insecurity, including food insecurity, and promotion of healthy aging in place.

“(d) CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS AND DELEGATES.—

“(1) PARTICIPANTS.—In order to carry out the purposes of this section, the Conference shall bring together—

“(A) representatives of Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments;

“(B) professionals and volunteers who are working in the field of aging; and

“(C) representatives of the general public, particularly older individuals.

“(2) SELECTION OF DELEGATES.—The delegates shall be selected without regard to political affiliation or past partisan activity and shall, to the best of the appointing authority's ability, be representative of the spectrum of thought in the field of aging. Delegates shall include older individuals, individuals who are professionals in the field of aging, individuals who are community leaders, minority individuals, individuals from rural areas, low-income individuals, and representatives of Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments.

#### “SEC. 202. CONFERENCE ADMINISTRATION.

“(a) ADMINISTRATION.—In administering this section, the Secretary shall—

“(1) consult with relevant State, Tribal, and local officials, stakeholders, and subject matter experts in planning the Conference;

“(2) request the cooperation and assistance of the heads of such other Federal departments and agencies, including such officials of the Interagency Coordinating Committee on Healthy Aging and Age-Friendly Communities, as may be appropriate in the carrying out of this section;

“(3) make available for public comment a proposed agenda for the Conference, which will reflect to the greatest extent possible the major issues facing older individuals, consistent with the provisions of section 201(c);

“(4) prepare and make available such background materials for the use of delegates to the Conference as the Secretary deems necessary; and

“(5) engage such additional personnel as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section without regard to provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service, and without regard to chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title, relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates.

“(b) DUTIES.—The Secretary shall, in carrying out the Secretary's responsibilities and functions under this section, and as part of the White House Conference on Aging, ensure that—

“(1) the agenda prepared under subsection (a)(3) for the Conference is published in the Federal Register not later than 30 days after such agenda is approved by the Secretary;

“(2) the personnel engaged under subsection (a)(5) shall be fairly balanced in terms of points of views represented and shall be appointed without regard to political affiliation or previous partisan activities;

“(3) the recommendations of the Conference are not inappropriately influenced by any appointing authority or by any special interest, but will instead be the result of the independent judgment of the Conference; and

“(4) current and adequate statistical data, including decennial census data, and other information on the well-being of older individuals in the United States, are readily available, in advance of the Conference, to the delegates of the Conference, together with such information as may be necessary to evaluate Federal programs and policies relating to aging. In carrying out this subparagraph, the Secretary is authorized to make grants to, and enter into cooperative agreements with, public agencies and non-profit private organizations.

“(c) GIFTS.—The Secretary may accept, on behalf of the United States, gifts (in cash or in kind, including voluntary and uncompensated services) that shall be available to carry out this title. Gifts of cash shall be available in addition to amounts appropriated to carry out this title. Gifts may be earmarked by the donor for a specific purpose.

“(d) RECORDS.—The Secretary shall maintain records regarding—

“(1) the sources, amounts, and uses of gifts accepted under subsection (c); and

“(2) the identity of each person receiving assistance to carry out this title, and the amount of such assistance received by each such person.

#### “SEC. 203. REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE.

“(a) PRELIMINARY REPORT.—Not later than 100 days after the date on which the Conference adjourns, the Secretary shall publish and deliver to the States a preliminary report on the Conference. Comments on the preliminary report of the Conference shall be accepted by the Secretary.

“(b) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Conference adjourns, the Secretary shall publish and transmit to the President and to Congress recommendations resulting from the Conference and suggestions for any administrative action and legislation necessary to implement the recommendations contained within the report.

#### “SEC. 204. DEFINITIONS.

“In this title:

“(1) CONFERENCE.—The term ‘Conference’ means the White House Conference on Aging.

“(2) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

“(3) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means any of the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands of the United States, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.”

#### SEC. 114. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.

The Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 201(d)(3)(J) (42 U.S.C. 3011(d)(3)(J)), by striking “Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate” and inserting “Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives”;

(2) in section 202(b)(8)(E) (42 U.S.C. 3012(b)(8)(E)), by striking “preventative health benefits under the provisions of, and amendments made by, the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003” and inserting “preventive health benefits under such program”;

(3) in section 203(c)(7) (42 U.S.C. 3013(c)(7))—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives” and inserting “the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives”;

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking “chairman” and inserting “chairperson”;

(4) in section 339 (42 U.S.C. 3030g–21), by striking “this chapter” each place it appears and inserting “this part”;

(5) in section 432(b)(1) (42 U.S.C. 3033a(b)(1)), by striking “Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate” and inserting “Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives”.

### TITLE II—IMPROVING HEALTH OUTCOMES AND ENCOURAGING INDEPENDENCE FOR OLDER INDIVIDUALS

#### SEC. 201. DISEASE PREVENTION AND HEALTH PROMOTION SERVICES.

Section 102(14) (42 U.S.C. 3002(14)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “heart rate, respiratory function,” after “hearing.”;

(2) in subparagraph (K), by inserting “providing” before “information”;

(3) by redesignating subparagraphs (L), (M), (N), and (O), as subparagraphs (M), (N), (O), and (P), respectively;

(4) by inserting after subparagraph (K) the following:

“(L) providing information concerning testing, diagnosis, and treatment of infectious diseases, taking into consideration infectious diseases for which older individuals are at increased risk of infection or serious health outcomes;”;

(5) in subparagraph (P), as so redesignated, by striking “subparagraphs (A) through (N)” and inserting “subparagraphs (A) through (O)”.

#### SEC. 202. IMPROVING HEALTH OUTCOMES.

(a) RESEARCH AND EVALUATION ACTIVITIES.—Section 201 (42 U.S.C. 3011) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(3)(B), by striking “in behalf” and inserting “on behalf”;

(2) in subsection (g)—

(A) in paragraph (3)(A)(ii), by inserting “reduction of health care expenditures,” after “quality of life,”;

(B) in paragraph (7), by inserting “and recommendations relating to further research, evaluation, and demonstration projects conducted under this section” after “title IV”.

(b) FALLS PREVENTION PROGRAMS.—Section 411(a)(15) (42 U.S.C. 3032(a)(15)) is amended to read as follows:

“(15) bringing to scale and sustaining evidence-based falls prevention programs to reduce the number of falls, fear of falling, and fall-related injuries affecting older individuals, including older individuals with disabilities, which shall—

“(A) provide training and technical assistance to the aging network; and

“(B) share best practices with the aging network, including the Aging and Disability Resource Centers;”.

(c) INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON HEALTHY AGING AND AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES.—Section 203(c) (42 U.S.C. 3013(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (6)(B)—



(A) in clause (ii), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(B) in clause (iii), by inserting “and” after the semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(iv) strategies to address social isolation, including by promoting strong and stable connections across different generations in a family and in the community;” and

(2) in paragraph (7), as amended by section 114(3)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (D); and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

“(C) contains an assessment of the effectiveness of relevant Federal efforts and programs, including implementation of best practices described in paragraph (6)(B); and”.

#### SEC. 203. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS.

(a) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Assistant Secretary, at the request of a State agency (as defined in section 102 of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3002)) or area agencies on aging, may provide technical assistance on the requirements of evidence-based programs under the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.).

(b) CONSIDERATION.—The Assistant Secretary may consider whether there are evidence-informed practices, based on the best available science, that may improve health outcomes.

#### SEC. 204. ENHANCING MULTIPURPOSE SENIOR CENTERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 202(a)(30) (42 U.S.C. 3012(a)(30)) is amended by inserting “, access to services provided at multipurpose senior centers, and (where appropriate) the establishment and maintenance of multipurpose senior centers” before the semicolon at the end.

(b) AREA AGENCY ON AGING PLANS.—Section 306(a)(2)(A) (42 U.S.C. 3026(a)(2)(A)) is amended by inserting “, including those services provided at multipurpose senior centers, where appropriate” before the semicolon at the end.

(c) STATE PLANS.—Section 307(a)(2)(A) (42 U.S.C. 3027(a)(2)(A)) is amended by inserting “and, to the extent feasible, make such evaluation public” before the semicolon at the end.

#### SEC. 205. ADDRESSING HOME MODIFICATIONS.

(a) INDOOR AIR QUALITY.—Section 361(c) (42 U.S.C. 3030m(c)) is amended by striking “buildings” and all that follows and inserting “buildings and residences where older individuals congregate or live”.

(b) WEATHERIZATION.—Section 321(a)(4) (42 U.S.C. 3030d(a)(4)) is amended by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting “(A) to assist older individuals in obtaining and maintaining adequate housing, including residential repair and renovation projects, and (if assistance for weatherization projects does not unnecessarily duplicate other Federal assistance available) weatherization projects, designed to enable older individuals to maintain their homes in conformity with minimum housing and (as applicable and appropriate) other relevant standards, in order to support such older individuals in aging in place and maintaining their health;”.

#### SEC. 206. NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR ENGAGING OLDER ADULTS.

Section 411(a)(18) (42 U.S.C. 3032(a)(18)) is amended by inserting “, such as providing appropriate training, resources, and best practices to the aging network” after “older individuals”.

#### SEC. 207. MULTIGENERATIONAL AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES.

Section 417 (42 U.S.C. 3032f) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “projects,” and all that follows through “to—” and inserting the following: “projects to serve individuals in younger generations and older individuals by developing, carrying out, and promoting participation in multigenerational activities to—”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by adding “and” at the end;

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking “opportunities for older individuals to become mentors to individuals in younger generations; and” and inserting “opportunities—

“(A) for older individuals to become mentors to individuals in younger generations; and

“(B) at facilities that serve older individuals or individuals in younger generations, at which multigenerational activities might occur.”; and

(D) by striking paragraph (4);

(2) in subsection (c)(2), by striking “(4)” and inserting “(3)”;

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) by striking paragraph (1); and

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (5) as paragraphs (1) through (4), respectively;

(4) in subsection (g)—

(A) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “of enactment of the Supporting Older Americans Act of 2020,” and inserting “on which the first grant is awarded under this section following the date of enactment of the Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2024,”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate” and inserting “the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives”; and

(5) in subsection (h)(1), by striking “or a family support program.” and inserting “or a family support program, or a program at a multipurpose senior center, long-term care facility, or any other residential facility for older individuals.”.

#### SEC. 208. REPORT RELATING TO HEALTH OUTCOMES FOR OLDER INDIVIDUALS LIVING WITH OR NEAR FAMILY MEMBERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall prepare a report that assesses—

(1) the health outcomes for older individuals who live with, on the same property as, or otherwise in the community in close geographic proximity, relative to the area, to family members; and

(2) the degree to which programs under the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) promote living in the settings described in paragraph (1), as appropriate.

(b) INCLUSION.—The report described under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) an assessment of physical and mental health outcomes of older individuals who live in the settings described in subsection (a)(1) in comparison to physical and mental health outcomes of older individuals who do not live in such settings;

(2) an assessment of the extent to which living in such settings mitigates social isolation and loneliness in older adults; and

(3) a description of the different types of such settings and whether, and to what extent, findings under paragraphs (1) and (2) vary across such different types.

(c) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Special Committee on Aging of the Sen-

ate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives the report required by subsection (a).

#### SEC. 209. IMPROVING BROADBAND COORDINATION AND REDUCING SOCIAL ISOLATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Assistant Secretary shall, as appropriate, coordinate with the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to ensure that the aging network (as defined in section 102 of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3002)) and other relevant stakeholders are aware of, and, subject to applicable eligibility criteria, have access to, Federal programs relating to digital literacy and the adoption of broadband that may support healthy aging and aging in place for older individuals.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary shall prepare, and submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, the Special Committee on Aging, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives, a report regarding any coordination efforts carried out pursuant to subsection (a).

#### TITLE III—ENHANCING INNOVATION AND FLEXIBILITY IN NUTRITION SERVICES

##### SEC. 301. MEDICALLY TAILORED MEALS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 102(14) (42 U.S.C. 3002(14)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “, which may include counseling related to the provision of medically tailored meals,” after “counseling”; and

(2) in subparagraph (D), by inserting “(including from medically tailored meals)” after “improved nutrition”.

(b) ADMINISTRATION OF NUTRITION SERVICES.—Section 205(a)(2)(A) (42 U.S.C. 3016(a)(2)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (vi), by inserting “, including through the use of innovative approaches” after “systems”; and

(2) in clause (viii), by inserting “and innovative interventions” after “including strategies”.

(c) NUTRITION EDUCATION.—Section 214(2)(C) (42 U.S.C. 3020e(2)(C)) is amended by inserting “, including interventions,” after “other activities”.

(d) NUTRITION SERVICES PURPOSES.—Section 330(3) (42 U.S.C. 3030d-21(3)) is amended by inserting “, tailored to their individual medical and nutritional needs to the extent feasible,” after “services”.

##### SEC. 302. GRAB-AND-GO MEALS.

Section 308(b)(4) (42 U.S.C. 3028(b)(4)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(E) A State may elect in its plan under section 307 to allow use of not more than 25 percent of the funds received by such State under subpart 1 of part C, calculated after any transfers under subparagraphs (A) and (B) are completed, to make meals available at congregate meal sites or other community locations for consumption by older individuals outside such sites and locations, such as carry-out or similar meals. A State electing to allow use of funds under the preceding sentence shall—

“(i) ensure that such allowable use complements the delivery of services through the congregate meals program under section 331; and

“(ii) notify the Assistant Secretary of such election, including a description of the amount and percentage of funds received by such State under subpart 1 of part C to be used for such purposes.”.

##### SEC. 303. GAO STUDY ON NUTRITION SERVICES INCENTIVE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study to

evaluate the Nutrition Services Incentive Program under section 311 (42 U.S.C. 3030a) (referred to in this section as the “Program”).

(b) **INCLUSIONS.**—The study under this section—

(1) shall—

(A) include an assessment of how States and Tribal organizations use funding provided under the Program, including the degree to which States and Tribal organizations use such funding to procure food products from local or regional producers for meals supported under the Program; and

(B) identify any challenges or barriers to increasing the use of local and regional producers under the Program; and

(2) may make recommendations related to improving the effectiveness of the Program, including with respect to the use of local and regional producers.

(c) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Special Committee on Aging of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives a report on the results of the study under this section.

#### **SEC. 304. INNOVATIONS IN NUTRITION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.**

Subpart 3 of part C of title III (42 U.S.C. 3030g–21 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

##### **“SEC. 340. INNOVATIONS IN NUTRITION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.**

“(a) **DEMONSTRATION TO REDUCE HUNGER, FOOD INSECURITY, AND MALNUTRITION.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—From funds available under paragraph (5), the Assistant Secretary shall make grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible entities, to achieve the purposes of section 330(1) by developing, testing, implementing, and evaluating innovative local or regional approaches to improve the quality, effectiveness, efficiency, and outcomes of nutrition projects and services described in sections 311, 331, and 336.

“(2) **ELIGIBILITY.**—In order to be eligible for a grant under paragraph (1), an entity shall—

“(A) be—

“(i) a State agency, an area agency on aging, an Indian Tribe, a Tribal organization, or another public or nonprofit private entity, including a nutrition service provider, a multipurpose senior center, a health care entity, or an institution of higher education; or

“(ii) a partnership between any entities described in clause (i); and

“(B) submit an application at such time and in such manner as the Assistant Secretary may require, including—

“(i) a description of an innovative approach referred to in paragraph (1) that the entity proposes to implement under the grant;

“(ii) a plan for evaluating the effectiveness, including cost-effectiveness, of the innovative approach proposed; and

“(iii) a plan for the publication of the results of such evaluation.

“(3) **PRIORITY.**—In selecting eligible entities for grants under this subsection, the Assistant Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities proposing to carry out a grant in 1 or more rural areas.

“(4) **REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2024, and annually thereafter, the Assistant Secretary shall submit a report to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Special Committee on Aging of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the

Workforce of the House of Representatives describing any activities carried out under paragraph (1), an assessment of the outcomes of such activities using rigorous methodologies, and recommendations for inclusion of any successful innovative approaches within nutrition programs established under this Act.

“(5) **RESERVATION.**—From the total of the amounts made available for a fiscal year under paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 303(b) and in section 311(e), the Assistant Secretary shall reserve an amount equal to not more than 1 percent to carry out activities described in paragraph (1) of this subsection.

“(b) **INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO REDUCE HUNGER, FOOD INSECURITY, AND MALNUTRITION.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraph (6), in carrying out nutrition projects established under this Act, a State agency or title VI grantee may implement innovative approaches, including any applicable approaches implemented previously by the Assistant Secretary or pursuant to subsection (a), that are demonstrated to be effective, to achieve the purposes described in section 330(1) by improving—

“(A) the quality, composition, preparation, modality, delivery, or location of meals provided to older individuals under this Act; or

“(B) the efficiency and effectiveness of distributing, delivering, or otherwise making meals available to older individuals under this Act.

“(2) **WAIVER.**—At the request of a State agency implementing an approach under paragraph (1), the Assistant Secretary may waive any requirements of subpart 1 or 2 with respect to such State agency if such requirements impede the ability of such State agency to successfully implement such an approach.

“(3) **FLEXIBILITY.**—The Secretary shall provide maximum flexibility to a title VI grantee implementing an approach under paragraph (1) in the same manner as the Secretary provides maximum flexibility in accordance with section 614(c)(3).

“(4) **SUNSET.**—The authority to carry out activities described in paragraph (1) shall expire on October 1, 2029.

“(5) **REPORT.**—Not later than September 30, 2028, the Assistant Secretary shall submit a report to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Special Committee on Aging of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives describing any activities carried out by State agencies or title VI grantees under paragraph (1), an assessment of the outcomes of such activities using rigorous methodologies, and recommendations for inclusion of any successful innovative approaches within nutrition programs established under this Act.

“(6) **USE OF ALLOTMENT.**—If the amount appropriated to carry out section 311 for a fiscal year exceeds the amount appropriated to carry out section 311 for the prior fiscal year or fiscal year 2024, whichever is greater, a State agency and title VI grantee in receipt of an allotment under section 311(b) may elect to use the difference between the allotment received for the fiscal year and the allotment received for the prior fiscal year or fiscal year 2024, whichever is greater, for activities described in paragraph (1).

“(7) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as limiting or prohibiting the requirements described in section 339 from applying to nutrition projects utilizing an innovative approach under this subsection.”

#### **TITLE IV—SUPPORTING FAMILY CAREGIVERS**

##### **SEC. 401. IMPROVING THE NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT PROGRAM.**

(a) **STATE REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS ON AGING GRANTS.**—Section 305(a)(3)(E) (42 U.S.C. 3025(a)(3)(E)) is amended—

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

(2) in clause (ii), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(iii) available supports for family caregivers and older relative caregivers (as defined in section 372(a)).”

(b) **AREA PLAN REQUIREMENTS.**—Section 306(a)(7)(D) (42 U.S.C. 3026(a)(7)(D)) is amended—

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

(2) in clause (ii), by adding “and” after the semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(iii) available supports for family caregivers and older relative caregivers (as defined in section 372(a)).”

(c) **DEFINITIONS RELATING TO THE NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT PROGRAM.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 372(a) (42 U.S.C. 3030s(a)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the first sentence, by striking “The term” and inserting the following:

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (A) (as so designated), in the second sentence—

(I) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(II) by striking “Such assessment shall be administered through” and inserting the following:

“(B) **ADMINISTRATION OF ASSESSMENTS.**—A caregiver assessment under subparagraph (A) shall—

“(i) be administered through”; and

(III) by adding at the end the following:

“(ii) take into account—

“(I) linguistic and cultural differences;

“(II) the ease for the caregiver to access information, supports, or services, and the timeliness of access to such information, supports, or services;

“(III) barriers to accessing information, supports, or services;

“(IV) the availability of information, supports, or services in accessible formats; and

“(V) the quality of information, supports, or services received, and the degree to which it is helpful to the caregiver.”

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) **CHILD OR YOUTH.**—The term ‘child or youth’ means an individual who is not more than—

“(A) 18 years of age; or

“(B) 22 years of age, in the case of an individual who is enrolled in any form of schooling (including on a part-time basis), including—

“(i) in high school or secondary school (as such terms are defined in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801)); or

“(ii) in an institution of higher education (as defined in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)).”; and

(C) in paragraph (4)(B)—

(i) in clause (i), by inserting “adult” after “or other”; and

(ii) by amending clause (iii) to read as follows:

“(iii)(I) has a legal relationship to the child or youth, such as legal custody, adoption, or guardianship, or is raising the child or youth informally; and

“(II) in the case of a child or youth described in paragraph (2)(B) who is 18 years of

age or older, had established such a legal relationship, or began raising such child or youth informally, prior to the child or youth reaching the age of 18; and”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Part E of title III (42 U.S.C. 3030s et seq.) is amended—

(A) by inserting “or youth” after “child” each place it appears (other than in sections 372(a)(2) (as amended by paragraph (1)(B)) and 372(a)(4)(B)(iii) (as amended by paragraph (1)(C)(ii))); and

(B) in section 373(c)(2)(B) (42 U.S.C. 3030s-1(c)(2)(B)), by inserting “or youth” after “children”.

(d) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—Section 373 (42 U.S.C. 3030s-1) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(3)—

(A) by inserting “which may include trauma-informed services, peer supports,” after “individual counseling.”; and

(B) by inserting “elder abuse prevention,” after “nutrition.”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “PRIORITY” and inserting “PRIORITY; CONSIDERATION”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) CONSIDERATION.—In providing services under this part, the State shall consider—

“(A) that older relative caregivers caring for multiple children or youth may need greater resources and supports; and

“(B) the circumstances and unique needs of different types of caregivers, including the needs of children or youth and their older relative caregivers whose families have been affected by substance use disorder, including opioid use disorder.”;

(3) in subsection (e)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “Not later than” and all that follows through “the Assistant Secretary shall” and inserting “The Assistant Secretary shall, on a regular basis”;

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” at the end;

(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (D); and

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

“(C) the use of caregiver assessments; and”;

(C) in paragraph (2), by striking “make available” and inserting “prepare, publish, and disseminate”;

(4) in subsection (i)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “, which may include the improvement of the quality and consistency of caregiver assessments and access to other information, supports, or services” after “section 631”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “(including outcome measures)” after “program evaluation”; and

(5) in subsection (j)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “Not later than” and all that follows through “shall provide technical assistance” and inserting “Beginning not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2024, the Assistant Secretary, in consultation with stakeholders with appropriate expertise and, as appropriate, informed by the most recent strategy developed under the RAISE Family Caregivers Act (42 U.S.C. 3030s note) and the most recent report developed under the Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Act (Public Law 115-196; 132 Stat. 1511), shall provide ongoing technical assistance”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the end;

(C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(D) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) the quality and consistency of caregiver assessments used across States; and”.

#### SEC. 402. EMPHASIZING RESPITE CARE.

Section 321(a)(19) (42 U.S.C. 3030d(a)(19)) is amended to read as follows:

“(19) services, which may include respite care through various models, designed to support family members and other persons providing voluntary care to older individuals that need long-term care services, which may include older individuals with cognitive impairments such as Alzheimer’s disease and related disorders with neurological and organic brain dysfunction.”.

#### SEC. 403. CLARIFYING SUPPORTIVE SERVICES.

Section 321(a)(18) (42 U.S.C. 3030d(a)(18)) is amended by striking “mentally impaired older individuals” and inserting “older individuals with cognitive, physical, or mental impairments”.

#### SEC. 404. DIRECT CARE WORKFORCE RESOURCE CENTER.

Section 411(a)(13) (42 U.S.C. 3032(a)(13)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by adding “and” at the end;

(2) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and adjusting the margins accordingly;

(3) in the matter preceding clause (i) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by inserting “and, as appropriate, the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies” after “Labor”; and

(B) by striking “workers, and the soliciting,” and inserting the following: “workers, including—

“(A) the soliciting.”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) the establishment and operation of a national resource center that supports the growth and professionalization of the direct care workforce necessary to meet the needs of older individuals and individuals with disabilities, and, in a manner that does not unnecessarily duplicate the activities of other resource centers supported by the Assistant Secretary, that addresses training and other educational needs of family caregivers, which activities of the center may include—

“(i) the provision of training and technical assistance, including through the development and dissemination of educational materials, to States, long-term services and supports providers, direct care workers, and family caregivers; and

“(ii) promoting existing, and supporting the demonstration of new, strategies for the recruitment, retention, career development, or advancement of direct care workers to reduce barriers to entry for a diverse and high-quality direct care workforce, including providing wages, benefits, and advancement opportunities needed to attract or retain direct care workers.”.

#### SEC. 405. SUPPORTING GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN ACT.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Act (Public Law 115-196; 132 Stat. 1511) is amended by striking section 2.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—The Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Act is amended by redesignating section 4 as section 2 and moving the section so as to follow section 1.

(c) ADVISORY COUNCIL.—Section 3 of the Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Act is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by redesignating subparagraphs (G) through (I) as subparagraphs (H) through (J);

(ii) by inserting after subparagraph (F) the following:

“(G) The Assistant Secretary for Health.”;

(iii) in subparagraph (I), as so redesignated, by striking “of children”; and

(iv) in subparagraph (J), as so redesignated, by striking “relatives” and inserting “relative caregivers”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) LIMITATION ON NON-FEDERAL MEMBERS.—Not more than 10 members of the Advisory Council may be individuals who are not Federal officers or employees.”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “relatives” and inserting “relative caregivers”; and

(II) in clause (i)—

(aa) by striking “the health,” and inserting “the near- and long-term health, including mental health.”; and

(bb) by striking “care; and” and inserting “care, including any needs related to the circumstances that caused such children to be raised by a grandparent or older relative caregiver; and”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking “(B)” and all that follows through “In” and inserting the following:

“(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In”; and

(II) by striking “needs of those affected by the opioid crisis” and inserting “needs and challenges of individuals affected by substance use disorder, including opioid use disorder, or, as applicable and appropriate, needs and challenges of individuals related to other circumstances, which may include public health emergencies”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “enactment of this Act” and inserting “enactment of the Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2024”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in clause (i)—

(aa) by striking “relatives” and inserting “relative caregivers”; and

(bb) by striking “needs of children” and all that follows through “epidemic”; and inserting “needs of children and their older relative caregivers who have been affected by substance use disorder, including opioid use disorder”;

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

(III) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (iv); and

(IV) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

“(iii) a description of any activities of the Department of Health and Human Services to evaluate the effectiveness of supportive services in addressing the needs of children and their older relative caregivers, including those who have been affected by substance use disorder, including opioid use disorder, and any related findings; and”;

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “(3)” and all that follows through “Not” and inserting the following:

“(3) FOLLOW-UP REPORTS.—Not”;

(II) by striking “2 years” and inserting “180 days”; and

(III) by inserting after “submitted,” the following: “and every 2 years thereafter until the Advisory Council terminates under subsection (f).”; and

(D) in paragraph (4) by striking “relatives” each place it appears and inserting “relative caregivers”;

(3) in subsection (d), by striking “the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.)” and inserting “chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code.”; and

(4) in subsection (f), by striking “terminate” and all that follows through “Act.” and inserting “terminate on September 30, 2029.”.

**SEC. 406. RAISE FAMILY CAREGIVERS ACT.**

(a) **STRATEGY.**—Section 3 of the RAISE Family Caregivers Act (42 U.S.C. 3030s note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “(or the Secretary’s designee)” after “The Secretary”; and

(B) in paragraph (1), by inserting “and made publicly available by the Secretary,” after “caregiver programs,”; and

(2) in subsection (d)(2), by inserting “in” after “caregiver programs”.

(b) **COUNCIL.**—Section 4(e) of that Act (42 U.S.C. 3030s note) is amended by striking “The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.)” and inserting “Chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code.”.

(c) **SUNSET EXTENSION.**—Section 6 of that Act (42 U.S.C. 3030s note) is amended by striking “terminate” and all that follows through “Act.” and inserting “terminate on September 30, 2029.”.

## **TITLE V—COMMUNITY SERVICE SENIOR OPPORTUNITIES ACT**

### **SEC. 501. IMPROVING THE COMMUNITY SERVICE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM.**

(a) **PROGRAM.**—Section 502(b)(1) (42 U.S.C. 3056(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C)(ii), by striking “section 513(a)(2)(E)” and inserting “section 513(a)(2)(F)”;

(2) in subparagraph (E), by inserting “older individuals,” after “youth.”.

(b) **PERFORMANCE.**—Section 513 (42 U.S.C. 3056k) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (D)(iii), by inserting “, including toward the long-term performance goals determined by the Department of Labor under the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (Public Law 103-62; 107 Stat. 285) and the amendments made by such Act,” after “core measures”;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (F); and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following:

“(E) **BIENNIAL REPORT.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2024, and every 2 years thereafter during the period of the program described in section 502(a)(1), the Secretary shall prepare, make publicly available, and submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Special Committee on Aging of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives a report regarding the methodology used to arrive at the expected levels of performance described in subparagraph (B) for each grantee, including the particular statistical model used and other factors taken into account, as described in subparagraph (D).”;

(2) in subsection (b)(1)(C), by striking “fourth quarter after exit from the project” and inserting “second quarter after exit from the project and remain in unsubsidized employment during the fourth quarter after exit from the project”;

(3) in subsection (c) and paragraphs (1)(A), (2)(A), and (3)(A) of subsection (d), by striking “subsection (a)(2)(E)” and inserting “subsection (a)(2)(F)”;

(4) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (2)(B)(iii), by adding at the end the following: “For grants awarded on or after the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of the Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2024, any grantee who has failed to meet the expected levels of performance for the 2 consecutive years prior to the subsequent grant competition under section 514 shall not be allowed to compete in the subsequent grant competition under

section 514 following the second consecutive year of failure but may compete in the next such grant competition after that subsequent competition.”; and

(B) in paragraph (3)(B)(iii), by adding at the end the following: “For grants awarded on or after the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of the Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2024, if the Secretary determines that the State fails to meet the expected levels of performance described in subparagraph (A) for 2 consecutive program years, the Secretary shall provide for the conduct by the State of a competition to award the funds allotted to the State under section 506(e) for the first full program year following the Secretary’s determination.”.

(c) **DEFINITIONS AND RULE.**—

(1) **DEFINITIONS.**—Section 518(a)(1)(A) (42 U.S.C. 3056p(a)(1)(A)) is amended to read as follows:

“(A) social, health, welfare, and educational services (including literacy tutoring and services provided by the aging network), legal and other counseling services and assistance (including tax counseling and assistance and financial counseling), and library, recreational, and other similar services”;

(2) **RULE.**—Section 518(b)(2)(F) (42 U.S.C. 3056p(b)(2)(F)) is amended to read as follows:

“(F) has failed to find employment after receiving any combination of training services or the following career services provided under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3111 et seq.)—

“(i) initial or comprehensive skills assessment;

“(ii) labor exchange services;

“(iii) provision of workforce and labor market information or job search assistance;

“(iv) development of an individual employment plan;

“(v) group or individual counseling;

“(vi) career planning;

“(vii) internship, work experience, workforce preparation activities, or prevocational services;

“(viii) English language acquisition and integrated education and training; or

“(ix) followup services.”.

### **SEC. 502. GAO REPORT ON ALIGNMENT WITHIN THE COMMUNITY SERVICE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM.**

(a) **REVIEW.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall complete a review in which the Comptroller General—

(1) evaluates—

(A) the distinct differences and similarities between the older American community service employment program as authorized under title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3056 et seq.) and the programs carried out under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3111 et seq.); and

(B) how the programs described in subparagraph (A) serve older individuals in seeking and obtaining community service employment;

(2) analyzes the expected levels of performance described in section 513(a) of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3056k(a)), the efficacy and impacts of the indicators of performance described in section 513(b) of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3056k(b)), and corrective measures described in section 513(d) of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3056k(d)) for the older American community service employment program, compared with the expected levels of performance, efficacy and impacts of the indicators of performance, and corrective measures described in section 116 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3141) for programs authorized

under title I of such Act, including the efficacy of the indicators of performance described in section 513(b) of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3056k(b)) for individuals described in subsection (a)(3)(B)(ii) or subsection (b) of section 518 of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3056p);

(3) develops recommendations for any alternative measures that may better measure the efficacy of the older American community service employment program as authorized under title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3056 et seq.) for individuals described in subsection (a)(3)(B)(ii) or subsection (b) of section 518 of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3056p) to achieve the objectives described in section 101 of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001); and

(4) evaluates how the Department of Labor coordinates delivery of services with State and national grantees under title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3056 et seq.) and with States and local workforce development areas under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3111 et seq.) to serve older individuals.

(b) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 180 days after the review required under this section is completed, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Special Committee on Aging of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives a report on the results of such review.

## **TITLE VI—IMPROVING SERVICES FOR NATIVE ELDER**

### **SEC. 601. OLDER AMERICANS TRIBAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

Section 201(c) (42 U.S.C. 3011(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4)(A) In addition to other methods of government-to-government consultation between the Administration and Indian Tribes and conferring with organizations representing Native Hawaiians, the Assistant Secretary shall establish an advisory committee, to be known as the ‘Older Americans Tribal Advisory Committee’ (referred to in this paragraph as the ‘Committee’) to provide advice and guidance to the Assistant Secretary on matters relating to the needs of older individuals who are Native Americans and implementation of related programs and activities under this Act.

“(B) The Committee shall be composed of 11 voting, non-Federal members, including—

“(i) geographically diverse individuals with expertise on the range of issues affecting Indian Tribes, organizations representing Native Hawaiians, and older individuals who are Native Americans;

“(ii) not less than 1 member who is an Alaska Native; and

“(iii) not less than 1 member who is a Native Hawaiian.

“(C) The Committee shall include non-voting, ex officio representatives of relevant Federal departments and agencies, including—

“(i) the Administration;

“(ii) the Indian Health Service;

“(iii) the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services;

“(iv) the Department of the Interior;

“(v) the Department of Labor; and

“(vi) any other agency or office with subject matter expertise that the Assistant Secretary determines appropriate.

“(D) The Committee shall meet in person not less frequently than twice each year.

“(E) The Committee shall coordinate, as appropriate, with the Secretary’s Tribal Advisory Committee of the Department of Health and Human Services.

“(F)(i) Not less frequently than once each year, the Committee shall submit to the Assistant Secretary and make publicly available a report that describes—

“(I) the activities of the Committee during the previous year; and

“(II) recommendations for administrative action, including the identification of any statutory barriers to carrying out such recommendations, for the following year.

“(ii) Not later than 60 days after the date on which the Assistant Secretary receives a report under clause (i), the Assistant Secretary shall submit to the Committee a written response to such report.

“(G) Chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code, shall not apply to the Committee.

“(H) In establishing, developing procedures for, and operating the Committee, the Assistant Secretary shall—

“(i) consult with Indian Tribes and confer with organizations representing Native Hawaiians; and

“(ii) take into consideration best practices of other Tribal advisory committees operated by the Department of Health and Human Services before the date of enactment of the Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2024.”.

#### SEC. 602. SUPPORTIVE SERVICES; SET ASIDE.

(a) SUPPORTIVE SERVICES.—Section 636 (42 U.S.C. 3057k–21) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “may” and inserting “shall, as practicable,”; and

(2) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “in-home assistance” and inserting “in-home services”.

(b) FUNDING SET ASIDE.—Section 644 (42 U.S.C. 3057o) is amended—

(1) by striking “Of” and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Of”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2024, the Assistant Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives, a report on the use of funds under part D. Such report shall include—

“(1) the total amount of funds made available under subsection (a) to carry out part D for each fiscal year;

“(2) a list of award recipients under part D; and

“(3) a summary of supportive services for healthy aging and independence provided under part D.”.

#### SEC. 603. GAO REPORT ON TRIBAL SERVICES.

Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report that—

(1) evaluates and identifies barriers to Indian Tribes (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)) and organizations serving Native Hawaiians accessing programs under title VI of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3057 et seq.), and coordination of such programs under such title VI with programs funded under titles III and IV of such Act (42 U.S.C. 3021 et seq., 42 U.S.C. 3031 et seq.), including by—

(A) estimating the number of Native Americans unserved by programs under such title VI;

(B) identifying States and area agencies on aging making grants to Indian Tribes under such title III; and

(C) providing estimates of funding necessary to support programs under such title VI for all Tribal organizations (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination

and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)) and organizations serving Native Hawaiians that are not eligible under such title VI (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act); and

(2) details how grantees under title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3056 et seq.) are serving older individuals who are Native Americans with funds received under such title V, including by evaluating how the Secretary of Labor coordinates with State and national grantees under such title V to serve older individuals who are Native Americans.

#### SEC. 604. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.

The Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 102 (42 U.S.C. 3002)—

(A) in paragraph (27), by striking “the term ‘Indian tribe’ means any tribe” and inserting “the term ‘Indian Tribe’ means any Tribe”; and

(B) in paragraph (56), by striking “the term ‘tribal organization’ means” and inserting “the term ‘Tribal organization’ means”;

(2) in section 418(a)(2)(6) (42 U.S.C. 3032g(a)(2)(6)), by striking “Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate” and inserting “Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives”;

(3) in section 612(c) (42 U.S.C. 3057c(c))—

(A) by striking “terms ‘Indian tribe’ and ‘tribal organization’ have” and inserting “terms ‘Indian Tribe’ and ‘Tribal organization’ have”; and

(B) by striking “(25 U.S.C. 450b)” and inserting “(25 U.S.C. 5304)”;

(4) by striking “tribe”, “tribes”, and “tribal” each place such terms appear and inserting “Tribe”, “Tribes”, and “Tribal”, respectively.

#### TITLE VII—STRENGTHENING THE LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAMS AND ELDER ABUSE PREVENTION

##### SEC. 701. DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAMS.

Section 201(d)(2)(A) (42 U.S.C. 3011(d)(2)(A)) is amended, in the second sentence, by inserting “serve on a full-time basis and” after “shall”.

##### SEC. 702. LEGAL ASSISTANCE TRAINING RESOURCES RELATING TO ELDER ABUSE PREVENTION.

Section 201(e)(2)(A) (42 U.S.C. 3011(e)(2)(A)) is amended by striking clause (v) and inserting the following:

“(v) establishing an information clearinghouse to collect, maintain, and disseminate information concerning best practices and resources for training, technical assistance, and other activities, which may include training resources for paralegals or law students who are under the direct supervision of an attorney, to assist State Long-Term Care Ombudsman programs, adult protective services programs, and other legal services relating to defense of guardianship, promotion of self-determination, and the matters described in clause (ii)(I), and to assist States and communities to carry out evidence-based programs to prevent and address elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation;”.

##### SEC. 703. IMPROVING TRAINING OF VOLUNTEERS UNDER THE STATE LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM.

Section 712 (42 U.S.C. 3058g) is amended—

(1) in subsection (h)(5)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking “the representatives” and inserting “each type of representative”; and

(ii) by inserting “types of” before “unpaid volunteers”;

(B) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “for each such type of representative” before the semicolon at the end;

(C) in subparagraph (B)(iii), by striking “and” at the end;

(D) in subparagraph (C), by adding “and” at the end; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

“(D) with respect to representatives of the Office who are unpaid volunteers, take into consideration the degree to which each such type of unpaid volunteer performs activities requiring specialized training, with a goal of reducing unnecessary training requirements for prospective unpaid volunteers;”;

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(k) TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR UNPAID VOLUNTEERS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In providing the model standards described in subsection (h)(5), the Director of the Office of Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs shall review and, as necessary, update such model standards on a regular basis to tailor such model standards to the individualized training needs of each type of representative of the Office, including each type of unpaid volunteer.

“(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Director of the Office of Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs shall take into consideration the degree to which each type of representative of the Office performs activities that require specialized training, with a goal of reducing unnecessary training requirements for unpaid volunteers.”.

##### SEC. 704. REPORTING ON STATE LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAMS.

Chapter 2 of subtitle A of title VII (42 U.S.C. 3058f et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

##### “SEC. 714. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.

“Each year, the Assistant Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Special Committee on Aging of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives, and make publicly available, a report that—

“(1) aggregates all reports submitted under section 712(h) for such year; and

“(2) provides a summary of the findings of such reports.”.

##### SEC. 705. STUDY ON STATE LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Assistant Secretary shall seek to enter into a contract with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (referred to in this section as the “National Academies”) to conduct a study on the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman programs carried out under the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.), including an assessment of the effectiveness of such programs and any related challenges and recommendations. The study shall include an assessment of the current (as of the date on which the contract is entered into) recommended staff-to-bed ratio for such programs, as appropriate.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date on which a contract is entered into under subsection (a), the National Academies shall publicly issue a report on the findings of the study under this section.

#### TITLE VIII—AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS

##### SEC. 801. ADMINISTRATION ON AGING.

Section 216 (42 U.S.C. 3020f) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “\$43,937,410” and all that follows through “fiscal year 2024” and inserting “\$55,469,968 for fiscal year 2025, \$58,034,197 for fiscal year 2026, \$60,716,964 for fiscal year 2027, \$63,523,747 for fiscal year 2028, and \$66,460,281 for fiscal year 2029”; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$2,180,660” and all that follows through “fiscal year 2024” and inserting “\$2,753,033 for fiscal year 2025, \$2,880,298 for fiscal year 2026, \$3,013,447 for fiscal year 2027, \$3,152,751 for fiscal year 2028, and \$3,298,494 for fiscal year 2029”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “\$1,988,060” and all that follows through “fiscal year 2024” and inserting “\$2,509,880 for fiscal year 2025, \$2,625,905 for fiscal year 2026, \$2,747,294 for fiscal year 2027, \$2,874,294 for fiscal year 2028, and \$3,007,165 for fiscal year 2029”;

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking “\$1,371,740” and all that follows through “fiscal year 2024” and inserting “\$1,731,790 for fiscal year 2025, \$1,811,846 for fiscal year 2026, \$1,895,603 for fiscal year 2027, \$1,983,232 for fiscal year 2028, and \$2,074,911 for fiscal year 2029”;

(D) in paragraph (4), by striking “\$8,687,330” and all that follows through “fiscal year 2024” and inserting “\$10,967,554 for fiscal year 2025, \$11,474,555 for fiscal year 2026, \$12,004,993 for fiscal year 2027, \$12,559,952 for fiscal year 2028, and \$13,140,565 for fiscal year 2029”.

#### SEC. 802. GRANTS FOR STATE AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS ON AGING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 303 (42 U.S.C. 3023) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “\$412,029,180” and all that follows through “fiscal year 2024” and inserting “\$520,177,347 for fiscal year 2025, \$544,223,762 for fiscal year 2026, \$569,381,780 for fiscal year 2027, \$595,702,785 for fiscal year 2028, and \$623,240,541 for fiscal year 2029”;

(2) in subsection (b)—  
(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$530,015,940” and all that follows through “fiscal year 2024” and inserting “\$669,132,913 for fiscal year 2025, \$700,065,148 for fiscal year 2026, \$732,427,298 for fiscal year 2027, \$766,285,465 for fiscal year 2028, and \$801,708,804 for fiscal year 2029”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “\$268,935,940” and all that follows through “fiscal year 2024” and inserting “\$339,525,428 for fiscal year 2025, \$355,220,786 for fiscal year 2026, \$371,641,698 for fiscal year 2027, \$388,821,705 for fiscal year 2028, and \$406,795,899 for fiscal year 2029”;

(3) in subsection (d), by striking “\$26,587,360” and all that follows through “fiscal year 2024” and inserting “\$33,565,929 for fiscal year 2025, \$35,117,593 for fiscal year 2026, \$36,740,986 for fiscal year 2027, \$38,439,424 for fiscal year 2028, and \$40,216,376 for fiscal year 2029”;

(4) in subsection (e), by striking “\$193,869,020” and all that follows through “fiscal year 2024” and inserting “\$244,755,171 for fiscal year 2025, \$256,069,552 for fiscal year 2026, \$267,906,966 for fiscal year 2027, \$280,291,593 for fiscal year 2028, and \$293,248,728 for fiscal year 2029”.

(b) NUTRITION SERVICES INCENTIVE PROGRAM.—Section 311(e) (42 U.S.C. 3030a(e)) is amended by striking “\$171,273,830” and all that follows through “fiscal year 2024” and inserting “\$216,229,264 for fiscal year 2025, \$226,224,968 for fiscal year 2026, \$236,682,747 for fiscal year 2027, \$247,623,961 for fiscal year 2028, and \$259,070,958 for fiscal year 2029”.

#### SEC. 803. ACTIVITIES FOR HEALTH, INDEPENDENCE, AND LONGEVITY.

Section 411(b) (42 U.S.C. 3032(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$14,514,550” and all that follows through “fiscal year 2024” and inserting “\$18,324,285 for fiscal year 2025, \$19,171,368 for fiscal year 2026, \$20,057,609 for fiscal year 2027, \$20,984,819 for fiscal year 2028, and \$21,954,892 for fiscal year 2029”;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “\$15,613,440” and all that follows through “fiscal year 2024” and inserting “\$19,711,608 for fiscal year 2025, \$20,622,823 for fiscal year 2026, \$21,576,161 for fiscal year 2027, \$22,573,570 for fiscal year 2028, and \$23,617,086 for fiscal year 2029”.

#### SEC. 804. COMMUNITY SERVICE SENIOR OPPORTUNITIES ACT.

Section 517(a) (42 U.S.C. 3056o(a)) is amended by striking “\$428,000,000” and all that follows through “fiscal year 2024” and inserting “\$540,340,139 for fiscal year 2025, \$565,318,627 for fiscal year 2026, \$591,451,804 for fiscal year 2027, \$618,793,048 for fiscal year 2028, and \$647,398,205 for fiscal year 2029”.

#### SEC. 805. GRANTS FOR NATIVE AMERICANS.

Section 643 (42 U.S.C. 3057n) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$37,102,560” and all that follows through “fiscal year 2024” and inserting “\$47,028,435 for fiscal year 2025, \$49,202,434 for fiscal year 2026, \$51,476,932 for fiscal year 2027, \$53,856,574 for fiscal year 2028, and \$56,346,220 for fiscal year 2029”;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “\$10,759,920” and all that follows through “fiscal year 2024” and inserting “\$13,584,151 for fiscal year 2025, \$14,212,110 for fiscal year 2026, \$14,869,098 for fiscal year 2027, \$15,556,457 for fiscal year 2028, and \$16,275,591 for fiscal year 2029”.

#### SEC. 806. ALLOTMENTS FOR ELDER RIGHTS PROTECTION ACTIVITIES.

Section 702 (42 U.S.C. 3058a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “\$18,066,950” and all that follows through “fiscal year 2024” and inserting “\$22,809,108 for fiscal year 2025, \$23,863,512 for fiscal year 2026, \$24,966,659 for fiscal year 2027, \$26,120,801 for fiscal year 2028, and \$27,328,297 for fiscal year 2029”;

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “\$5,107,110” and all that follows through “fiscal year 2024” and inserting “\$6,447,609 for fiscal year 2025, \$6,745,665 for fiscal year 2026, \$7,057,499 for fiscal year 2027, \$7,383,748 for fiscal year 2028, and \$7,725,079 for fiscal year 2029”.

**SA 3315.** Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. CARPER) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 43, expressing support for the designation of September 29, 2024, as “Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Day”; as follows:

In the first whereas clause of the preamble, strike “and the Philippine Insurrection”.

In the third whereas clause of the preamble, strike “has provided” and insert “and its predecessor organizations have provided”.

#### NOTICE OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEEDING

I, Senator RON WYDEN, intend to object to proceeding to S. 2492, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to improve coordination between the Do Not Pay working system and Federal and State agencies authorized to use the system, dated December 10, 2024.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I have two 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 THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

#### CONSTITUTING THE MAJORITY PARTY’S MEMBERSHIP ON CERTAIN COMMITTEES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 926, which was submitted earlier today.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 926) to constitute the majority party’s membership on certain committees for the One Hundred Eighteenth Congress, or until their successors are chosen.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 926) was agreed to.

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

#### OLDER AMERICANS ACT REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2024

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 505, S. 4776.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4776) to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2025 through 2029, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions 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 “Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2024”.



**SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title.
- Sec. 2. Table of contents.
- Sec. 3. References.
- Sec. 4. Definitions.

**TITLE I—STRENGTHENING THE AGING NETWORK TO MEET THE NEEDS OF OLDER INDIVIDUALS**

- Sec. 101. Declaration of objectives.
- Sec. 102. Addressing mental health and substance use disorders and cognitive impairments of older individuals.
- Sec. 103. List of national resource centers.
- Sec. 104. Awareness of relevant Federal programs.
- Sec. 105. Evaluations and surveys.
- Sec. 106. Contracting.
- Sec. 107. Guidance on transfers of funding between area agencies on aging.
- Sec. 108. Right to first refusal.
- Sec. 109. Area agency on aging capabilities.
- Sec. 110. Supporting older individuals with disabilities through improved coordination.
- Sec. 111. Business acumen, fiscal training, and technical assistance.
- Sec. 112. Enhancing access to assistive technology.
- Sec. 113. White House Conference on Aging.

**TITLE II—IMPROVING HEALTH OUTCOMES AND ENCOURAGING INDEPENDENCE FOR OLDER INDIVIDUALS**

- Sec. 201. Disease prevention and health promotion services.
- Sec. 202. Improving health outcomes.
- Sec. 203. Evidence-informed practices.
- Sec. 204. Enhancing multipurpose senior centers.
- Sec. 205. Addressing home modifications.
- Sec. 206. National resource center for engaging older adults.
- Sec. 207. Multigenerational and civic engagement activities.
- Sec. 208. GAO study and report on access to housing for older individuals.
- Sec. 209. Report relating to health outcomes for older individuals living with or near family members.
- Sec. 210. Improving broadband coordination and reducing social isolation.

**TITLE III—ENHANCING INNOVATION AND FLEXIBILITY IN NUTRITION SERVICES**

- Sec. 301. Medically tailored meals.
- Sec. 302. Nutrition service providers.
- Sec. 303. Grab-and-go meals.
- Sec. 304. Nutrition Services Incentive Program innovation.
- Sec. 305. GAO study on Nutrition Services Incentive Program.
- Sec. 306. Innovations in nutrition programs and services.

**TITLE IV—SUPPORTING FAMILY CAREGIVERS**

- Sec. 401. Improving the National Family Caregiver Support Program.
- Sec. 402. Emphasizing respite care.
- Sec. 403. Clarifying supportive services.
- Sec. 404. Direct care workforce resource center.
- Sec. 405. Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Act.
- Sec. 406. RAISE Family Caregivers Act.

**TITLE V—COMMUNITY SERVICE SENIOR OPPORTUNITIES ACT**

- Sec. 501. Improving the Community Service Employment Program.
- Sec. 502. GAO report on alignment within the Community Service Employment Program.

**TITLE VI—IMPROVING SERVICES FOR NATIVE ELDERLY**

- Sec. 601. Older Americans Tribal Advisory Committee.

Sec. 602. Supportive services; set aside.

Sec. 603. GAO report on Tribal services.

Sec. 604. Technical amendments.

**TITLE VII—STRENGTHENING THE LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAMS AND ELDER ABUSE PREVENTION**

- Sec. 701. Director of the Office of Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs.
- Sec. 702. Legal assistance training resources relating to elder abuse prevention.
- Sec. 703. Improving training of volunteers under the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.
- Sec. 704. Reporting on State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs.
- Sec. 705. Study on State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs.

**TITLE VIII—AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS**

- Sec. 801. Administration on Aging.
- Sec. 802. Grants for State and community programs on aging.
- Sec. 803. Activities for health, independence, and longevity.
- Sec. 804. Community Service Senior Opportunities Act.
- Sec. 805. Grants for Native Americans.
- Sec. 806. Allotments for elder rights protection activities.

**SEC. 3. REFERENCES.**

Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Act, wherever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or a repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to that section or other provision of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.).

**SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

In this Act, the terms “area agency on aging”, “Assistant Secretary”, “older individual”, and “Secretary” have the meanings given such terms in section 102 of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3002).

**TITLE I—STRENGTHENING THE AGING NETWORK TO MEET THE NEEDS OF OLDER INDIVIDUALS****SEC. 101. DECLARATION OF OBJECTIVES.**

Section 101 (42 U.S.C. 3001) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “of the following objectives:” and inserting “of the objectives of—”;

(2) in each of paragraphs (1) through (10), by amending the first word so that it begins with a lowercase letter;

(3) in each of paragraphs (1) through (8), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(4) in each of paragraphs (9) and (10), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(5) in paragraph (2), by inserting “to improve health outcomes and reduce health care expenditures” after “economic status”;

(6) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (10) as subparagraphs (A) through (J), respectively, and adjusting the margins accordingly;

(7) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) (as so redesignated), by striking “our democratic society, the older people” and inserting the following: “our democratic society—

“(1) the older people”;

(8) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) the families of older individuals and community-based organizations, including faith-based organizations, also play a vital role in supporting and honoring older individuals and their happiness, dignity, and independence.”.

**SEC. 102. ADDRESSING MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS AND COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENTS OF OLDER INDIVIDUALS.**

Section 201(f) (42 U.S.C. 3011(f)) is amended to read as follows:

“(f)(1) The Assistant Secretary may designate an officer or employee who shall be responsible for the administration of services for mental

health and substance use disorders and cognitive impairments authorized under this Act and serve as an effective and visible advocate for the related needs of older individuals within the Department of Health and Human Services, including by ensuring that relevant information disseminated and research conducted or supported by the Department takes into consideration such services.

“(2) It shall be the duty of the Assistant Secretary, acting through the individual designated under paragraph (1), and in consultation with the heads of relevant agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services, including the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, to develop objectives, priorities, and a long-term plan for supporting State and local efforts under this Act involving education about, and prevention, detection, and treatment of, mental health and substance use disorders and cognitive impairments, including age-related dementia, depression, and Alzheimer’s disease and related neurological disorders with neurological and organic brain dysfunction.

“(3) Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2024, the Assistant Secretary shall report to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, the Special Committee on Aging of the Senate, and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives on the activities of the officer or employee designated under paragraph (1) in carrying out the requirements under this subsection, including any activities to identify and reduce duplication and gaps across the Department in such information disseminated and research conducted or supported by the Department.”.

**SEC. 103. LIST OF NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTERS.**

Section 202 (42 U.S.C. 3012) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)(4), by striking “Resource Center on Elder Abuse” and inserting “Center”;

and

(2) by striking subsection (h) and inserting the following:

“(h)(1) The Assistant Secretary shall publish online in a publicly accessible format, on an annual basis, a list of national resource centers and demonstration projects authorized under, or administratively established through funds provided under, this Act.

“(2) The Assistant Secretary shall ensure that the list published pursuant to paragraph (1)—

“(A) includes—

“(i) a description of each such center and demonstration project, including the projected goals and activities of each such center and demonstration project;

“(ii) a citation to the statutory authorization of each such center and demonstration project, or a citation to the statutory authority that the Assistant Secretary relies upon to administratively establish each such center and demonstration project;

“(iii) the award amount for each such center and demonstration project; and

“(iv) a summary of any evaluations required under this Act for each such center, including a description of any measures of effectiveness; and

“(B) is directly provided to State agencies, area agencies on aging, and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Special Committee on Aging of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives.”.

**SEC. 104. AWARENESS OF RELEVANT FEDERAL PROGRAMS.**

Title II (42 U.S.C. 3011 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 203A (42 U.S.C. 3013a) the following:

**“SEC. 203B. AWARENESS OF RELEVANT FEDERAL PROGRAMS.**

“In carrying out section 203(a)(1), the Assistant Secretary shall coordinate with the heads of



relevant Federal departments and agencies to ensure that the aging network and individuals served under this Act are aware of, and, subject to applicable eligibility criteria, have access to, Federal programs that may advance the objectives of this Act, including programs described in section 203(b) and other programs to meet housing, health care, and other supportive service needs to help such individuals age in place.”.

#### SEC. 105. EVALUATIONS AND SURVEYS.

Section 206 (42 U.S.C. 3017) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

“(d)(1) In carrying out evaluations under this section, the Secretary shall—

“(A) award grants to, or enter into contracts with, public or nonprofit private organizations or academic or research institutions to survey State agencies, area agencies on aging, and other program and project participants about the strengths and weaknesses of the programs and projects; and

“(B) conduct, where appropriate, evaluations that compare the effectiveness of related programs in achieving common objectives.

“(2) The surveys and evaluations under paragraph (1) shall include information on programs, services, use and sources of funding (including any transfer of funding between area agencies on aging), identified unmet need for services and related indicators, and any other challenges faced by State agencies and area agencies on aging in carrying out the activities of this Act.

“(3) The Secretary shall, in carrying out the evaluations under paragraph (1), consult with organizations concerned with older individuals, including organizations that represent minority individuals, older individuals residing in rural areas, and older individuals with disabilities.”; and

(2) in subsection (g), by striking “him” and inserting “the Secretary”.

#### SEC. 106. CONTRACTING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 212 (42 U.S.C. 3020c) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “and grant authority”;

(2) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), this Act shall not be construed to prevent a recipient of a grant or a contract under this Act (other than title V) from entering into a contract, commercial relationship, or other business arrangement (referred to in this section as an ‘agreement’) with a profitmaking organization for the recipient to provide services to individuals or entities not otherwise receiving services under this Act, provided that—

“(1) in the case funds provided under this Act are used in developing or carrying out the agreement—

“(A) such agreement guarantees that the cost is reimbursed to the recipient;

“(B) if such agreement provides for the provision of 1 or more services, of the type provided under this Act by or on behalf of such recipient, to an individual or entity seeking to receive such services—

“(i) the individuals and entities may only purchase such services at their fair market rate;

“(ii) all costs incurred by the recipient in providing such services (and not otherwise reimbursed under subparagraph (A)), are reimbursed to such recipient; and

“(iii) except in the case of an agreement with a health plan or health care provider, the recipient reports the rates for providing such services under such agreement in accordance with subsection (c) and the rates are consistent with the prevailing market rate for provision of such services in the relevant geographic area as determined by the State agency or area agency on aging (as applicable); and

“(C) any amount of payment to the recipient under the agreement that exceeds reimbursement

under this subsection of the recipient’s costs is used to provide, or support the provision of, services under this Act; and

“(2) subject to subsection (e), in the case no funds provided under this Act are used in developing or carrying out the agreement—

“(A) not later than 45 days after the agreement first goes into effect, and annually thereafter until the termination of such agreement, the recipient of a grant or contract under this Act shall, in writing—

“(i) notify the State agency of—

“(I) the existence of the agreement; and

“(II) the services provided and populations served under the agreement; and

“(ii) provide assurances to the State agency that—

“(I) nothing in the agreement—

“(aa) undermines—

“(AA) the duties of the recipient under this Act; or

“(BB) the provision of services in accordance with this Act; or

“(bb) violates any other terms and conditions of an award received by the recipient under this Act; and

“(II) any potential real or perceived conflict of interest with respect to the agreement has been prevented, mitigated, or otherwise addressed, including providing a description of any such conflicts of interest and a description of the actions taken to mitigate such conflicts of interest; and

“(B) not later than 45 days after the population or services under the agreement substantially change due to an amendment to the agreement, the recipient shall, in writing—

“(i) notify the State agency of such change; and

“(ii) provide the assurances described in subparagraph (A)(ii) with respect to such change.”;

(3) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b) ENSURING APPROPRIATE USE OF FUNDS.—An agreement—

“(1) described in subsection (a)(1) may not—

“(A) be made without the prior approval of the State agency (or, in the case of a grantee under title VI, without the prior recommendation of the Director of the Office for American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Programs and the prior approval of the Assistant Secretary), after timely submission of all relevant documents related to the agreement including information on all costs incurred; or

“(B) directly or indirectly provide for, or have the effect of, paying, reimbursing, subsidizing, or otherwise compensating an individual or entity in an amount that exceeds the fair market value of the services subject to such agreement; and

“(2) described in subsection (a) may not—

“(A) result in the displacement of services otherwise available to an older individual with greatest social need, an older individual with greatest economic need, or an older individual who is at risk for institutional placement; or

“(B) in any other way compromise, undermine, or be inconsistent with the objective of serving the needs of older individuals, as determined by the Assistant Secretary.”;

(4) in subsection (c), by striking “subsection (a)” and inserting “subsection (a)(1)”;

(5) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

“(e) REQUESTING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR CERTAIN NON-OAA AGREEMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an agreement described in subsection (a)(2), if the State agency has a reasonable belief that an agreement may violate the assurances provided under subsection (a)(2)(A)(ii), the State agency may request additional information from the recipient of funds under this Act that is a party to such agreement, which may include a request for a copy of such agreement. Such recipient shall make a good faith effort to address such request for additional information, except that such re-

cipient shall not provide agreements or other data that are restricted under the terms of a non-disclosure agreement signed by such recipient. If such recipient declines to provide a copy of an agreement to a State agency, such recipient shall provide a justification to the State agency within 30 days of receiving such request.

“(2) CONFIDENTIALITY.—A State agency shall keep confidential, as required by applicable Federal and State law, all information received under this subsection that is—

“(A) a trade secret;

“(B) commercial or financial information; and

“(C) information obtained from an individual that is privileged and confidential.

“(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) COST.—The term ‘cost’ means an expense, including an administrative expense, incurred by a recipient in developing or carrying out an agreement described in subsection (a), whether the recipient contributed funds, staff time, or other plant, equipment, or services to meet the expense.

“(2) RECIPIENT.—The term ‘recipient’ means an area agency on aging in a State with multiple planning and service areas.”.

(b) AREA PLANS.—Section 306 (42 U.S.C. 3026) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(13)—

(A) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking “any service to older individuals” and inserting “any service under this Act to older individuals or caregivers”; and

(B) in subparagraph (E), by inserting “or caregivers under this Act” after “older individuals”; and

(2) in subsection (g), by inserting “, except as provided under section 212(a)(2),” after “Nothing in this Act”.

#### SEC. 107. GUIDANCE ON TRANSFERS OF FUNDING BETWEEN AREA AGENCIES ON AGING.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary shall disseminate guidance to State agencies (as defined in section 102 of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3002)) and area agencies on aging on circumstances under which funds appropriated pursuant to part B and subparts 1 and 2 of part C of title III of the Older Americans Act (42 U.S.C. 3030d et seq., 42 U.S.C. 3030e et seq., 42 U.S.C. 3030f et seq.) may be appropriate to transfer between area agencies on aging, with the approval of the State agency and the concurrence of any involved area agencies on aging, within a budget year.

#### SEC. 108. RIGHT TO FIRST REFUSAL.

Section 305(b)(5)(B) (42 U.S.C. 3025(b)(5)(B)) is amended to read as follows:

“(B) Whenever a State agency designates a new area agency on aging after the date of enactment of the Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2024, the State agency shall give the right to first refusal to a unit of general purpose local government if—

“(i) such unit can meet the requirements of subsection (c);

“(ii) (I) such unit has demonstrated experience administering services for older individuals; or

“(II) the State agency determines that there is not another entity eligible under subsection (c)(1) within the planning and service area with such demonstrated experience; and

“(iii) the boundaries of such unit and the boundaries of the planning and service area are reasonably contiguous.”.

#### SEC. 109. AREA AGENCY ON AGING CAPABILITIES.

(a) ORGANIZATION.—Section 305(c) (42 U.S.C. 3025(c)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (5) as subparagraphs (A) through (E), respectively, and moving such subparagraphs 2 ems to the right;

(2) by striking “shall be” and inserting the following: “shall—

“(1) be—”;

(3) in subparagraph (E), as so redesignated—

(A) by striking “(b)(5)” and inserting “(b)(5)(A)”; and

(B) by inserting “and” after the semicolon; and

(4) by striking “and shall provide assurance, determined adequate by the State agency, that the area agency on aging will have the ability to develop an area plan and to carry out, directly or through contractual or other arrangements, a program in accordance with the plan within the planning and service area.” and inserting the following:

“(2) provide assurance, determined adequate by the State agency, that the area agency on aging will have the ability, and maintain the capabilities necessary, to develop an area plan as required under section 306(a), and carry out, directly or through contractual or other arrangements, and oversee activities in accordance with—

“(A) the plan within the planning and service area;

“(B) any other relevant requirements of this Act;

“(C) other applicable Federal and State laws; and

“(D) other terms and conditions of awards received under this Act.”.

(b) **PLANS.**—Section 306(f)(1) (42 U.S.C. 3026(f)(1)) is amended—

(1) by inserting “the assurances required under section 305(c)(2),” after “of this section,”; and

(2) by striking the period at the end and inserting “, and if the State agency determines, in the discretion of the State agency, that an area agency on aging failed in 2 successive years to comply with the requirements under this title, then the State agency may require the area agency on aging to submit a plan for a 1-year period that meets such requirements, for subsequent years until the State agency determines that the area agency on aging is in compliance with such requirements.”.

#### **SEC. 110. SUPPORTING OLDER INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES THROUGH IMPROVED COORDINATION.**

(a) **AREA PLANS.**—Section 306(a)(5) (42 U.S.C. 3026(a)(5)) is amended by striking “with agencies that develop or provide services for individuals with disabilities” and inserting “with entities that develop or provide services for individuals with disabilities, which may include centers for independent living, relevant service providers, and other community-based organizations, as appropriate”.

(b) **SUPPORTING OLDER INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES THROUGH IMPROVED COORDINATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator of the Administration for Community Living of the Department of Health and Human Services (referred to in this section as the “Administrator”) shall identify—

(A) opportunities to improve coordination between the aging and disability networks, which may include the formation of partnerships to serve individuals eligible for programs under the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.);

(B) lessons learned from disability networks, including centers for independent living, State developmental disabilities councils, university centers for excellence in developmental disabilities education, research, and service, and State protection and advocacy agencies that could improve operations and service delivery within the aging network; and

(C) any technical assistance needs related to subparagraphs (A) and (B).

(2) **GUIDANCE.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall issue guidance to State agencies and area agencies on aging on strategies to leverage disability networks, including centers for independent living, State developmental disabilities councils, university centers for excellence in developmental disabilities, education, research,

and service, and State protection and advocacy agencies, as appropriate, to strengthen the provision of services under the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.).

(3) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—The Administrator shall coordinate across the Administration for Community Living to address any technical assistance needs identified under paragraph (1)(C) in a manner that does not unnecessarily duplicate other technical assistance activities carried out prior to the date of enactment of this Act.

#### **SEC. 111. BUSINESS ACUMEN, FISCAL TRAINING, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**

Section 307(a) (42 U.S.C. 3027(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(31) The plan shall provide assurances that the State agency may provide technical assistance, as needed, for area agencies on aging related to the development of business acumen, sound fiscal practices, capacity building, organizational development, innovation, and other methods of growing and sustaining the capacity of the aging network to carry out activities funded under this Act to serve older individuals and caregivers most effectively.”.

#### **SEC. 112. ENHANCING ACCESS TO ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY.**

Section 307(a) (42 U.S.C. 3027(a)), as amended by section 111 of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(32) The plan shall provide assurances that the State will coordinate services, to the extent feasible, with lead agencies designated to carry out State assistive technology programs under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) and with area agencies on aging to assist eligible older individuals, including older individuals with disabilities, in accessing and acquiring assistive technology.”.

#### **SEC. 113. WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON AGING.**

Title II of the Older Americans Act Amendments of 1987 (42 U.S.C. 3001 note; Public Law 100-175) is amended by striking title II and inserting the following:

#### **“TITLE II—WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON AGING**

##### **“SEC. 201. AUTHORIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE.**

“(a) **AUTHORITY TO CALL CONFERENCE.**—Not earlier than January 21, 2025 and not later than December 31, 2025, the President shall convene the White House Conference on Aging in order to fulfill the purpose set forth in subsection (c) and to make fundamental policy recommendations regarding programs that are important to older individuals and to the families and communities of such individuals.

“(b) **PLANNING AND DIRECTION.**—The Conference described in subsection (a) shall be planned and conducted under the direction of the Secretary, in cooperation with the Assistant Secretary for Aging, the Director of the National Institute on Aging, the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Social Security Administrator, and the heads of such other Federal agencies serving older individuals as are appropriate. Planning and conducting the Conference includes the assignment of personnel.

“(c) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of the Conference described in subsection (a) shall be to gather individuals representing the spectrum of thought and experience in the field of aging to—

“(1) evaluate the manner in which the objectives of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) can be met by using the resources and talents of older individuals, of families and communities of such individuals, and of individuals from the public and private sectors;

“(2) evaluate the manner in which Federal policies, programs, and activities meet and respond to the needs of older individuals, including an examination of innovative and fiscally responsible strategies relating to retirement security, caregiving, nutrition and supportive services, health care, elder justice, and long-term services and supports;

“(3) review the work and recommendations of the Interagency Coordinating Committee on Healthy Aging and Age-Friendly Communities, and evaluate the recommendations of the Committee, which may include implementation strategies for such recommendations;

“(4) develop recommendations to guide the President, Congress, and Federal agencies in improving Federal programs that serve older individuals, which may relate to the prevention and mitigation of disease, injury, abuse, social isolation, loneliness, and economic insecurity, including food insecurity, and promotion of healthy aging in place.

#### **“(d) CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS AND DELEGATES.—**

“(1) **PARTICIPANTS.**—In order to carry out the purposes of this section, the Conference shall bring together—

“(A) representatives of Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments;

“(B) professionals and volunteers who are working in the field of aging; and

“(C) representatives of the general public, particularly older individuals.

“(2) **SELECTION OF DELEGATES.**—The delegates shall be selected without regard to political affiliation or past partisan activity and shall, to the best of the appointing authority’s ability, be representative of the spectrum of thought in the field of aging. Delegates shall include older individuals, individuals who are professionals in the field of aging, individuals who are community leaders, minority individuals, individuals from rural areas, low-income individuals, and representatives of Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments.

#### **“SEC. 202. CONFERENCE ADMINISTRATION.**

“(a) **ADMINISTRATION.**—In administering this section, the Secretary shall—

“(1) consult with relevant State, Tribal, and local officials, stakeholders, and subject matter experts in planning the Conference;

“(2) request the cooperation and assistance of the heads of such other Federal departments and agencies, including such officials of the Interagency Coordinating Committee on Healthy Aging and Age-Friendly Communities, as may be appropriate in the carrying out of this section;

“(3) make available for public comment a proposed agenda for the Conference, which will reflect to the greatest extent possible the major issues facing older individuals, consistent with the provisions of section 201(c);

“(4) prepare and make available such background materials for the use of delegates to the Conference as the Secretary deems necessary; and

“(5) engage such additional personnel as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section without regard to provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service, and without regard to chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title, relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates.

“(b) **DUTIES.**—The Secretary shall, in carrying out the Secretary’s responsibilities and functions under this section, and as part of the White House Conference on Aging, ensure that—

“(1) the agenda prepared under subsection (a)(3) for the Conference is published in the Federal Register not later than 30 days after such agenda is approved by the Secretary;

“(2) the personnel engaged under subsection (a)(5) shall be fairly balanced in terms of points of views represented and shall be appointed without regard to political affiliation or previous partisan activities;

“(3) the recommendations of the Conference are not inappropriately influenced by any appointing authority or by any special interest, but will instead be the result of the independent judgment of the Conference; and

“(4) current and adequate statistical data, including decennial census data, and other information on the well-being of older individuals in

the United States, are readily available, in advance of the Conference, to the delegates of the Conference, together with such information as may be necessary to evaluate Federal programs and policies relating to aging. In carrying out this subparagraph, the Secretary is authorized to make grants to, and enter into cooperative agreements with, public agencies and nonprofit private organizations.

“(c) **GIFTS.**—The Secretary may accept, on behalf of the United States, gifts (in cash or in kind, including voluntary and uncompensated services) that shall be available to carry out this title. Gifts of cash shall be available in addition to amounts appropriated to carry out this title. Gifts may be earmarked by the donor for a specific purpose.

“(d) **RECORDS.**—The Secretary shall maintain records regarding—

“(1) the sources, amounts, and uses of gifts accepted under subsection (c); and

“(2) the identity of each person receiving assistance to carry out this title, and the amount of such assistance received by each such person.

#### “SEC. 203. REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE.

“(a) **PRELIMINARY REPORT.**—Not later than 100 days after the date on which the Conference adjourns, the Secretary shall publish and deliver to the States a preliminary report on the Conference. Comments on the preliminary report of the Conference shall be accepted by the Secretary.

“(b) **FINAL REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Conference adjourns, the Secretary shall publish and transmit to the President and to Congress recommendations resulting from the Conference and suggestions for any administrative action and legislation necessary to implement the recommendations contained within the report.

#### “SEC. 204. DEFINITIONS.

“In this title:

“(1) **CONFERENCE.**—The term ‘Conference’ means the White House Conference on Aging.

“(2) **SECRETARY.**—The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

“(3) **STATE.**—The term ‘State’ means any of the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands of the United States, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.”

### **TITLE II—IMPROVING HEALTH OUTCOMES AND ENCOURAGING INDEPENDENCE FOR OLDER INDIVIDUALS**

#### **SEC. 201. DISEASE PREVENTION AND HEALTH PROMOTION SERVICES.**

Section 102(14) (42 U.S.C. 3002(14)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “heart rate, respiratory function,” after “hearing,”;

(2) in subparagraph (K), by inserting “providing” before “information”;

(3) by redesignating subparagraphs (L), (M), (N), and (O), as subparagraphs (M), (N), (O), and (P), respectively;

(4) by inserting after subparagraph (K) the following:

“(L) providing information concerning testing, diagnosis, and treatment of infectious diseases, taking into consideration infectious diseases for which older individuals are at increased risk of infection or serious health outcomes,”; and

(5) in subparagraph (P), as so redesignated, by striking “subparagraphs (A) through (N)” and inserting “subparagraphs (A) through (O)”.

#### **SEC. 202. IMPROVING HEALTH OUTCOMES.**

(a) **RESEARCH AND EVALUATION ACTIVITIES.**—Section 201 (42 U.S.C. 3011) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(3)(B), by striking “in behalf” and inserting “on behalf”; and

(2) in subsection (g)—

(A) in paragraph (3)(A)(ii), by inserting “reduction of health care expenditures,” after “quality of life,”; and

(B) in paragraph (7), by inserting “and recommendations relating to further research, evaluation, and demonstration projects conducted under this section” after “title IV”.

(b) **FALLS PREVENTION PROGRAMS.**—Section 411(a)(15) (42 U.S.C. 3032(a)(15)) is amended to read as follows:

“(15) bringing to scale and sustaining evidence-based or evidence-informed falls prevention programs to reduce the number of falls, fear of falling, and fall-related injuries affecting older individuals, including older individuals with disabilities, which shall—

“(A) provide training and technical assistance to the aging network; and

“(B) share best practices with the aging network, including the Aging and Disability Resource Centers;”.

(c) **INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON HEALTHY AGING AND AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES.**—Section 203(c) (42 U.S.C. 3013(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (6)(B)—

(A) in clause (ii), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(B) in clause (iii), by inserting “and” after the semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(iv) strategies to address social isolation, including by promoting strong and stable connections across different generations in a family and in the community;”;

(2) in paragraph (7)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (D); and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

“(C) contains an assessment of the effectiveness of relevant Federal efforts and programs, including implementation of best practices described in paragraph (6)(B); and”.

#### **SEC. 203. EVIDENCE-INFORMED PRACTICES.**

(a) **DISEASE PREVENTION AND HEALTH PROMOTION SERVICES.**—Section 361(a) (42 U.S.C. 3030m(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking “(a)” and inserting “(a)(1)”;

(2) in the first sentence, by inserting after “promotion services” the following: “, or, as applicable and appropriate, evidence-informed practices that are likely to improve health outcomes,”; and

(3) by striking the second sentence and inserting the following:

“(2) In carrying out such program, the Assistant Secretary shall—

“(A) provide technical assistance on the delivery of evidence-based disease prevention and health promotion services, and, as applicable and appropriate, such evidence-informed practices, in different settings and for different populations;

“(B) develop, make publicly available, and update on a regular basis a list of such evidence-informed practices; and

“(C) consult with the Directors of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institute on Aging.”.

(b) **FUNCTIONS OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY.**—Section 202 (42 U.S.C. 3012) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(28), by inserting after “promotion services” the following: “, or, as applicable and appropriate, evidence-informed practices that are likely to improve health outcomes,”; and

(2) in subsection (b)(9)(B), by inserting after “services programs” the following: “, or, as applicable and appropriate, evidence-informed practices that are likely to improve health outcomes”.

(c) **CHRONIC DISEASE SELF-MANAGEMENT EDUCATION.**—Section 411(a)(16) (42 U.S.C. 3032(a)(16)) is amended by inserting “or evidence-informed” after “evidence-based”.

#### **SEC. 204. ENHANCING MULTIPURPOSE SENIOR CENTERS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 202(a)(30) (42 U.S.C. 3012(a)(30)) is amended—

(1) by inserting “establishment, maintenance, and” after “to support the”; and

(2) by inserting “and access to services provided at multipurpose senior centers” before the semicolon at the end.

(b) **AREA AGENCY ON AGING PLANS.**—Section 306(a)(2)(A) (42 U.S.C. 3026(a)(2)(A)) is amended by inserting “, including those services provided at multipurpose senior centers, where appropriate” before the semicolon at the end.

(c) **STATE PLANS.**—Section 307(a)(2)(A) (42 U.S.C. 3027(a)(2)(A)) is amended by inserting “and, to the extent feasible, make such evaluation public” before the semicolon at the end.

#### **SEC. 205. ADDRESSING HOME MODIFICATIONS.**

(a) **INDOOR AIR QUALITY.**—Section 361(c) (42 U.S.C. 3030m(c)) is amended by striking “buildings” and all that follows and inserting “buildings and residences where older individuals congregate or live”.

(b) **WEATHERIZATION.**—Section 321(a)(4) (42 U.S.C. 3030d(a)(4)) is amended by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting “(A) to assist older individuals to obtain adequate housing, including residential repair and renovation projects, and (if assistance for weatherization projects does not unnecessarily duplicate other Federal assistance available) weatherization projects, designed to enable older individuals to maintain their homes in conformity with minimum housing and other relevant standards, in order to support such older individuals in aging in place and maintaining their health;”.

#### **SEC. 206. NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR ENGAGING OLDER ADULTS.**

Section 411(a)(18) (42 U.S.C. 3032(a)(18)) is amended by inserting “, such as providing appropriate training, resources, and best practices to the aging network” after “older individuals”.

#### **SEC. 207. MULTIGENERATIONAL AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES.**

Section 417 (42 U.S.C. 3032f) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “projects,” and all that follows and inserting the following: “projects to serve individuals in younger generations and older individuals by developing, carrying out, and promoting participation in multigenerational activities, which projects may include—”;

(B) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “provide” and inserting “providing”;

(C) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “coordinate” and inserting “coordinating”; and

(ii) by adding “and” at the end;

(D) by striking paragraphs (3) and (4) and inserting the following:

“(3) promoting volunteerism, including by providing opportunities—

“(A) for older individuals to become mentors to individuals in younger generations; and

“(B) at facilities that serve older individuals or individuals in younger generations, at which multigenerational activities might occur.”;

(2) in subsection (c)(2), by striking “(4)” and inserting “(3)”;

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) by striking paragraph (1); and

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (5) as paragraphs (1) through (4); and

(4) in subsection (h)(1), by striking “or a family support program.” and inserting “or a family support program, or a program at a multipurpose senior center, long-term care facility, or any other residential facility for older individuals.”.

#### **SEC. 208. GAO STUDY AND REPORT ON ACCESS TO HOUSING FOR OLDER INDIVIDUALS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study that analyzes housing programs and services for older individuals under the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.).

(b) **INCLUSIONS.**—The study under this section shall include—

(1) an analysis of the Interagency Coordinating Committee on Healthy Aging and Age-Friendly Communities that—

(A) assesses any metrics used by the Committee to evaluate the success of the Committee's activities and related Federal programs;

(B) evaluates interagency coordination of Federal housing programs for older individuals; and

(C) assesses the availability of affordable housing for older individuals as the result of interagency coordination;

(2) an analysis of any overlap between, and gaps in, housing programs and services that assist older individuals in obtaining accessible and affordable housing that achieves the objectives of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.), including programs under the Administration for Community Living, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and other Federal programs, as applicable, and the availability, accessibility, and demand for such services;

(3) an analysis of the availability of affordable housing for such older individuals, to the extent such information is available and taking into consideration incomes and geographic and demographic trends; and

(4) any recommendations to improve the supply, accessibility, and affordability of housing for older individuals and coordination of services provided under the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) and other related Federal programs, as applicable.

(c) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Special Committee on Aging of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives a report on the results of the study under this section.

#### **SEC. 209. REPORT RELATING TO HEALTH OUTCOMES FOR OLDER INDIVIDUALS LIVING WITH OR NEAR FAMILY MEMBERS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall prepare a report that assesses—

(1) the health outcomes for older individuals who live with, on the same property as, or otherwise in the community in close geographic proximity, relative to the area, to family members; and

(2) the degree to which programs under the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) promote living in the settings described in paragraph (1), as appropriate.

(b) **INCLUSION.**—The report described under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) an assessment of physical and mental health outcomes of older individuals who live in the settings described in subsection (a)(1) in comparison to physical and mental health outcomes of older individuals who do not live in such settings;

(2) an assessment of the extent to which living in such settings mitigates social isolation and loneliness in older adults; and

(3) a description of the different types of such settings and whether, and to what extent, findings under paragraphs (1) and (2) vary across such different types.

(c) **SUBMISSION.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Special Committee on Aging of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives the report required by subsection (a).

#### **SEC. 210. IMPROVING BROADBAND COORDINATION AND REDUCING SOCIAL ISOLATION.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Assistant Secretary shall, as appropriate, coordinate with the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information of the National Tele-

communications and Information Administration to ensure that the aging network (as defined in section 102 of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3002)) and other relevant stakeholders are aware of, and, subject to applicable eligibility criteria, have access to, Federal programs relating to digital literacy and the adoption of broadband that may support aging in place for older individuals.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary shall prepare, and submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, the Special Committee on Aging, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives, a report regarding any coordination efforts carried out pursuant to subsection (a).

### **TITLE III—ENHANCING INNOVATION AND FLEXIBILITY IN NUTRITION SERVICES**

#### **SEC. 301. MEDICALLY TAILORED MEALS.**

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—Section 102(14) (42 U.S.C. 3002(14)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “, which may include counseling related to the provision of medically tailored meals,” after “counseling”; and

(2) in subparagraph (D), by inserting “(including from medically tailored meals)” after “improved nutrition”.

(b) **ADMINISTRATION OF NUTRITION SERVICES.**—Section 205(a)(2)(A) (42 U.S.C. 3016(a)(2)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (vi), by inserting “, including through the use of innovative approaches” after “systems”; and

(2) in clause (viii), by inserting “and innovative interventions” after “including strategies”.

(c) **NUTRITION EDUCATION.**—Section 214(2)(C) (42 U.S.C. 3020e(2)(C)) is amended by inserting “, including interventions,” after “other activities”.

(d) **NUTRITION SERVICES PURPOSES.**—Section 330(3) (42 U.S.C. 3030d–21(3)) is amended by inserting “, tailored to their individual medical and nutritional needs to the extent feasible,” after “services”.

#### **SEC. 302. NUTRITION SERVICE PROVIDERS.**

Section 339 (42 U.S.C. 3030g–21) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (2)(L), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) where feasible, when selecting local nutrition providers, give consideration to the capabilities of community-based organizations if such organizations meet the requirements of subpart 1 or 2 and can provide nutrition services in the designated area.”.

#### **SEC. 303. GRAB-AND-GO MEALS.**

Section 308(b)(4) (42 U.S.C. 3028(b)(4)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(E) A State may elect in its plan under section 307 to allow use of not more than 25 percent of the funds received by such State under subpart 1 of part C, calculated after any transfers under subparagraphs (A) and (B) are completed, to make meals available at congregate meal sites or other community locations for consumption by older individuals outside such sites and locations, such as carry-out or similar meals. A State electing to allow use of funds under the preceding sentence shall—

“(i) ensure that such allowable use complements the delivery of services through the congregate meals program under section 331; and

“(ii) notify the Assistant Secretary of such election, including a description of the amount and percentage of funds received by such State under subpart 1 of part C to be used for such purposes.”.

#### **SEC. 304. NUTRITION SERVICES INCENTIVE PROGRAM INNOVATION.**

Section 311 (42 U.S.C. 3030a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “subsection (e)” and inserting “subsection (f)(1)”;

(2) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as subsections (f) and (g), respectively;

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

“(e)(1) Subject to subsection (f)(2), a State agency or title VI grantee may, through grants to, or contracts with, recipients (as determined eligible by the State agency or title VI grantee), implement innovative approaches, including any approaches demonstrated to be effective through an award under section 340, to achieve the purposes described in section 330(1) by improving—

“(A) the quality, composition, preparation, modality, delivery, or location of meals provided to older individuals under this Act; or

“(B) the efficiency and effectiveness of distributing, delivering, or otherwise making meals available to older individuals under this Act.

“(2) In implementing approaches under paragraph (1), a State agency or title VI grantee may, with the approval of the Assistant Secretary, waive any requirements of subparts 1 or 2 of part C or section 339 if the State agency or title VI grantee determines that such requirements impede the ability of such State agency or title VI grantee to successfully implement such approach. The Assistant Secretary shall approve a request for a waiver under the preceding sentence unless the Assistant Secretary determines that such waiver is not consistent with the objectives of this Act or the purposes described in section 330(1).

“(3) The authority to carry out activities described in paragraph (1) shall expire on October 1, 2029.

“(4) Not later than September 30, 2028, the Assistant Secretary shall submit a report to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Special Committee on Aging of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives describing any activities carried out by State agencies or title VI grantees under paragraph (1), an assessment of the outcomes of such activities, and recommendations for scaling implementation of any successful innovative approaches within programs established under this section or subparts 1 and 2 of part C.”; and

(4) in subsection (f), as so redesignated—

(A) by striking “There are” and inserting “(1) There are”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) If the amount appropriated to carry out this section for a fiscal year exceeds the amount appropriated to carry out this section for the prior fiscal year or fiscal year 2024, whichever is greater, a State agency and title VI grantee in receipt of an allotment under subsection (b) may elect to use the difference between the allotment received for the fiscal year and the allotment received for the prior fiscal year or fiscal year 2024, whichever is greater, for activities described in subsection (e).”.

#### **SEC. 305. GAO STUDY ON NUTRITION SERVICES INCENTIVE PROGRAM.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study to evaluate the Nutrition Services Incentive Program under section 311 (42 U.S.C. 3030a) (referred to in this section as the “Program”).

(b) **INCLUSIONS.**—The study under this section—

(1) shall—

(A) include an assessment of how States and Tribal organizations use funding provided under the Program, including the degree to which States and Tribal organizations use such funding to procure food products from local or regional producers for meals supported under the Program; and

(B) identify any challenges or barriers to increasing the use of local and regional producers under the Program; and

(2) may make recommendations related to improving the effectiveness of the Program, including with respect to the use of local and regional producers.

(c) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Special Committee on Aging of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives a report on the results of the study under this section.

#### **SEC. 306. INNOVATIONS IN NUTRITION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.**

Subpart 3 of part C of title III (42 U.S.C. 3030g–21 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

#### **“SEC. 340. INNOVATIONS IN NUTRITION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.**

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—From funds available under subsection (d), the Assistant Secretary shall make grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible entities, to achieve the purposes of section 330(1) by developing, implementing, and evaluating innovative local or regional approaches to improve the quality, effectiveness, efficiency, and outcomes of nutrition programs and services described in sections 311, 331, and 336.

“(b) **ELIGIBILITY.**—In order to be eligible for a grant under subsection (a), an entity shall—

“(1) be—

“(A) a State agency, an area agency on aging, an Indian Tribe, a Tribal organization, a nutrition service provider, a multipurpose senior center, a health care entity, an institution of higher education, or another public or nonprofit private entity; or

“(B) a partnership between any entities described in subparagraph (A); and

“(2) submit an application at such time and in such manner as the Assistant Secretary may require, including—

“(A) a description of an innovative approach referred to in subsection (a) that the entity proposes to implement under the grant;

“(B) a plan for evaluating the effectiveness, including cost-effectiveness, of the innovative approach proposed; and

“(C) as appropriate, plans for the publication of the results of such evaluation.

“(c) **REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2024, and annually thereafter, the Assistant Secretary shall submit a report to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Special Committee on Aging of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives describing any activities carried out under subsection (a), an assessment of the outcomes of such activities, and recommendations for scaling implementation of any successful innovative approaches implemented under this section, through programs established under section 311, 331, or 336.

“(d) **RESERVATION.**—From the total of the amounts made available for a fiscal year under paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 303(b) and in section 311(f), the Assistant Secretary shall reserve an amount equal to not more than 1 percent to carry out activities described in subsection (a).”

#### **TITLE IV—SUPPORTING FAMILY CAREGIVERS**

#### **SEC. 401. IMPROVING THE NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT PROGRAM.**

(a) **STATE REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS ON AGING GRANTS.**—Section 305(a)(3)(E) (42 U.S.C. 3025(a)(3)(E)) is amended—

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

(2) in clause (ii), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(iii) available supports for family caregivers and older relative caregivers (as defined in section 372(a)).”

(b) **AREA PLAN REQUIREMENTS.**—Section 306(a)(7)(D) (42 U.S.C. 3026(a)(7)(D)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking “and” at the end; (2) in clause (ii), by adding “and” after the semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(iii) available supports for family caregivers and older relative caregivers (as defined in section 372(a)).”

(c) **DEFINITIONS RELATING TO THE NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT PROGRAM.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 372(a) (42 U.S.C. 3030s(a)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the first sentence, by striking “The term” and inserting the following:

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (A) (as so designated), in the second sentence—

(I) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(II) by striking “Such assessment shall be administered through” and inserting the following:

“(B) **ADMINISTRATION OF ASSESSMENTS.**—A caregiver assessment under subparagraph (A) shall—

“(i) be administered through”; and

(III) by adding at the end the following:

“(ii) take into account—

“(I) linguistic and cultural differences;

“(II) the ease for the caregiver to access information, supports, or services, and the timeliness of access to such information, supports, or services;

“(III) barriers to accessing information, supports, or services;

“(IV) the availability of information, supports, or services in accessible formats; and

“(V) the quality of information, supports, or services received, and the degree to which it is helpful to the caregiver.”;

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) **CHILD OR YOUTH.**—The term ‘child or youth’ means an individual who is not more than—

“(A) 18 years of age; or

“(B) 22 years of age, in the case of an individual who is enrolled in any form of schooling (including on a part-time basis), including—

“(i) in high school or secondary school (as such terms are defined in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801)); or

“(ii) in an institution of higher education (as defined in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)).”;

(C) in paragraph (4)(B)(i), by inserting “adult” after “or other”.

(2) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—Part E of title III (42 U.S.C. 3030s et seq.) is amended—

(A) by inserting “or youth” after “child” each place it appears (other than in section 372(a)(2) (as amended by paragraph (1)(B)); and

(B) by inserting “or youth” after “children” each place it appears (other than in section 373(c)(3)(A) (as amended by subsection (d)(2)(B)).

(d) **PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**—Section 373 (42 U.S.C. 3030s–1) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(3)—

(A) by inserting “which may include trauma-informed services, peer supports,” after “individual counseling,”; and

(B) by inserting “elder abuse prevention,” after “nutrition,”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “PRIORITY” and inserting “PRIORITY; CONSIDERATION”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) **CONSIDERATION.**—In providing services under this part, the State shall consider—

“(A) that older relative caregivers caring for multiple children or youth may need greater resources and supports; and

“(B) the circumstances and unique needs of different types of caregivers, including the needs of children and their older relative caregivers whose families have been affected by substance use disorder, including opioid use disorder.”;

(3) in subsection (e)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “Not later than” and all that follows through “the Assistant Secretary shall” and inserting “The Assistant Secretary shall, on a regular basis”;;

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by inserting “or evidence-informed” after “evidence-based”; and

(II) by striking “and” at the end;

(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (D); and

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

“(C) the use of caregiver assessments; and”; and

(C) in paragraph (2), by striking “make available” and inserting “prepare, publish, and disseminate”;

(4) in subsection (i)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “, which may include the improvement of the quality and consistency of caregiver assessments and access to other information, supports, or services” after “section 631”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “(including outcome measures)” after “program evaluation”; and

(5) in subsection (j)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “Not later than” and all that follows through “shall provide technical assistance” and inserting “Beginning not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2024, the Assistant Secretary, in consultation with stakeholders with appropriate expertise and, as appropriate, informed by the most recent strategy developed under the RAISE Family Caregivers Act (42 U.S.C. 3030s note) and the most recent report developed under the Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Act (Public Law 115–196; 132 Stat. 1511), shall provide ongoing technical assistance”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the end;

(C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(D) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) the quality and consistency of caregiver assessments used across States; and”.

#### **SEC. 402. EMPHASIZING RESPITE CARE.**

Section 321(a)(19) (42 U.S.C. 3030d(a)(19)) is amended to read as follows:

“(19) services, which may include respite care through various models, designed to support family members and other persons providing voluntary care to older individuals that need long-term care services, which may include older individuals with cognitive impairments such as Alzheimer’s disease and related disorders with neurological and organic brain dysfunction.”.

#### **SEC. 403. CLARIFYING SUPPORTIVE SERVICES.**

Section 321(a)(18) (42 U.S.C. 3030d(a)(18)) is amended by striking “mentally impaired older individuals” and inserting “older individuals with cognitive, physical, or mental impairments”.

#### **SEC. 404. DIRECT CARE WORKFORCE RESOURCE CENTER.**

Section 411(a)(13) (42 U.S.C. 3032(a)(13)) is amended—

(1) by striking subparagraph (B);

(2) by striking “(13)” and all that follows through “(A) to” and inserting the following:

“(13) in coordination with the Secretary of Labor and, as appropriate, the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, the establishment and operation of a national resource center that supports the growth and

professionalization of the direct care workforce necessary to meet the needs of older individuals and individuals with disabilities, and, in a manner that does not unnecessarily duplicate the activities of other resource centers supported by the Assistant Secretary, that addresses training and other educational needs of family caregivers, which activities of the center may include—

“(A) the provision of training and technical assistance, including through the development and dissemination of educational materials, to direct care workers and family caregivers; and

“(B) supporting the demonstration of new, and promoting existing, strategies for the recruitment, retention, career development, or advancement of direct care workers to”; and

(3) in subparagraph (B), as so designated in paragraph (2), by striking “; and” at the end and inserting a semicolon.

**SEC. 405. SUPPORTING GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN ACT.**

(a) **FINDINGS.**—The Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Act (Public Law 115–196; 132 Stat. 1511) is amended by striking section 2.

(b) **DEFINITIONS.**—The Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Act is amended by redesignating section 4 as section 2 and moving the section so as to follow section 1.

(c) **ADVISORY COUNCIL.**—Section 3 of the Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Act is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by redesignating subparagraphs (G) through (I) as subparagraphs (H) through (J);

(ii) by inserting after subparagraph (F) the following:

“(G) The Assistant Secretary for Health.”;

(iii) in subparagraph (I), as so redesignated, by striking “of children”; and

(iv) in subparagraph (J), as so redesignated, by striking “relatives” and inserting “relative caregivers”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) **LIMITATION ON NON-FEDERAL MEMBERS.**—Not more than 10 members of the Advisory Council may be individuals who are not Federal officers or employees.”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “relatives” and inserting “relative caregivers”; and

(II) in clause (i)—

(aa) by striking “the health,” and inserting “the near- and long-term health, including mental health.”; and

(bb) by striking “care; and” and inserting “care, including any needs related to the circumstances that caused such children to be raised by a grandparent or older relative caregiver; and”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking “(B)” and all that follows through “In” and inserting the following:

“(B) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—In”; and

(II) by striking “needs of those affected by the opioid crisis” and inserting “needs and challenges of individuals affected by substance use disorder, including opioid use disorder, or, as applicable and appropriate, needs and challenges of individuals related to other circumstances, which may include public health emergencies”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “enactment of this Act” and inserting “enactment of the Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2024”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in clause (i)—

(aa) by striking “relatives” and inserting “relative caregivers”; and

(bb) by striking “needs of children” and all that follows through “epidemic,” and inserting

“needs of children and their older relative caregivers who have been affected by substance use disorder, including opioid use disorder.”;

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

(III) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (iv); and

(IV) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

“(iii) a description of any activities of the Department of Health and Human Services to evaluate the effectiveness of supportive services in addressing the needs of children and their older relative caregivers, including those who have been affected by substance use disorder, including opioid use disorder, and any related findings; and”;

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “(3)” and all that follows through “Not” and inserting the following:

“(3) **FOLLOW-UP REPORTS.**—Not”;

(II) by striking “2 years” and inserting “180 days”; and

(III) by inserting after “submitted,” the following: “and every 2 years thereafter until the Advisory Council terminates under subsection (f).”; and

(D) in paragraph (4) by striking “relatives” each place it appears and inserting “relative caregivers”;

(3) in subsection (d), by striking “the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.)” and inserting “chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code.”; and

(4) in subsection (f), by striking “terminate” and all that follows through “Act.” and inserting “terminate on September 30, 2029.”.

**SEC. 406. RAISE FAMILY CAREGIVERS ACT.**

(a) **STRATEGY.**—Section 3 of the RAISE Family Caregivers Act (42 U.S.C. 3030s note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “(or the Secretary’s designee)” after “The Secretary”; and

(B) in paragraph (1), by inserting “and made publicly available by the Secretary,” after “caregiver programs.”; and

(2) in subsection (d)(2), by inserting “in” after “caregiver programs”.

(b) **COUNCIL.**—Section 4(e) of that Act (42 U.S.C. 3030s note) is amended by striking “The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.)” and inserting “Chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code.”.

(c) **SUNSET EXTENSION.**—Section 6 of that Act (42 U.S.C. 3030s note) is amended by striking “terminate” and all that follows through “Act.” and inserting “terminate on September 30, 2029.”.

**TITLE V—COMMUNITY SERVICE SENIOR OPPORTUNITIES ACT**

**SEC. 501. IMPROVING THE COMMUNITY SERVICE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM.**

(a) **PROGRAM.**—Section 502(b)(1) (42 U.S.C. 3056(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C)(ii), by striking “section 513(a)(2)(E)” and inserting “section 513(a)(2)(F)”;

(2) in subparagraph (E), by inserting “older individuals,” after “youth.”.

(b) **PERFORMANCE.**—Section 513 (42 U.S.C. 3056k) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (F); and

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following:

“(E) **BIENNIAL REPORT.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2024, and every 2 years thereafter during the period of the program described in section 502(a)(1), the Secretary shall prepare and submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pen-

sions and the Special Committee on Aging of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives a report regarding the methodology used to arrive at the expected levels of performance described in subparagraph (B) for each grantee, including the particular statistical model used and other factors taken into account, as described in subparagraph (D).”;

(2) in subsection (c) and paragraphs (1)(A), (2)(A), and (3)(A) of subsection (d), by striking “subsection (a)(2)(E)” and inserting “subsection (a)(2)(F)”;

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (2)(B)(iii), by adding at the end the following: “For grants awarded on or after the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of the Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2024, any grantee who has failed to meet the expected levels of performance for the 2 consecutive years prior to the subsequent grant competition under section 514 shall not be allowed to compete in the subsequent grant competition under section 514 following the second consecutive year of failure but may compete in the next such grant competition after that subsequent competition.”; and

(B) in paragraph (3)(B)(iii), by adding at the end the following: “For grants awarded on or after the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of the Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2024, if the Secretary determines that the State fails to meet the expected levels of performance described in subparagraph (A) for 2 consecutive program years, the Secretary shall provide for the conduct by the State of a competition to award the funds allotted to the State under section 506(e) for the first full program year following the Secretary’s determination.”.

(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—Section 518(a)(1)(A) (42 U.S.C. 3056p(a)(1)(A)) is amended to read as follows:

“(A) social, health, welfare, and educational services (including literacy tutoring and services provided by the aging network), legal and other counseling services and assistance (including tax counseling and assistance and financial counseling), and library, recreational, and other similar services.”.

**SEC. 502. GAO REPORT ON ALIGNMENT WITHIN THE COMMUNITY SERVICE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM.**

(a) **REVIEW.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall complete a review in which the Comptroller General—

(1) evaluates—

(A) the distinct differences and similarities between the older American community service employment program as authorized under title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3056 et seq.) and the programs carried out under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3111 et seq.); and

(B) how the programs described in subparagraph (A) serve older individuals in seeking and obtaining community service employment;

(2) analyzes the efficacy and impacts of the indicators of performance described in section 513(b) of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3056k(b) and corrective measures described in section 513(d) of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3056k(d)) for the older American community service employment program, compared with the efficacy and impacts of the indicators of performance and corrective measures described in section 116 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3141) for programs authorized under title I of such Act; and

(3) evaluates how the Department of Labor coordinates delivery of services with State and national grantees under title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965 and with States and local workforce development areas under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to serve older individuals.



(b) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Special Committee on Aging of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives a report on the results of the review under this section.

#### **TITLE VI—IMPROVING SERVICES FOR NATIVE ELDER**

##### **SEC. 601. OLDER AMERICANS TRIBAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

Section 201(c) (42 U.S.C. 3011(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4)(A) In addition to other methods of government-to-government consultation between the Administration and Indian Tribes and conferring with organizations representing Native Hawaiians, the Assistant Secretary shall establish an advisory committee, to be known as the ‘Older Americans Tribal Advisory Committee’ (referred to in this paragraph as the ‘Committee’) to provide advice and guidance to the Assistant Secretary on matters relating to the needs of older individuals who are Native Americans and implementation of related programs and activities under this Act.

“(B) The Committee shall be composed of 11 voting, non-Federal members, including—

“(i) geographically diverse individuals with expertise on the range of issues affecting Indian Tribes, organizations representing Native Hawaiians, and older individuals who are Native Americans;

“(ii) not less than 1 member who is an Alaska Native; and

“(iii) not less than 1 member who is a Native Hawaiian.

“(C) The Committee shall include non-voting, ex officio representatives of relevant Federal departments and agencies, including—

“(i) the Administration;

“(ii) the Indian Health Service;

“(iii) the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services;

“(iv) the Department of the Interior;

“(v) the Department of Labor; and

“(vi) any other agency or office with subject matter expertise that the Assistant Secretary determines appropriate.

“(D) The Committee shall meet in person not less frequently than twice each year.

“(E) The Committee shall coordinate, as appropriate, with the Secretary’s Tribal Advisory Committee of the Department of Health and Human Services.

“(F)(i) Not less frequently than once each year, the Committee shall submit to the Assistant Secretary and make publicly available a report that describes—

“(I) the activities of the Committee during the previous year; and

“(II) recommendations for administrative action, including the identification of any statutory barriers to carrying out such recommendations, for the following year.

“(ii) Not later than 60 days after the date on which the Assistant Secretary receives a report under clause (i), the Assistant Secretary shall submit to the Committee a written response to such report.

“(G) Chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code, shall not apply to the Committee.

“(H) In establishing, developing procedures for, and operating the Committee, the Assistant Secretary shall—

“(i) consult with Indian Tribes and confer with organizations representing Native Hawaiians; and

“(ii) take into consideration best practices of other Tribal advisory committees operated by the Department of Health and Human Services before the date of enactment of the Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2024.”.

##### **SEC. 602. SUPPORTIVE SERVICES; SET ASIDE.**

(a) **SUPPORTIVE SERVICES.**—Section 636 (42 U.S.C. 3057k–21) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “may” and inserting “shall, as practicable,”; and

(2) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “in-home assistance” and inserting “in-home services”.

(b) **FUNDING SET ASIDE.**—Section 644 (42 U.S.C. 3057o) is amended—

(1) by striking “Of” and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Of”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2024, the Assistant Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives, a report on the use of funds under part D. Such report shall include—

“(1) the total amount of funds made available under subsection (a) to carry out part D for each fiscal year;

“(2) a list of award recipients under part D; and

“(3) a summary of supportive services for healthy aging and independence provided under part D.”.

##### **SEC. 603. GAO REPORT ON TRIBAL SERVICES.**

Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report that—

(1) evaluates and identifies barriers to Indian Tribes (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)) and organizations serving Native Hawaiians accessing programs under title VI of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3057 et seq.), and coordination of such programs under such title VI with programs funded under titles III and IV of such Act (42 U.S.C. 3021 et seq., 42 U.S.C. 3031 et seq.), including by—

(A) estimating the number of Native Americans unserved by programs under such title VI;

(B) identifying States and area agencies on aging making grants to Indian Tribes under such title III; and

(C) providing estimates of funding necessary to support programs under such title VI for all Tribal organizations (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)) and organizations serving Native Hawaiians that are not eligible under such title VI (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act); and

(2) details how grantees under title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3056 et seq.) are serving older individuals who are Native Americans with funds received under such title V, including by evaluating how the Secretary of Labor coordinates with State and national grantees under such title V to serve older individuals who are Native Americans.

##### **SEC. 604. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.**

The Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 102 (42 U.S.C. 3002)—

(A) in paragraph (27), by striking “the term ‘Indian tribe’ means any tribe” and inserting “the term ‘Indian Tribe’ means any Tribe”; and

(B) in paragraph (56), by striking “the term ‘tribal organization’ means” and inserting “the term ‘Tribal organization’ means”;

(2) in section 612(c) (42 U.S.C. 3057c(c))—

(A) by striking “terms ‘Indian tribe’ and ‘tribal organization’ have” and inserting “terms ‘Indian Tribe’ and ‘Tribal organization’ have”; and

(B) by striking “(25 U.S.C. 450b)” and inserting “(25 U.S.C. 5304)”; and

(3) by striking “tribe”, “tribes”, and “tribal” each place such terms appear and inserting “Tribe”, “Tribes”, and “Tribal”, respectively.

#### **TITLE VII—STRENGTHENING THE LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAMS AND ELDER ABUSE PREVENTION**

##### **SEC. 701. DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAMS.**

Section 201(d)(2)(A) (42 U.S.C. 3011(d)(2)(A)) is amended, in the second sentence, by inserting “serve on a full-time basis and” after “shall”.

##### **SEC. 702. LEGAL ASSISTANCE TRAINING RESOURCES RELATING TO ELDER ABUSE PREVENTION.**

Section 201(e)(2)(A) (42 U.S.C. 3011(e)(2)(A)) is amended by striking clause (v) and inserting the following:

“(v) establishing an information clearinghouse to collect, maintain, and disseminate information concerning best practices and resources for training, technical assistance, and other activities, which may include training resources for paralegals or law students who are under the direct supervision of an attorney, to assist State Long-Term Care Ombudsman programs, adult protective services programs, and other legal services relating to defense of guardianship and the matters described in clause (ii)(I), and to assist States and communities to carry out evidence-based programs to prevent and address elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.”.

##### **SEC. 703. IMPROVING TRAINING OF VOLUNTEERS UNDER THE STATE LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM.**

Section 712 (42 U.S.C. 3058g) is amended—

(1) in subsection (h)(5)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking “the representatives” and inserting “each type of representative”; and

(ii) by inserting “types of” before “unpaid volunteers”;

(B) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “for each such type of representative” before the semicolon at the end;

(C) in subparagraph (B)(iii), by striking “and” at the end;

(D) in subparagraph (C), by adding “and” at the end; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

“(D) with respect to representatives of the Office who are unpaid volunteers, take into consideration the degree to which each such type of unpaid volunteer performs activities requiring specialized training, with a goal of reducing unnecessary training requirements for prospective unpaid volunteers.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(k) **TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR UNPAID VOLUNTEERS.**—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In providing the model standards described in subsection (h)(5), the Director of the Office of Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs shall review and, as necessary, update such model standards on a regular basis to tailor such model standards to the individualized training needs of each type of representative of the Office, including each type of unpaid volunteer.

“(2) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Director of the Office of Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs shall take into consideration the degree to which each type of representative of the Office performs activities that require specialized training, with a goal of reducing unnecessary training requirements for unpaid volunteers.”.

##### **SEC. 704. REPORTING ON STATE LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAMS.**

Chapter 2 of subtitle A of title VII (42 U.S.C. 3058f et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

##### **“SEC. 714. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**

“Each year, the Assistant Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Special Committee on Aging of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of

Representatives, and make publicly available, a report that—

“(1) aggregates all reports submitted under section 712(h) for such year; and

“(2) provides a summary of the findings of such reports.”.

**SEC. 705. STUDY ON STATE LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAMS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Assistant Secretary shall seek to enter into a contract with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (referred to in this section as the “National Academies”) to conduct a study on the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman programs carried out under the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.), including an assessment of the effectiveness of such programs and any related challenges and recommendations. The study shall include an assessment of the current (as of the date on which the contract is entered into) recommended staff-to-bed ratio for such programs, as appropriate.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date on which a contract is entered into under subsection (a), the National Academies shall publicly issue a report on the findings of the study under this section.

**TITLE VIII—AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS**

**SEC. 801. ADMINISTRATION ON AGING.**

Section 216 (42 U.S.C. 3020f) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “\$43,937,410” and all that follows through “fiscal year 2024” and inserting “\$55,469,968 for fiscal year 2025, \$58,034,197 for fiscal year 2026, \$60,716,964 for fiscal year 2027, \$63,523,747 for fiscal year 2028, and \$66,460,281 for fiscal year 2029”; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$2,180,660” and all that follows through “fiscal year 2024” and inserting “\$2,753,033 for fiscal year 2025, \$2,880,298 for fiscal year 2026, \$3,013,447 for fiscal year 2027, \$3,152,751 for fiscal year 2028, and \$3,298,494 for fiscal year 2029”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “\$1,988,060” and all that follows through “fiscal year 2024” and inserting “\$2,509,880 for fiscal year 2025, \$2,625,905 for fiscal year 2026, \$2,747,294 for fiscal year 2027, \$2,874,294 for fiscal year 2028, and \$3,007,165 for fiscal year 2029”; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking “\$1,371,740” and all that follows through “fiscal year 2024” and inserting “\$1,731,790 for fiscal year 2025, \$1,811,846 for fiscal year 2026, \$1,895,603 for fiscal year 2027, \$1,983,232 for fiscal year 2028, and \$2,074,911 for fiscal year 2029”; and

(D) in paragraph (4), by striking “\$8,687,330” and all that follows through “fiscal year 2024” and inserting “\$10,967,554 for fiscal year 2025, \$11,474,555 for fiscal year 2026, \$12,004,993 for fiscal year 2027, \$12,559,952 for fiscal year 2028, and \$13,140,565 for fiscal year 2029”.

**SEC. 802. GRANTS FOR STATE AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS ON AGING.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 303 (42 U.S.C. 3023) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “\$412,029,180” and all that follows through “fiscal year 2024” and inserting “\$520,177,347 for fiscal year 2025, \$544,223,762 for fiscal year 2026, \$569,381,780 for fiscal year 2027, \$595,702,785 for fiscal year 2028, and \$623,240,541 for fiscal year 2029”; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$530,015,940” and all that follows through “fiscal year 2024” and inserting “\$669,132,913 for fiscal year 2025, \$700,065,148 for fiscal year 2026, \$732,427,298 for fiscal year 2027, \$766,285,465 for fiscal year 2028, and \$801,708,804 for fiscal year 2029”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “\$268,935,940” and all that follows through “fiscal year 2024” and inserting “\$339,525,428 for fiscal year 2025, \$355,220,786 for fiscal year 2026, \$371,641,698 for fiscal year 2027, \$388,821,705 for fiscal year 2028, and \$406,795,899 for fiscal year 2029”;

(3) in subsection (d), by striking “\$26,587,360” and all that follows through “fiscal year 2024” and inserting “\$33,565,929 for fiscal year 2025, \$35,117,593 for fiscal year 2026, \$36,740,986 for fiscal year 2027, \$38,439,424 for fiscal year 2028, and \$40,216,376 for fiscal year 2029”; and

(4) in subsection (e), by striking “\$193,869,020” and all that follows through “fiscal year 2024” and inserting “\$244,755,171 for fiscal year 2025, \$256,069,552 for fiscal year 2026, \$267,906,966 for fiscal year 2027, \$280,291,593 for fiscal year 2028, and \$293,248,728 for fiscal year 2029”.

(b) NUTRITION SERVICES INCENTIVE PROGRAM.—Section 311 (42 U.S.C. 3030a), as amended by section 304 of this Act, is amended in subsection (f), by striking “\$171,273,830” and all that follows through “fiscal year 2024” and inserting “\$216,229,264 for fiscal year 2025, \$226,224,968 for fiscal year 2026, \$236,682,747 for fiscal year 2027, \$247,623,961 for fiscal year 2028, and \$259,070,958 for fiscal year 2029”.

**SEC. 803. ACTIVITIES FOR HEALTH, INDEPENDENCE, AND LONGEVITY.**

Section 411(b) (42 U.S.C. 3032(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$14,514,550” and all that follows through “fiscal year 2024” and inserting “\$18,324,285 for fiscal year 2025, \$19,171,368 for fiscal year 2026, \$20,057,609 for fiscal year 2027, \$20,984,819 for fiscal year 2028, and \$21,954,892 for fiscal year 2029”; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “\$15,613,440” and all that follows through “fiscal year 2024” and inserting “\$19,711,608 for fiscal year 2025, \$20,622,823 for fiscal year 2026, \$21,576,161 for fiscal year 2027, \$22,573,570 for fiscal year 2028, and \$23,617,086 for fiscal year 2029”.

**SEC. 804. COMMUNITY SERVICE SENIOR OPPORTUNITIES ACT.**

Section 517(a) (42 U.S.C. 3056o(a)) is amended by striking “\$428,000,000” and all that follows through “fiscal year 2024” and inserting “\$540,340,193 for fiscal year 2025, \$565,318,627 for fiscal year 2026, \$591,451,804 for fiscal year 2027, \$618,793,048 for fiscal year 2028, and \$647,398,205 for fiscal year 2029”.

**SEC. 805. GRANTS FOR NATIVE AMERICANS.**

Section 643 (42 U.S.C. 3057n) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$37,102,560” and all that follows through “fiscal year 2024” and inserting “\$47,028,435 for fiscal year 2025, \$49,202,434 for fiscal year 2026, \$51,476,932 for fiscal year 2027, \$53,856,574 for fiscal year 2028, and \$56,346,220 for fiscal year 2029”; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “\$10,759,920” and all that follows through “fiscal year 2024” and inserting “\$13,584,151 for fiscal year 2025, \$14,212,110 for fiscal year 2026, \$14,869,098 for fiscal year 2027, \$15,556,457 for fiscal year 2028, and \$16,275,591 for fiscal year 2029”.

**SEC. 806. ALLOTMENTS FOR ELDER RIGHTS PROTECTION ACTIVITIES.**

Section 702 (42 U.S.C. 3058a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “\$18,066,950” and all that follows through “fiscal year 2024” and inserting “\$22,809,108 for fiscal year 2025, \$23,863,512 for fiscal year 2026, \$24,966,659 for fiscal year 2027, \$26,120,801 for fiscal year 2028, and \$27,328,297 for fiscal year 2029”; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “\$5,107,110” and all that follows through “fiscal year 2024” and inserting “\$6,447,609 for fiscal year 2025, \$6,745,665 for fiscal year 2026, \$7,057,499 for fiscal year 2027, \$7,383,748 for fiscal year 2028, and \$7,725,079 for fiscal year 2029”.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be withdrawn; that the Sanders substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; and that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

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

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 3314) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under “Text of Amendments.”)

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I know of no further debate on the bill, as amended.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there further debate?

If not, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 4776), as amended, was passed.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

**FIRST RESPONDER ACCESS TO INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES ACT**

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 557, H.R. 3254.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3254) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a process to review applications for certain grants to purchase equipment or systems that do not meet or exceed any applicable national voluntary consensus standards, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 3254) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

**CARDIOMYOPATHY HEALTH EDUCATION, AWARENESS, AND RESEARCH, AND AED TRAINING IN THE SCHOOLS ACT OF 2024**

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6829 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6829) to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize and support the creation and dissemination of cardiomyopathy education, awareness, and risk assessment materials and resources to identify

more at-risk families, to authorize research and surveillance activities relating to cardiomyopathy, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 6829) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Mr. SCHUMER. Now, Mr. President, I have great, great, and wonderful news. Just now, after so much work, we have finally reached the end zone and are sending the HEARTS Act to the President's desk. We scored a touchdown for America's children. Today, the Senate unanimously passed the HEARTS Act, and with it, we are giving schools across America the tools they need to save lives.

Just yesterday, I was in Buffalo, NY, at Cheektowaga High School with Damar Hamlin and members of the community for this very cause: making sure that every school has AEDs and the ability to teach CPR.

Damar Hamlin's story is a powerful reminder that in a cardiac emergency, every minute counts. He learned that when he had his cardiac arrest on the football field, and all Americans learn that all the time. It is especially true when it comes to our children.

Over the past few months, Damar and I have worked tirelessly on the HEARTS Act so we can increase funding for schools to purchase more AEDs and ensure students and staff know how to use them. Many Members in both Chambers have likewise worked relentlessly on this bill. It is a bipartisan bill, it is a commonsense bill, and most importantly, it is a lifesaving bill.

Mr. President, this bill will save lives. When our young athletes have a cardiac arrest or need some other form of CPR, there will be the AED equipment at the school, and there will be trained personnel who know how to apply the AEDs and CPR. It is going to save lives. It is a beautiful thing.

I have to salute Damar Hamlin. After his bout with cardiac arrest, he went forward and said: I have to change this and get the AEDs available to everybody. He came and visited me in Washington. I said: I want to help. And together, we have been a great team.

I told Damar that passing this legislation, which has just happened, is his first Super Bowl ring; winning the Super Bowl, which I believe the Bills will do, will be his second Super Bowl ring.

With the passage of the HEARTS Act, we are putting AEDs within the reach of more schools and children. Studies show that schools with AEDs and CPR-trained staff are seven

times—seven times—more likely to save a life during a cardiac emergency. That statistic is now a promise we are making to every parent, every teacher, every student in America, that they will have the resources they need.

I want to thank Damar Hamlin for his courage, his partnership, his dedication. He is both a strong man and a humble and modest man, a beautiful person. I count him as a friend. He turned a personal tragedy into a mission to save others. Again and again, Damar would tell me "Let's make history" on this bill, and today, history is being made.

I would like to thank the NFL for their support. I would like to thank the Buffalo Bills for their support. I would like to thank all of those who worked to make this possible. To every colleague here in this Chamber who helped get this bill across the finish line and to the staff who worked so hard on this bill, especially Gunnar Haberl, a proud member of the Bills Mafia—and we went to Cheektowaga High School. His father is a PE teacher there, and I met him yesterday as well. I can tell you, Mr. Haberl is so proud of what Gunnar has done. He is right here. Not Mr. Haberl—Gunnar. Gunnar, as I said, is a proud member of the Bills Mafia, who doggedly worked on this piece of legislation.

So today is a good day. Because of the HEARTS Act, more lives will be saved, more families will be whole, and more communities will be prepared.

And, of course, go Bills—on to the second Super Bowl ring for Damar.

#### EVERETT ALVAREZ, JR. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT OF 2023

Mr. SCHUMER. Now, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1097 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1097) to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Everett Alvarez, Jr., in recognition of his service to the Nation.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 1097) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

#### PAPERWORK BURDEN REDUCTION ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Committee on

Finance be further discharged from consideration of H.R. 3797 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3797) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an alternative manner of furnishing certain health insurance coverage statements to individuals.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I further ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 3797) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

#### EMPLOYER REPORTING IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Committee on Finance be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3801 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3801) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to streamline and improve the employer reporting process relating to health insurance coverage and to protect dependent privacy.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I further ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 3801) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

#### EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2024

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6960 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6960) to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Emergency Medical Services for Children program.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I further ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 6960) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

#### COLORADO RIVER SALINITY CONTROL FIX ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 7872, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 7872) to amend the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act to modify certain requirements applicable to salinity control units, 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 and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 7872) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

#### EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER 29, 2024, AS "VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES DAY"

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Con Res. 43.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 43) expressing support for the designation of September 29, 2024, as "Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Day".

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent the concurrent resolution be agreed to; that the Carper amendment at the desk to the preamble be agreed to; that the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 43) was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3315), to the preamble, was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the preamble)

In the first whereas clause of the preamble, strike "and the Philippine Insurrection".

In the third whereas clause of the preamble, strike "has provided" and insert "and its predecessor organizations have provided".

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 43

Whereas, on September 29, 1899, the organization now known as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States was founded in Columbus, Ohio, in the aftermath of the Spanish-American War;

Whereas, on September 29, 2024, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will celebrate its 125th anniversary;

Whereas, since 1899, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its predecessor organizations have provided voluntary and unselfish service to the Armed Forces, veterans, and the United States by—

- (1) advocating for overarching benefits programs for veterans;
- (2) facilitating veterans transitioning back to civilian society;
- (3) serving the communities in which veterans live; and
- (4) taking a national leadership role on substantive issues important to veterans of the Armed Forces; and

Whereas the 125th anniversary of the founding of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States provides an opportunity to recognize, honor, and pay tribute to the nearly 1,000,000 veterans of the Armed Forces represented by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States who served in combat from World War II to the present day: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—*

- (1) expresses support for the designation of September 29, 2024, as "Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Day";
- (2) recognizes the historic significance of the 125th anniversary of the founding of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and congratulates the organization on achieving that milestone;
- (3) commends the nearly 1,000,000 veterans who belong to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and thanks those veterans for their service to their fellow veterans and the United States; and
- (4) encourages the people of the United States to observe September 29, 2024, with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

#### RECOGNIZING HISPANIC RESTAURANT WEEK AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF HISPANIC RESTAURANT OWNERS AND EMPLOYEES TO THE RESTAURANT INDUSTRY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 836.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 836) recognizing Hispanic Restaurant Week and the contribu-

tions of Hispanic restaurant owners and employees to the restaurant industry.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 836) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

#### NATIONAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consideration of S. Res. 924, which is at the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 924) designating December 14, 2024, as "National Wreaths Across America Day".

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; the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 924) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### RELATING TO THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE FRED R. HARRIS, FORMER SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 925, which is at the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 925) relating to the death of the Honorable Fred R. Harris, former Senator for the State of Oklahoma.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to; the preamble be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 925) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 82

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 82) to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

Mr. SCHUMER. I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

#### OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the notice of adoption of regulations from the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights be printed in the RECORD.

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

#### NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF REGULATIONS AND TRANSMITTAL FOR CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL

U.S. CONGRESS, OFFICE OF  
CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS,  
Washington, DC, December 10, 2024.

Hon. PATTY MURRAY,  
President Pro Tempore, U.S. Senate,  
The United States Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM PRESIDENT: Section 207(d) of the Congressional Accountability Act (CAA), 2 U.S.C. 1316b(d), requires the Board of Directors of the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights (Board) to issue substantive regulations implementing section 207 of the CAA relating to the Fair Chance to Compete for Jobs Act of 2019.

Section 304(b)(3) of the CAA, 2 U.S.C. 1384(b)(3), requires that, with regard to substantive regulations under the CAA, after the Board has published a general notice of proposed rulemaking as required by subsection (b)(1) and received comments pursuant to subsection (b)(2), "the Board shall adopt regulations and shall transmit notice of such action together with a copy of such regulations to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate for publication in the Congressional Record on the first day on which both Houses are in session following such transmittal."

The Board has adopted the regulations in the Notice of Adoption of Substantive Regulations and Transmittal for Congressional Approval, which accompany this transmittal letter. The Board requests that the accom-

panying Notice be published in the Senate version of the Congressional Record on the first day on which both Houses are in session following receipt of this transmittal. The Board has adopted the same regulations for the Senate, the House of Representatives, and the other covered entities and facilities, and therefore recommends that the adopted regulations be approved by concurrent resolution of the Congress.

Any inquiries regarding this notice should be addressed to Martin J. Crane, Executive Director of the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights, Room LA-200, 110 Second Street SE, Washington, DC 20540-1999; 202-724-9250.

Sincerely,

BARBARA CHILDS WALLACE,  
Chair of the Board of Directors,  
Office of Congressional Workplace Rights.

#### FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS

#### NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF REGULATIONS AND TRANSMITTAL FOR CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL

#### Regulations Implementing Certain Substantive Rights and Protections for Job Applicants, as Required by Section 207 of the Congressional Accountability Act ("CAA").

#### Notice of Adoption of Substantive Regulations and Submission for Approval as Required by 2 U.S.C. § 1316b of the CAA.

#### Procedural Summary:

#### Issuance of the Board's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

The Fair Chance to Compete for Jobs Act of 2019 ("FCA") was enacted as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for 2020 (H. Rept. 116-333, Title XI, Sections 1121-1124). Under the FCA, Federal employers (including employing offices in the legislative branch) may not request from most job applicants information on arrest and conviction history until a conditional job offer has been extended. Congress applied the FCA to the legislative branch by amending the CAA to add a new section 207, 2 U.S.C. § 1316b.

On June 13, 2024, the Board of Directors ("Board") of the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights ("OCWR") published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("NPR") in the *Congressional Record*. 170 Cong. Rec. H4056-02, S4091-04 (daily ed. June 13, 2024). The NPR proposed substantive regulations relating to implementation of the FCA in the legislative branch. The Board, now having considered comments to the NPR, has adopted, and is submitting for approval by the Congress, final substantive regulations implementing section 207 of the CAA.

#### Why did the Board propose these substantive regulations?

Section 207(d) of the CAA requires the Board to issue substantive regulations implementing section 207. Section 207(d) requires the Board's regulations to be:

the same as substantive regulations promulgated by the Director of the Office of Personnel Management . . . except to the extent that the Board may determine, for good cause shown and stated together with the regulation, that a modification of such regulations would be more effective for the implementation of the rights and protections under this section.

#### What procedure followed the Board's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking?

The NPR included a 30-day comment period, which began on June 13, 2024. The Board received three sets of comments to the proposed substantive regulations. The Board has reviewed these comments, made certain changes to its proposed substantive regulations in response to the comments, adopted

final substantive regulations, and is submitting them for approval by Congress pursuant to section 304 of the CAA, 2 U.S.C. § 1384.

#### What is the effect of the Board's adoption of these substantive regulations?

Adoption of these substantive regulations by the Board does not complete the promulgation process. Pursuant to section 304, following the Board's adoption of the regulations, it must transmit notice of such action together with the regulations and a recommendation regarding the method for Congressional approval of the regulations to the Speaker of the House and President Pro Tempore of the Senate for publication in the *Congressional Record*. This Notice of Adoption of Substantive Regulations and Submission for Congressional Approval completes this step.

#### What are the next steps in the process of promulgation of these regulations?

Pursuant to section 304(b)(4) of the CAA, the Board is required to "include a recommendation in the general notice of proposed rulemaking and in the regulations as to whether the regulations should be approved by resolution of the Senate, by resolution of the House of Representatives, by concurrent resolution, or by joint resolution." The Board has adopted the same regulations for the Senate, the House of Representatives, and the other covered entities and facilities, and the Board recommends that the adopted regulations be approved by concurrent resolution of the Congress.

#### Are these substantive regulations also recommended by OCWR's Executive Director, the Deputy Executive Director for the Senate, and the Deputy Executive Director for the House of Representatives?

As required by section 304(b)(1) of the CAA, these substantive regulations are recommended by the Deputy Director for the Senate in regard to regulations under subsection (a)(2)(B)(i), the Deputy Director for the House of Representatives in regard to regulations under subsection (a)(2)(B)(ii), and the Executive Director for regulations under subsection (a)(2)(B)(iii).

#### Has the Board previously adopted substantive regulations implementing 2 U.S.C. § 1316b?

No.

#### Are these substantive regulations available to persons with disabilities in an alternate format?

This Notice is available on the OCWR's website, [www.ocwr.gov](http://www.ocwr.gov), which is compliant with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, 29 U.S.C. § 794d. This Notice can also be made available in large print, braille, or other alternative format. Requests for this Notice in an alternative format should be made to the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights, 202-724-9250 (voice); 202-426-1913 (fax); or [ADAaccess@ocwr.gov](mailto:ADAaccess@ocwr.gov) (e-mail).

#### The Board's Responses to Comments Received

The Board received comments from three sources. The comments addressed four major points, and one commenter also proposed a number of minor corrections, most of which the Board has incorporated.

#### Political Appointees

The FCA directs the Office of Personnel Management ("OPM") to issue regulations identifying positions in the executive branch with respect to which the prohibitions under subsection (a) of the Act shall not apply. OPM's substantive regulations thus provide at 5 CFR § 920.201(b)(2) that such prohibitions shall not apply with respect to an applicant for a "political appointment." OPM's regulations define "political appointment" at 5 CFR § 920.101:

*Political appointment* means an appointment by the President without Senate confirmation (except those appointed under 5 CFR 213.3102(c)); an appointment to a position compensated under the Executive Schedule (5 U.S.C. 5312 through 5316); an appointment of a White House Fellow to be assigned as an assistant to a top-level Federal officer (5 CFR 213.3102(z)); a Schedule C appointment (5 CFR 213.3301, 213.3302); a non-career, limited term, or limited emergency Senior Executive Service appointment (5 CFR part 317, subpart F); an appointee to serve in a political capacity under agency-specific authority; and a provisional political appointment.

In the NPR, the Board did not include a parallel exception for political appointments in the legislative branch, noting the lack of hiring authorities for political appointees comparable to those cited by OPM for the executive branch.

Two commenters, however, urged the Board to include an exception for “political appointments” in the legislative branch, contending that the omission of such a definition would expand the scope of the FCA for the legislative branch beyond its scope in the executive branch, in a manner inconsistent with section 207(b)(1)(A) of the CAA.

Both commenters referenced OPM’s reasoning for its own exception as set forth in its notice of proposed rulemaking:

The Fair Chance Act applies to applicants to positions in the “civil service,” which, under 5 U.S.C. 2101(1), extends to “all appointive positions” in the executive branch. Proposed paragraph (b) makes an exception for applicants for political appointments, since political appointees provide confidential, policy-determining, or policy-advocating functions on behalf of the President or presidentially-appointed agency heads, and serve as personal advisors and representatives to the President and other senior administration officials. Pre-employment criminal history screening may be required for these positions prior to a conditional offer of employment, because of the utmost trust and discretion required in these positions and the potential for adverse publicity associated with unfit applicants. Fair Chance to Compete for Jobs, 87 Fed. Reg. 24885–01, 24894 (Apr. 27, 2022).

The commenters also stressed the inherently political nature of congressional employment, noting that many appointees are hired to perform confidential, policy-determining, and policy-advocating functions on behalf of Members of Congress. One commenter noted in particular that section 502 of the CAA explicitly allows consideration of “party affiliation” and “political compatibility with the employing office” for employment with a committee, a member, or a number of other offices in the House or Senate. Another commenter argued that a definition of “political appointment” was necessary to “ensure employing office employees have pre-offer access to applicant criminal history information on par with Executive Branch employees’ access to such information.”

Upon further consideration, the Board agrees with the commenters that good cause exists to modify rather than omit OPM’s exception for applicants for political appointments. The Board therefore includes for adoption in its substantive regulations the following definition:

*Political appointment* means an appointment to a position in an employing office defined in 2 U.S.C. § 1301(9)(A)–(C) that requires the incumbent to: (1) file a report under title I of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App. § 101 et seq.); or (2) perform confidential, policy-determining, or policy-advocating functions equivalent to those per-

formed by Executive Schedule (5 U.S.C. §§ 5312 through 5316) or Schedule C (5 CFR §§ 213.3301–213.3302) appointees in the executive branch.

\* \* \*

920.201(b)(2). The prohibition under this paragraph (a) shall not apply with respect to an applicant for a political appointment.

Subparagraph (1) of this definition exempts appointments to employing offices of the House and the Senate listed in 2 U.S.C. § 1301(9)(A)–(C) that require the incumbent to file a financial disclosure report under title I of the Ethics in Government Act—the defining characteristic of “senior staff” under the CAA. See 2 U.S.C. § 1416(d)(7). This filing requirement applies to congressional employees whose rate of pay is 120% of the minimum rate of pay for GS–15 of the General Schedule and to individuals who are designated as a “principal assistant.” See 5 U.S.C. §§ 13101, 13103. In the Board’s view, exempting all such highly-compensated senior staff positions in the House and the Senate is on par with OPM’s across-the-board exemptions for appointments by the President without Senate confirmation; appointments to a position compensated under the Executive Schedule; and Schedule C appointments.

Because not all positions performing confidential, policy-determining, or policy-advocating functions in the House and Senate fall under the Ethics in Government Act, subparagraph (2) sets forth a functional test to determine whether a non-senior staff position falls within the exception for applicants for political appointments. Such positions that require incumbents to perform confidential, policy-determining, or policy-advocating functions that are the equivalent to duties of positions under the Executive Schedule or positions appointed under Schedule C would also be excepted political appointments. No commenters contended that a political appointment exception should apply to appointments to employing offices outside of those in the House and Senate. Accordingly, this exception only extends to appointments to employing offices defined in 2 U.S.C. § 1301(9)(A)–(C).

#### **Sensitive National Security Positions**

The FCA, by reference to 5 U.S.C. § 9101(b)(1)(A)(ii) in 5 U.S.C. § 9202(c)(1)(A), created an exception for an appointment to sensitive national security duties or positions. OPM included the exception in its section 920.201(b)(1)(iii) regulations for any position that:

Has been designated as a sensitive position under the Position Designation System issued by OPM and the Office of Director of National Intelligence, which describes in greater detail agency requirements for designating positions that could bring about a material adverse effect on the national security.

The Board was not aware of any positions in the legislative branch that were so designated. However, at the urging of the commenters, the Board has adopted the following exception, incorporating an alternative test for whether a position can be considered “sensitive”:

Has been designated as a sensitive position under the Position Designation System issued by OPM and the Office of Director of National Intelligence (or similar authority in the legislative branch), which describes in greater detail agency requirements for designating positions that could bring about a material adverse effect on the national security, or that requires the performance of duties consistent with a national security position as defined in 5 CFR § 1400.102.

#### **Posting Requirement**

OPM’s regulations require agencies to publicize the FCA’s requirements in its job post-

ings. The Board proposed a similar regulation at section 920.201(c) for job postings in the legislative branch. Two commenters noted, however, that the statutory authority for OPM’s regulation is derived from 5 U.S.C. § 9203. Because the CAA only incorporates §§ 9201(1), (4), and (5), 9202, 9204, and 9206 of title 5, we agree that the Board lacks the statutory authority to adopt such a regulation. Accordingly, we have removed proposed section 920.201(c) from these regulations.

#### **Definition of Criminal History Record Information**

One commenter urged the Board to revise its definition of “criminal history record information,” in section 920.101 rather than follow OPM’s definition, which merely cited section 9101. The Board does not find good cause to modify OPM’s definition.

### **PART 920—TIMING OF CRIMINAL HISTORY INQUIRIES**

#### **Subpart A—General Provisions**

Sec.

920.101 Definitions.

920.102 Positions covered by Fair Chance Act regulations.

#### **Subpart B—Timing of Inquiries Regarding Criminal History**

920.201 Limitations on criminal history inquiries.

920.202 Violations.

#### **§ 920.101 Definitions.**

For the purpose of this part:

*Employing office* means:

(1) The personal office of a Member of the House of Representatives or of a Senator;

(2) A committee of the House of Representatives or the Senate or a joint committee;

(3) Any other office headed by a person with the final authority to appoint, hire, discharge, and set the terms, conditions, or privileges of the employment of an employee of the House of Representatives or the Senate; or

(4) The Office of Congressional Accessibility Services, the United States Capitol Police, the Congressional Budget Office, the Office of the Architect of the Capitol, the Office of the Attending Physician, the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights, the Office of Technology Assessment, the Library of Congress, the Stennis Center for Public Service, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, Congressional-Executive Commission on China, and the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

*Applicant* means a person who has applied to an employing office for employment as a covered employee under the employing office’s procedures for accepting applications consistent with governmentwide regulations, as applicable.

*Conditional offer* means an offer of employment as a covered employee that is conditioned upon the results of a background investigation, including, as relevant here, the results of a criminal history inquiry.

*Covered employee* means any employee of—

(1) the House of Representatives; (2) the Senate; (3) the Office of Congressional Accessibility Services; (4) the United States Capitol Police; (5) the Congressional Budget Office; (6) the Office of the Architect of the Capitol; (7) the Office of the Attending Physician; (8) the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights; (9) the Office of Technology Assessment; (10) the Library of Congress; (11) the Stennis Center for Public Service; (12) the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom; (13) the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission; (14) the Congressional-Executive Commission on China; or (15) the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe.



*Criminal history record information*—(1) Has the meaning given the term in section 9101(a) of title 5, United States Code; and

(2) Includes any information described in the first sentence of section 9101(a)(2) of title 5, United States Code, that has been sealed or expunged pursuant to law; and

(3) Includes information collected by a criminal justice agency, relating to an act or alleged act of juvenile delinquency, that is analogous to criminal history record information (including such information that has been sealed or expunged pursuant to law).

*Political appointment* means an appointment to a position in an employing office defined in 2 U.S.C. § 1301(9)(A)–(C) that requires the incumbent to: (1) file a report under title I of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App. § 101 et seq.); or (2) perform confidential, policy-determining, or policy-advocating functions equivalent to those performed by Executive Schedule (5 U.S.C. §§ 5312 through 5316) or Schedule C (5 CFR §§ 213.3301–213.3302) appointees in the executive branch.

#### **§ 920.102 Positions covered by Fair Chance Act regulations.**

(a) *Positions covered.* Except as provided in paragraph (b), this part applies to all covered employee positions in any employing office.

(b) *Exempt positions.* For purposes of this part an exempt position is any position for which an employing office is required by statutory authority to make inquiries into an applicant's criminal history prior to extending an offer of employment to the applicant.

#### **Subpart B—Timing of Inquiries Regarding Criminal History**

#### **§ 920.201. Limitations on criminal history inquiries.**

(a) *Applicability.* An employee of an employing office may not request, in oral or written form (including through the Declaration for Federal Employment (Office of Personnel Management Optional Form 306) or any similar successor form, the USAJOBS internet website, or any other electronic means) that an applicant for employment with an employing office disclose criminal history record information regarding the applicant before the employing office extends a conditional offer to the applicant. This includes the following points in the recruitment and hiring process:

(1) Initial application, through a job opportunity announcement on USAJOBS, or through any recruitment/public notification such as on the employing office's website/social media, etc.;

(2) After an employing office receives an initial application through its back-end system, through shared service providers/recruiters/contractors, or orally or via email and other forms of electronic notification; and

(3) Prior to, during, or after a job interview. This prohibition applies to employing office personnel, including when they act through shared service providers, contractors (acting on behalf of the employing office) involved in the employing office's recruitment and hiring process, or automated systems (specific to the employing office or governmentwide).

(b) *Exceptions for certain positions.* (1) The prohibition under paragraph (a) of this section shall not apply with respect to an applicant for an appointment to a position:

(i) Which is exempt in accordance with § 920.102(b);

(ii) That requires a determination of eligibility for access to classified information;

(iii) Has been designated as a sensitive position under the Position Designation System issued by OPM and the Office of Director of National Intelligence (or similar authority in the legislative branch), which describes in greater detail agency requirements for designating positions that could bring about a material adverse effect on the national security, or that requires the performance of duties consistent with a national security position as defined in 5 CFR § 1400.102.

(iv) Is a Federal law enforcement officer position meeting the definition in section 115(c) of title 18, U.S. Code.

(2) The prohibition under paragraph (a) of this section shall not apply with respect to an applicant for a political appointment.

#### **§ 920.202. Violations.**

(a) An employing office employee may not request, orally or in writing, information about an applicant's criminal history prior to making a conditional offer of employment to that applicant unless the position is exempted or excepted in accordance with § 920.201(b).

(b) A violation (or prohibited action) as defined in paragraph (a) of this section occurs when an employing office employee (or employing office personnel, shared service providers, or contractors acting at the direction of an employing office employee) involved in the employing office's recruitment and hiring process, either personally or through automated systems (specific to the employing office or governmentwide), make oral or written requests of an applicant or applicants prior to giving a conditional offer of employment as a covered employee—

(1) In a job opportunity announcement on USAJOBS or in any recruitment/public notification such as on the employing office's website or social media;

(2) In communications sent after an employing office receives an initial application, through an employing office's talent acquisition system, shared service providers/recruiters/contractors, orally or in writing (including via email and other forms of electronic notification); or

(3) Prior to, during, or after a job interview or other applicant assessment.

(c) When a prohibited request, announcement, or communication is publicly posted or simultaneously distributed to multiple applicants, it constitutes a single violation.

(d) Any violation as defined in paragraph (a) of this section is subject to the claim and penalty procedures under subchapter IV of title 2 (other than section 1407 or 1408 of title 2, or a provision of this subchapter that permits a person to obtain a civil action or judicial review) and the OCWR Procedural Rules, consistent with these regulations.

#### **ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2024**

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, finally, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned under the provisions of S. Res. 925 until 11 a.m. on Wednesday, December 11; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day and morning business be closed; that following the conclusion of morning

business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the McFerran nomination; further, that if any nominations are confirmed during Wednesday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

#### **ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 11 A.M. TOMORROW**

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

There being no objection, under the previous order, and pursuant to S. Res. 925, as a further mark of respect to the late Fred R. Harris, former Senator from Oklahoma, the Senate, at 6:56 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, December 11, 2024, at 11 a.m.

#### **NOMINATIONS**

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

##### **IN THE ARMY**

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

LT. GEN. CURTIS A. BUZZARD

##### **FOREIGN SERVICE**

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR THE PERSONAL RANK OF CAREER AMBASSADOR IN RECOGNITION OF ESPECIALLY DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OVER A SUSTAINED PERIOD:

ELIZABETH H. RICHARD, OF ILLINOIS

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR THE PERSONAL RANK OF CAREER AMBASSADOR IN RECOGNITION OF ESPECIALLY DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OVER A SUSTAINED PERIOD:

ALAINA B. TEPLITZ, OF ILLINOIS

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR THE PERSONAL RANK OF CAREER AMBASSADOR IN RECOGNITION OF ESPECIALLY DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OVER A SUSTAINED PERIOD:

DANIEL J. KRITENBRINK, OF NEBRASKA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR THE PERSONAL RANK OF CAREER AMBASSADOR IN RECOGNITION OF ESPECIALLY DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OVER A SUSTAINED PERIOD:

GEOFFREY R. PYATT, OF CALIFORNIA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR THE PERSONAL RANK OF CAREER AMBASSADOR IN RECOGNITION OF ESPECIALLY DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OVER A SUSTAINED PERIOD:

TODD D. ROBINSON, OF NEW JERSEY

#### **CONFIRMATIONS**

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate December 10, 2024:

##### **THE JUDICIARY**

CYNTHIA VALENZUELA DIXON, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA.

KELI MARIE NEARY, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA.