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Senate

(Legislative day of Monday, December 16, 2024)

The Senate met at 10 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

PRAYER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's opening prayer will be offered by Lisa Wink Schultz of the Senate Chaplain's Office here in Washington, DC.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord, we come to You today full of gratefulness. We thank You for the staff who work in this Chamber, for the Capitol Police who keep us safe, for the pages who are eager to help, and for the doorkeepers who love this institution.

May we not take for granted the craftsmen and women who are building the inaugural platform, for the food service workers and the appointment desk employees and the staff at Capitol facilities.

Most of all, we praise You for the life of Chaplain Black. We pray for him and his continued recovery and for Dr. Monahan and the Attending Physicians Office who cared for him so well.

We are all members of Your body with different gifts and roles. As we work, please remind us that it is better to serve than to be served. We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore 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.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

WILDLIFE INNOVATION AND LONGEVITY DRIVER REAUTHORIZATION ACT—Continued

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the pending business.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

House message to accompany H.R. 5009, a bill to reauthorize wildlife habitat and conservation programs and for other purposes.

Pending:

Schumer motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill.

Schumer motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill, with Schumer amendment No. 3317 (to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill), to add an effective date.

Schumer amendment No. 3318 (to amendment No. 3317), to add an effective date.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNOCK). The majority leader is recognized.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, negotiations continue between both parties on a temporary extension of government funding. There continues to be good progress, but appropriators are still working on finalizing an agreement. Obviously, we are getting closer to the December 20 deadline. So time is of the essence for Republicans to reach an agreement with us that we can act on quickly. Democrats will continue working in good faith with our Republican counterparts on a strong CR that will prevent a shutdown, while also delivering critical disaster relief for the American people.

On the NDAA, last night, the Senate voted to advance the NDAA by a strong margin of 83 to 12. The NDAA is now on a glide path to final passage. Everyone knows this NDAA is not perfect, but it still takes a strong stand against the Chinese Communist Party. These are things that I have pushed very hard for. It boosts the use of AI for our national defense—another thing I care a lot about—and expands tech innovation programs for communities across the country—a third thing that is very, very important and good.

It has many good things Democrats fought hard for. I am gratified it has all these: the Chinese Communist Party, the use of AI for national defense, and expanding tech innovation. Of course, it has some bad provisions that we Democrats would not have added and other provisions that we would want left out entirely.

I am particularly glad that this year's NDAA expands the Tech Hubs Program I created with Senators YOUNG, CANTWELL, and others in the bipartisan Chips and Science Act. These funds will transform communities in Upstate New York, the Midwest, and across the country into the next epicenters of innovation.

It also includes bipartisan measures on AI to expand our AI infrastructure and strengthen America's edge against the CCP, the Chinese Communist Party, in this critical technology—so important to our national security and to the United States' technological leadership.

I thank my colleagues from both sides for their good work on the NDAA, especially Chairman REED and Ranking Member WICKER. We hope to send the NDAA on the way to the President's desk as soon as possible.

DRONES

Mr. President, on drones, this afternoon, I will come to the Senate floor to stand with Senator PETERS to pass legislation I have cosponsored to respond to the recent reports of unusual drone activity. The FBI, DHS, and DOD—the

Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Homeland Security, and Department of Defense—support this bill. Our legislation will explicitly authorize State and local authorities to conduct drone detention and help them better coordinate with Federal law enforcement. With the multiplicity of drone sightings and so many drones in the area—many harmless, for recreational use, but many that there are still many questions about—Federal authorities agree that they can't respond to these incidents alone, and they need help from local authorities. But, unfortunately, the local authorities do not have the authority right now. It is only in the domain of the Federal Government.

For all we know, the recent drone incidents are, for the most part—or maybe all part—benign. But even so, in some cases, they can be disruptive, like when they impact airport operations or approach bases, and people are understandably anxious about seeing things in the night sky without clear answers to what is going on. The people in New York and New Jersey have a lot of questions and still haven't gotten answers from the Feds.

The worst part is that, right now, local officials have very little in terms of resources and oversight authority to do anything about these incidents. So this afternoon, I will join Senator PETERS to try and fix that, and I thank my friend from Michigan for his good work on this bill.

TRIBUTE TO SHERROD BROWN

Mr. President, finally, on Senator BROWN's retirement, this afternoon, a beloved colleague of ours will deliver his farewell address, my dear friend Senator SHERROD BROWN of Ohio.

If there is one statement that captures SHERROD BROWN best, it is this: Workers look at SHERROD and say, ''He is one of us.'' Workers look at SHERROD and say, ''He is one of us.''

Now, elected office wasn't part of the Brown family tradition, but fighting for justice certainly was. SHERROD says, and he has said it many times—I have seen that smile on his face when he says it. He says he inherited his activist bent from his mother, a Georgia native who marched on the frontlines of the early civil rights movement. SHERROD's mom taught him and his brother Charlie the power of political activism and the moral duty we all have to serve our neighbors.

SHERROD got the message early. His first taste of politics came in high school, when he was elected president of the student council. Right away, he became a proud thorn in the side of the principal, organizing anti-Vietnam war protests and pushing for racial equality in the educational system.

During his senior year in college, SHERROD was recruited to run for State rep. Admittedly, his parents weren't thrilled about his decision. In fact, his dad told him, with a little tough love: I will not be voting for you; you are too young.

Do you think SHERROD listened? Would anyone who knows SHERROD today think he listened? Of course not. He didn't listen. He won in a stunning upset, also typical of SHERROD. So at 21, he became a State rep.

During those years, he would spend his Fridays not at home but at the local union hall in Mansfield, OH, of United Steelworkers 169. He did nothing but listen. He listened to the workers who dropped by before their shift. He listened to them talk about their jobs, their families, their kids, about the union. They would keep him abreast of the latest news about strikes and reminisce about heroes in the labor movement. They would talk literature together—''The Grapes of Wrath,'' Joe Hill—that depicted the struggle of American workers and the relentless drive to achieve the American Dream.

Those Fridays at the union reshaped Sherrod's world view forever. They taught SHERROD one of the great truths about America: Our country was built up from the middle class, and the middle class was built by unions and union workers. My family knows the same thing. Everything SHERROD did in politics from then onward was in service to this truth.

So when he came to Congress many years later, it is no surprise that one of his very first votes was opposing NAFTA, fearful of the devastating consequence it would have for Ohioans. Decades later, he has brought back jobs to Ohio, helping break ground on some of the largest manufacturing projects in the State's history, through the Chips and Science Act. And we made sure—SHERROD and I and some others together—that it will be done through union labor. I insisted on that in the Chips and Science Act, and SHERROD was in my ear, making sure that happened all the time.

Years before, we passed the ACA. Sherrod was also one of the leading proponents for healthcare reform and expanding access. He famously refused to get health insurance on his own as a Congressman and a Senator until the day we passed the ACA.

On infrastructure, SHERROD was the relentless force behind the ''Buy America'' provisions in the bipartisan infrastructure bill, ensuring that America's roads and bridges and highways were built from American-made steel and iron and concrete.

On pension reform—this is something we so much cared about—SHERROD was the author and champion of the Butch Lewis Act, putting money back in the pockets of retirees who faced the unthinkable prospect of seeing the benefits dry up. It was so typical of SHERROD. It wasn't an abstract idea for him; he knew the Lewis family. They came here and lobbied. It was all about people, and then, working out from people, how you could make their lives better and America better.

The record goes on. SHERROD is a leader for Wall Street reform, saving U.S. auto jobs, lowering prescription drug prices, protecting the right to organize at work, investing in apprenticeship programs, expanding the child tax credit, protecting workers on the job, and so much more.

It is amazing—amazing what he did. He was here 18 years, and it is amazing what he accomplished for working people. It is a record that anyone would be very, very proud of, and we are also proud of SHERROD's record.

The common theme to all this is a phrase SHERROD has embraced his entire life: the dignity of work. It is something he repeats again and again. He has even named his bus tours on it.

And he also talks about the canary in the coal mine—that when there are some bad signs coming from certain places about working people, we had better all listen because it is the canary in the coal mine. I think he wore a canary in the coal mine on his blazer every so often.

Finally, let me end at the beginning, with a quick and humorous moment from SHERROD's youth. As a high school senior, SHERROD, one day, got together with his friends Paul and John to organize a rally in Mansfield to honor the very first Earth Day, in 1970. This is what he did; he organized rallies. Some people went to ball games. Some people watched TV. Some people went out to restaurants. SHERROD organized rallies.

They expected a good turnout at this rally, but they didn't expect 1,000 people to descend on downtown Mansfield, which wasn't that big a city.

As SHERROD described: We did this really cool march, and we had really big crowds. But we got down to the square, and none of us had thought about what to do when you get down there. We didn't have any speakers. And so we said, ''Oh, shoot,'' and we just disbanded.

Now, he wouldn't—only in SHERROD's account he didn't use the word ''shoot.''

Isn't that a vintage Sherrod story? He never made that mistake again. He was the speaker at so many of the rallies.

You know, I recruited—I knew he would be a great Senator. And when, at first, he decided not run—he was a House Member in 2006. I spent a lot of time in the House gym, and we spent time on the bikes next to each other, panting and sweating, but also my convincing him that, with his great talent and his great passion for workers, he was so needed in the Senate.

I am so glad he decided to run because he has done so much and left such an amazing imprint on this body.

So the story SHERROD accounts for, with his rally in Mansfield, has always been who he has been—direct, unflinching, passionate; a man who is warm and welcoming down to his very core, yet rough around the edges in just the right way; a man who will shun an Italian-made suit in favor of the Cleveland shop just a few miles from his home; a man who can penetrate the

dense language of public policy but will always prefer to ponder a line from the Scripture, from Tolstoy, Martin Luther King, or a worker from whom he heard something; a man with a gifted mind but an even—and he has such a gifted mind, but this is a true compliment—an even more gifted heart.

Thank you, SHERROD, for everything. We wish you, Connie, and your entire family our very best.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO STEFANIE MUCHOW

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, for many years running, a familiar morning ritual has played out just a few steps from my desk here in the Capitol. A lamp turns on, illuminating a shelf where an embroidered pillow reads ''Not my circus, not my monkeys.'' Invariably, a cold Diet Coke is cracked open. Perhaps a moment of reflection on Peggy Noonan's timeless observation that ''the constant possibility of quiet revenge keeps one peppy.'' Then my deputy chief of staff for operations, Stef Muchow, opens her office for business.

Stef works at a busy crossroads. Just about everything time-sensitive, confidential, or otherwise important that is headed my way stops at her desk first, and that is by design. There is no one else who can spend and accumulate institutional capital in my name with Stef's confidence; no one else who commands such a comprehensive awareness of my interests and priorities; no one else who embraces ''other duties as assigned'' with her unwavering devotion.

Now, this might sound like the sort of high praise any one of our colleagues would hope to give to a close adviser of two decades. I am sure it is what each of them would want to say about a bright, instinctive, effusively patriotic staffer who finished college a year and a half early and poured herself into public service at the highest level. I don't doubt that each of our colleagues is fortunate to enjoy the fierce loyalty to their staff, but I am quite certain that I am the only one in the Senate who has been blessed by the furious loyalty of Stef.

There is no portfolio—or more accurately, no collection of portfolios—anywhere in Washington quite like the one I have handed to Stef. And that makes sense because there is no one else who could handle it quite like her.

Around my office, the bench in Stef's office is where colleagues come for guidance and gut checks. Across the entire Senate, any number of people can think of times when it was Stef's wisdom, discretion, candor, loyalty, diplomacy, tact, or political savvy that made all the difference. I can think of hundreds.

No one else sees the whole board—from policy objectives, to political considerations, to protocol sensitivities, to personal circumstances—like Stef does. That may have something to do with the fact that she has seen my Senate office operations from just about every vantage point over the years.

For Stef, there has been no task too small, no job that wasn't worth doing right. As it turns out, this approach has been contagious. Stef's role so often demands uncompromising efficiency and the utmost discretion, and yet she still seems to seize every opportunity to bring the McTeam closer together as family.

Of course, Stef's other duties as assigned include covering much larger groups than the professionals I am proud to call my staff. In every corner of the building, her name is synonymous with mastery of the ceremonial protocols that transform the Capitol into a national stage. This is the place where America inaugurates our Presidents, bids farewell to fallen heroes, and bestows our highest honors, and very little of it takes place without Stef's knowledge, input, orchestration, or blessing. When you think about it, this diplomatic grace and eye for detail make sense coming from someone who probably hasn't missed a British royal wedding or an Olympic opening ceremony in her entire life. Don't worry—Stef cheers for Team USA, loud and proud.

But I would be remiss in talking about grace without mentioning the ways she has shown it in the face of the most demanding challenges we have seen together.

When the pandemic arrived, Stef's ability to balance sensitive considerations and competing interests was invaluable—not just to me but to the entire Senate. Her approach to big, thorny questions about protecting Senators and staff while upholding our duties helped us make the right calls when there were any number of ways to make the wrong ones. In truly unchartered territory, Stef's poise was decisive. As leaders across the institution faced a blank page and a daunting, once-in-a-century task, she took action—not because it would be easy but because it had to be done.

For years, this has been something of a theme: If it had to be done, it had to be Stef. If it had to be airtight and discreet, it had to be Stef. If it had to navigate political and personal sensitivities just right, it had to be Stef.

In this job, it is important to have a few people around you who really do know every aspect of your life, who you can trust without question, who will guard your confidences, and who will give you honest feedback. I am tremendously fortunate and proud of the countless ways Stef rises to these responsibilities over and over again.

But I am hardly the only one who gets to take pride in what Stef has accomplished. I share that distinction with the family who makes Stef who she is today—with her parents Gary and Dianne, her sisters Abbey and Leslie, and with the ones she rushes home to when the immense demands of the Senate grant a brief respite: her husband Scott and their beloved daughter Lily.

I am not sure my words here can ever begin to capture the significance of the first and last person I speak to every day, but there is perhaps no better illustration of Stef's love for our country and for the Senate than her sacrifice of time with the ones she loves the most.

So, to Stef, I am so grateful to you for everything you have done both for the Senate and for me.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican whip.

SENATE CALENDAR 2025

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, my office recently released the 2025 Senate Calendar. As everyone now knows, our schedule next year will be aggressive: Friday votes will be the norm, and we are not going to be having much in the way of recess in the first 100 days. That is because we have a lot of work to do, and we are not going to get it done on the kind of abbreviated schedule that we have had in 2024.

One of our first priorities, of course, will be confirming President Trump's nominees. The American people handed President Trump and Vice President-elect VANCE a decisive mandate in November. We are going to honor that mandate by making sure that President Trump has the people he needs in place as soon as possible, starting with the heads of the Cabinet Departments.

Democrats can certainly make the schedule a little less painful if they accord the President some of the deference the Republicans accorded to Cabinet nominees under President Obama. But one way or another, we are going to get the job done, and if that means some nights and weekends, so be it.

Our other early priority—and another reason the schedule will be particularly aggressive in the first 100 days—is to pass a reconciliation package with a once-in-a-generation investment in border security and immigration enforcement. The border and enforcement crisis under President Biden has left a gaping hole in our national security and undermined respect for the rule of law. And that ends in January. Enforcing the law and protecting the integrity of our borders will become administration policy on day one, and the Senate will move quickly to back up the President's efforts.

The package we will be taking up will, among other things, 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.

It will also focus on other key national security priorities, like addressing our lagging military readiness.

Other priorities for the first 100 days include kicking off our efforts to use the Congressional Review Act to undo some of the Biden administration regulations that are weighing down our economy and, of course, continuing work on our reconciliation package to extend the tax relief Republicans delivered for Americans during the first Trump administration.

I mentioned our national security priorities, and let me just say that national security is going to be a priority for Republicans throughout the year. We are finally now considering the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 here in the Senate this week—almost 3 months into the new fiscal year. Under Republican leadership, the NDAA will not be put on the back burner.

I am also committed to ensuring that we return to the regular-order consideration of appropriations bills. I will devote extensive time to the floor consideration of appropriations bills when they are ready in order to avoid an end-of-the-year pileup and problematic continuing resolutions, something with which, right now, we are very familiar.

Deciding how taxpayer money is spent is a serious responsibility, and it deserves serious floor time. Members should plan to take a lot of amendment votes during this process and throughout the year. That will mean taking tough votes at times, but that, folks, is what we were sent here to do.

Finally, Members should expect to take up a farm bill in 2025. We are now more than a year overdue on the next bill, and farmers and ranchers in my State and around the country are waiting for Washington to update farm programs to reflect current agriculture needs, and I am committed to bringing a bill to the floor in the coming year.

There are no two ways about it—2025 will be intense, but we have a real opportunity here to deliver for the American people on continued tax relief, on border security, on national security, and beyond. We are going to seize the day.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

H.R. 5009

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise in opposition to the National Defense Authorization Act—a position I do not take lightly.

I have supported the final passage of each NDAA that has come before me in the Senate up until now. From my tenure in this body and well before me, there has been a productive bipartisan tradition when it comes to this bill that authorizes funding for our military, supporting those in uniform, and keeping our country safe. Most years, we come together on a very quintessential country-over-party deal—one that I would argue is all too uncommon; but, still, this was an important annual ritual that carried serious consequences.

This is not to say that we do not have our differences. Of course, we do. But we know our commitment is bigger than those differences. This year, that commitment to our servicemembers, to the people we all represent, and to our security and safety was broken. It has been broken because some Republicans decided that gutting the rights of our servicemembers to score cheap political points was more worthy.

Let's be clear. We are talking about parents who are serving our country in uniform having the right to consult with their family's doctor and get the healthcare they want and need for their transgender children. That is it. They want the right to get whatever healthcare is best for their child—something I imagine all parents want.

The healthcare we are talking about here can sometimes be lifesaving. Some folks estimate that this will impact between 6,000 and 7,000 families in the military. I, for one, trust these servicemembers and their families to make their own decisions about healthcare without politicians butting in. It is flatout wrong to put this provision in this bill and take away a servicemember's freedom to make that decision for their families.

Look, this problem has a solution—a simple one, at that. My amendment would strike this provision that guts our servicemembers' rights. And I was glad to have 20 colleagues join me in supporting it. We should pass it.

It is unfortunate that some of our colleagues decided to force this harmful provision in this National Defense Authorization Act because, otherwise, I would have been proud to support it.

This bill has some great things for our servicemembers, my home State of Wisconsin, and measures that I have long pushed for. This bill invests in our most valuable asset: our people. I am thrilled to see that we are giving our junior enlisted troops a well-deserved pay raise—more than 14 percent—and boosting pay for all others by nearly 5 percent.

This legislation invests in the health and well-being of our troops and their families, eliminating copays for contraception for our troops and their families on TRICARE, making telemental health care services available regardless of where the patient is, and so much more.

A longstanding priority of mine in this bill and beyond is ensuring that when we use taxpayer dollars, we are supporting American companies and American workers and the American economy. When it comes to our national defense, this notion is essential for our safety and security. That is why I am glad to see steps forward in supporting the made-in-America economy.

The NDAA puts strategies in place to make sure that we are sourcing things domestically, from high-tech batteries to Navy warships. These suppliers are not only providing the highest quality products but are also creating and supporting good-paying jobs across the country—and Wisconsin is home to many of them. Whether it be the iconic companies like Fairbanks Morse or Oshkosh Defense or military installations like Fort McCoy, Wisconsin is crucial in our country's defense, and I am excited to see that this bill recognizes our contribution, making sound investments in the Wisconsin Rapids Army National Guard Readiness Center to support the training our troops need to stay ahead of tomorrow's threats.

Despite all of the common ground we have found and all of the smart investments we are making in our troops, their families, and our security, some folks poisoned this bill and turned their backs on those in service and the people we represent.

This bill should embody the best of us as elected officials, coming together without partisan agendas to keep our country safe and support those in uniform. Sadly, that is not what happened. In turn, if we pass this bill as is, we are going to rip away the rights of our servicemembers to get the healthcare they want for themselves and their children. It is wrong, and I encourage my colleagues to vote no.

I am delighted this morning to be joined by colleagues who share these concerns and would yield to Senator KIM for his remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. KIM. Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleagues to call for section 708 of the NDAA to be removed from the final bill.

As you know, I am new to the U.S. Senate. I come to the floor today with great humility but also great urgency because, while I am new to the U.S. Senate, I have had the honor of serving the past 6 years as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, just on the other side of this building.

During my time as a Member of the House, one of the things I have been most proud to work on is issues involving our military servicemembers and their families. As a House Member, I represented Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, the only triservice joint base in the country. Because of that, I represented tens of thousands of military families who signed up to serve our country.

When you talk to military families, the last thing you hear about is politics. In fact, the last thing they want to talk about is politics. Military families often struggle with sufficient housing or putting food on the table. They

face inadequacies in healthcare. Military spouses often face barriers to finding work. While it is only the servicemember who swears the oath, it is the whole family that serves.

I come to the floor with great urgency because Speaker JOHNSON sought to politicize this important National Defense Authorization Act by inserting a dangerous provision after the Armed Services Committees in both the House and the Senate came to bipartisan agreement. This kind of action undermines trust in negotiations and sets a dangerous precedent for what is widely considered the last true space of traditional bipartisan legislation.

Let's be clear. Section 708 would harm those who serve by denying healthcare for military families. By banning TRICARE from covering gender-affirming care for minors, we are standing in the way of military families and the healthcare their doctors have prescribed. We are putting politics into a bill where it simply does not belong. We are sending a signal to our military families that if your loved ones are transgender, we don't have your backs or theirs.

As the former ranking member of the Military Personnel Subcommittee on the House Armed Services Committee, there is a lot about this National Defense Authorization Act to support. Our junior enlisted servicemembers will receive a 14.5-percent pay raise, and all others will receive a 4.5-percent pay raise. Our servicemembers will have greater access to meal support so we can address hunger in our ranks. They will have additional funding to improve military construction of housing so they will have better roofs over their heads. And we have made real progress in improving access to healthcare.

These are all wins we should be proud of. They are bipartisan. They build a stronger national defense. That is all the more reason to strip this harmful provision, section 708, from the bill.

We shouldn't play politics with our national security. We shouldn't target transgender youth and further spread fear into a community that has seen so much hate directed toward it. We should pass an NDAA that supports our servicemembers and their families—all of them—without politics or prejudice. I hope my colleagues join me to that end.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge the work we have done on a bipartisan basis to draft this year's National Defense Authorization Act, NDAA. At more than 1,800 pages, this bill contains wins for our country, our military, and our servicemembers. It provides a raise to all servicemembers, with an even bigger raise for junior enlisted troops. It invests billions in needed military infrastructure in Hawaii and throughout the Indo-Pacific region—investments that are critical as we work to counter China's influence and support our allies and partners in the region.

I am proud that it contains a provision I fought for to create a new ''major mishaps'' classification to ensure better oversight and accountability of major incidents like the 2021 fuel spills at the Red Hill fuel storage facility on Oahu, which impacted over 93,000 people.

All of these provisions and many more will support our military, our servicemembers, and their families. In fact, our priority should be supporting the men and women of our Armed Forces and their families, and that includes making sure they have access to quality healthcare.

But instead of focusing on the things that matter, such as healthcare, Republicans demanded the inclusion of a provision prohibiting TRICARE from covering gender-affirming care for minors. Despite efforts to stop this provision, to strip this provision from this bill during conference, it is in there.

By many estimates, there are thousands of transgender children of servicemembers who are currently receiving gender-affirming care from TRICARE. Under this bill, those children would not be able to access the healthcare they need despite their parents approving the care. We know what happens when transgender and nonbinary children are refused gender-affirming care. According to the Journal of Adolescent Health, rates of depression, anxiety, and suicide all increase.

There is no question that this provision will cause concern for servicemembers worrying about their children not getting the healthcare they need, and of course this will cause trauma to servicemembers, their children, and the entire family.

We didn't have to do this, Mr. President. We didn't have to impose this cruelty on our servicemembers and their families. I thank Senator BALDWIN for introducing an amendment to stop this unnecessary, cruel provision, to strip this provision from this bill—an amendment I and others are proud to cosponsor. We know this fight is not over.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I want to thank Senator BALDWIN for her leadership on this issue, for helping us to focus on this threat to the rights of Americans that is being propounded in this Defense bill. I want to thank Senator MERKLEY.

I want to thank everyone who is joining with Senator BALDWIN in this fight because today we are considering the National Defense Authorization Act, and embedded within its language would be a ban on TRICARE coverage of gender-affirming care for children of servicemembers in our country. If passed into law, it would be the first anti-LGBTQ law passed by Congress in decades. Since the 1990s, there has been no anti-LGBTQ law which has passed. If passed into law, it would force thousands of members of the military to decide between service to their country and guaranteeing their child can get the healthcare they need.

This language was the product of a nationwide campaign against trans rights—a campaign that has facilitated the harassment of teachers, bomb threats to children's hospitals, and attacks on transgender people. This is the same campaign that drives legislators from State capitals to Capitol Hill to insist on dictating Americans' healthcare decisions.

We have seen this playbook before. For decades, Republicans attacked the right to abortion. They slowly chipped away, State by State, law by law, and today there is no constitutional right to abortion. Now they have turned their attention to servicemembers' families.

We must fight off efforts by politicians to force themselves into exam rooms. They think they know better than trained healthcare providers and patients. They do not. The only expertise they are exhibiting is an expertise in the oppression, suppression, and repression of healthcare freedom. And their attacks will not stop there.

Freedom isn't lost all at once; it happens 1 inch at a time. As the Senate author of the Transgender Bill of Rights, this is an inch that I insist that we cannot give.

At its best, this institution has affirmed the rights of every American. On this floor, we have expanded access to healthcare, guaranteed Americans' civil rights, and protected same-sex marriage. Today, we have the opportunity and the responsibility to fight discriminatory attacks on servicemembers, their families, and their healthcare providers.

We must strike this language. If we do not, we must vote no on the entire bill.

To every trans American, every servicemember, and their families, friends, and communities: I will not turn my back on you. I am with you. Together, we will keep fighting.

So, again, I thank Senator BALDWIN for her leadership on this issue.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I want to thank my colleagues—Senator KIM, Senator HIRONO, and Senator MARKEY—for participating in this debate today and for standing firm.

As I said earlier, historically, the NDAA has embodied the idea that there is more that brings us together than separates us, that our servicemembers and national defense are not to be politicized, and that we put our country over party when the chips are on the table.

Unfortunately this year, that was ignored, all to gut the rights of our servicemembers to get the healthcare that they need for their children.

With that, I encourage a ''no'' vote on the NDAA.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The Senator from Texas.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2082

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, it seems hard to imagine that it was 23 years ago when 3,000 Americans were killed in a terrorist attack in New York City and here in Washington, DC, at the Pentagon.

The families who lost loved ones that day have been seeking access to justice, just like any other victim could and should be able to here in the United States.

To that end, we introduced the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act, or JASTA, which was a monumental step to allowing those families who lost loved ones to achieve long-overdue closure in a court of law.

It did not put our thumb on the scale, it didn't say they were entitled to anything; it just said they were entitled to present their arguments and the facts to a court of law just like any other American citizen should be able to do so here in our country.

These terrorist attacks on 9/11 were a tragedy for our entire Nation; but for some, that day was a personal tragedy as well. Men and women who lost loved ones during the terrorist attacks deserve to have their day in court. Thanks to JASTA, as it is called, the Justice against Sponsors of Terrorism Act, that is now possible.

This legislation, the Ensuring Justice for Victims of Terrorism Act, provides important updates and technical edits to the original bill.

To show you the sort of bipartisan support that this carve-out in foreign sovereign immunity law received, it passed 97 to 1 back when it originally passed, and it passed over a Presidential veto by President Obama. The bill before us today does not expand JASTA's original scope as intended by Congress, but it does correct certain judicial misinterpretations that fly in the face of the clear text and the history of this legislation.

When President Obama vetoed JASTA, leading to the only veto override during his Presidency, he listed a parade of harmful potential foreign policy outcomes to justify his refusal to stand up for American victims of terrorism.

None—none—of these predicted negative outcomes have come to pass, and JASTA has been the law of the land for nearly a decade. These technical corrections will not change that fact. It will ensure that the families of the victims of these tragic attacks on 9/11 receive the justice they deserve, and I hope it will advance out of the Senate today.

To that end, I would ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 2082 and, notwithstanding rule XXII, that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; further, that the bill be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid on the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. COTTON. Reserving the right to object. I would first like to begin by joining my colleague from Texas in mourning the loss of the nearly 3,000 innocent Americans who died in the September 11 attack. We must never—and we will never—forget them.

I also want to extend my prayers to families who lost loved ones that day and who bear the weight of their loss in their hearts every single day.

However, I must object to this bill today because it hasn't yet received the careful consideration and deliberation that the subject warrants. First, contrary to some suggestions, the bill would enact more than mere technical corrections to earlier legislation. Rather, the bill's provisions would significantly change how a highly technical area of U.S. law is interpreted.

But the Judiciary Committee hasn't held a hearing or a vote on this bill, not the fault of the Senator from Texas to be sure, but a fact, nonetheless. I also question whether the Foreign Relations Committee should evaluate the bill as well, given its consequences for our foreign policy.

Second—and speaking of foreign policy—the bill could have far-reaching and consequential implications for our policy in the Middle East. Thanks to Israel's artful diplomacy and incredible military, Iran's so-called ''axis of resistance'' lies in rubble in Gaza, Lebanon, and Syria, with Iran itself, therefore, exposed on its flanks for the first time in a generation.

I would suggest at this highly promising, yet highly sensitive moment that all our efforts should be focused on uniting our friends and our allies in the region to put an end, once and for all, to the threat of a nuclear-armed, terrorist-sponsoring Iran.

Finally, this bill could have the unintended but unwelcome result of further delaying resolution and recovery for the 9/11 litigants' cases. The courts will likely need to reopen and relitigate past decisions based on the changed law, while a disproportionate amount of any future recovery could go primarily to insurance companies and lawyers instead of the families of the victims—if any recovery comes at all.

For these reasons, I must object today while suggesting that the new Congress revisit the matter with the hearings, regular order, and full consideration that the subject deserves.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

HONORING THE LIFE OF NEBRASKA COMMUNITY LEADER JOHN EDMUND GOTTSCHALK

Mr. RICKETTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to consideration of S. Res. 928, which is at the desk.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 928) honoring the life of Nebraska community leader John Edmund Gottschalk.

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

Mr. RICKETTS. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, that the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 928) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

Mr. RICKETTS. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a great Nebraskan and a great American, John Edmund Gottschalk. John Gottschalk was born in Omaha in 1943 and grew up in a small town in Nebraska called Rushville. He was a Boy Scout, and he went on to attend the University of Nebraska, majoring in political science and journalism.

His father started the Sheridan County Star, and John worked there as well, really getting his break into journalism, the newspaper business. In 1972, John bought the Sidney Telegraph in Sidney, NE, and became mayor of the town of Sidney. In 1975, he joined the Omaha World-Herald as an assistant to the president. He eventually worked his way up to become the publisher and CEO in 1998, and he remained that until 2009. Actually, 1989. I got those numbers flipped around. In 1989, he became CEO and publisher.

John and his wife Carmen were extraordinary people.

John led the Omaha World-Herald into the digital age and also spearheaded a number of the efforts to increase the technology and its spread throughout the State of Nebraska, different communities. He made the Omaha World-Herald a standard for how newspapers should be run.

He himself was known for his integrity and his courage. He was never shy about being direct with a budding politician to let that politician know when he believed that politician might have erred. He was one of those people that cared about the community. As I mentioned, he was a Boy Scout. He served

as chairman of our local Mid-America Council of the Boy Scouts but also became national president of Boy Scouts of America. He served as chairman of the Board of Governors of the USO, cared about our veterans and wanted to make sure we were serving them, cared about our military people. He also cared about the arts and was chairman of Omaha Performing Arts.

He and his wife Carmen cared about people. Together, they fostered more than 100 infants awaiting adoption.

John was an outdoorsman and a conservationist. He really was one of those people we would describe as a renaissance man—running a fantastic business, giving back to the community. He was the kind of American that built this country.

John passed away last month, leaving a legacy that is having a lasting imprint on our community of Omaha, the State of Nebraska, and indeed our entire country.

I greatly admire John Gottschalk for the kind of man he was, the example he set for the rest of us. He will be greatly missed, and I will miss him greatly.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Mr. HICKENLOOPER).

The majority whip.

H.R. 5009

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I would like to take a minute to note the fiscal year 2025 NDAA conference agreement the Senate is voting on this week.

Congress has passed a bipartisan Defense authorization bill every year without fail since 1961, a remarkable feat. And in an increasingly partisan Senate, it is even more remarkable.

Every year, when the final text comes, there are inevitably Members on both sides of the aisle who like some provisions and dislike others. That is what compromise is all about.

This year's text is no different. It includes a historic pay raise for junior enlisted troops. It provides continued support for Ukraine's territorial integrity and Baltic security cooperation.

This bill authorizes important military construction projects. It reauthorizes my READ Act to continue quality basic education programs for vulnerable children around the world.

At the same time, it also continues troubling restrictions that make it unnecessarily difficult to finally close the detention center at Guantanamo Bay. And it fails to include important provisions I sponsored that would have accelerated PFAS remediation and enabled the skilled DACA holders to enlist in the military to address our recruitment challenges.

But there is one provision in this conference agreement that troubles me, a provision that would ban certain medical treatments for transgender children of servicemembers. It eliminates the ability of military families to work with medical professionals and make their own decisions about the healthcare needs of their own children.

That is why I am a cosponsor of Senator TAMMY BALDWIN's amendment to remove this language from the bill.

SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST STEP ACT

Mr. President, I would like now to highlight an important milestone. This coming Saturday, December 21, will mark the sixth anniversary of the First Step Act becoming law. That moment resulted from overwhelming bipartisan majorities in the House and Senate coming together to pass landmark criminal justice reform.

I was honored to be the lead Democrat sponsor of this legislation, along with the lead Republican sponsor, Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY. Senators CORY BOOKER and MIKE LEE joined us.

The First Step Act acknowledges the obvious: The vast majority of people who are incarcerated will someday be released. So we must prepare them to successfully return to their communities.

In the last 6 years, this law has safely and effectively reduced populations in overcrowded Federal prisons, reuniting families and revitalizing communities.

The First Step Act looked toward the future by providing opportunities for the incarcerated people to reenter society successfully. It helped to reform harsh drug sentencing laws of the past and remedy their effects.

I authored bipartisan legislation, the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010, that reduced the unjust 100-to-1 sentencing disparity between crack and powder cocaine offenses.

Under the First Step Act, the Fair Sentencing Act's reforms were made retroactive, allowing those who still serve sentences imposed before the change in law to be resentenced. I am thankful for the tireless efforts of many dedicated advocates and families who never gave up hope that this bill would become the law.

Since the passage of the First Step Act, 6 years ago, I have met with many Americans who successfully returned home because of this historic legislation.

The First Step Act has been a tremendous success. Of more than 40,000 people released under this law through January of this year, only 9.7 percent have been rearrested or returned to custody. Compare that to the Bureau of Prisons' overall recidivism rate of 45 percent—5 times that number. Unfortunately, some elected officials are calling now for a return to the punitive policies of the past, despite the success of the First Step Act.

Here is the reality: We all deserve to live free from crime, but the War on Drugs, with its inflexible mandatory minimums, did not make communities safer. Instead, the so-called War on Drugs filled the prisons with young, mostly African-American men, and, at the same time, the price of illegal drugs went down, and the use of illegal drugs went up. The strategy didn't work.

The First Step Act shows that we can do more than be just tough on crime. We can be, once and for all, smart on crime and achieve accountability without excessive punishment and incarceration.

It is our job in Congress to thoughtfully respond to the enduring crisis of substance abuse in America. We should provide more opportunities for those who are incarcerated to reenter society successfully, reunite with their families, and contribute to their communities.

And, we need to build on the bipartisan success of the First Step Act and work together to craft new policies to reduce crime in America.

Six years ago, the First Step Act was signed into law by President Donald Trump, during his first term in office, while my lead Republican sponsor, Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY, was chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee. With Donald Trump returning to the White House and Senator GRASSLEY returning as chairman of the Judiciary Committee, we have the opportunity to build on the success of the First Step Act.

Six years ago, we wrote the blueprint for reimagining rehabilitation and protecting public safety. We know that it works.

We must remember that passing this law was just the first step in a long journey toward rethinking rehab and reversing failed reaches. Today, as I reflect on what we achieved by correcting our past wrongs and investing in the power of second chances, I also recognize that more must be done to make our justice system fair and to keep America safe.

We should learn from the experiences of individuals who have been incarcerated under misguided policies and are now seeking to reform the criminal justice system for the future.

As we celebrate this anniversary, I will continue to work with my colleagues to reform outdated sentencing laws and improve conditions of confinement and rehabilitation within our Federal system.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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 12:33 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. LUJÁN).

WILDLIFE INNOVATION AND LONGEVITY DRIVER REAUTHORIZATION ACT—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 399

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today in support of Senator KAINE's request for unanimous consent for the Senate to pass the Saving the Civil Service Act. It is a critical bill that I hope all my colleagues would agree needs to be enshrined into law.

One of the great strengths of our democracy is that we have an independent, merit-based civil service. Back in the 19th century, we saw what happens when you had a Federal workforce that was made up of a system of spoils and political patronage. So the Congress, back in 1883, said: We ought to put in place an independent civil service.

That has been the law of the land for the last 150 years. Virtually every other industrial nation in the world has modeled their independent workforce after the American model.

We have 2 million Federal employees across the country. Virginia has 147,000. There are close to that many in Maryland and in the District, but they are all over. Senator HIRONO mentioned earlier Hawaii has some of the highest concentration.

Senator KAINE's bill, which we are all proud to be cosponsoring, would simply say: Let's not break that system.

The idea—and the incoming President has said he wants this—to make and get rid of a merit-based civil service is, in my mind, beyond comprehension. Do you really want that nurse at the VA hospital, that the first criteria we are looking for is who did she vote for as opposed to whether she knows nursing; or that air traffic controller that says: Well, I may have been politically active for an unpopular candidate, so I am going to get fired? Or, more likely, one of the things that we have seen that has been a strength of our system: The independent economist at the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Presidents of each party get mad when their numbers come out each month because those numbers are independently verified. Do you want to fire all those folks and put in political loyalists?

The rest of the world would run from that, and it would, frankly, undermine the reserved nature of the U.S. dollar as the currency of the backbone of the world, if we are cooking the books on our economic numbers.

There are a host of other examples that we could go almost category by category. I can tell you, the vast majority of Federal workers whom I interact with, most of them could actually have done better in the private sector. They do this work because of that sense of public service.

And if you get rid of a merit-based system and do it all for political patronage, who is going to actually join that kind of government on a going-forward basis?

This would undermine our economy, undermine our security, and obviously undermine the ability of the American people to get a fair administration of government services.

With that, I am going to yield to my good friend, the Senator from Maryland Senator VAN HOLLEN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I want to thank my colleague from Virginia Senator WARNER, who just addressed this very important issue, and my friend and colleague, the other Virginia Senator, Senator KAINE, who is making the motion today that we pass his Saving the Civil Service Act.

This is a critical piece of legislation to protect one of America's best innovations, which is the idea of a nonpartisan, merit-based Federal workforce—one that serves all Americans, regardless of political affiliation; one where you don't take a political test to decide whether you have the credentials for the job; you take a skills-based, knowledge-based test to decide if you are best for the job.

Our Federal workers are the air traffic controllers who ensure safe passage when Americans fly; they are the inspectors who protect our food supply; they are the folks who determine whether or not medicines put on the market are going to be both safe and do what they say they are going to do; they are the folks at the Social Security Administration in Baltimore City who make sure that people get their Social Security checks on time; they are the nurses and doctors at veterans hospitals who help our veterans; and many, many other essential functions.

Today, the only criteria for their employment is performance. It is what they know, not who they know. They are qualified to serve based on those credentials, and they do a good job protecting the American public. And they serve in those jobs regardless of what President is in the White House and what party that President may belong to. Their duty is to serve the American people.

So why are we here on the floor? Because the incoming administration has threatened to change the longtime practice of making sure we have a merit-based civil service.

At the very end of the last Trump administration, they proposed something called schedule F, which would allow them to convert merit-based positions into politically based positions—in other words, substituting political cronies for qualified merit-based Federal employees. That is a recipe for corruption.

Our predecessors, a long time ago, recognized that. That is why, back in 1883, the Congress passed the Pendleton Act to create the merit-based civil service. Prior to that, we had a spoils system, where people who worked on campaigns thought that they could get any job they wanted, regardless of their qualifications, because of their political party label.

In fact, the reason we ended up getting the Pendleton Act—one of them—was that, in 1881, one of those people, who had worked on a political campaign and thought they should have gotten a job and didn't, assassinated President Garfield. So at that time, the country was shaken, and they said: We have to get rid of the spoils system and replace it with a merit-based system.

I want to just make two other points because the incoming administration, as I said, tried this schedule F idea at the end of the last administration. This time, they are talking about doing it near the beginning of this incoming administration, which is why we are here on the floor today trying to take this action to prevent that from happening.

I want to point out that Presidents have about 4,000 political positions to fill. We are talking about the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State. Presidents have the discretion already—the power today—to nominate people for those 4,000 positions. So we are not talking about taking that away. We are saying: You can't convert thousands of other positions that today are based on merit into those political type of jobs.

Finally, we have heard a lot about the need for more government efficiency, and count me in. Count all of our colleagues from Virginia and Maryland and I think probably both sides of the aisle in on the idea of trying to make sure that we achieve greater efficiencies in government. But I will not support and we will not support something that, under the cover of the claim of government efficiency, is simply a Trojan horse to undo our merit-based system and turn it into one based on political cronyism because that leads to corruption, which will erode the public's confidence and erode the quality of service that our Federal civil servants provide.

So I want to again thank my colleague from Virginia Senator KAINE for all he has done. I want to thank my colleague from Maryland Senator CARDIN, who has also been a great partner in this.

I yield to the Senator from Virginia Senator KAINE.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I appreciate my colleagues Senator WARNER and Senator VAN HOLLEN. We just had a press conference where Senator CARDIN and Senator HIRONO also came to speak about the importance of this issue.

As everybody knows—you learned this in civics in grade school—officials in the United States swear loyalty not to the President but to the Constitution of the United States. Under the Constitution, Congress passes laws, and the President enforces them.

But from the beginning days of our country, the President can't do all the

enforcement and implementation on his or her own; it is too big a job for an individual. In a big and complex country, you need people whose whole job might be enforcing a particular law—say inspecting a meat-processing plant. You need people to make sure planes don't crash into each other at airports, people to prosecute anybody running a scam to cheat the elderly out of their life savings, people to bust tax cheats or catch somebody dumping toxic chemicals into a stream, in violation of the Clean Water Act.

Federal employees do all these things. They work to ensure that critical resources and services are provided in countless communities across America. They work to keep Social Security up and running, manage veterans' benefits, research medical diseases, and develop cures and vaccines.

Enforcing the law and running government requires people who are dutybound to enforce the laws enacted by Congress and to obey the lawful orders of the President, all subject to the overriding duty to support and defend the Constitution of the United States. But we swear fealty to that Constitution, not to a person.

Early in the Republic, as my colleague indicated—Senator VAN HOLLEN—the executive branch operated under what is known as the spoil system, as in the expression ''to the victor go the spoils.'' But there quickly arose an obvious problem: If the people who enforce American laws answer only to the President, then if you are on the President's team, they go easy on you, and if you are against the President, they bring Federal law down on you like a hammer. That is not the rule of law.

It took a century, from the founding of America until enactment of the Pendleton Act—and Senator VAN HOLLEN talked about a tragedy that occurred at the foot of Capitol Hill, which was once a train station where President Garfield was assassinated in 1881. It took that tragedy to basically galvanize this growing awareness that our Federal employees should be hired based on merit, not political loyalty.

Since then—nearly 150 years—our Nation has recognized the value of a nonpartisan and merit-based system to carry out Federal Government functions. Having a dedicated civil service based on merit rather than political loyalties is in the best interest of everyone. It not only promotes professionalism and reduces cronyism, it also promotes stability.

We saw in the last Trump administration the track record of the political appointees. There was a revolving door in many of these positions. How many Secretaries of State? How many Secretaries of Defense? How many Secretaries of the Navy? When you are switching positions out, you get worse and worse quality of service. The professional civil service is not just about merit, it is also about stability.

Our civil service is tasked with protecting so many important values: national security, economic productivity, guiding public health, and so much more. There have been attempts in recent years to erode the independence of the Federal civil service, and that is why I am here on the floor, where I will in a minute request Senate passage of the Saving the Civil Service Act.

The bill upholds the merit system principles to ensure that the Federal Government is equipped with the most qualified and experienced individuals. Specifically, the Saving the Civil Service Act will prohibit the reclassification of Federal employees to schedules outside of the competitive civil service without congressional consent. If Congress agrees to this, that is one thing, but to do the reclassification over the objection of or without even consulting with Congress would be barred by this bill.

Over 2 million Federal employees work in all 50 States and U.S. territories.

There are 147,000 in Virginia.

In New Mexico, there are more than 22,000 Federal employees who work in critical areas such as nuclear research. Some of the most important research that has been done in the history of the United States was done in New Mexico by highly trained scientists, and that continues today.

In Missouri, which my colleague Senator SCHMITT represents, Federal employment is more than 37,000, and many work for the VA, for the Treasury, for the Army, for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and for the Department of Homeland Security.

This shouldn't be a partisan bill. We don't have any need and never have had a need for Democratic meat inspectors or Republican air traffic controllers, Democratic VA nurses and Republican cancer researchers; we just want people who have expertise. These experts may have their personal political opinions, but as long as they are doing their jobs, they deserve protection from political retaliation.

To be clear, the President can govern as he or she sees fit within the bounds of statute. Many Federal laws have ambiguity. If there is too much ambiguity, we in Congress need to fix it. The President is empowered to use flexibility within the law as he sees fit, and career Federal employees have to follow those directives and implement the President's interpretation of the law falling within legal bounds. The President, additionally, has the ability to appoint 4,000 political appointees, some of whom must be confirmed by the Senate but many of whom don't even require Senate confirmation.

If a President tries to go outside the law, someone should be able to stand up and say, ''Mr. President, that is illegal, and you can't do it. Telling your boss ''That is illegal, and you can't do it'' is not disloyalty. That is patriotism. That is loyalty to the Constitution and to the law. Again, we all take the same oath. The oath is to the document, not the President.

Third and finally, my bill does not mean that we don't expect accountability from Federal workers. In any large organization, government agency, or large company, there is a potential for unnecessary bureaucracy to develop. In a large pool of people, there may be some bad apples not doing their job. Nothing in this bill protects Federal employees from accountability for their performance.

In fact, the National Federation for Federal Employees has testified before Congress on more than one occasion about the circumstances in which Federal employees have been terminated for cause. That demonstrates that while they exist to defend the rights of their members, they are not going to apologize for or shirk responsibility for bad behavior of employees whose performance merits termination.

I am all for solutions that increase accountability and efficiency. I am on the Foreign Relations Committee, and I followed with great interest the efforts of President Trump's first Secretary of State, Rex Tillerson, and his team in 2017 in that space.

The rights of civil servants and the goals of an efficient, responsive Federal Government shouldn't be in competition, and I refuse to dismiss as naive the idea that Federal workers can have a range of personal political views but still serve faithfully and carry out the law and the faithful orders of the Commander in Chief.

I know this is possible because it is exactly what we ask of the American military—my oldest son is a marine—and the military delivers that in a significant way. Every servicemember is allowed to vote, but whoever is duly elected—that is whose lawful orders they follow.

The bill is about basic fairness. The American people should have high expectations of Federal workers and should know that the people enforcing American laws aren't going easy on someone just because they happen to be a friend of the President, Democratic or Republican.

Some will argue that this is necessary because the Federal Government is too big and inefficient. In fact, the Federal Government is smaller today than it was during its peak in the post-World War II years, with more than 3 million Federal employees at that time.

So I am looking forward to working on this and making sure that we uphold this value that has stood the test of time since 1883—a professional civil service, not one placed on political loyalty or cronyism.

With that, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 399 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration, that the bill be considered read a third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I am heartened to hear the historical references from my friend from Virginia and my friend from Maryland, but if we go back just a little bit further, to our Nation's founding, the Founders were very concerned about concentrations of power. That is why we have our system of federalism, three branches of government, separation of powers. All was meant to disperse government so that no one branch, no one person ever got too powerful.

But the underlying belief that would save this system of self-government was that people would be accountable to the people, that if you sent somebody up here and you agreed with them, you would send them back or you would send them home.

What we have seen, particularly in the last hundred years, is the growth of an administrative state that isn't accountable to anybody. That is the truth.

I was in Northwest Missouri a couple of years ago, and a farmer told me: Eric, I just don't ever remember voting for the Deputy Under Secretary of the EPA.

He had a point. A guidance letter—not even a rule and certainly not even a law—can destroy a farmer's livelihood in a farm they have had for generations. Or take for example the abuses we saw during COVID. The Supreme Court—I know something about this. I was the AG that brought the case. The vaccine mandate. They didn't have any authority to force a medical procedure on 100 million people, but they wanted to do it anyway. Student loan debt forgiveness. There was no authority to wipe away half a trillion dollars' worth of student loan debt with the stroke of a pen, but they did it anyway.

These are big, broad discussions. The Supreme Court has weighed in. The major questions doctrine. They have been reining in the abuses of government now in unelected bureaucrats over the last decade.

Of course, with the overturning of the Chevron decision, the ball is now in our court to sort of reassert the article I branch's role that we are the ones—if you want to ban gas stoves, we should have to vote on it.

So this bill, what it does—it blatantly infringes upon executive prerogative to shape the executive workforce. So the courts have weighed in, and dare I say the American people weighed in just about a month ago. There is no secret that President Trump ran on greater government efficiency and reducing the size of government.

This is another effort to Trump-proof before January 20. We are seeing a wholesale auction of the border wall for less than 1 percent of its value. It is happening right now to thwart what is coming. These sort of efforts that are happening behind the scenes and now here on the Senate floor are intended to do one thing, which is to prevent President Trump from executing on what he campaigned on, which is government efficiency.

About 16 percent of the Federal workforce right now is in any one of those buildings on Pennsylvania Avenue. I think that over the coming months, with the DOGE committee and some of those efforts—and I hope we can work in a bipartisan way. I agree, this shouldn't be a partisan issue. Saving money should not be a partisan issue. And there are some people that probably need to go. There are great Federal workers in our Federal workforce, but we are wasting a lot of money, and people aren't even willing to show up to work right now.

So having flexibility to deliver on the message that people saw cross their television screens and in rallies all across this country over the last 2 years during the Presidential campaign—that is what this is about. This bill would thwart those efforts, and that is why I am objecting.

Therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, just a brief response.

My colleague from Missouri mentioned the fact that recent decisions of the Supreme Court have put more burden on the shoulders of Congress not to abdicate decision-making responsibility but to own it, and that is precisely what my bill would do. It would not block a President from trying to make reforms to the Federal civil service; it would just require that the President do so in consultation with the article I branch.

That article I branch, come January 3, is going to be two Republican Houses. I can't imagine why a Trump Presidency would be afraid of two Republican Houses. If any proposal with respect to the Federal civil service has merit, it would seem that the President should have some sense of confidence that he can convince the next Congress of the United States to go along with it. But if, in fact, he is worried about his ability to convince two Republican Houses to go along with plans with respect to the Federal Civil Service, I think that should tell us something.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS LEGISLATION

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, the past 4 years have been historic for the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs by almost any measure. We secured the largest investment in Native communities in American history, totaling more than $45 billion. We had the committee's most productive 4-year period ever, passing more than a dozen bills into law. And, just this month, we passed another 10 bills in the Senate that are waiting for action in the House.

Taken together, these record investments and laws cover a wide range of priorities for native people—securing ancestral lands and waters, building safer communities for children and elders, and turning a new page on the boarding school era by promoting native languages, education, and healing.

But the numbers alone don't tell the story because behind each of these statutes and investments are real, tangible benefits for Native communities everywhere—from the homes they live in to the roads they get around on to the water they drink every day—and I am proud that we have been able to deliver such important investments in Indian Country, on Hawaiian homelands, and in Alaska Native villages, whose needs have been so often overlooked or even sometimes harmed by the Federal Government.

This progress means more people will have homes with working electricity and clean, piped water. Advance appropriations for the Indian Health Service, for the first time ever, means people don't have to worry about whether or not they can get to a doctor or not if the government shuts down. Significant investments in Tribal transportation and infrastructure means that communities are one step closer to making dirt roads and broadband deserts a thing of the past. And thanks to the provisions in the Violence Against Women Act reauthorization, Tribes can be in charge of their own safety again with the ability to keep their children and their neighbors safe.

The committee has also enacted three water rights settlements into law and secured $2.5 billion to pay for these and the more than 30 other already enacted settlements. There is more work to do to get other settlements over the line, and we are going to continue to work with our House colleagues to get it done.

Rebuilding Tribal homelands, expanding broadband, building out transportation projects were key priorities for our committee on a bipartisan basis. We were also focused on helping Native communities unlock clean energy and adapt to a changing climate. Elsewhere, we put real resources into the Federal Government's efforts to revitalize Native languages and work to bring healing around the Federal Indian boarding school era.

From day one, our work was guided by the voices of Native leaders and community members—''nothing about me without me'' as the saying goes—and we couldn't have done this without the incredible leadership of Native people across our great country, telling us

what matters and holding us accountable.

The progress, though long overdue, is still in progress. The bills we passed and the investments we have made will materially benefit people's lives—for American Indians, for Native Hawaiians, and Alaska Natives. Now, that doesn't mean we get to call it a day, because to say that this is the most productive period for Native people as it relates to congressional action in American history is to say two things: It is to say we did a lot. It is certainly to say we did a lot. We did it on a bipartisan basis. We did it with extraordinary staff from my Indian Affairs Committee staffers to LISA MURKOWSKI's staffers, to all of the Members and advocacy organizations. We did a lot. It is also to acknowledge that it was a damned low bar. Most Congresses not only didn't help Native communities much but actively harmed Native communities a lot.

The official position of the United States Federal Government was the extermination of Tribal governments. The official position with the Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. military, the Department of the Interior, and other Federal Agencies and their representatives was to essentially dismantle Native cultures—language, access to water, access to land. They cut the children's hair. They punished them physically if they spoke their Native language. They removed these children from their parents and incarcerated them in something that they called boarding schools, but let's be clear. It wasn't a boarding school in the sense of ''my kid is 16. We have some extra money. Maybe they are going to go to a good school on the east coast somewhere.'' They were incarcerated.

So it is true that we have done a lot. It is also true that we have done a lot—that we have harmed Native communities for centuries, and this 4-year period marks a change in the relationship between the U.S. Federal Government and Native communities from Hawaii to Alaska and all across the continent.

And so I am extraordinarily proud of the accomplishments of this committee, but I don't want anyone to mistake this for a victory lap. We have so much more to do to undo, literally, generations of injustice. No amount of work we are going to do in a year or even 4 years is going to suddenly and totally reverse generations of neglect and harm by the Federal Government. Yet this is a moment to recognize the great work we have done. It is broadband; it is water; it is economic opportunity; it is Native culture; it is Native language; it is Native music. It is people being in control of their own intellectual property, in control of their own destinies.

That is what this is about. This is about the right of people—the first peoples of the United States—to self-determination. I am proud to be a small part of that legacy.

I yield the floor.

(Mr. BROWN assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WELCH). The senior Senator from the great State of Ohio.

FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I am here at desk 88, honored to address my family and friends and Ohioans of the Nation.

I remember well my first speech 18 years ago. Illinois Senator Barack Obama was presiding over the Senate. Following parliamentary norms—and perhaps a bit presciently—I addressed him as ''Mr. President.''

A few desks away sat the senior Senator from Massachusetts, whose brother's desk I have now occupied for my entire three terms. Senator Kennedy, the chair of the Labor Committee, spoke after my remarks about his commitment and my commitment to workers. My speech, no surprise to anyone, was about workers and their dignity, raising the minimum wage, creating more opportunity for people who build this country with their brains and with their hands.

By some measure, my life began less than 3 miles from here. My dad, a family doctor from Mansfield, OH, and my mother a teacher from Mansfield, GA, met at a soldiers' dance in 1945 at the Mayflower Hotel. My father had returned from serving in the Army in the Middle East; my mother had moved to Washington to assist in the war effort to work at OSS. Their first date a few days later was at the Willard Hotel.

When they married the next year, my father moved to Mansfield, OH, then a prosperous industrial city where Ohioans made steel and manufactured cars and tires and appliances for young families returning from World War II.

When I was in high school, my mother, troubled by racism she saw in smalltown Georgia as a kid and in Ohio when she moved there, helped found the Ohio council of YWCAs. The 165-year mission of the Young Women's Christian Association is to eliminate racism and to empower women.

My dad was a family doctor with a working-class practice. He always took care of people, regardless of their ability to pay.

From them came my values and my desire to serve. From my parents—he a conservative, she a liberal; he a Republican, she a Democrat; he a northerner, she a southerner—taught me by their action and their admonition that the role of government was to help the little guy; the big guy could take care of himself.

I went to Johnny Appleseed Junior High—that was really its name—and walked the halls with the sons and daughters of autoworkers at GM, electrical workers of Westinghouse, steelworkers of Empire-Detroit, machinists at Tappan Stove, and the daughters and sons of the thousands of millwrights and electricians and laborers and pipefitters who kept those plants running. These workers, especially those lucky enough to carry union cards, could buy a home, take a vacation, and join a growing middle class.

But by the time I graduated from Mansfield Senior High School, these plants were starting to shut down. Corporations searched the globe for cheap labor. First, they moved south to anti-union States; then they lobbied for tax breaks and bad trade deals to move jobs overseas. Always—always in search, Mr. President—of lower wages.

Compliant politicians were all too happy to oblige. They called it the North American Free Trade Agreement; they called it Most Favored Nation status with China—honest to God, that was its original name; they called it the Central American Free Trade Agreement; they called it the Trans-Pacific Partnership—until we put a stop to it.

And Wall Street rewarded those countries and those politicians over and over and over again. I saw what corporate greed and, frankly, Presidents of both parties did to my hometown and towns like it all over this country.

Through all my years in Congress, I have tried to be the voice in the megaphone for those workers and for those communities.

I think back to 2003. Every night, at the other end of this building—every night—I stood in the well of the House of Representatives reading letters from Ohioans opposing Bush's war in Iraq—from Cleveland to Cincinnati, from Dayton to Columbus, from Toledo to Athens. The White House, on flimsy evidence but with an itch to go to war, was sending working-class kids from Ohio to fight and, too often, to die in Iraq, a war that history tells us was a colossal mistake.

I drew inspiration from President John Quincy Adams who had returned to the House in his attack on slavery. To evade House rules that prohibited—believe it or not—that prohibited debating slavery, rules forced on the people's House by enslavers, by southern enslavers, he read letter after letter from his constituents about the evils of slavery and advocating for its abolition.

Then as now, our duty is to amplify the voices of the people whom we serve. To be that strong and effective megaphone, you start by listening.

I remember when I helped lead the opposition in my first year in the House to NAFTA. Bill Richardson, a pro-NAFTA Democrat from New Mexico, lamented the fact that Members would go home during congressional recess. He said, ''You know, every time Members of Congress go home, my side loses votes.''

Well, there is a reason for that. We are supposed to listen to our constituents. So almost every week, every Friday, Saturday, Sunday, I am in Ohio. I have crisscrossed this State, from Ashtabula to Athens, from Gallipolis to Zanesville to Portsmouth to Springfield to Van Wert to Toledo to Shelby—

all over this State holding roundtables, walking picket lines, touring plants, talking to workers in break rooms and on worksites and behind checkout counters.

On Monday afternoons, I return to Washington carrying a satchel of good ideas drawn from Ohioans. My job in both the House and Senate has been to represent those workers, to listen to them, to speak out for them, to fight for them; not to listen to Wall Street, not the drug companies, not the big railroads, but to fight for the people who make this country work.

Over the last few weeks, people have come up to me, since the election, at the grocery store, after church, at the airport, in the halls of the Senate asking how I am doing. There are two reasons I answer, ''I am doing well.'' First is this team, the team around me. I have never been prouder of the public servants who work in this office, how they immediately went to work to help and support each other. All of them, all of them have dedicated themselves to making sure their colleagues land well and to making sure casework for Ohioans is handed off to other Members of Congress.

Over the last few weeks, I have been meeting with every single staff member—70 in all—to discuss their careers and their futures.

The second reason is that for me, this job has never really been about the title of being a U.S. Senator. Much of the important work we have done has been driven not by a bunch of Washington insiders but by ordinary Ohioans. I think about the fight to save workers' pensions. When Wall Street gambled away workers' retirement savings, we fought back.

Washington ignored Ohio workers, didn't take them seriously. Most people in Washington don't really even understand what collective bargaining is, that workers give up raises at the bargaining table for pensions and paid into them over a lifetime, all for the promise of a secure retirement for their family.

Ohioans put this on the agenda. They kept it there. They—we—never gave up, and together we passed the Butch Lewis Act, named for an Ohioan, saving the pensions of 100,000 Ohio workers and a million workers serving this country.

Or think how we expanded healthcare for veterans exposed to those football field-sized burn pits. Ohio veterans and their families came to us. They put it on the agenda. They forced—forced—Washington to listen. Veterans traveled to Washington. Many of them camped outside this door not far from here to make this happen. Because of them, the Heath Robinson PACT Act—again named for an Ohioan—is now law.

Those fights aren't quick, particularly when they require taking on powerful corporate interests.

Back when I was in the House more than two decades ago, we organized bus trips for Ohio seniors to Canada to save money on prescription drugs. Three-hour bus ride from Lorain to Toledo to Detroit, across the river to Windsor, Ontario, so they could save money on prescription drugs.

Throughout my entire time in the Senate and before, we fought big Pharma and their lobbyists trying to lower the cost of prescription drugs. Two years ago, finally we won. This never happens fast. We capped the price of insulin at $35 a month for Medicare beneficiaries. For the first time, Medicare was negotiating drug prices for seniors.

These victories, as I say, they don't come easy. Of course they don't, but they matter to millions of families. When we stand up to corporate special interest, when we guarantee workers a seat at the table, when we see decisions here through the eyes of workers, we all do our jobs a little bit differently and better.

We included a project labor agreement for 8,000 workers at a single construction site, ensuring a path to middle class for those families.

We expanded the childcare tax credit, giving more than 90 percent of American families a tax cut to keep up with the cost of living—2 million children in Ohio, 60 million around the country benefited, if only for a year.

We are on the verge of restoring the full Social Security benefits that police officers and teachers and firefighters and busdrivers and school cafeteria workers have earned.

With Finance Chair RON WYDEN, we created an industrial policy to build more manufacturing in our country. And we have fundamentally—fundamentally—changed the debate on trade in this country. Of course, this town is still full of people who think that way, whose arrogance won't allow their world view to be changed by all the evidence that corporate trade deals have failed our workers, failed our communities, and, frankly, poisoned our politics.

They no longer go unchallenged and unquestioned. They used to ridicule you if you spoke up for workers, if you dared to suggest that no amount of compensating the losers, no amount of compensation can replace the dignity of a good-paying, rewarding job—no longer.

I have always looked at things a little differently, perhaps, than some. To me, politics is not really left or right or liberal or conservative. It is really about whose side you are on and whom you are willing to fight for, whom you are willing to stand up to. That is what true populism is all about. True populism lifts all people. True populism doesn't tear others down. True populism doesn't play to race and division. True populism is essentially about the dignity of work, putting workers at the center of all we should be doing.

When I talk about workers, I mean all workers—whether you swipe a badge or punch a clock, whether you work for tips or whether you work on salary, whether you are going to school or raising kids or caring for an aging parent. No matter who you are, no matter where you live, no matter what kind of work you do, your work has dignity. It ought to pay off for you and your family. We have that in common. With all the differences we have as a country, we have work in common. Work is really what binds us.

For too many people in Ohio and around the country, hard work hasn't paid off. Today, far too many workers don't see a path to the middle class, no matter how hard they work.

For almost a half a century—we know this, we know this—we should be challenging this. For half a century, the stock market soared; executive compensation has exploded; corporate profits have risen dramatically; worker productivity has increased, but workers' wages have been comparatively flat, and costs keep going up.

Until we solve the fundamental problem in this country, until hard work is valued, until everyone has a path to the middle class and the stability and security of a good-paying job, our work in this body, my work as a private citizen, come January, that work is unfinished.

If you want to know why so many workers think the system is rigged against them, just look at what happened 3 weeks ago in East Texas. It is a little fanfare. A single judge, appointed by President Trump, at the behest of the Texas Chamber of Commerce, struck down a Labor Department rule which guaranteed overtime for workers making $35,000 or $40,000 a year.

That ought to be a fundamental principle. If you put in extra hours, you ought to earn extra pay. You did the work; you earned it. One judge, one decision, four million workers lost their overtime. One judge, one decision, four million workers lost their overtime. That is why we make this fight.

In 1891, Pope Leo XIII wrote what is recognized as the first time an international figure acknowledged the rights of workers and the duty of employers to respect workers' inherent dignity. In Rerum Novarum, he wrote that ''to respect in every man his dignity,'' required respecting workers' rights to fair compensation and safe humane working conditions.

Think about this. Seven decades later, in a segregated Tennessee, in a segregated city of Memphis, in a segregated neighborhood, amidst a torrential downpour, four sanitation workers climbed into—yes—a segregated garbage truck to shield themselves from the rain. Two White workers settled into the warmth and the safety of the cab. Two Black workers crawled in the back, amidst the garbage, where the compactor malfunctioned, and two young Black workers were crushed to death.

Dr. King went to Memphis twice that year. He went after that happened. The

second time, we know he was murdered. Both times, he was fighting for the dignity of work. He wove together better than anybody I know of in history—wove together civil rights, voting rights, and worker rights better than anybody ever has.

In a speech to ACME Sanitation workers, a month after the workers were crushed to death, he spoke at ACME on March 18 in Memphis:

So often we overlook the work and the significance of those who are not in professional jobs, of those who are not in the so-called big jobs. But let me say to you tonight—

Dr. King went on—

that whenever you are engaged in work that serves humanity . . . it has dignity and it has worth.

All labor has dignity. While the shape of our fight for the dignity of work may change, it will, of course, continue. And I count on my colleagues to do that.

I will close the same way I have closed so many speeches across Ohio because the values I fight for have not changed and will never change come January. On my lapel, I wear this pin. Some of you have one on today. Thank you. Many of you do.

I wear this pin—I know you don't wear it every day, but thank you for wearing it—depicting a canary in a birdcage. It was given to me at a workers' Memorial Day rally 25 years ago in Lorain, OH.

You know the story. At the turn of the last century, coal miners took the canary down into the mines with them to warn them of poisonous gases. They didn't have a union strong enough to protect them. They didn't have a government that cared enough to protect them. He was on his own.

But over the last century and a half, think about what we as a nation have done. Think of what we have done to change that. All those fights required going up against powerful special interests. I think about the lesson that any union organizer knows. They don't just give you fair wages and better benefits and retirement. They don't give it to you. You have to go out and take it. That is how progress works.

Wall Street didn't just wake up one day and say: You know, older people ought to have a pension. We ought to give them—no, we demanded Social Security, we fought for it, and we got it.

Companies 100 years ago didn't just all of a sudden think: You know, work is too hard; we ought to have an 8-hour workday. We ought to ban child labor. No. We fought for it. We demanded it. We got it.

Big insurance companies didn't just all of a sudden think: You know, there are a lot of seniors that just can't afford their healthcare. No. We fought for it; we demanded it; and we got Medicare.

In the 1960s, a bunch of Southern segregationists didn't say: You know, everybody ought to have the right to vote. No. We fought for it. We demanded it. We got voting rights in this country.

And then, just 2 years ago, the drug companies didn't all of a sudden say: Insulin costs too damn much. We have got to do something. Drugs are too expensive. No. We took them on. We fought for it. We got a $35 insulin cap.

Those fights—progress didn't just happen on their own course.

So when I first came to the Senate, like all new Senators, they gave me a really cool, pretty expensive-looking piece of jewelry to say: I am a big shot. I am a Senator, and walk around. Well, I wore that for a couple days, and then I thought, you know, it didn't feel right. So I took it off. I put my canary pin back on. I have worn it every day since.

So when I walk off the Senate floor at the end of this year, nothing changes. I am not taking off this pin. I am not giving up my fight for workers. If you love this country, you fight for the people who make it work every day.

In January, I return to Ohio, close to the seven grandchildren who are sitting in the Gallery today. My wife Connie surprised me last night with their showing up at a dinner with their parents in tow. My grandchildren are in the Gallery—some sitting there patiently, some perhaps not so patiently. Leo and Jackie and Milo and Carolyn and Russell and Ela and Maribell sitting with Emily and Matt. Sitting with Elizabeth and Patrick and Caitlin and Alejandro. And Clayton, our oldest, is taking finals today, but their dad Andy is here. My journey has been a family affair.

With my brothers Bob and Charlie, for literally 50 years with the sacrifices that family members inevitably make to ambition, to service—yes, sometimes to ego—for a career of serving the public.

To my beloved Connie, how selfless she has been as I pursued this dream. Her exceptional talent is exceeded only by her kindness in spirit, as a wife and mother and grandmother extraordinaire. There is no one like her. How lucky I have been the last 22 years.

So to my colleagues, this is my last speech on the Senate floor. But it is not, I promise you, the last time you will hear from me.

Thank you.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

TRIBUTE TO SHERROD BROWN

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I know we have a number of colleagues who want to speak. I will be very brief.

I just want to start by saying how grateful we are for the service of SHERROD BROWN in the U.S. Senate and the great work that he has done. He reminded us to make sure that we wore the canary pin. And for me, it has a special significance, even though I haven't been wearing it all these years, but I wanted to wear it today. But it is especially significant because I have ancestors who worked, of course, in the anthracite coal mines. But I think, in so many ways, it is emblematic of his service, that he never forgot where he came from, never forgot who sent him here, and you heard that throughout his remarks today about the work he has done on behalf of American working men and women and their families.

When the history of the labor movement of the United States—if it were ever written, of course, it wouldn't be one book. It would be a multivolume work by some scholar, maybe sometime in the future. But whenever that complete and comprehensive history is written, there will be a significant portion of that history written about the work of Senator SHERROD BROWN of Ohio because no one that I am aware of that has served in this body has done more for workers in the time he has been in the Senate.

The last thing I want to say is what he did—and there are too many to mention here today—but I want to thank him for what he did leading the effort, which culminated in 2021, March of 2021, at 5:34 a.m. in the morning, when the first vote was taken on the American Rescue Plan. Among many things that bill did was allowed us to take the child tax credit—an existing tax credit—and turbocharge it for America's children. As he said, 60 million American children—2 million in Ohio, a little more than 2 million in my home State of Pennsylvania. It would not have happened without his leadership.

So with that, I will yield the floor and thank Senator BROWN again for his service.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, as another occupant of the back row, I just want to add my incredible thanks for not just his family but for SHERROD and what he stood for in this place. We are going to forever miss him.

We are going to miss—right, Senator CASEY—CHUCK looking back at this row and glaring at us because SHERROD was talking. ''It is not us. It is not us.''

(Laughter.)

I will forever cherish the note in my desk to BOB that says: Get him to be quiet now. They are going to throw us out.

Sherrod, you have made trouble, but it is a whole lot of good trouble on behalf of the people of this country.

I look up there at Connie, and I will forever love that story that I will not do justice to, but it is the story of when Connie was in an audience and SHERROD was speaking. And a guy she doesn't know turns to her and says: God, I hate that guy's voice.

And she says: Yeah?

And he says: Yeah. You know, it is a bit like fingernails on a blackboard.

And Connie says: Really, you don't like that guy's voice?

He says: Yeah.

And she says: I like his voice.

And he says: You like his voice?

And she says: Yeah. You know when I really like it?

She leans into the guy, the guy leans in, and Connie goes: I really like it when he wakes me up in the middle of the night and says in that gravelly voice: ''I love you, baby.''

(Laughter.)

Your love of Connie and the two of you together is something that is such a model for all of us here. Her success, your success is part of this U.S. Senate story.

And that pin you wear—that canary in the coal mine—this is not the last time we are all going to wear it. For me, it was not just about workers, which is about its glory, but it is also about what we have to confront in this place—the toxicity of this place sometimes—and that you, SHERROD—for us, you were that canary in the coal mine. You are the one reminding us why we are really here when, some days, you just can't believe that people are doing certain things or stopping certain good pieces of legislation for the people of this country.

You are that person for us who stood up not just when the cameras were on but behind closed doors. You reminded us and reminded your staff to carry on, and they are going to take that torch with them and those pins with them every single place they go. So thank you for giving us that inspiration, SHERROD. Thank you for your work.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. BOOKER. First of all, I am going to come out to the aisle because this is ''doing the SHERROD,'' when you get far away from your desk. I literally think, if the leash were long enough, he would have opened the door and taken a couple steps out and come running in and down the aisle.

(Laughter.)

I stand today with a similar start because there was this moment in the cloakroom when I was a new guy in the Senate, and I talked about TESTER saying to me very loudly in the cloakroom: I didn't think I was going to like you when I first got here.

Then SHERROD chimed in right away—and you will remember this, SHERROD—and said: I didn't think I would like you either.

Now, I didn't care about JON TESTER because I don't like JON TESTER.

(Laughter.)

But I really cared that SHERROD BROWN would say that, at one point, he didn't like me. But I knew he liked me when he said it, because when I came to the Senate, he surprised me. He did something I never expected. I had great experiences when I first came here—friendships, colleagues stepping up—I see my chairman here—putting me under their arm, but SHERROD did it in a way that really surprised me.

He said: Hey, CORY. I want to work with you on something really important.

And I thought of all of these big issues in the Senate. Is it Social Security? Is it lowering prescription drug prices? I thought: What are we going to do for America?

SHERROD BROWN blew me away.

He said: I want to fight for fair wages for the cafeteria workers who work in the basement of the buildings we work in.

Immediately, it floored me.

I started working in this place in 2013—and I will never forget—it was the least diverse place I had ever worked. I came here, and on one of the first nights I worked past 10 p.m., I left out of the employees' entrance. I saw the line of employees walking in, and they were mostly Black and Brown people. When I went to the basement to get something to eat in the cafeteria, the cafeteria workers were mostly Black and Brown folks. They didn't have a Senator living in Washington, DC, but SHERROD was someone who stood up for their dignity.

SHERROD, I have been struggling all week because I feel emotional, like losing you. I had this poem that kept coming up over and over again—it is really short, and I know you know it—but I did not understand why this was the poem, and I want to try to explain it to you. It is a poem by Langston Hughes. It is entitled ''I, too, sing America.''

I am the darker brother.
They send me to eat in the kitchen
When company comes,
But I laugh,
And eat well,
And grow strong.

[Because] tomorrow,

I'll be at the table
When company comes.

[And] nobody'll dare
Say to me,

''Eat in the kitchen,''

Then.
Besides,
They'll see how beautiful I am
And be ashamed—
I, too, [sing] America.

SHERROD, I have served with you for 11 years, and the thing I love the most about you is you see people. You see the folks who others walk past and don't even affirm their humanity. And you just don't see people; what you have shown me time and time again from my first week as a U.S. Senator is that you see the folks who are the most important to the very idea of America—the idea that people have sweat for and cried for and bled for. To me, that is the definition of what it means to represent people, all the people.

So I end with this, and it is a moment from American history because I know you are such a nerd.

(Laughter.)

You, frankly, just never fit my image of what I thought a Senator would look like. You are frumpy, and you are disheveled—and the only person who has messier hair than you is Bernie, for crying out loud.

(Laughter.)

But there are five words I think I want to say to you in my final farewell to you in an official capacity, standing in the aisle that you so defined. And it is a simple story from history after Lincoln gave his second inaugural address: Malice towards none and charity towards all—the ideal that you live that there is no us and them. It is just us.

Lincoln retired to a reception afterward, and it was crowded. And people were pulling at him and trying to get his attention, and he was pushing through the crowds, looking for one person who almost didn't get into the reception. This guy had to be recognized by someone because he was Black and was pulled in to be allowed to be at this incredible reception. The President pushes by him. The historians say it was the Governor of Rhode Island who was trying to talk to him, but he kept pushing towards this man.

And he said to this man: My friend, what did you think of my speech?

This man, regal in stature, humble in spirit, looked at him and said: Mr. President, you should attend to your guests.

And President Lincoln is said to have waved him off and said: No. I want to know what you thought of my speech. I need to know, my friend, what you thought of my speech.

This would be the last time in American history that these two men would ever speak because Lincoln would soon be assassinated. These were the last words that they exchanged. And if you allow me these five words, I just want to say to you, in my last farewell to you after your farewell speech, as Frederick Douglass looked at Abraham Lincoln and simply said:

It was a sacred effort. It was a sacred effort.

Your 18-year career here was a sacred effort to see everyone in our great country as an American, to affirm their humanity, to affirm their dignity, and to elevate our highest virtues.

Thank you, my friend.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I am saddened by the comment from SHERROD that this is his farewell speech.

As I said to several of my colleagues, we lose so many good ones here, and after we have lost them to retirement and to election results, the Senate really is an empty place, and it will be in that corner. For as long as I have been honored to serve here, that place has been occupied by SHERROD.

What makes such a difference in this man? Why is he viewed so differently? Why have so many showed up to hear his farewell speech? Well, what I am about to say you can say about him and about Connie, his wife.

There was a man named Jack Valenti, who used to be an adviser to the Presidents, and he gave President Lyndon Johnson a piece of advice. He said: Every good speech should include six words. Let me tell you a story.

Time and again, SHERROD BROWN told us a story. It was a story from a picket

line. It was a story from a clothes factory. It was a story that you picked from your home State of Ohio and as you traveled around this country. And those stories, much like the stories that Connie has told over and over again in her celebrated writing, really illustrate the values of this country. You can give a sterile speech about political science all you wish, but if you tell a story that touches the heart of the listener, it can make a difference in them as it has made in you. Time and again, SHERROD has told those stories. That canary in a cage is a classic example. It tells you that he not only saw injustice but he spoke out against it, and he has dedicated his life to stopping it. And that inspires all of us—to listen to these stories and to realize they are the true story of America.

Now, this troubadour—this speaker, this man who has inspired us so often—is stepping into a different place in life.

All I can ask is one favor: Tell stories. You have so many that you have lived and so many things that need to be shared. I know that you, like your wife, are a writer—you wrote a great book about the desk at which you are sitting—and I know that you know what history means. But there is another job for you. I am not sure what it is, but I hope it will tap into your talent and your values.

I remember that day. You said it many times. It was the greatest day in your service in the Senate. It involved the child tax credit, as BOB CASEY has talked to us about, and it also, I am sure, involved the idea of finally giving these retirees a fighting chance and a wage with which to sustain their families. Your fingerprints were all over that, SHERROD. It is the kind of issue that you run for office for and fight for—and make a difference in the history of this country.

So remember those words as you go forward. Your stories have inspired us. Keep telling those stories.

And, Connie, I know you will. I will look for your byline.

I wish you the best.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, when I was wrestling, along with Mary, my wife, about whether to run for the Senate, I had the chance to meet the Senator from Ohio and his wife at a gathering in Massachusetts, and I came away believing that service here could matter.

When I learned of your background and your fight, SHERROD, I thought that is my fight, too. I want to be here and join you in this effort.

You know, with my dad a mechanic and my mother a secretary, I don't know how the hell I ended up here on the floor of the Senate, but it is because of believing in the vision of America that you referred to at the close of your speech. While I can't quote it exactly, it was along the lines of: If you love America, you fight for America's worker—or: You fight for the workers who make America function.

We are in a system now that is so rigged with liars and lobbyists and dark money, but the antidote is individuals like yourself who say: Public service matters. I am not here to help the rich become richer or the corporations become stronger. I am here to fight for the foundation for every family to thrive—on healthcare, on housing, on education, and on a good-paying job, with an honest day's pay for a fair day's work.

I then saw you in action on the Banking Committee. Now, ELIZABETH WARREN had this idea for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, but she wasn't here in the Senate yet. But on that committee, in working on Dodd-Frank, we collectively delivered that and so much more through that process, including taking on the false mortgages—the predatory mortgages—that were turning the dream of homeownership into a nightmare. There is probably a dozen powerful factors in there for America's workers. We made a difference in those years—you made a difference—and I was so happy to see you lead the Banking Committee.

I can't tell you what a loss it is to this Chamber and what a loss it is to the workers of America that I will no longer see you in that chair, but I know I will see you somewhere down the trail, fighting the good fight.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I have a little bit of a beef here with Senator BROWN because right before he spoke, I admonished him to try not to choke up during his speech, and, of course, this was a fool's errand. It was like asking the Sun not to shine; and, of course, it was highly predictable that what would cause that gravelly voice of his to get even more of a catch in it was when he was talking about his family and also about his staff—his work family.

The very first time I met SHERROD, I could see that this was a man with a huge heart and tons of energy.

I recognized in you, SHERROD, the Midwest populism that I come from, from the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party.

I sit in the seat that was once held by Paul Wellstone, as you know, who famously said, ''When we all do better, we all do better.'' I know that has been the guiding light of your service.

There are plenty of people here in Washington watching out for the rich people, the powerful people, and the big corporations, but you have always been our guide in watching out for everybody else, the people who actually make this country work.

I saw this firsthand when you and I worked together on one piece of legislation—the Butch Lewis Act—to basically say that hard-working folks who earned their pensions, who lost their pensions through no fault of their own, deserve to be able to retire with dignity. This is, of course, one of the most important promises of organized labor—a fair wage, safe working conditions, and to be able to retire with dignity. Because of your work, I had a chance to see what that really meant for people.

I will never forget one of the first meetings I did when I first was a U.S. Senator. I went up to Duluth, MN, an old industrial community on the shores of Lake Superior. It is a beautiful community—probably not unlike Mansfield—that in some ways had seen better days, as the shipping out of jobs happened and affected them. I talked to some of those hard-working teamsters, retired teamsters, about the importance of their pension and what we were doing, what I was doing with SHERROD BROWN to help to protect their pensions.

I will never forget this one woman. She described to me what it meant that she had paid in, she had done everything right, and now she was running the risk of losing that. She said to me: Tina, that is my plan A, B, and C. I don't have another plan. My other plan is to live under a bridge.

That work, just that one piece of work that you did, that you led us on to make sure those pensions were there for folks, is a legacy that all of us can aspire to.

Throughout your career, you always made sure that, while so many others were watching out for the folks who already had it pretty good, the people who make this country work had a voice.

I, too, am wearing my canary pin today, and I think that your legacy in this body will be all of us who don't forget your work but continue it.

You know, the hope that we can do better, that there is more work ahead of us, and that we have the energy for fight—I mean, hope is an act of will; it is not an article of faith. It takes the will of all of us. I know that you have inspired in all of us in this Chamber—at least many of us—the will to continue to fight with hope and optimism that we will make this country live up to its full promise.

I can't wait to see what you do next. As you have famously said—and I will leave out some of the adjectives—you are not dying here, you are just going on to the next thing. I know those of us who have heard this story are grateful that on the floor of the Senate, I am only giving an abbreviated version.

I know I am one of many who love you very much and can't wait to see what you do next.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I say to Senator BROWN: I have my pin. I am taking your desk. I am going to get your office. And I wouldn't mind having your hair and your eloquence.

(Laughter.)

For me, SHERROD BROWN—and for many of our colleagues—has always

been a role model, a friend, a voice for people who are often unseen, and also a real example of integrity. When you talk to SHERROD BROWN, you may not agree with him, but you know what he says is what he believes.

You know, we live in a day where politicians are often distrusted and demeaned, maybe as never before, but what you have done for me and for my family is to give politics a good name, to make sure that people understand that the word ''politician'' is not a four-letter word; it is something I am proud to say—I am a politician because I try to be like SHERROD BROWN.

You know, that kind of politician doesn't always win. It is just a fact of life that people often take stands; they espouse causes; they champion people or issues that may not be popular at that moment. But they are vindicated by history.

I have been proud to stand with you, SHERROD, for some of those causes, and I know they will be vindicated by history.

As I told your staff—some of them—in that office, the SHERROD BROWN office, we are going to have a conference room named after you. It is a trivial thing to do, but it will remind us that we will be asking ourselves at moments, tough moments, moments of crisis: What would SHERROD do? What would he think? What would he say?

I will continue to value you as a friend and as a role model. Thank you, SHERROD, for all you have done for all of us. Godspeed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I want to be brief, but I would like to briefly say something that might be an odd thing for the Senator from Colorado to say, which is how grateful I am to the people of Ohio for sending SHERROD BROWN to the U.S. Senate for all of these years and how much I wish that you had sent him back one more time.

I say that in part because I once lived in Ohio and was a young person there, learning something about politics in the late eighties and early nineties. SHERROD BROWN was my secretary of state. He was the same person then that he is today in all the important ways and a progressive voice for the people of Ohio.

It was an amazing thing for me to come to this place and meet SHERROD as a fellow Senator and to sit in that chair and preside, while SHERROD stood—I don't remember when that was, when it would have been; Barack Obama probably was in the early days of his Presidency—and listen to the names of cities and towns all across Ohio ricochet around the marble Chamber that we are in with such joy because I had been to those places myself.

I can remember hearing him fight against the characterization by outsiders of the place he lived and the place he grew up as the Rust Bowl of the United States instead of the industrial heartland of the United States, for him to remind people in this Chamber of the important—as he was describing today—the critical contribution that working people make to this Nation every day, all day, over many years, whether they are living in the industrial heartland or anywhere else in America, because for SHERROD, workers in every State in this country count and matter.

But I want to just say thank you on behalf of the children that I used to work for in the Denver public schools. I was the superintendent when my friend CORY BOOKER was the mayor of Newark. We worked together in those days, and we have had the chance to work together here.

There are many times that I have been on this floor, Senator BROWN, when I worried about whether the children I used to work for in Denver, who are mostly kids of color, mostly kids living in poverty, whether anybody here had their interests at heart or whether anybody here could even see them or whether we had actually become really comfortable in the sense that we were treating our kids like they were someone else's kids, not even the country's kids. More than anybody else in this place, you have lifted their voices. You have seen the kids that I represented or worked for in the Denver public schools.

The chance for you and Bob and Cory and I to work together on the child tax credit, which went to 90 percent of America's kids and cut child poverty in half, is a symbol to all of us, I think, of what is possible if we dedicate ourselves to the idea that this country has to live up to its aspirations. That is something you never have let us forget. I know you have talked about it over and over again, how one of the happiest days of your time in the Senate was the day we passed that bill. Bob mentioned that.

I will say for a lot of us who are here today, this is one of the saddest days in the Senate because the contribution that you have made here is one that is so unique and so singular, and it is entirely unfinished.

I don't feel sorry for you, but I feel sorry for the rest of us. I know we are counting on you—counting on you—to make sure that you continue to fight the fight you have been fighting from the day you arrived here, the days you were secretary of state all those years ago in Ohio, for the rest of your life.

Thanks, SHERROD, for your leadership and your friendship and for everything you have done for the American people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

THE CALENDAR

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1607 and the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the following bills en bloc: Calendar No. 278, S. 1277; Calendar No. 333, H.R. 1727; Calendar No. 602, S. 3543; H.R. 6826, which was received from the House and is at the desk; H.R. 6843, which was received from the House and is at the desk; and H.R. 1607.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged of the relevant bill, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bills, en bloc.

Mr. CARDIN. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment, where applicable, be agreed to; that the bills, as amended, if amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

The bills passed, en bloc, as follows:

MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2023

The bill (S. 1277) to modify the boundary of the Mammoth Cave National Park in the State of Kentucky, and for other purposes, which had been reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 1277

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Mammoth Cave National Park Boundary Adjustment Act of 2023''.

SEC. 2. MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK BOUNDARY MODIFICATION.

Section 11 of the Act of June 5, 1942 (56 Stat. 319, chapter 341; 16 U.S.C. 404c–11), is amended—

(1) in the second paragraph, by striking ''the sum of not to exceed'' in the first sentence and all that follows through the period at the end of the paragraph and inserting ''such sums as are necessary.''; and

(2) by inserting after the second paragraph the following:

''The Secretary of the Interior may acquire approximately 980 acres of the land and any interests in the land generally depicted on the map entitled 'Mammoth Cave National Park Proposed Southern Boundary Expansion Edmonson and Barren Counties, Kentucky', numbered 135/177, 967, and dated April 28, 2022, for inclusion in the Mammoth Cave National Park.''.

CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK COMMISSION EXTENSION ACT

The bill (H.R. 1727) to amend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Development Act to extend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

HISTORIC GREENWOOD DISTRICT-BLACK WALL STREET NATIONAL MONUMENT ESTABLISHMENT ACT

The bill (S. 3543) to establish the Historic Greenwood District-Black Wall Street National Monument in the State of Oklahoma, and for other purposes, which had been reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources 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 ''Historic Greenwood District—Black Wall Street National Monument Establishment Act''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) COMMISSION.—The term ''Commission'' means the Historic Greenwood District—Black Wall Street National Monument Advisory Commission established by section 5(a).

(2) MAP.—The term ''Map'' means the map entitled ''Greenwood Historic District—Black Wall Street National Monument, Proposed Boundary'', numbered 196/188,275, and dated August 2024.

(3) NATIONAL MONUMENT.—The term ''National Monument'' means the Historic Greenwood District—Black Wall Street National Monument established by section 3(a).

(4) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF HISTORIC GREENWOOD DISTRICT—BLACK WALL STREET NATIONAL MONUMENT.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), there is established the Historic Greenwood District—Black Wall Street National Monument in the State of Oklahoma as a unit of the National Park System to preserve, protect, and interpret for the benefit of present and future generations resources associated with the Historic Greenwood District, Black Wall Street, and the Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921 and the role of each in the history of the State of Oklahoma and the United States.

(2) CONDITIONS OF ESTABLISHMENT.—

(A) DETERMINATION BY THE SECRETARY.—The National Monument shall be established on the date the Secretary determines that a sufficient quantity of land or interests in land has been acquired to constitute a manageable park unit.

(B) NOTICE.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary makes a determination under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register notice of the establishment of the National Monument.

(b) BOUNDARY.—The boundary of the National Monument shall be as generally depicted on the Map.

(c) MAP.—The Map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(d) ACQUISITION AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may acquire any land or interest in land located within the boundary of the National Monument by—

(1) donation;

(2) purchase from a willing seller with donated or appropriated funds; or

(3) exchange.

(e) AGREEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements, as appropriate, with public or private entities to provide and facilitate, within or outside the boundary of the National Monument, interpretive and educational services, administrative support, and technical assistance relating to the National Monument.

(2) MARKING AND INTERPRETATION OF SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC OR CULTURAL RESOURCES.—The Secretary may enter into agreements to mark or interpret significant historic or cultural resources or locations on land within the boundary of the National Monument.

(f) PRIVATE PROPERTY.—Nothing in this Act affects the rights of an owner of private property within or adjacent to the National Monument.

SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) ADMINISTRATION BY SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall administer the National Monument in accordance with—

(1) this Act; and

(2) the laws generally applicable to units of the National Park System.

(b) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are first made available to carry out this Act, the Secretary shall prepare a management plan for the National Monument in accordance with section 100502 of title 54, United States Code.

(2) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall consult with the Commission on the preparation of the management plan under paragraph (1).

SEC. 5. ESTABLISHMENT OF HISTORIC GREENWOOD DISTRICT—BLACK WALL STREET NATIONAL MONUMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established an advisory commission, to be known as the ''Historic Greenwood District—Black Wall Street National Monument Advisory Commission''.

(b) DUTY.—The Commission shall advise the Secretary on matters relating to the development and management of the National Monument, including the construction of visitor service facilities and infrastructure.

(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) COMPOSITION.—The Commission shall be composed of 11 members, to be appointed by the Secretary, of whom—

(A) 7 members shall be descendants of individuals who lived or worked in the Greenwood District of Tulsa in 1921, to be appointed after consideration of recommendations from interested organizations or individuals;

(B) 3 members shall have experience in the field of historic preservation or the purposes for which the National Monument was established; and

(C) 1 member shall be appointed after consideration of recommendations submitted by the Mayor of Tulsa.

(2) TERMS.—A member of the Commission shall be appointed for a term of 5 years.

(3) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy on the Commission shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

(4) SUCCESSORS.—Notwithstanding the expiration of a 5-year term of a member of the Commission, a member of the Commission may continue to serve on the Commission until the date on which—

(A) the member is reappointed by the Secretary; or

(B) a successor is appointed by the Secretary.

(d) CHAIR; BYLAWS.—The Commission shall—

(1) have a Chair, who shall be elected by the members of the Commission; and

(2) adopt such bylaws as the Commission considers necessary to carry out the functions of the Commission under this Act.

(e) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet at the call of—

(1) the Chair; or

(2) a majority of the members of the Commission.

(f) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

(g) COMPENSATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Members of the Commission shall serve without compensation.

(2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Members of the Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for an employee of an agency under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of the duties of the Commission.

(h) FACA NONAPPLICABILITY.—Section 1013(b) of title 5, United States Code, shall not apply to the Commission.

(i) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate 10 years after the date on which the National Monument is established.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 3543), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

DESIGNATING THE VISITOR AND EDUCATION CENTER AT FORT McHENRY NATIONAL MONUMENT AND HISTORIC SHRINE AS THE PAUL S. SARBANES VISITOR AND EDUCATION CENTER

The bill (H.R. 6826) to designate the visitor and education center at Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine as the Paul S. Sarbanes Visitor and Education Center was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

EXPANDING THE BOUNDARIES OF THE ATCHAFALAYA NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA TO INCLUDE LAFOURCHE PARISH, LOUISIANA

The bill (H.R. 6843) to expand the boundaries of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area to include Lafourche Parish, Louisiana was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

CLARIFYING JURISDICTION WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN BUREAU OF RECLAMATION PUMPED STORAGE DEVELOPMENT

The bill (H.R. 1607) to clarify jurisdiction with respect to certain Bureau of Reclamation pumped storage development, and for other purposes, was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, first, I want to thank Senator CASSIDY for his cooperation in putting together this package. It is a package of bills that were favorably considered by the committee. They are noncontroversial. I want to thank also Senator KELLY for his help in putting together this package.

Let me just, if I might, talk about two of the issues we just passed: First, H.R. 6826, to designate the visitor and education center at Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine as the Paul S. Sarbanes Visitor and Education Center.

I want to first acknowledge Congressman SARBANES, who is on the floor, who has represented me so well in the House of Representatives. He has also decided not to run for reelection and served for 18 years in the House of Representatives.

Mr. President, I hold the Sarbanes seat in the U.S. Senate. Paul Sarbanes was a dear friend. He was a Senator's Senator. He was deeply respected by all Members of this body. I think it is particularly appropriate that he is honored with the naming of the Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine visitor center and education center.

The late Paul Sarbanes was a tireless advocate to preserve Fort McHenry in Baltimore, MD. Senator Sarbanes worked to honor the site and elevate the history of the War of 1812 in the national consciousness throughout his career.

I got to know Senator Sarbanes when we were both elected at the same time to the Maryland House of Delegates many years ago. He would go on to serve in the House of Representatives on the Judiciary Committee, which was given the responsibility of the first Article of Impeachment against President Nixon during the Watergate scandal.

Later, while serving in the Senate in the aftermath of the 2002 Enron scandal, Sarbanes worked in a bipartisan manner to pass the Sarbanes-Oxley legislation. Then-President George W. Bush called the Sarbanes-Oxley bill ''the most far-reaching reforms of American business practices since the time of Franklin Delano Roosevelt.''

He had a long and distinguished career of public service to the Nation, and, throughout, he never forgot his Baltimore roots. He saw Fort McHenry as a national treasure in the city and a site worth celebrating. This legislation acknowledges his long-term advocacy for the preservation of the site and the improvement of the visitor experience by designating the visitor and education center the Paul S. Sarbanes Visitor and Education Center. It is a fitting tribute to name the visitor center at Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine after a true American hero: Paul S. Sarbanes.

Mr. President, I also would like to call my colleagues' attention to H.R. 1727, the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission Extension Act, which we just approved.

I am proud to have worked together with Representative TRONE and Senators CAPITO, VAN HOLLEN, MANCHIN, WARNER, and KAINE on this legislation. The C&O Canal National Historic Park is 184.5 miles long and covers 20,000 acres, winding north and west along the Potomac River, from the heart of Washington, DC, to Cumberland, MD. The park includes a canal and contiguous towpath that provides runners, cyclists, and backpackers access to hundreds of historic structures that tell a story of this critical economic artery.

The Advisory Commission was established in 1971, and it has been reauthorized at nominal cost by Congress every 10 years for the past three decades with overwhelming bipartisan support. There is no better wealth of knowledge of the unique issues the C&O Canal and its resources face than the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Advisory Commission. Government works better when policymakers listen to the people who know them best, and this commission ensures that all surrounding communities have a voice in shaping their future.

I am proud to work together with my neighboring delegations to keep this commission running strong.

So, Mr. President, once again, I want to thank my colleagues for their cooperation in getting this done, and I particularly want to acknowledge, as earlier, Representative JOHN SARBANES. He has worked his entire career on good governance, and there is no stronger need in our society than an advocate for good governance in our community. He has done a great job in the House of Representatives.

He is also known for his work on the Chesapeake Bay, as the leader of No Child Left Inside, getting young people to understand the importance of Chesapeake Bay so we have advocates for the future. I congratulate JOHN SARBANES for his incredible record in the House of Representatives and wish him the best.

I thank the Presiding Officer for the courtesies that were just extended.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I rise to support H.R. 6843, which is part of this package, the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area Boundary Remodification Act.

I want to take just a moment to talk about the Atchafalaya. Le Grand Derangement—my French is off, but stay with me.

When the British kicked the Acadians out of Canada and they migrated down to Louisiana and along the gulf coast, the Atchafalaya basin was where many of them settled, and their culture spread out from there. And if you think of our culture with the etouffee, the jambalaya, the crawfish, it all began in the Atchafalaya basin and built out from there.

And if you look at a map, where the Mississippi comes down, draining most of the continental United States, and then the Red River comes down, which drains Colorado, Oklahoma, Texas—they meet, and the Atchafalaya is born.

Prehistorically, the Atchafalaya River was an outlet for the Mississippi River. And if it were not for human engineering, it would once again be the outlet for the Mississippi. It is 1.4 million acres of swamps and wetlands and rivers—the largest wetlands in the United States.

And I say this because this culture, this Acadian culture—one of the most unique, if not the most unique, in our country—began here. In our boundary modification, we extend the footprint of this, acknowledging that the Cajuns that came from Canada, finding refuge in the United States, putting a unique imprint—a unique imprint on our country.

And I hesitate because I'm thinking. For example, Breaux Bridge, LA, has the crawfish capital of the world. Now, we are the only State, I am sure, that has the crawfish capital of the world.

But to show where that goes, yesterday, I am at a truck stop in Arkansas, and I stop and they are selling crispy, crunchy chicken. And with the crispy, crunchy chicken, I can get a side. It is jambalaya, it is red beans and rice, and it is something else. I said: This is Louisiana day. The guy laughed. He goes: It sure is. So the food that began when those Acadians settled there has spread out.

What this does is it expands that footprint. It allows more of a celebration of that culture, a preservation of the sportsmen's paradise. And along the way, it created a lot of jobs. It has support across Louisiana, including from the original 14 parishes within the national heritage area.

So I thank my colleagues for getting this across the line. I am very pleased about it, and I look forward to the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area educating even more Americans as to the wonders of my State.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, this bipartisan bill, H.R. 1607, the pumped hydro storage bill, is about delivering affordable and reliable energy to our growing State by expanding hydropower storage.

The way it does that is pretty simple. It clarifies the Bureau of Reclamation's jurisdiction with respect to the future development of pumped storage along the Salt River in Arizona, and it expands an existing withdrawal south of the river from 1 to 2 miles, allowing the Salt River Project to explore developing sites identified in a 2014 Bureau of Reclamation study. This could ultimately bring upwards of 2,000 megawatts of energy storage capacity to the State of Arizona, providing clean energy and improving grid reliability as the demand for energy grows in the coming years.

Representatives SCHWEIKERT and STANTON introduced this bill in the House, and it passed the Chamber last year by a vote of 384 to 1. I appreciate the work of my colleagues on the Energy and National Resources Committee to ensure that our bill received a hearing and a markup.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

REFORMING EMERGENCY POWERS TO UPHOLD THE BALANCES AND LIMITATIONS INHERENT IN THE CONSTITUTION ACT

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, we are currently considering the Defense authorization bill. We have considered this most years annually for many decades. Typically, though, we will have a robust debate, we will have amendments offered, and we will try to have participation by Senators from all over the

United States geographically represented in the debate.

That won't happen this year. There will be no debate. It will be very controlled and circumscribed, and there won't be amendments. This is disappointing to me because I think there are some very important issues that need to be brought up, and one of those is emergency powers.

Our Founding Fathers understood that it was very important to divide these powers between the executive branch, the legislative branch, or the judiciary. Over the past hundred years though, we have had a gradual evolution of these powers toward the executive branch. And we now have a very, very strong executive branch that, in many ways, is able to control the narrative and ultimately to control the country.

In the 1970s, Frank Church wrote these words, which I think represent a problem that existed then and even more so now. He wrote:

> Hundreds of statutes clothe the President with virtually unchecked powers with which he can affect the lives of American citizens in a host of all-encompassing ways. This vast range of powers, taken together, confers enough authority on the President to rule the country without reference to normal constitutional processes.
>
> Under the authority delegated by these statutes, the President may: seize property; organize and control the means of production; seize commodities; institute martial law; seize and control all transportation and communication; regulate the operation of private enterprises; restrict travel; and, in a plethora of particular ways, control the lives of all American citizens.

These words were written by Senator Frank Church in a 1977 law review article, but they are still true to this day and even more worrisome.

The Church Committee's investigatory work famously convinced many in Congress that the time had come to reassert congressional checks and balances on the Executive that had become all too powerful.

It is ironic that the powers-that-be still conspire to this day to hide the work of the Church Committee. I have been trying for over a year to read the classified version of the Church Committee. All right. This is not some sort of new document; this is a document from 1976. But the powers-that-be have prevented me for over a year from reading the classified report. You got to wonder—does that mean they have something to hide or does that mean they love power so much that they don't want to share it?

The National Emergencies Act of 1976 was supposed to be a reform of Presidential emergencies. It was supposed to limit the power of Presidents. In that act, they actually gave a legislative veto. If an emergency were invoked by a President and the majority of Congress voted it, they would be legislatively able to reject that emergency.

The Court ultimately ruled, though, that that would have to be signed by the President, effectively meaning that if a President declares an emergency, a majority of us say ''We don't think that should be declared,'' and he vetoes it, it now takes two-thirds of us to overcome a Presidential emergency. This is a very high bar and makes it nearly impossible to stop a Presidential emergency.

Essentially, the National Emergency's Act enforcement mechanism became toothless when the Court got rid of the legislative veto. Subsequently, Congress must muster this veto-proof or two-thirds vote. To thwart a rogue President, it currently takes a two-thirds majority vote in both Houses to overturn a veto. This is a very high bar. Consequently, we live in a country Frank Church would barely recognize.

In some ways, the United States of America is a monarchy in disguise. The United States maintains the veneer of a constitutional republic but often operates as an elected monarchy in which the President exercises awesome and unchecked power by decree and in perpetuity.

If you look at the emergencies on the books, some of them have been on the books for 50 years. If you look at the potential emergencies that could be declared, you would be shocked.

This dangerous imbalance of the constitutional separation of powers is not simply aggrandizement by the executive branch; it is something that Congress has actually been complicit with. Congress has essentially made itself a feckless branch of the Federal Government by granting the President so many emergency powers and refusing to regularly vote on the termination of national emergencies, as required by current law. The emergencies go on and on.

Our concern should not merely be to restore Congress to its proper role in our Madisonian system of government; rather, our true focus should be to restore the Founders' vision of a government of limited and diffuse powers that is devoted to securing our inalienable rights. A government that disperses power among separate, distinct, and competing branches is a government that is less likely to violate our liberties.

We owe the people nothing less than the restoration of the constitutional principles of separation of powers and of checks and balances among the branches of the Federal Government.

I have offered a significant step towards revivifying the Founders' vision. I have introduced a bill called the REPUBLIC Act, which is an amendment to this bill but likely will not be considered because the powers-that-be don't want debate or amendments. But this amendment, were it considered, would restore Congress's role in governance by requiring that declarations of national emergency expire after 30 days. The President would still have the power to declare an emergency, but it would expire after 30 days unless approved affirmatively by Congress. What this does is essentially switches the role we currently have. Currently, it takes two-thirds of Congress to stop an emergency; now it would take 50 percent of Congress to affirm an emergency.

We did this in my State for our Governor. It is a good reform and goes a long way towards restoring the faith that people have in the separation of powers and the limitation of powers.

This simple reform allows the President to respond to genuine crises but ensures that the Executive cannot rule by unchecked perpetual emergency.

My bill includes other reforms that are designed to safeguard the country from emergency rule. My bill would repeal the provisions of the Communications Act of 1934—also known as the internet kill switch—that allow the President, if he declares an emergency, to take over all communications.

Now, this emergency fortunately has never been declared, but simply having this on the book for so long is a threat that someday a President might occur who says: I am going to take over all communications, and I will shut them down. That is a power so ominous, no President of either party should ever have that power, and this bill would remove that power.

Today, though, with the power still in place, with the stroke of a pen, the President could use this power to monitor emails, restrict access to the internet, control computer systems, television, radio broadcast, and cellphones. Longstanding use of this power would effectively eviscerate the First Amendment.

If the REPUBLIC Act, my amendment today, were accepted, the President would no longer be able to utilize this power—at least would have limited power during a limited time, and a majority of Congress would have to affirm the continued use of this emergency.

Emergency powers were not the type of rule our Founders anticipated for our country. The other name for emergency rule is ''martial law.'' It is something all of us should object to and say that this should only happen in an exceptional case, be very limited, and have the ability of Congress to overturn.

If anyone doubts that emergency powers can be abused, just look to Canada. Gene Healy of the Cato Institute wrote:

> America's neighbor to the north offers a cautionary tale about the risks that broad emergency powers could be turned inward against political dissent. In early 2022, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau faced a mass protest against COVID–19 restrictions, in which Canadian truckers obstructed key border crossings and effectively shut down the capital city with their rigs. Instead of simply clearing out the protesters and punishing them via conventional legal means, Trudeau invoked emergency powers broad enough to permit the financial ''unpersoning'' of anyone participating in the protests.

He went to their bank accounts and took their money. When people raised

money voluntarily through crowd financing to help these truckers, he stole that money as well through martial rule. Without any rule of law, he took the money. No transaction with the protesters; he took their money. People were locked up under martial law.

Canada's 1988 Emergencies Act gave the Trudeau government staggering powers to subject individual protesters to ''de-banking'' without due process.

This is the danger of Presidential power—of excessive Presidential power. It isn't about any individual President; it is about all Presidents of either party because men and women will succumb to the desire for power. It is inherent in all. That is why we must have checks and balances.

Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland put it this way in describing Trudeau's martial law in a February 2022 warning to the truckers:

As of today, a bank or other financial service provider will be able to immediately freeze or suspend an account without a court order.

The Government of Canada—essentially Trudeau—could freeze a bank account without a court order, without due process of law.

We are today serving notice: If your truck is being used in these protests, your corporate accounts will be frozen. The insurance on your vehicle will be suspended. Send your . . . trailers home.

While native-born Americans may think that emergency powers are to be used to target others, I would venture to guess that the Canadian truckers protesting COVID-era mandates didn't expect that their government would treat them as foreign adversaries and freeze their accounts.

If it can happen in Canada, it can happen in the United States.

Expansive emergency powers do not end there. Today in the United States—a country that owes its very existence to tax revolt—the President can unilaterally impose and raise taxes on foreign imports. Now, some of that power, unfortunately, Congress gave to the President, but it was a mistake, and we should take the power back.

The rallying cry of our American Revolution—''no taxation without representation''—was not just a protest of the past, it is a core principle of American governance. Yet Congress, in its feckless desire to abscond on all responsibilities, said to the President: You can have it; we don't want it. You can raise taxes anytime you want without a vote of Congress.

Terrible idea. Our Constitution was designed to prevent any branch from overstepping its bounds.

Unchecked Executive actions—enacting tariffs on our citizens without a vote of Congress threatens our economy, raises prices on everyday goods, and erodes the system of checks and balances that our Founders so carefully crafted.

The REPUBLIC Act, the reform of emergency powers, the limitation of emergency powers, would correct this. We end up saying to the President: You can't declare an emergency to raise a tax.

Our Founding Fathers were very specific. Not only did taxes have to originate in Congress, they had to originate in the House before coming to the Senate because the House was seen as being closer to the people. Yet here we are talking about vast taxes being levied by one person through emergency powers. We should not let this stand.

Finally, the REPUBLIC Act, my reform, requires the President to disclose Presidential emergency action documents to the Congress. What are these? These are Executive orders that are prepared in anticipation of a wide range of emergency scenarios. These documents are kept secret, and Congress has historically had little oversight or insight into how many exist, what they say, and what are the powers that the President anticipates taking in an emergency.

Although the documents have never been made public, there have reportedly been emergency orders designed to unilaterally suspend habeas corpus, impose censorship, and seize property without warrants. We don't know for certain because they will not reveal these Executive orders, but we do know that they exist. Congress desperately needs to see these documents to conduct oversight of these secret plans that can threaten basic constitutional rights.

We do not have to accept as inevitable or as an inevitability the degeneration of a republic into rule by an all-powerful Executive. We do not have to live in a monarchy disguised as a republic.

We would do well to remember Montesquieu, who wrote that ''when the executive and legislative powers are combined into one branch, no liberty will remain.''

It is time to reclaim the authority of Congress and protect the liberties of people by paring back the vast emergency powers delegated to the President.

I hope the powers-that-be will change their mind and see fit to allow a vote on this amendment. There is significant bipartisan support. We passed it out of committee I believe 13 to 1. The Democrat chairman is a cosponsor of this bill. I think this is a bill that really should bring both sides together.

There used to be pride in our country, pride in the legislative branch to hold firm against usurpation of power by the other branches. This was a pride that went beyond party label and brought legislators together. In recent years, it has been disappointing.

Some people are for reform of Presidential emergencies when their party is not in power, and some people are for it until they are against it when their guy or their woman is in power.

I can tell you this: I have been for this emergency reform under the previous President. I am for this emergency reform under the next President because this is about power. It is about the dispersion of power. It is about decentralizing power. It is about the constitutional separation of powers. It is about checks and balances.

It is important enough that it should be considered. I think it would pass were it considered. But the American people need to know that important debates like this will only occur if the powers-that-be allow the vote to occur. So I would beseech the powers-to-be to allow a vote on this amendment and for my colleagues to vote yes.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). The Senator from North Dakota.

H.R. 5009

Mr. HOEVEN. Madam President, I come to the floor today to talk about the National Defense Authorization Act. The act that is called the NDAA covers a wide range of topics, but, overall, it helps us chart a course to defend our country during these very dangerous times.

Russia, China, and Iran are working together to undermine U.S. interests across the globe. A world led by those nations is, in fact, a very dangerous world. And it is a world where the economic well-being of ordinary Americans suffer.

I have visited key U.S. allies and partners in recent years, and I am convinced that when we are strong—when the United States is strong—as a nation, we attract like-minded partners who will work with us to push back on our adversaries and defend freedom, not only here for our country but across the globe. And the NDAA is about bolstering our defenses and strengthening those very partnerships.

This bill, for example, establishes a Taiwan Security Cooperation Initiative. Now, that is modeled after the Indo-Pacific and Ukraine's security assistance initiatives, and it is designed to enable Taiwan to maintain sufficient self-defense capabilities, vitally important in the Pacific and vitally important that we not work just with Taiwan but with all our allies in the Pacific: Japan, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, and others.

And also, this pact requires the Department of Defense to provide Israel with intelligence and advice in support of their war effort in the Middle East against Hamas and other terrorist organizations, including the largest sponsor of state terrorism in the world, Iran.

In addition, the NDAA supports a handful of missions that are both critical to our security around the globe and of particular interest to my State.

First, for example, UAS and counter-UAS. It is a huge issue right now, not only in terms of the battlefield, what we are seeing in Ukraine, in the Middle East, and other places, but even here in our own country, civilian uses of drones and counter-drones is certainly very much at the forefront of the

public's attention. And we have real problems with UAS threats across all of the areas that we operate, here at home and overseas.

Now, we still have a patchwork approach that has grown out of an ad hoc response to specific threats to domestic military installations. The Department of Defense very much needs a coherent strategy and clear guidance when it comes to drones and countering drones.

This bill takes a number of important steps toward addressing the issue, including: directing the Secretary of Defense to develop a strategy for countering unmanned aerial systems and the threats they pose to Department of Defense facilities, personnel, and assets. And that means not only here at home but across the globe where we have personnel and where we have military installations.

So having that strategy for drones and counter-drones is very, very important right now. And it is very complex, as we are seeing.

This legislation also requires standing up a counter-UAS—unmanned aerial system—drone task force to review and update all of DOD guidances to provide clarity and expedited decision-making processes and information processes so that the public knows what we are doing and has confidence in what we are doing.

In North Dakota, we have a UAS ecosystem that is ready to support this initiative, both in the military aspects and in the civilian aspects. And we have had that focus on UAS technology going back all the way to 2005.

And again, I think we are one of the only air bases in the country, at the Grand Forks Air Force Base, where we operate military and civilian, manned and unmanned aircraft, all at the same base, as well as our connection to the lower orbit satellites through the Space Defense Agency.

So we have established what we call their Project ULTRA. Project ULTRA is specifically designed to move unmanned aerial systems and to counter unmanned aerial systems from the drawing board to the warfighter. As I say, we have been at that for almost 20 years.

As DOD contemplates this counter-UAS strategy, we are ready to bring industry partners, and I mean some of the leading industry partners like Northrup Grumman, like General Atomics, like Raytheon, and many others as well. They are already operating. They are in the Grand Sky Technology Park on the Grand Forks Air Force Base. And we are ready to bring those partnerships—those companies that have developed these technologies—together with the Department of Defense under the directive in this legislation to defend, like I say, not only our military installations but to do more in the civilian airspace so that the public can have confidence that when they see a drone flying in our national airspace, that it has been accounted for and properly dealt with.

Second, the second huge issue in the NDAA is nuclear modernization. Our nuclear deterrent is the foundation of global stability and is prerequisite for the success of our conventional forces.

If we have a nuclear deterrent that no adversary ever questions, then they will never go beyond conventional forces. We have the finest military in the world. Our conventional forces are more than a match for anyone in the world. And so that could create the temptation for somebody to actually use nuclear forces. But if they know our deterrent is so strong, then they will never actually challenge us. So it is the bedrock or the foundation on which our conventional forces reside. We are facing an increasingly dangerous nuclear world where we must deter multiple nuclear powers at the same time.

Now, several years ago, I led efforts to ensure that the Department of Defense kept our inventory of silos for our intercontinental ballistic missiles and preserve a full deployment of these missiles to support deterrence.

Today, we need those missiles to support deterrence against China, which is building up its forces incredibly, as well as Russia and North Korea.

This NDAA continues to carry language preserving the number of ICBMs that we deploy. It also creates a new Assistant Secretary of Defense to oversee nuclear deterrence policies and programs across the Department of Defense.

And most importantly—most importantly—it authorizes the next steps in modernizing not only the ICBM force but all three legs of the nuclear triad—bombers, the missiles, and submarines. It provides more than $5.6 billion in authorizations for modernizing these programs; for example, Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota, which is the only dual nuclear base that we have, both the bombers and the missiles. But it also updates the aircraft, the Sentinel, which is the new missile program, the LRSO, long-range stand-off, which is the new air-launched cruise missile, which is part of the bomber fleet; the B–52s, the new B–2 bombers, as well as our other long-range stand-off missile programs.

All of those things, as well as our submarines, form the nuclear deterrent that is the bedrock of our military forces. With the evolution of technology, the environment, and our own ambitions—the military environment I am talking about—and the near-peer challenges that we face with Russia and particularly with China, we have no choice but to make sure that we are updating and modernizing our nuclear forces so that no one ever challenges the United States or our ability to defend ourselves and our allies.

Space Development Agency—I mentioned that just a minute ago—another area of emphasis that is very important in this legislation. We know that space is an increasingly important part of defending our Nation and our interests around the globe. When we look at Russia, when we look at China and what they are doing in space, we must not only keep up, we must continue to exceed what they are doing. It is vitally important to making sure that our nuclear forces have the best technology and a technological advantage in warfare over our adversaries.

This legislation authorizes more than $4 billion for the Space Development Agency, including how the Low Earth Orbit Satellite Program is operated. This program is significant and will fundamentally change—the low Earth orbit satellites, which we are putting out in space now, and we will have many of them, I mean, hundreds of them. This program is significant and will fundamentally change the way our forces operate around the globe.

Every soldier, every weapon system, and every mission will benefit from getting information from these low Earth orbit satellites. And we are taking steps in this bill and in the appropriations processes to do just that.

And so when you look at SpaceX, sending those rockets in space, many of those have low Earth orbit satellites that we are already putting out in space.

Those low Earth orbit satellites will be controlled from one Army base and from one Air Force base. The Army base is the Redstone Army base in Alabama. And the Air Force base is the Grand Forks Air Force Base in my State.

Some other provisions that I want to mention are noteworthy as well. First, greenhouse gas emissions. This NDAA extends a prohibition that we passed last year on any rules that would force contractors to report on greenhouse gas emissions.

I fought hard against these types of regulations, which would add unnecessary redtape and delays, drive up costs, and provide no benefit to the warfighter.

The purpose of our weapons systems must be to make sure that our forces have a superior advantage to any other forces in the world in lethality. And that is exactly how they need to be designed. And that is what this provision is designed to ensure.

Support for our servicemembers, this bill includes a number of provisions that I have heard about in regard to strongly supporting our servicemembers and their families; for example, pay increases. It authorizes a 14.5-percent pay increase for junior enlisted servicemembers, E–4 and below, and a 4.5-percent basic pay increase for all other servicemembers.

Second, access to mental health. The bill improves access to services for mental health, making it easier for telehealth providers to offer services and expand accreditation opportunities for behavioral health providers, which is a big need.

Specialty care travel allowances. The bill includes a provision I supported to require the Secretary to reassess the

travel and transportation allowances provided to servicemembers and dependents seeking specialty care—healthcare, within a hundred miles of their duty station.

Military spouse professional licensing permanently grants authority to the Department of Defense to make transferring professional licenses between States easier for military spouses.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion: It is important that our military members can put mission first, and this bill eliminates authorizations for a range of disruptive DEI programs while establishing a 1-year freeze on hiring for DEI work at the Department of Defense.

Like I said at the beginning of my remarks, the NDAA helps us chart a course to defend our country during these dangerous times. With the passage of the NDAA, we will have the authorization for these important programs, and as a member of the Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, we are ready—I and others are ready—to get to work to fund these important programs for our Nation's defense. We have the finest military in the world, and we must do all that we can to support our men and women in uniform.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNOCK). The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, may we have order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will be in order.

Mr. KENNEDY. Thank you, Mr. President.

I am laughing because it was Senator HOEVEN over there probably talking about you and me, Mr. President, and I just couldn't let that go unchallenged.

TRIBUTE TO PALOMA CHACON

Mr. President, with me today is one of my able colleagues from my Senate office, Ms. Paloma Chacon. Behind my back, some of my staffers call Paloma ''Kennedy's brain.'' They think I don't know that they are saying that, but it is probably true, and I want to thank her for her good judgment, counsel, and advice.

NEW ORLEANS MASS SHOOTING

Mr. President, what I want to talk about briefly tonight breaks my heart, but it also makes me mad. But it does break my heart.

On Thursday, November 21, we had another mass shooting in New Orleans—this time in the French Quarter. It happened at the corner of Iberville and Royal Streets, across from Dickie Brennan's Steakhouse. Three masked men pulled up in a car and started firing. Bystanders testified they fired about 40 rounds. One person was killed. Three others were injured.

Some people, particularly back home, are probably thinking: OK. What else is new? Another mass shooting in Louisiana and in New Orleans. But this one was preventable.

One of the shooters, who was arrested—his name is Nicholas Miorana. Mr. Miorana is 28 years old. He has spent most of his adult life in prison. He is, based on his record, a career criminal. He served 7 years in prison for armed robbery. He got out. Shortly thereafter, in 2023, Miorana was arrested for a bunch of things: domestic battery, child endangerment, a series of gun charges, including being a felon with a firearm.

What happened next is disgusting.

In January of 2024, our district attorney offered Mr. Miorana a really sweet deal. Forget about the child endangerment. Forget about the domestic battery. Forget about all the gun charges.

The DA said: You can plead guilty.

He said this to Mr. Miorana: You can plead guilty to attempted possession of a firearm by a felon—attempted possession of a firearm by a felon.

What? Attempted possession?

I don't mean to be metaphysical here or teleological, but you either possess a firearm or you don't. I don't understand the ''attempted'' possession of a firearm. Maybe it was because, had Mr. Miorana been offered a deal—take it or leave it—for possession of a firearm as opposed to attempted possession of a firearm, which I didn't even know exists, it would have carried a 5-year sentence. Obviously, Mr. Miorana took the deal, and he appeared before Judge Leon Roche in our criminal court in New Orleans. Mr. Roche gave him probation.

Eight months later, while he was on probation, Mr. Miorana violated his probation, and his probation officer sought to revoke his probation. Then, 1 month later—nobody did anything about revoking his probation. So, 1 month later, Miorana was arrested for domestic abuse battery. He went back before Judge Roche. Judge Roche didn't revoke his probation. He just gave him house arrest and told him he had to wear an ankle monitor. That was in September of 2024. Then, a little bit later, Judge Roche decided to lighten even those conditions. He allowed Mr. Miorana to be free every day from 9 to 6—every day from 9 to 6—supposedly, to go to work.

Beginning on October 8, Mr. Miorana violated the judge's orders every single day—every single day for 45 days. How do we know this? He had on an ankle monitor, and the monitor company reported to the district attorney and to Judge Roche that Mr. Miorana was violating the terms of his house arrest and ankle monitoring—45 days.

Do you know what the district attorney did? Do you know what Judge Roche did? Nothing. Zero. Zilch. Nada. I have already told you how this story ends. Allegedly—I have to say ''allegedly''—he has been arrested for it anyway. Mr. Miorana and three of his buddies put on a mask, got in a Honda, killed somebody in the French Quarter, and shot three others. Mr. Miorana was caught. Do you know how he was caught? He had on an ankle monitor. He was caught within hours. This was a system failure.

I love New Orleans. I used to live in New Orleans. I earned a living in New Orleans. I met my wife in New Orleans. My son lived the first couple of years of his life in New Orleans. I love New Orleans.

What did Tennessee Williams say? ''America has only three cities: New York, San Francisco, and New Orleans. Everything else,'' Tennessee Williams said, ''is Cleveland.''

Now, before my friends in Cleveland get mad at me, I didn't say it; Tennessee Williams said it. But I think what Mr. Williams was trying to convey is what an extraordinary, unique, city New Orleans is. Every other State in America would kill to have a New Orleans. Twenty million people from all over the world come to visit the city in America which is perhaps the most European city and the most diverse city in our country. And I love New Orleans. But New Orleans deserves better.

I wish this hadn't happened. I wish there weren't more people in this world like Mr. Miorana. But there are some people in this world who just habitually, consistently hurt other people, and they take other people's stuff. I wish they wouldn't, but they do. I don't know why they do. If I make it to Heaven, I am going to ask. But they do, and they have got to be separated from society. And our judges and our district attorneys are not doing anybody—anybody—in New Orleans a favor by not putting those folks into jail. It breaks my heart. It also makes me mad.

TÜRKIYE

Mr. President, the second thing I want to just mention briefly, and I say this gently—respectfully, but gently—to President Erdogan, the distinguished President of Türkiye: Leave the Kurds alone. Leave the Kurds alone.

The Kurds, as you know, are wonderful people. There are probably 30 to 40 million Kurds throughout the world. Some we are blessed to have here in the United States. They live mostly in Türkiye, Iran, northern Iraq, and Syria. The Kurds are a distinct ethnic group. They are sort of a stateless country because they are spread all over the world.

The Kurds are America's friends. It hadn't been that many years ago since ISIS was rising high. ISIS had established a caliphate in the Middle East. That is a fancy word for a country. They established their own country in the Middle East, and America and other countries beat them back. We destroyed ISIS. They are still there, but we destroyed their caliphate.

The people most responsible for helping us, most responsible for destroying ISIS, were the Kurds. We lost less than 20 American lives in destroying ISIS in the Middle East. Our friends the Kurds lost over 10,000—10,000—fighting alongside of us. Over 30,000 Kurds were wounded. Without the Kurds, ISIS would still be there.

Now, Mr. Erdogan, the President of Türkiye, does not like the Kurds. I am not going to go into why. He is entitled to his opinion. But, right now, Mr. Erdogan has troops and tanks and weapons marshaled on the border between Türkiye and Syria.

As we know, the people in Syria finally had enough, and they overthrew Mr. Assad, their President. Predictably, Assad, who we think stole billions of dollars from the good people of Syria, is now, predictably, living in Russia. We are going to try to find his money.

Mr. Assad, like his father, is a butcher. He killed tens and tens of thousands of Syrians, and many of them he hurt the entire time they were dying.

To keep power and his money—a lot of which he made by dealing drugs—he used chemical weapons against his own people. And now the people in Syria are free of him.

Everybody else, stay out of Syria. President Trump has already talked about it. It doesn't mean we can't offer our advice, but we all need to stay out of Syria.

The defeat of Mr. Assad in Syria would not have happened but for Israel. We know that. You don't have to be a graduate of Cal Tech to know that. Israel destroyed Hezbollah, which was working with Iran, which was working with Russia to keep Assad in power.

Russia and Iran and Hezbollah were on the side of the butcher. But Russia is tied up in Ukraine. Hezbollah was holding down the fort while Russia was tied up in Ukraine. And Israel ignored the advice of many and just went out and destroyed Hezbollah.

Thank you, Israel.

But that is why the people of Syria today are free, and they are entitled to self-determination.

Mr. Erdogan in Türkiye, I worry, is going to invade Syria. I am not accusing him of anything, but I worry that he is because we have intelligence that he has many soldiers and many tanks and much equipment and many weapons right now stationed on the border between Türkiye and Syria. And our Kurd friends are afraid that Mr. Erdogan, because of his hatred for the Kurds, is going to attack now. The Kurds live very peacefully in northeast Syria.

My message today is: President Erdogan, I don't want to mess in the affairs of your country, but don't do it. Leave the Kurds alone. Leave the people of Syria alone.

Türkiye has problems now. Türkiye is supposed to be our friend. Türkiye is a member of NATO. Lately, they haven't been acting like our friend. Türkiye has its own problems. If we think interest rates are high in America, they are close to 50 percent in Türkiye. Some people think they are in a recession. Their inflation is between 40 and 50 percent.

If you invade Syria and touch a hair on the head of the Kurds, I am going to ask this U.S. Congress to do something, and our sanctions are not going to help the economy of Türkiye. I don't want to do that. Leave the Kurds alone.

My work here is done. I will show myself to the door, and I will suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

THE CALENDAR

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3324 and the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the following bills, en bloc: Calendar No. 277, S. 1097; Calendar No. 528, H.R. 2468; Calendar No. 530, H.R. 4094; Calendar No. 640, S. 5005; Calendar No. 660, H.R. 7332; and H.R. 3324.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged of the relevant bill, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bills, en bloc.

Mr. LEE. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment, where applicable, be agreed to; that the bills, as amended, if amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

The bills passed, en bloc, as follows:

CÉSAR E. CHÁVEZ AND THE FARMWORKER MOVEMENT NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK ACT

The bill (S. 1097), to establish the César E. Chávez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park in the States of California and Arizona, and for other purposes, which had been reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources with an amendment, as follows:

(The part of the bill intended to be stricken is in boldfaced brackets and the part of the bill intended to be inserted is in italic.)

S. 1097

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''César E. Chávez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park Act''.

[SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

[(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

[(1) on October 8, 2012, the César E. Chávez National Monument was established by Presidential Proclamation 8884 (54 U.S.C. 320301 note) for the purposes of protecting and interpreting the nationally significant resources associated with the property in Keene, California, known as ''Nuestra Señora Reina de la Paz'';

[(2) Nuestra Señora Reina de la Paz—

[(A) served as the national headquarters of the United Farm Workers; and

[(B) was the home and workplace of César E. Chávez, the family of César E. Chávez, union members, and supporters of César E. Chávez;

[(3) while the César E. Chávez National Monument marks the extraordinary achievements and contributions to the history of the United States by César Chávez and the farmworker movement, there are other significant sites in the States of California and Arizona that are important to the story of the farmworker movement; and

[(4) in the study conducted by the National Park Service entitled ''César Chávez Special Resource Study and Environmental Assessment'' and submitted to Congress on October 24, 2013, the National Park Service—

[(A)(i) found that several sites associated with César E. Chávez and the farmworker movement—

[(I) are suitable for inclusion in the National Park System; and

[(II) depict a distinct and important aspect of the history of the United States not otherwise adequately represented at existing units of the National Park System; and

[(ii) recommended that Congress establish a national historical park to honor the role that César E. Chávez played in lifting up the lives of farmworkers; and

[(B)(i) found that the route of the 1966 march from Delano to Sacramento, California, meets National Historic Landmark criteria;

[(ii) recommended that the potential for designation of the route as a national historic trail be further explored; and

[(iii) indicated that the National Park Service could work with partner organizations and agencies to provide for interpretation programs along the route of the 1966 march from Delano to Sacramento, California.

[(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to establish the César E. Chávez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park—

[(1) to help preserve, protect, and interpret the nationally significant resources associated with César Chávez and the farmworker movement;

[(2) to interpret and provide for a broader understanding of the extraordinary achievements and contributions to the history of the United States made by César Chávez and the farmworker movement; and

[(3) to support and enhance the network of sites and resources associated with César Chávez and the farmworker movement.]

SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to establish the César E. Chávez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park—

(1) to help preserve, protect, and interpret the nationally significant resources associated with César Chávez and the farmworker movement;

(2) to interpret and provide for a broader understanding of the extraordinary achievements and contributions to the history of the United States made by César Chávez and the farmworker movement; and

(3) to support and enhance the network of sites and resources associated with César Chávez and the farmworker movement.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) HISTORICAL PARK.—The term ''historical park'' means the César E. Chávez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park established by section 4.

(2) MAP.—The term ''map'' means the map entitled ''Cesar E. Chávez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park Proposed Boundary'', numbered 502/179857B, and dated September 2022.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

(4) STATES.—The term ''States'' means—

(A) the State of California; and

(B) the State of Arizona.

(5) STUDY.—The term ''Study'' means the study conducted by the National Park Service entitled ''César Chávez Special Resource Study and Environmental Assessment'' and submitted to Congress on October 24, 2013.

SEC. 4. CÉSAR E. CHÁVEZ AND THE FARMWORKER MOVEMENT NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

(a) REDESIGNATION OF CÉSAR E. CHÁVEZ NATIONAL MONUMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The César E. Chávez National Monument established on October 8, 2012, by Presidential Proclamation 8884 (54 U.S.C. 320301 note) is redesignated as the ''César E. Chávez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park''.

(2) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Any funds available for the purposes of the monument referred to in paragraph (1) shall be available for the purposes of the historical park.

(3) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, regulation, document, record, map, or other paper of the United States to the monument referred to in paragraph (1) shall be considered to be a reference to the ''César E. Chávez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park''.

(b) BOUNDARY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The boundary of the historical park shall include the area identified as ''César E. Chávez National Monument'' in Keene, California, as generally depicted on the map.

(2) INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL SITES.—Subject to paragraph (3), the Secretary may include within the boundary of the historical park the following sites, as generally depicted on the map:

(A) The Forty Acres in Delano, California.

(B) Santa Rita Center in Phoenix, Arizona.

(C) McDonnell Hall in San Jose, California.

(3) CONDITIONS FOR INCLUSION.—A site described in paragraph (2) shall not be included in the boundary of the historical park until—

(A) the date on which the Secretary acquires the land or an interest in the land at the site; or

(B) the date on which the Secretary enters into a written agreement with the owner of the site providing that the site shall be managed in accordance with this Act.

(4) NOTICE.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary includes a site described in paragraph (2) in the historical park, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register notice of the addition to the historical park.

(c) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The map shall be available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(d) LAND ACQUISITION.—The Secretary may acquire land and interests in land within the area generally depicted on the map as ''Proposed NPS Boundary'' by donation, purchase from a willing seller with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange.

(e) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer the historical park in accordance with—

(A) this section; and

(B) the laws generally applicable to units of the National Park System, including—

(i) section 100101(a), chapter 1003, and sections 100751(a), 100752, 100753, and 102101 of title 54, United States Code; and

(ii) chapter 3201 of title 54, United States Code.

(2) INTERPRETATION.—The Secretary may provide technical assistance and public interpretation of historic sites, museums, and resources on land not administered by the Secretary relating to the life of César E. Chávez and the history of the farmworker movement.

(3) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with the States, local governments, public and private organizations, and individuals to provide for the preservation, development, interpretation, and use of the historical park.

(f) GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this subsection, the Secretary shall prepare a general management plan for the historical park in accordance with section 100502 of title 54, United States Code.

(2) ADDITIONAL SITES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The general management plan prepared under paragraph (1) shall include a determination of whether there are—

(i) sites located in the Coachella Valley in the State of California that were reviewed in the Study that should be added to the historical park;

(ii) additional representative sites in the States that were reviewed in the Study that should be added to the historical park; or

(iii) sites outside of the States in the United States that relate to the farmworker movement that should be linked to, and interpreted at, the historical park.

(B) RECOMMENDATION.—On completion of the preparation of the general management plan under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives any recommendations for additional sites to be included in the historical park.

(3) CONSULTATION.—The general management plan under paragraph (1) shall be prepared in consultation with—

(A) any owner of land that is included within the boundaries of the historical park; and

(B) appropriate Federal, State, and Tribal agencies, public and private organizations, and individuals, including—

(i) the National Chávez Center; and

(ii) the César Chávez Foundation.

SEC. 5. FARMWORKER PEREGRINACIÓN NATIONAL HISTORICAL TRAIL STUDY.

Section 5(c) of the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(50) FARMWORKER PEREGRINACIÓN NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL.—The Farmworker Peregrinación National Historic Trail, a route of approximately 300 miles taken by farmworkers between Delano and Sacramento, California, in 1966, as generally depicted as 'Alternative C' in the study conducted by the National Park Service entitled 'César Chávez Special Resource Study and Environmental Assessment' and submitted to Congress on October 24, 2013.''.

The committee reported amendment was agreed to.

The bill, as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 1097

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''César E. Chávez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park Act''.

SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to establish the César E. Chávez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park—

(1) to help preserve, protect, and interpret the nationally significant resources associated with César Chávez and the farmworker movement;

(2) to interpret and provide for a broader understanding of the extraordinary achievements and contributions to the history of the United States made by César Chávez and the farmworker movement; and

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(3) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

(4) STATES.—The term ''States'' means—

(A) the State of California; and

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(5) STUDY.—The term ''Study'' means the study conducted by the National Park Service entitled ''César Chávez Special Resource Study and Environmental Assessment'' and submitted to Congress on October 24, 2013.

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(1) IN GENERAL.—The César E. Chávez National Monument established on October 8, 2012, by Presidential Proclamation 8884 (54 U.S.C. 320301 note) is redesignated as the ''César E. Chávez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park''.

(2) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Any funds available for the purposes of the monument referred to in paragraph (1) shall be available for the purposes of the historical park.

(3) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, regulation, document, record, map, or other paper of the United States to the monument referred to in paragraph (1) shall be considered to be a reference to the ''César E. Chávez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park''.

(b) BOUNDARY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The boundary of the historical park shall include the area identified as ''César E. Chávez National Monument'' in Keene, California, as generally depicted on the map.

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Federal Register notice of the addition to the historical park.

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(e) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer the historical park in accordance with—

(A) this section; and

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(i) section 100101(a), chapter 1003, and sections 100751(a), 100752, 100753, and 102101 of title 54, United States Code; and

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(3) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with the States, local governments, public and private organizations, and individuals to provide for the preservation, development, interpretation, and use of the historical park.

(f) GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this subsection, the Secretary shall prepare a general management plan for the historical park in accordance with section 100502 of title 54, United States Code.

(2) ADDITIONAL SITES.—

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(i) sites located in the Coachella Valley in the State of California that were reviewed in the Study that should be added to the historical park;

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(B) RECOMMENDATION.—On completion of the preparation of the general management plan under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives any recommendations for additional sites to be included in the historical park.

(3) CONSULTATION.—The general management plan under paragraph (1) shall be prepared in consultation with—

(A) any owner of land that is included within the boundaries of the historical park; and

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MOUNTAIN VIEW CORRIDOR COMPLETION ACT

The bill (H.R. 2468) to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the State of Utah certain Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management within the boundaries of Camp Williams, Utah, and for other purposes, was ordered to a third reading, as read the third time, and passed.

GREAT SALT LAKE STEWARDSHIP ACT

The bill (H.R. 4094) to amend the Central Utah Project Completion Act to authorize expenditures for the conduct of certain water conservation measures in the Great Salt Lake basin, and for other purposes, was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER RESTORATION SETTLEMENT ACT

The bill (S. 5005) to authorize additional funding for the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 5005

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER RESTORATION SETTLEMENT ACT.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SETTLEMENT.—Section 10009 of the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act (Public Law 111–11; 123 Stat. 1355) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking ''$250,000,000'' and inserting ''$750,000,000''; and

(2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking ''$250,000,000'' and inserting ''$750,000,000''.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR FRIANT DIVISION IMPROVEMENTS.—Section 10203(c) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–11; 123 Stat. 1367) is amended by striking ''$50,000,000'' and inserting ''$75,000,000''.

UTAH STATE PARKS ADJUSTMENT ACT

The bill (H.R. 7332) to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain Federal land to the State of Utah for inclusion in certain State parks, and for other purposes, was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

EXTENDING THE AUTHORITY TO COLLECT SHASTA-TRINITY MARINA FEES THROUGH FISCAL YEAR 2029

The bills (H.R. 3324) to extend the authority to collect Shasta-Trinity Marina fees through fiscal year 2029, was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

H.R. 5009

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, we are on the floor here in the U.S. Senate debating and discussing the National Defense Authorization Act—the NDAA, as we call it—one of the most important bills of the year because it sets our defense policy, defense spending numbers; it lays out the things that Congress wants to do, hopefully, to focus on modality for our troops; and it is about taking care of our military men and women and their families. So it is a very important bill.

We are here at the end of the year, unfortunately, and I am going to complain a little bit. We got this bill done in June in the Senate and never brought it to the Senate floor. I am just going to be a little blunt. It is the majority leader. Senator SCHUMER doesn't prioritize national defense. He doesn't. Every year, the NDAA, under his leadership, has come to the floor at the very end of the year—no chance to amend it; no Senate floor vote. It is wrong that we don't prioritize it. He doesn't prioritize national defense.

We are looking at one of the most dangerous periods that we have seen since World War II. Dictators are on the march around the world—Russia, China, Iran, North Korea. They are all working together. And look at what we are doing with regard to defense spending. We are hitting, with President Biden—look at that—3 percent of GDP. We have been at 3 percent of GDP or lower only three or four times since the end of World War II. That is not a number you should aspire to if you want a strong American defense, especially during a dangerous time, but we are going down—3 percent. The Biden budget would bring us to below 3 percent next year.

Again, this is being jammed through at the end of the year. We never debated it on the Senate floor.

We did a lot of good work in the U.S. Senate. I want to particularly do a shout-out to Senator WICKER, the ranking member of the Armed Services Committee. He will be the chairman of the Armed Services Committee starting in January. That will be really great for our military, for our country.

In our bill, we got an additional $25 billion added to the Biden budget to make our military stronger. One of the disappointments of the NDAA that we are debating now—that was a bipartisan addition to the budget. Remember, it is a Democratic-controlled Senate, a Democratic-controlled Armed Services Committee.

I do want to do a shout-out to Senator JACK REED, the chairman, as well.

Senator WICKER's leadership got us an additional $25 billion, which we need—our military needs, our troops need, their families need—and this final bill just leaves that on the cutting room floor. Hey, it is one of the reasons I was thinking about voting against the bill, but there are a lot of good things in the bill.

So we don't want to be at this level, but we all have to come together here, Democrats and Republicans, recognizing the dangerous world in which we are now living.

Now to some of the good things in the NDAA. I do want to do a shout-out to the work that was done, particularly as it relates to pay raises for our most junior enlisted servicemembers. These are the pay grades E–1 to E–4. They are going to get a 14.5-percent pay increase. That is very significant. As a matter of fact, I have been doing this for almost 10 years now. That is the biggest pay raise I have seen ever. And they needed it. Our troops need that money. Their families need that money. Inflation has been really, really undermining their ability to live on bases in Alaska or Georgia or other places.

There has been a recruiting crisis in our military. I think it has a lot to do with the leadership of the Biden administration. In 2024, Army, Air Force, and Navy all once again failed to meet the recruiting goals.

So this pay raise is needed. This pay raise will help. So that is a big positive about this bill.

Some other things.

It improves the support for Israel and its capabilities against Iran during this very existential-threat time Israel is facing.

We are starting finally in this bill to reverse the shrinking U.S. Air Force, and we are starting to finally attack the issue of Navy shipbuilding. We are in the worst crisis in almost 50 years in terms of building ships for our country. That is a bipartisan assessment by the Congressional Research Service saying that manning, maintaining, and building ships hasn't been this bad in almost half a century. We have to get on this.

The Chinese are building ships at a rapid rate, and we can't build anything. So we are starting to turn that around. This bill should start turning that around. President Trump and his team, I am really hopeful, are going to turn that around. I have talked to President Trump about this very topic, our very weak industrial base, and how we are getting outbuilt by the Chinese. We need to turn that around.

Of course, Mr. President, I was honored to work hard on some really important things for the great State of Alaska. The father of the Air Force, Billy Mitchell, Gen. Billy Mitchell, called Alaska the most strategic place in the world. It is. Our enemies know that, and Americans should know that. So we are building up our military in Alaska.

I consider Alaska contributing—our great State contributes many things to our Nation's defense. I like to say there are three pillars of the strength of Alaska for America.

We are the cornerstone of missile defense. All the missiles that would intercept anything shot at New York or Miami or Chicago, they are all based in Alaska, with the exception of four at Vandenberg Space Force Base.

All the radar systems that track these missiles, again, are all based in Alaska.

We are the hub of air combat power for the Arctic and Asia-Pacific. We have over 100 fifth-generation fighters—F–22s, F–35s—in Alaska. No other place on the planet Earth has that kind of fifth-gen combat capability.

We are the place where expeditionary forces—now the 11th Airborne Division for the U.S. Army—can deploy in a moment's notice anywhere in the world because we are so strategic.

Those are the three pillars. We are going to build on those pillars in this bill.

I was able to get close to $750 million in military construction for the great State of Alaska. That is good for Alaska, it is good for our economy, and it is good for our workers. But most importantly, when we are talking about national defense and the NDAA, it is really good for the national security of America.

Mr. President, overall, I am going to be supporting this bill. It is important. It should have gotten here way earlier. We should have been able to have amendments for it. Again, I don't know why Senator SCHUMER, whenever he was in leadership, always brought this at the end of the year. He never prioritized the NDAA—never.

But I will say, I am disappointed about a couple of things in this bill. This is just an area where the Congress of the United States has to start getting a lot more serious.

I have this chart here. It says ''Xi's Appeasers in Congress.'' That is tough language. That is Xi Jinping, the dictator of China.

I and others had some provisions. I am going to mention three of mine that were focused on going after the Chinese Communist Party—very bipartisan provisions in the NDAA. Yet somebody, in the middle of the night—I don't know who; an appeaser for Xi—strips these measures out of the bill, and the final bill doesn't have them. The final bill doesn't have them. These are the most bipartisan things. Yet we have Members of Congress that don't realize this guy is a dictator that we need to be ready to defeat. When we have anti-China stuff—anti-Chinese Communist Party stuff, Members of Congress, somewhere, somehow, stripped this. Who the heck is appeasing Xi?

Let me just give you a couple of examples. It is a mystery, and it is frustrating. Come on—what are we doing?

No. 1. See down here? This is the New York Times from last week: ''China Bans Rare Mineral Exports to the U.S.'' Well, we knew that was coming. China dominates critical minerals, rare earth elements. So we are very vulnerable to the Chinese.

(Mr. KELLY assumed the Chair.)

Here is the good news: We have critical minerals in America. We have great critical minerals in Alaska. We have them in Arizona. I see Captain Kelly on the floor. We have minerals that can make our country less dependent on China when they blackmail us like this.

So I had a provision, Mr. President. We have a road in Alaska to go to what is called the Ambler Mining District. It has critical minerals. It is one of the biggest sources of critical minerals in America. We have a road. The previous administrations—starting with President Obama, President Trump—certified this road, right-of-way. Of course, President Biden, who will listen to the radical environmental groups no matter what—even when it makes us weaker to China—he killed the road.

In the markup of the Senate NDAA bill, I said to my colleagues: Colleagues, we need this road because it is going to make us less dependent on China.

Guess what. That provision in the Senate NDAA passed 20 to 5. I believe the Presiding Officer voted for it. Bipartisan. Everybody agreed.

We need to do more to have our own critical minerals so we are not dependent on China. That was good. It was good for our country, good for our military, good for Alaska. Yet somebody stripped it out. I heard it was HAKEEM JEFFRIES, the minority leader. I don't know. Maybe he is pro-Xi Jinping. But he stripped out the provision that was going to make us stronger in terms of critical minerals, the week that the Chinese said they were going they ban exports of critical minerals to America.

Good job over there, Minority Leader JEFFRIES. Way to go. I am sure Xi Jinping was applauding your actions.

Second, Mr. President—now, this one might seem a little bit small-ball, but it was important to me, and I think it was important to America. Somehow, someway, the Chinese have dominated global fishing. OK. They are the largest seafood producer and consumer and exporter of fish, rising to almost $93 billion in 2023.

But here is the deal: They use ghost fleets. They have a horrible environmental record. They use slave labor on their ships. They are about as bad as it gets in global fishing.

Well, a constituent of mine back home said: Hey, Senator, why are we selling Chinese communist fish to our military members, to our commissaries, to our chow halls? Soldiers, sailors, marines eating this fish. It is horrible fish, by the way.

Why are we selling this to them? Why is our military buying communist fish from the Chinese when they can buy great Alaskan seafood, freedom fish? Why?

I don't know. It is a great question.

So I had a provision saying: Hey, you think the Chinese are letting their military eat great Alaskan freedom fish? Do you think the Chinese buy Alaskan fish? They don't. So why the heck are we buying Chinese fish?

So I had a provision in the NDAA in the Senate that says our military, our commissaries, our chow halls, our soldiers, our sailors—we are not going to buy Chinese communist fish. Why should we help those guys? They don't buy our fish. Let's eat American fish, Alaskan fish, Mississippi fish, Maine lobsters.

That vote in the Armed Services Committee, on which the Presiding Officer sits with me, passed unanimously—unanimously. Everybody agreed. Heck, why are we buying Chinese communist fish? Let's buy Alaskan fish for our troops.

Guess what? Somebody—I think it was HAKEEM JEFFRIES again, in the middle of the night, said: Nope, we are going to strip that out. We are going to strip that out. Let's undermine Alaska and American fishermen, and let's promote Chinese slave labor, fishermen, and continue to export and have our military members eat that fish.

What a dumb idea. Who is doing this? Who is the Xi Jinping appeaser in the Congress? I don't know. HAKEEM JEFFRIES, I heard it was you. Maybe you want to come and talk to us. But why would you get rid of that provision? It helps Alaskans. It helps fishermen. It helps American fishermen. It helps our troops. It helps the military.

Nope, we are going to rip that out, and we are going to make sure Chinese fish exports, which use slave labor, can still go onto our military bases.

I can't believe it, but that is what happened.

Then, finally, this outbound investment provision. We have been working on this issue. Senator CORNYN, in particular, has done a great job—and so has Senator CASEY—on this. This is an amendment of ours that we got in the NDAA. All it says is—unfortunately, we have some finance firms in America—I have sat down with a couple of these guys. I still can't believe it. I am like: Hey, where is your patriotism? We have American hedge funds, private equity groups, and even some investment banks, who invest big-time in Chinese military capabilities—in quantum computing, AI, advanced chip manufacturing—in China.

And all this provision says is: Hey, we want to know who is doing that. We want to know who is doing that.

That passed in the U.S. Senate with over 90 Senate votes—over 90 Senate votes. We finally got it in the NDAA, and it got stripped out. That got stripped out. Again, I think it was Minority Leader HAKEEM JEFFRIES did that one that time, too.

So, again, these are all things—every one of these—Ambler Access for critical minerals in Alaska to compete against China, banning Chinese communist fish on U.S. bases for our military and commissaries so we get fish from Alaskans and other great American fishermen, outbound investment. Hey, who is investing in quantum computing? We want to know. We want to know. American investors using, you know, Iowa teacher pension funds to help the Chinese get stronger? Are you kidding me?

All these were in the Senate bill, and all these got stripped out by the House. Come on, guys. Whose side are you on? Really?

So here is what I want to say. I want to end with this: We all know it is a dangerous world, and this is what we have to get back to: Peace through strength. Peace through strength.

You can do that in many ways—getting stronger from a military perspective, stronger from a natural resources perspective, stronger from an energy perspective. This is what President Trump ran on. This is what Republican Senators ran on. This is what Republican House Members ran on. This is what was in our platform in Milwaukee, the Republican Party platform—very similar to the Reagan 1984 platform. It is what the American people want.

So, Mr. President, I am going to vote yes for the NDAA tomorrow when we vote on it. I want to commend Senator REED and Senator WICKER for their hard work on this bill. It should have been brought up way earlier—way earlier. But we need to do better. We need to do better. And I sure hope, when we work on this bill again next year, that whoever is doing the appeasing in China is no longer going to do that—no longer going to do that.

We need to return to peace through strength. It is a dangerous world.

I yield the floor.

BIENNIAL REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the record the biennial report from the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights.

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

BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS

U.S. CONGRESS, OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS,
Washington, DC, December 17, 2024.

Hon. PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Re Biennial Report from the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights

DEAR MADAM PRESIDENT: Section 102(b) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (CAA) requires the Board of Directors of the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights (OCWR) to biennially submit a report containing recommendations regarding the applicability of Federal workplace rights, safety and health, and public access laws and regulations to the legislative branch. The purpose of this report is to ensure that the rights afforded by the CAA to legislative branch employees and visitors to Capitol Hill and district and state offices remain equivalent to those in the private sector and the executive branch of the Federal Government. As such, these recommendations support the intent of Congress to keep pace with advances in workplace rights and public access laws.

Accompanying this letter is a copy of the Board's Section 102(b) report for the 119th Congress. The Board welcomes discussion on these issues and urges that Congress act on these important recommendations. As required by the CAA, we request that this publication be printed in the Congressional Record and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration as the committee of the U.S. Senate with jurisdiction.

Sincerely,

MARTIN J. CRANE,
Executive Director,
Office of Congressional Workplace Rights.

Attachment.

BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Required by Section 102(b) of the Congressional Accountability Act

Issued at the Conclusion of the 118th Congress for Consideration by the 119th Congress

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Office of Congressional Workplace Rights (OCWR) Board of Directors submits this report to Congress pursuant to section 102(b) of the Congressional Accountability Act (CAA). In accordance with the CAA, the Board is to provide each Congress with recommendations regarding the applicability to the legislative branch of federal workplace rights, safety and health, and public access laws and regulations. The Board's fulfillment of this requirement provides Congress with information and recommendations necessary to ensure parity between the rights and protections applied to the legislative branch and those applied to the executive branch and the private sector.

Currently executive branch and private employees have protections and rights that legislative branch employees do not have. In this report, the Board addresses and recommends changes to the CAA's substantive protections and obligations and to the necessary implementing procedures and regulations. Adoption of these recommendations would ensure that Congress meets the goal that it set for itself: to apply to the legislative branch those workplace rights and obligations that it has applied to the executive branch and the private sector. The following is a summary of the Board's recommendations:

Create Parity with the Executive Branch and the Private Sector

Require legislative branch offices to maintain records of workplace injuries and illnesses.

Provide comparable parental bereavement leave for legislative branch employees.

Provide comparable nursing protections for legislative branch employees.

Provide comparable religious compensatory time for all legislative branch employees.

Provide comparable whistleblower protections to legislative branch employees.

Provide comparable protections from retaliation for non-employees under the CAA's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) public access provisions.

Provide comparable protections for legislative branch employees who serve on jury duty, declare bankruptcy, or have their wages garnished.

Require legislative branch offices to maintain records required under other federal workplace rights laws.

Improve Implementation of Existing Rights to Ensure Parity

Empower the OCWR General Counsel to seek a court order to temporarily enjoin unfair labor practices.

Allow disclosure of proceedings involving disability-related public access and labor-management issues.

Approve pending OCWR regulations in the legislative branch, including:

Fair Labor Standards Act regulations related to overtime pay.

Family and Medical Leave Act regulations related to paid parental leave and leave benefits for servicemembers and their families.

Federal Service Labor-Management Relations Statute regulations related to collective bargaining in the legislative branch.

Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act regulations related to workplace protections for servicemembers.

Americans with Disabilities Act regulations related to public access to facilities.

Fair Chance to Compete for Jobs Act regulations related to protections for job applicants in the legislative branch.

More information about the Board's recommendations can be found on OCWR's website at www.ocwr.gov.

STATEMENT FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In 2025, the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights (OCWR) celebrates the 30th anniversary of the passage of the Congressional Accountability Act (CAA), which was enacted by Congress in 1995 with nearly unanimous approval. This milestone anniversary marks the establishment of OCWR and reflects the steadfast commitment of Congress to the American public that it will apply to itself labor, employment, accessibility, and health and safety laws on par with those that apply to the executive branch and the private sector.

This commitment is an ongoing one. To ensure that it continues to be fulfilled, section 102 of the CAA, 2 U.S.C. §1302, requires the Board of Directors of OCWR to issue a report to each Congress that describes: (1) to what degree such provisions of federal law are applicable or inapplicable to the legislative branch; and (2) whether any inapplicable provisions should be made applicable.

The Board believes that now is the time to celebrate the many accomplishments that Congress has made in the area of workplace rights and to acknowledge the many recommendations in previous Section 102(b) Reports that Congress has adopted. However, much work remains. We highlight in this Section 102(b) Report additional recommendations for amendments to the CAA to apply to the congressional workplace employee protections applicable to the executive branch or the private sector, as well as key recommendations that the Board has made in past Section 102(b) Reports that have not yet been implemented.

On the eve of this historic milestone, we are pleased to submit to Congress these 2024 biennial recommendations for amendments to the CAA. We welcome the opportunity to further discuss these recommendations and ask for careful consideration of them by the 119th Congress.

Sincerely,

BARBARA CHILDS WALLACE,
Chair, Board of Directors.
BARBARA L. CAMENS,
ALAN V. FRIEDMAN,
ROBERTA L. HOLZWARTH,
SUSAN S. ROBFOGEL,
Members.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 119th CONGRESS

I. Create Parity with the Executive Branch and the Private Sector

A. Require Legislative Branch Offices to Maintain Records of Workplace Injuries and Illnesses to Ensure Workplace Safety

The Board has long recommended amending the CAA to apply the critical recordkeeping requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSH Act) to the congressional workplace. Under the CAA, Congress and its instrumentalities are exempt from critical OSH Act requirements that apply to the private sector, including section 8(c) of the OSH Act which requires employers to make, keep and preserve, and provide, upon request, records necessary and appropriate for the enforcement of the OSH Act (29 U.S.C. §657(c)).

In enacting the OSH Act, Congress recognized that ''[f]ull and accurate information is a fundamental precondition for meaningful administration of an occupational safety and health program.''[1] Congress observed that a recordkeeping requirement should be included in that legislation because ''the Federal government and most of the states have inadequate information on the incidence, nature, or causes of occupational injuries, illnesses, and deaths.''[2]

Without access to such information, OCWR is unable to effectively enforce several critical safety and health standards within the legislative branch. For example, substantive occupational safety and health standards concerning asbestos in the workplace, providing employees with safety information regarding hazardous chemicals in their workspaces, and emergency response procedures in the event of the release of hazardous chemicals all rely on accurate recordkeeping to ensure that employees are not exposed to hazardous materials or conditions. But because the CAA does not contain section 8(c)'s recordkeeping requirements, employing offices may contend that they are not required to maintain or submit such records to OCWR for review.

Moreover, without the benefit of section 8(c) authority, OCWR is also hampered in its ability to access records needed to develop information regarding the causes and prevention of occupational injuries and illnesses. As the Department of Labor recognized, ''Analysis of the data is a widely recognized method for discovering workplace safety and health problems and tracking progress in solving these problems.''[3]

Recordkeeping improves safety. When conducting inspections of employers in the private sector, inspectors routinely request to view records of workplace injuries and illnesses at the outset of the inspection. This helps inspectors improve the focus of their inspection. For instance, if the records contain multiple instances of a particular type of injury, this may indicate to the inspector to investigate specific equipment and work processes that may have given rise to those injuries. Relatedly, if the records show that multiple employees have experienced similar work-related illnesses, this may indicate to the inspector a possible exposure to a hazardous substance in the workplace. In short, these records help inspectors determine which hazards may exist in the workplace and whether different controls or personal protective equipment (PPE) might reduce injuries and illnesses.

Because Congress is exempt from these recordkeeping requirements, OCWR occupational safety and health (OSH) inspectors—who are statutorily charged with annually inspecting the congressional campus to ensure workplace safety—are dependent on voluntary reporting by employees and employing offices to determine the types of injuries or illnesses that congressional workplaces are experiencing. From OCWR's experience, voluntary reporting is often insufficient to produce a comprehensive record of incidents.

The consequences of a lack of recordkeeping requirements were demonstrated during OCWR's investigation of occupational safety and health concerns arising out of the events of January 6, 2021. As an essential part of OCWR's OSH investigation of the events that day, the OCWR Office of the General Counsel requested that the USCP identify the types and causes of injuries sustained by United States Capitol Police (USCP) officers. However, because the USCP was not required to maintain a list of employees injured under the provisions of the OSH Act, as applied by the CAA, the information provided by the USCP was so lacking in detail, particularly as to the specific causes of the described injuries, that it was impossible for the General Counsel to determine precisely how each of these employees were injured.[4] As a result, OCWR's ability to prescribe appropriate remedies to keep the congressional workplace safe was severely hampered.

Accordingly, the Board again strongly recommends—as it has for years—that legislative branch employing offices be required to maintain records of workplace injuries and illnesses under OSH Act section 8(c). As demonstrated from experience, workplace injury and illness recordkeeping is essential to ensuring safety and health in the congressional workplace.

B. Provide Comparable Parental Bereavement Leave for Legislative Branch Employees

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 amended the provisions of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) to establish a new paid leave category for most federal civilian employees, which was codified in title 5 FMLA (5 U.S.C. §6329d). Under section 6329d, executive branch employees are entitled to 2 workweeks of paid parental bereavement leave in connection with the death of an employee's child.

However, because legislative branch employees are not governed by the provisions of title 5 FMLA, but are instead covered by title 29 FMLA, as applied by the CAA, they are not covered by this important workplace benefit.

The Board recommends that the CAA be amended to provide paid parental bereavement leave for legislative branch employees. Such an amendment would help balance work and family responsibilities by allowing employees to take reasonable paid leave in the catastrophic circumstance of the death of a child and would ensure parity between the legislative and executive branches.

C. Provide Comparable Nursing Protections for Legislative Branch Employees

In December 2022, Congress passed into law the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (H.R. 2617), which included the language of the Providing Urgent Maternal Protections for Nursing Mothers Act (or ''PUMP for Nursing Mothers Act''). The PUMP Act amended the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) to expand protections for nursing employees. These employees are now entitled to reasonable break time and a private space to pump at work for up to 1 year after their child's birth.

Under the CAA, only certain sections of the FLSA apply to the legislative branch—specifically, sections 206, 207, and 212. Prior to the adoption of the PUMP Act, protections for nursing employees were included in section 207(r) of the FLSA. The PUMP Act struck section 207(r) and created a new section—section 218d—to contain the expanded protections. In striking section 207(r) from the FLSA and failing to amend the CAA to apply section 218d to the legislative branch, Congress removed the existing protections for legislative branch employees and failed to provide them the new protections.

Since 2022, Congress has introduced several technical amendment bills to apply the PUMP Act protections to the legislative branch.[5] The Board believes that the protections of the PUMP Act should apply to legislative branch employees and urges Congress to amend the CAA so that section 218d of the FLSA applies to the legislative branch. Such an amendment would ensure that the rights and protections of nursing employees in the legislative branch are equivalent to those of nursing employees in the executive branch and the private sector.

D. Provide Comparable Religious Compensatory Time for all Legislative Branch Employees

In 1978, to further the free exercise of religious beliefs by federal employees, Congress amended title 5 of the U.S. Code to establish a system of religious compensatory time off (5 U.S.C. §5550a). Section 5550a requires executive agencies, military departments, judicial branch agencies, the Library of Congress, the Botanic Garden, the Office of the Architect of the Capitol, and the government of the District of Columbia to allow employees whose personal religious beliefs require them to abstain from work at certain times of the workday or workweek to work alternate work hours so that the employees can meet their religious obligations.

Although some legislative branch employees are covered by section 5550a, a substantial number—including those who work in offices in the House and Senate, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), the Government Publishing Office (GPO), and OCWR—are not. As a result, a substantial number of legislative branch employees are not currently entitled to section 5550a's benefits and protections, despite the intent of Congress that section 5550a benefit all federal employees.[6]

The Board recommends that Congress amend the CAA to include section 5550a, thereby providing parity to all legislative branch employees regarding their ability to work alternate work hours so that they can meet their religious obligations. Such an amendment would enable legislative branch employees, especially those of minority faiths, to exercise their religious beliefs without being forced to lose a portion of their pay or use annual or other leave. And it would help ensure that all legislative branch employees ''are treated equally, regardless of their religion, and to make sure that no [legislative branch] employee is discriminatorily or unnecessarily penalized because of their devotion to their faith.''[7]

E. Provide Comparable Whistleblower Protections to Legislative Branch Employees

Federal law provides broad employment protections to executive branch employees who disclose information that the whistleblower reasonably believes evidences (1) a violation of any law, rule, or regulation; (2) gross mismanagement; (3) gross waste of funds; (4) abuse of authority; or (5) a substantial and specific danger to public health and safety.[8] However, there are no analogous protections for legislative branch employees, even for those who would raise an issue with a committee of jurisdiction or other appropriate legislative branch official. This lack of statutory protection leaves legislative branch employees, who would otherwise provide critical information, at risk for retaliation. The absence of whistleblower protections also risks depriving Congress of information it needs to oversee the entirety of the legislative branch in the public interest.

Statutory protections for legislative branch employees who disclose evidence of wrongdoing must be carefully drafted in light of the special constitutional role of Congress as the nation's forum for robust policy debate. To be effective, such protections must respect important legislative branch prerogatives, accommodate the need for confidentiality during congressional deliberations, and, more generally, protect the necessary confidentiality of sensitive information handled in many contexts across the legislative branch. Effective whistleblower protections must account for the wide range of workplace environments and job functions, from librarians to landscapers to law enforcement officers to committee staff, and accommodate the concerns unique to each position.

To achieve these important ends, the Board recommends that Congress amend the CAA to protect and provide parity to legislative branch employees who make whistleblower disclosures to officials or entities specifically designated to receive such disclosures, such as an instrumentality's Inspector General or an appropriate committee of jurisdiction. This approach would parallel laws in the executive branch designed to protect whistleblowers who work in special environments, who must also follow specific procedures to make protected disclosures to designated individuals or entities through designated channels.[9]

To facilitate compliance with the recommended whistleblower protections, the Board further recommends that OCWR be granted investigatory and prosecutorial authority over whistleblower reprisal complaints, by incorporating into the CAA authority analogous to that granted to the Office of Special Counsel for executive branch claims.

F. Provide Comparable Protections from Retaliation for Non-Employees under the CAA's ADA Public Access Provisions

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) is unique among the laws applied by the CAA as it affords protections to members of the public as well as to employees. The rights and protections for the public are found in section 210 of the CAA (2 U.S.C. §1331), which incorporates titles II and III of the ADA. Section 210 requires that legislative branch employing offices make their public services, programs, and activities—as well as the facilities where these services, programs, and activities are provided—accessible to individuals with disabilities.

Section 208 of the CAA, 2 U.S.C. §1317, prohibits employing offices from intimidating, retaliating against, or discriminating against employees who exercise their rights under the CAA. However, section 208 does not authorize ADA retaliation claims by members of the public who are not covered employees.

Section 503 of the ADA (42 U.S.C. §12203) prohibits retaliation, interference, coercion, or intimidation against ''any individual'' relating to exercising their rights under the ADA's public access provisions. Although section 503 covers both the public and private sectors, that section is not incorporated by the CAA, and thus does not apply to the legislative branch. Therefore, non-employee members of the public are unable to bring ADA retaliation claims under the CAA.

This parity gap is contrary to the purpose of the CAA and deters members of the public with disabilities from asserting their rights under the ADA in the legislative branch. Accordingly, the Board recommends that the CAA be amended to incorporate the ADA's section 503 anti-retaliation provisions.

G. Provide Comparable Protections for Legislative Branch Employees Who Serve on Jury Duty

Jury duty is a fundamental civic responsibility. Section 1875 of title 28 of the U.S. Code provides that no employer shall discharge, threaten to discharge, intimidate, or coerce any permanent employee by reason of such employee's jury service, or the attendance or scheduled attendance in connection with such service, in any court of the United States. This section currently does not cover legislative branch employees. For the reasons set forth in several previous Section 102(b) Reports, the Board continues to recommend that the rights and protections against discrimination on this basis should be applied to covered employees and employing offices within the legislative branch.

H. Provide Comparable Protections for Legislative Branch Employees and Applicants who are or have been in Bankruptcy

Section 525(a) of title 11 of the U.S. Code provides that ''a governmental unit'' may not deny employment to, terminate the employment of, or discriminate with respect to employment against, a person because that person is or has been a debtor under the bankruptcy statutes. This provision currently does not apply to the legislative branch. Reiterating the recommendations made in several previous Section 102(b) Reports, the Board continues to recommend that the rights and protections against discrimination on this basis should be applied to covered employees and employing offices within the legislative branch.

I. Provide Comparable Protections for Legislative Branch Employees who are or have been Subject to Garnishment

Section 1674(a) of title 15 of the U.S. Code prohibits terminating an employee because their wages have been garnished. This section is currently limited to private employers. For the reasons set forth in several previous Section 102(b) Reports, the Board continues to recommend that the rights and protections against discrimination on this basis should be applied to covered employees and employing offices within the legislative branch.

J. Require Legislative Branch Offices to Maintain Records Required under other Federal Workplace Rights Laws

The Board has also recommended in previous Section 102(b) Reports, and continues to recommend, that Congress adopt all recordkeeping requirements under federal workplace rights laws, including title VII. Although some employing offices in the legislative branch keep personnel records, there are no legal requirements under the CAA to do so. Records can greatly assist in the speedy resolution of claims. Moreover, both employers and employees benefit from the retention of documented personnel actions. Employers can use records as critical evidence to demonstrate that no violation has occurred, while employees can use records as critical evidence to assert their rights.

II. Improve Implementation of Existing Rights to Ensure Parity

A. Empower the OCWR General Counsel to Seek a Court Order to Temporarily Enjoin Unfair Labor Practices

Section 220 of the CAA (2 U.S.C. §1351) applies certain provisions of the Federal Service Labor-Management Relations Statute (FSLMRS) to the legislative branch. In general, the OCWR General Counsel exercises

the same authority delegated to the General Counsel of the Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA), under 5 U.S.C. §§7104 and 7118, in the executive branch, including the authority to investigate allegations of workplace unfair labor practices (ULPs) and to file and prosecute complaints regarding ULPs.

The CAA, however, does not incorporate the provisions of 5 U.S.C. §7123(d), which allows parties to ULP proceedings in the executive branch to request the FLRA General Counsel to seek appropriate temporary relief, including the issuance of a temporary restraining order. This important statutory provision in the FSLMRS allows the FLRA General Counsel to seek, in appropriate cases when a ULP complaint is issued, temporary relief in any United States District Court when it would be just and proper to do so and the record establishes probable cause that a ULP is being committed.

Granting the OCWR General Counsel the authority to seek appropriate temporary injunctive relief would protect parties from irreparable harm during ULP litigation.[10]

B. Allow Disclosure of Proceedings Involving Disability-Related Public Access and Labor-Management Issues

The CAA generally requires confidentiality in proceedings before OCWR to protect the privacy of individuals. However, Congress excluded proceedings under the OSH Act from these confidentiality provisions because it determined that the public interest in transparency concerning safety and health on Capitol Hill outweighed any value in keeping them confidential.

As with OSH Act proceedings, proceedings involving ADA public access and labor-management issues primarily involve public and institutional concerns, as well as concerns on the part of key stakeholders to labor-management relationships, with maintaining facilities, policies, and programs that are safe, healthful, accessible, and free from ULPs. The current lack of transparency in these matters is unnecessary to protect individual privacy and undermines the confidence of the public and of central stakeholders that those statutory mandates are being fully enforced.

Accordingly, section 416 of the CAA (2 U.S.C. §1416) should be amended to eliminate these unnecessary confidentiality restrictions and provide transparency to the public and to key stakeholders.

C. Approve Pending OCWR Regulations

Congress has not approved several substantive OCWR Board regulations necessary to fully implement workplace protections made applicable to legislative branch employees by the CAA.

As discussed below, the regulations that have been approved for the House but are awaiting congressional approval for the Senate and other employing offices in the legislative branch are the Board's (1) updated regulations concerning overtime pay; (2) updated regulations concerning paid parental leave and leave benefits for servicemembers and their families; and (3) regulations concerning collective bargaining.

The regulations awaiting congressional approval for all employing offices in the legislative branch are the Board's (1) regulations concerning employment and reemployment protections for servicemembers and their families; (2) amended regulations concerning the access rights of members of the public with disabilities; and (3) proposed regulations concerning protections for job applicants in the legislative branch.

The Board urges Congress to approve these regulations.

Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) Regulations

The CAA's FLSA provisions provide for minimum wage and overtime compensation for certain legislative branch employees.[11] If nonexempt, these employees are entitled to overtime compensation when working over 40 hours in a workweek.

The FLSA's overtime exemptions are not defined in the FLSA itself but by regulations issued by the Secretary of Labor.[12] Through the CAA, Congress requires that OCWR's FLSA regulations substantially mirror regulations issued by the Secretary of Labor. Congress last approved OCWR regulations implementing the FLSA in 1996. Since that time, as the Secretary of Labor has updated its overtime regulations, OCWR has updated its regulations to reflect the Secretary's changes. The last such update was in September 2022, when OCWR revised its FLSA regulations to reflect the Secretary's substantial increase in the minimum salary test used to determine who may be exempt from overtime protections.[13]

In December 2022, the House of Representatives, by resolution, approved the Board's amended FLSA regulations, thereby applying them to House employees and offices.[14] The Senate must take similar action to apply those regulations to Senate offices and employees. Full approval by both houses is necessary to make these regulations applicable to legislative branch employees of instrumentalities, including the Library of Congress (LOC) and the USCP.

Until the 2022 OCWR regulations are fully approved by Congress, many covered employees in the legislative branch may be denied the overtime pay to which they would be entitled for comparable work performed in the executive branch or private sector. Approval of the regulations will ensure that Congress and the legislative branch at large are able to attract and retain a talented, motivated, and high-performing workforce.

Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Regulations

The CAA's FMLA provisions provide rights and protections for legislative branch employees needing leave for specified family and medical reasons.[15] In December 2021, the Board adopted FMLA regulations to implement recent amendments to the FMLA and transmitted the regulations to Congress.[16] These OCWR FMLA regulations would implement FMLA amendments that (1) provide up to 12 weeks of paid parental leave for the birth, adoption, or placement in foster care of a child[17] and (2) enhance leave benefits for servicemembers and their families. These regulations would further revise the definition of ''spouse'' to include same-sex spouses to remain consistent with Supreme Court precedent and the Department of Labor's definition in its February 25, 2015 Final Rule.[18]

In December 2022, the House of Representatives, by resolution, approved the Board's amended FMLA regulations, thereby applying them to House employees and offices.[19] As with the Board's modified FLSA regulations, the Senate must take similar action in order to apply the modified FMLA regulations to Senate offices and employees. Full approval by both houses is needed to make these regulations applicable to legislative branch employees of instrumentalities.

Federal Service Labor-Management Relations Statute (FSLMRS) Regulations

Through the CAA, Congress made applicable to the legislative branch specific sections of the FSLMRS, which governs unionization and collective bargaining in the executive branch. In 1996, the Board adopted final regulations implementing those sections of the FSLMRS in the legislative branch. That same year, Congress approved these regulations for certain employees and employing offices covered by the CAA, such as the Office of the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) and the USCP.

However, at that time, Congress did not approve complementary regulations adopted by the OCWR Board necessary to implement those sections of the FSLMRS for most offices listed in section 220(e)(2) of the CAA (2 U.S.C. §1351), i.e., most offices within the House of Representatives or the Senate, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), and OCWR.

In May 2022, the House of Representatives approved the complementary regulations through a resolution, thereby extending the labor-management rights and obligations of the FSLMRS to House employees and offices.[20] Full approval by both houses would apply the regulations to employees and offices in both the House and Senate and to the additional legislative branch offices listed in section 220(e)(2), and ensure that the protections afforded by the FSLMRS apply to the entire legislative branch, similar to how they apply in the executive branch. Accordingly, the Board urges Congress to adopt resolutions approving these regulations.

Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) Regulations

The CAA's USERRA provisions protect servicemembers and veterans from discrimination on the basis of their service and allow them to regain their civilian jobs upon return from service. The Board's USERRA regulations, first transmitted to Congress over 15 years ago, have not yet been approved. In April 2023, the Board made minor amendments to its USERRA regulations and transmitted the amended regulations to Congress for approval.

Congressional approval of the USERRA regulations would signal a continued commitment to the welfare of servicemembers in the legislative branch—where they remain a significantly underrepresented percentage of the workforce—by granting them the same workplace protections and entitlements as servicemembers in the executive branch and the private sector.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Public Access Regulations

The CAA's ADA public access provisions protect the right of members of the public with disabilities, including constituents and employees, to accessible facilities, programs, services, activities, and accommodations in the legislative branch. In March 2023, the Board made additional modifications to the pending ADA regulations that it adopted in 2016 and transmitted the amended regulations to Congress for approval. In accordance with the CAA, the 2023 amended ADA regulations incorporate by reference the most recent comparable regulations issued by the Department of Justice and the Department of Transportation. If approved by Congress, these regulations would provide much-needed guidance both to those charged with the legal duty to provide accessible services and accommodations, as well as to the members of the public who have the right to such accessibility.

Fair Chance to Compete for Jobs Act (FCA) Regulations

The CAA's FCA provisions protect job applicants in the legislative branch by prohibiting employing offices from inquiring into an applicant's criminal history record information prior to a conditional offer of employment. The FCA, as applied by the CAA, provides that employees who inquire into an applicant's criminal history record information in a manner that violates the FCA may

be subject to discipline including suspensions from employment and fines.

In June 2024, the Board issued a notice of proposed rulemaking for its regulations implementing the FCA in the legislative branch. In early December 2024, the Board submitted final regulations to Congress for approval. If approved, these regulations would provide necessary protections for job applicants in the legislative branch alleging a violation of the FCA.

ENDNOTES

1. Senate Report No. 91–1282 (October 6, 1970) respecting the recordkeeping and records provisions of now Section 8(c) of the OSH Act.

2. Id. See also Report No. 91–1291 of the House Committee on Education and Labor, 91st Congress, 2d Session, p.30, to accompany H.R. 16785 (OSH Act) (''Adequate information is the precondition for responsible administration of practically all sections of this bill.'').

3. See ''Detailed Frequently Asked Questions for OSHA's Injury and Illness Recordkeeping Rule for Federal Agencies,'' https://www.osha.gov/enforcement/fap/recordkeeping-faqs.

4. Office of the General Counsel, Office of Congressional Workplace Rights, Special Report: Occupational Safety and Health Concerns Arising out of the Events of January 6, 2021, https://www.ocwr.gov/publications/reports/other-reports/special-report-occupational-safety-and-health-concerns-arising-out-of-the-events-of-january-6-2021-july-2-2021/ (citing U.S. Senate, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and Committee on Rules and Administration, Examining the U.S. Capitol Attack: A Review of the Security, Planning, and Response Failures on January 6, Staff Report at 1 (June 8, 2021), https://www.rules.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Jan%206%20HSGAC%20Rules%20Report.pdf. According to the General Counsel's Special Report, of the approximately 1,200 officers defending the Capitol on January 6, fewer than 300 were equipped with much in the way of PPE.

5. See PUMP Technical Correction Act, S. 2219, 118th Cong. (2023); PUMP Technical Correction Act, H.R. 3585, 118th Cong. (2023); Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2025, S. 4768, 118th Cong. (2024) (containing the language of the PUMP technical correction acts).

6. See Comptroller General Decision B–193636 (January 9, 1979) (finding although legislative history indicated Congress intended benefit to apply to all federal employees, section 5550a covers only employees of the agencies specified in section 5550a).

7. 124 Cong. Rec. 15435 (1978).

8. See, e.g., the Whistleblower Protection Act of 1989, 5 U.S.C. §2302(b)(8), as amended by the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2012, Pub. L. 112–199.

9. See, e.g., the Intelligence Community Whistleblower Protection Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. App. §8H, 50 U.S.C. §3033, 50 U.S.C. §3517; and the FBI Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2016, 5 U.S.C. §2303(a).

10. See, e.g., United States Capitol Police v. Office of Compliance, 916 F.3d 1023 (Fed. Cir. 2019) (affirming the Board's determination that the USCP had committed a ULP when it refused to participate in an arbitration concerning an officer's termination, where two Federal Circuit Court of Appeal decisions had already flatly rejected the statutory interpretation arguments made by USCP that termination decisions were not subject to arbitration).

11. See at 2 U.S.C. §1313.

12. See 29 U.S.C. §213; 29 C.F.R. part 541.

13. The 1996 FLSA regulations exempt from overtime any employee whose salary (exclusive of board and lodging) is ''not less than $155 per week'' or ''not less than $250 per week'' if their primary duty involves management of the employing office and includes the customary and regular direction of two or more employees. The 2022 OCWR FLSA regulations pending congressional approval increase the salary test to not less than $684 per week (exclusive of board, lodging, or other facilities). See generally, 168 Cong. Rec. H8203, S5148 (Sep. 28, 2022).

14. See H. Res. 1516 (117th Cong. 2022).

15. See 2 U.S.C. §1312.

16. See 167 Cong. Rec. H7224, S8966 (Dec. 7, 2021).

17. See Federal Employee Paid Leave Act (subtitle A of title LXXVI of division F of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020, Public Law 116–92, Dec. 20, 2019).

18. See 162 Cong. Rec. H4128, S4475 (June 22, 2016).

19. See H. Res. 1516 (117th Cong. 2022).

20. See H. Res. 1096 (117th Cong. 2022).

HOMEBUYERS PRIVACY PROTECTION ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 3502 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3502) to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to prevent consumer reporting agencies from furnishing consumer reports under certain circumstances, 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 Reed-Hagerty substitute amendment be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 3339), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Homebuyers Privacy Protection Act''.

SEC. 2. TREATMENT OF PRESCREENING REPORT REQUESTS.

Section 604(c) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681b(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(4) TREATMENT OF PRESCREENING REPORT REQUESTS.—

''(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

''(i) CREDIT UNION.—The term 'credit union' means a Federal credit union or a State credit union, as those terms are defined in section 101 of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C 1752).

''(ii) INSURED DEPOSITORY INSTITUTION.—The term 'insured depository institution' has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813(c)).

''(iii) RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE LOAN.—The term 'residential mortgage loan' has the meaning given the term in section 1503 of the S.A.F.E. Mortgage Licensing Act of 2008 (12 U.S.C. 5102).

''(iv) SERVICER.—The term 'servicer' has the meaning given the term in section 6(i) of the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 (12 U.S.C. 2605(i)).

''(B) LIMITATION.—If a person requests a consumer report from a consumer reporting agency in connection with a credit transaction involving a residential mortgage loan, that agency may not, based in whole or in part on that request, furnish a consumer report to another person under this subsection unless that other person—

''(i) has submitted documentation to that agency certifying that such other person has, pursuant to paragraph (1)(A), the authorization of the consumer to whom the consumer report relates; or

''(ii)(I) has originated a current residential mortgage loan of the consumer to whom the consumer report relates;

''(II) is the servicer of a current residential mortgage loan of the consumer to whom the consumer report relates; or

''(III)(aa) is an insured depository institution or credit union; and

''(bb) holds a current account for the consumer to whom the consumer report relates.''.

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act, and the amendments made by this Act, shall take effect on the date that is 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

The bill (S. 3502), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

SOURCE CODE HARMONIZATION AND REUSE IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 9566, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 9566) to require government-wide source code sharing, 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 PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 9566) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MOBILIZATION ACCOUNTABILITY (FEMA) WORKFORCE PLANNING ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 549, S. 4181.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4181) to require the development of a workforce plan for the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill which was reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs 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 ''Federal Emergency Mobilization Accountability (FEMA) Workforce Planning Act''.

SEC. 2. FEMA WORKFORCE PLAN.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Agency.

(2) AGENCY.—The term ''Agency'' means the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

(3) DEPARTMENT.—The term ''Department'' means the Department of Homeland Security.

(4) SURGE CAPACITY FORCE.—The term ''Surge Capacity Force'' means the Surge Capacity Force described in section 624 of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 (6 U.S.C. 711).

(b) PLAN DEVELOPMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than once every 3 years thereafter, the Administrator shall develop and submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a human capital operating plan to shape and improve the workforce of the Agency.

(c) LEADING PRACTICES.—The Administrator shall develop the plan required under subsection (b) in accordance with best practices outlined by the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, the Comptroller General of the United States, and other sources relevant to the Federal workforce.

(d) CONTENTS.—The plan developed under subsection (b) shall include—

(1) performance measures to monitor and evaluate progress towards the human capital goals of the Agency, including filling staffing gaps, closing skills gaps in mission critical occupations, and implementing workforce training and, if applicable, progress towards meeting those goals since the date of submission of the most recent plan under subsection (b), including—

(A) a process to monitor and evaluate progress toward those goals;

(B) a discussion of why the Agency has or has not met those goals, including a description of specific barriers; and

(C) a discussion of the addition or deletion of any specific performance measures;

(2) details of the types of employees of the Agency, including by hiring authority and cadre;

(3) a comprehensive analysis of the projected costs associated with implementing the plan;

(4) strategies and practices designed to increase cost-efficiency within the workforce operations of the Agency, including reducing overhead costs, improving resource utilization, and avoiding unnecessary expenditures;

(5) a detailed analysis of how the Agency determined the current overall staffing goals of the Agency;

(6) an analysis of the current workforce of the Agency and possible gaps in the current staffing structure of the Agency needed to fulfill the mission of the Agency, including an assessment of—

(A) the critical and emerging skills that will be needed in the workforce of the Agency to support the mission and responsibilities of, and effectively manage, the Agency during the 3-year period following the date of the submission of the plan, including target staffing numbers by cadre, region, and office;

(B) the skills of the workforce of the Agency, including numbers of employees by cadre, region, and office on the date of submission of the plan;

(C) projected trends in the workforce of the Agency based on expected losses due to retirement and other attrition, including any known data for the causes of attrition; and

(D) the staffing levels of each category of employee of the Agency, including shortages in the workforce of the Agency and in the projected workforce of the Agency that should be addressed to ensure that the Agency has continued access to the critical and emerging skills described in subparagraph (A);

(7) a plan of action with specific recommendations for developing and reshaping the workforce of the Agency to address the gaps in critical and emerging skills described in paragraph (6)(A), including—

(A) specific recruitment and retention goals by cadre and mission critical occupations, including the analysis that the Agency uses to produce those numbers;

(B) specific strategies for developing, training, deploying, motivating, and retaining the workforce of the Agency and the ability of the workforce of the Agency to fulfill the mission and responsibilities of the Agency, including the program objectives of the Department and the Agency to be achieved through such strategies;

(C) specific strategies for recruiting and retaining individuals needed to address workforce gaps within specific cadres;

(D) specific strategies for the development, training, and coordinated and rapid deployment of the Surge Capacity Force; and

(E) any necessary legislative proposals to improve recruitment and retention; and

(8) a discussion that—

(A) details the number of employees not employed by the Agency serving in the Surge Capacity Force and the qualifications or credentials and training of such individuals;

(B) includes information on annual data relating to the deployment of the workforce of the Agency following major disasters or emergencies declared by the President under section 401 or 501, respectively, of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170, 5191) during the 3-year period preceding the date of the submission of the plan;

(C) details—

(i) average tenure and attrition data, categorized by type of attrition, for—

(I) types of Agency employees by hiring authority; and

(II) specific offices, regions, and cadres of the Agency; and

(ii) any known reasons why some types of Agency employees or specific offices, regions, or cadres of the Agency may have higher levels of attrition and strategies to address those higher levels of attrition;

(D) details—

(i) efforts of the Agency to help prevent and respond to discrimination and harassment; and

(ii) information on reported cases of discrimination and harassment within the Agency and the outcomes of those cases; and

(E) describes, with respect to hiring information of the Agency, the time between the date on which the Agency validates a need to hire a new employee for a position and—

(i) the acceptance of an offer of employment for the position by an applicant; and

(ii) the start date of the employee at the Agency for the position.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the submission of the plan required under subsection (b), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report that—

(1) analyzes whether the plan meets the requirements of this Act; and

(2) includes necessary recommendations to ensure subsequent plans meet the requirements of this Act.

(f) NO NEW FUNDS.—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated for the purpose of carrying out this Act.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the Peters amendment, which is at the desk, be considered and agreed to; that the committee-reported substitute, as amended, be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 3340) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to develop strategies for identifying, addressing, preventing, and mitigating discriminatory actions or decisions based on political affiliation)

On page 12, line 15, strike ''and'' and all that follows through ''any'' on line 16, and insert the following:

(E) specific strategies for identifying, addressing, preventing, and mitigating discriminatory actions or decisions based on political affiliation; and

(F) any

The committee-reported amendment, in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The bill (S. 4181), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

S. 4181

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Federal Emergency Mobilization Accountability (FEMA) Workforce Planning Act''.

SEC. 2. FEMA WORKFORCE PLAN.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Agency.

(2) AGENCY.—The term ''Agency'' means the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

(3) DEPARTMENT.—The term ''Department'' means the Department of Homeland Security.

(4) SURGE CAPACITY FORCE.—The term ''Surge Capacity Force'' means the Surge Capacity Force described in section 624 of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 (6 U.S.C. 711).

(b) PLAN DEVELOPMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than once every 3 years thereafter, the Administrator shall develop and submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a human capital operating plan to shape and improve the workforce of the Agency.

(c) LEADING PRACTICES.—The Administrator shall develop the plan required under subsection (b) in accordance with best practices outlined by the Director of the Office of

Personnel Management, the Comptroller General of the United States, and other sources relevant to the Federal workforce.

(d) CONTENTS.—The plan developed under subsection (b) shall include—

(1) performance measures to monitor and evaluate progress towards the human capital goals of the Agency, including filling staffing gaps, closing skills gaps in mission critical occupations, and implementing workforce training and, if applicable, progress towards meeting those goals since the date of submission of the most recent plan under subsection (b), including—

(A) a process to monitor and evaluate progress toward those goals;

(B) a discussion of why the Agency has or has not met those goals, including a description of specific barriers; and

(C) a discussion of the addition or deletion of any specific performance measures;

(2) details of the types of employees of the Agency, including by hiring authority and cadre;

(3) a comprehensive analysis of the projected costs associated with implementing the plan;

(4) strategies and practices designed to increase cost-efficiency within the workforce operations of the Agency, including reducing overhead costs, improving resource utilization, and avoiding unnecessary expenditures;

(5) a detailed analysis of how the Agency determined the current overall staffing goals of the Agency;

(6) an analysis of the current workforce of the Agency and possible gaps in the current staffing structure of the Agency needed to fulfill the mission of the Agency, including an assessment of—

(A) the critical and emerging skills that will be needed in the workforce of the Agency to support the mission and responsibilities of, and effectively manage, the Agency during the 3-year period following the date of the submission of the plan, including target staffing numbers by cadre, region, and office;

(B) the skills of the workforce of the Agency, including numbers of employees by cadre, region, and office on the date of submission of the plan;

(C) projected trends in the workforce of the Agency based on expected losses due to retirement and other attrition, including any known data for the causes of attrition; and

(D) the staffing levels of each category of employee of the Agency, including shortages in the workforce of the Agency and in the projected workforce of the Agency that should be addressed to ensure that the Agency has continued access to the critical and emerging skills described in subparagraph (A);

(7) a plan of action with specific recommendations for developing and reshaping the workforce of the Agency to address the gaps in critical and emerging skills described in paragraph (6)(A), including—

(A) specific recruitment and retention goals by cadre and mission critical occupations, including the analysis that the Agency uses to produce those numbers;

(B) specific strategies for developing, training, deploying, motivating, and retaining the workforce of the Agency and the ability of the workforce of the Agency to fulfill the mission and responsibilities of the Agency, including the program objectives of the Department and the Agency to be achieved through such strategies;

(C) specific strategies for recruiting and retaining individuals needed to address workforce gaps within specific cadres;

(D) specific strategies for the development, training, and coordinated and rapid deployment of the Surge Capacity Force;

(E) specific strategies for identifying, addressing, preventing, and mitigating discriminatory actions or decisions based on political affiliation; and

(F) any necessary legislative proposals to improve recruitment and retention; and

(8) a discussion that—

(A) details the number of employees not employed by the Agency serving in the Surge Capacity Force and the qualifications or credentials and training of such individuals;

(B) includes information on annual data relating to the deployment of the workforce of the Agency following major disasters or emergencies declared by the President under section 401 or 501, respectively, of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170, 5191) during the 3-year period preceding the date of the submission of the plan;

(C) details—

(i) average tenure and attrition data, categorized by type of attrition, for—

(I) types of Agency employees by hiring authority; and

(II) specific offices, regions, and cadres of the Agency; and

(ii) any known reasons why some types of Agency employees or specific offices, regions, or cadres of the Agency may have higher levels of attrition and strategies to address those higher levels of attrition;

(D) details—

(i) efforts of the Agency to help prevent and respond to discrimination and harassment; and

(ii) information on reported cases of discrimination and harassment within the Agency and the outcomes of those cases; and

(E) describes, with respect to hiring information of the Agency, the time between the date on which the Agency validates a need to hire a new employee for a position and—

(i) the acceptance of an offer of employment for the position by an applicant; and

(ii) the start date of the employee at the Agency for the position.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the submission of the plan required under subsection (b), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report that—

(1) analyzes whether the plan meets the requirements of this Act; and

(2) includes necessary recommendations to ensure subsequent plans meet the requirements of this Act.

(f) NO NEW FUNDS.—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated for the purpose of carrying out this Act.

FIRE MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE GRANTS FOR TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 550, S. 4654.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4654) to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to allow Indian tribal governments to directly request fire management assistance declarations and grants, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which was reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs 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 ''Fire Management Assistance Grants for Tribal Governments Act''.

SEC. 2. INDIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENT ELIGIBILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 420 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5187) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting '', Indian tribal government,'' before ''or local government'';

(2) by redesignating subsections (b) through (e) as subsections (c) through (f), respectively;

(3) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

''(b) PROCEDURE FOR REQUEST.—The Governor of a State or the Chief Executive of an Indian tribal government affected by a fire described in subsection (a) may directly submit a request to authorize assistance under this section.''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(g) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section shall prohibit an Indian tribal government from receiving assistance under this section pursuant to an authorization made at the request of a State under subsection (b) if assistance is not authorized under this section for the same incident based on a request by the Indian tribal government under subsection (b).''.

(b) REGULATIONS.—

(1) FIRE MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE DECLARATION DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''fire management assistance declaration'' means a declaration approved under section 204.21(a) of title 44, Code of Federal Regulations.

(2) UPDATE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the President shall issue regulations updating part 204 of title 44, Code of Federal Regulations, to carry out the amendments made by subsection (a).

(3) CONTENTS.—In issuing the regulations required under paragraph (2), the President shall—

(A) authorize the Federal Emergency Management Agency to directly receive a request for a fire management assistance declaration from an Indian tribal government and directly provide related grants and resources to Indian tribal governments;

(B) clarify that Indian tribal governments for which the President does not grant a request described in subparagraph (A) remain eligible to receive assistance under section 420 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5187) through assistance granted under a fire management assistance declaration made at the request of a State;

(C) consider the unique conditions that affect the general welfare of Indian tribal governments; and

(D) enter into government-to-government consultation with Indian tribal governments regarding the regulations.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The committee-reported amendment, in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

The bill (S. 4654), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

FAIRNESS FOR SERVICEMEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES ACT OF 2023

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 1299 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1299) to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to periodically review the automatic maximum coverage under the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance program and the Veterans' Group Life Insurance program, 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 Cornyn 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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3341) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Fairness for Servicemembers and their Families Act of 2024''.

SEC. 2. PERIODIC REVIEW OF AUTOMATIC MAXIMUM COVERAGE UNDER SERVICEMEMBERS' GROUP LIFE INSURANCE AND VETERANS' GROUP LIFE INSURANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 19 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 1980B. Periodic review of automatic maximum coverage

''(a) IN GENERAL.—On January 1, 2025, and every five years thereafter, the Secretary shall—

''(1) complete a review of how the amount specified in section 1967(a)(3)(A)(i) compares to the amount described in subsection (b); and

''(2) submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate the results of the review, which may serve as a guide for coverage increases within the existing administrative incremental structure.

''(b) AMOUNT DESCRIBED.—The amount described in this subsection is the amount equal to—

''(1) $500,000; multiplied by

''(2) the average percentage by which the Consumer Price Index changed during the five fiscal years preceding the review under subsection (a).

''(c) CONSUMER PRICE INDEX DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'Consumer Price Index' means the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 19 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1980A the following new item:

''1980B. Periodic review of automatic maximum coverage.''.

The bill (S. 1299), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

PATSYE CRITES FOREST

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 5575, introduced earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 5575) to designate the Patsye Crites forest.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I further ask that the bill be considered read three times and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (S. 5575) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 5575

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF PATSYE CRITES FOREST.

(a) DESIGNATION.—On acquisition by the United States, the approximately 2,693.31 acres of land within the Monongahela National Forest identified on the map prepared by the Forest Service entitled ''Blackwater Canyon'' and dated August 5, 2024, shall be known and designated as the ''Patsye Crites Forest''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the land acquired under subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Patsye Crites Forest''.

OPIOID OVERDOSE DATA COLLECTION ENHANCEMENT ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 5130 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 5130) to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to enhance the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Grant Program, 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 PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 5130) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 5130

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Opioid Overdose Data Collection Enhancement Act''.

SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to expand the adoption and implementation of, and provide interoperability of, data collection tools used to track fatal and nonfatal overdoses and opioid overdose reversal medication administration in near real-time through a web-based, mobile-friendly software platform.

SEC. 3. COMPREHENSIVE OPIOID ABUSE GRANT PROGRAM.

Section 3021 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10701) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (G), by striking ''; and'' at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (H), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(I) an overdose data collection program described in subsection (g)(1).''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(g) OVERDOSE DATA COLLECTION PROGRAM.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—An overdose data collection program described in this paragraph is a program under which a State, unit of local government, coalition of law enforcement agencies, or Indian tribe develops and implements a data collection tool, including mobile data mapping applications, with which the State, unit of local government, coalition of law enforcement agencies, or Indian tribe can easily and quickly track the locations of—

''(A) suspected fatal and nonfatal overdoses; and

''(B) the administration of opioid overdose reversal medication by first responders, including law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency medical service technicians.

''(2) ELIGIBILITY OF COALITIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsection (a)(1), a coalition of law enforcement agencies shall be eligible to receive a grant under subsection (a) only for the purpose of implementing an overdose data collection program described in paragraph (1) of this subsection.

''(B) REQUIREMENTS.—A coalition of law enforcement agencies seeking a grant under subsection (a) to implement an overdose data collection program described in paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be subject to the same requirements and authorizations to which a States, units of local government, and Indian tribes are subject under this section, including the requirement to submit an application under section 3022.

''(3) REQUIREMENTS.—A State, unit of local government, coalition of law enforcement agencies, or Indian tribe implementing an overdose data collection program described in paragraph (1) shall—

''(A) support the development of coordinated public safety, behavioral health, and public health responses to the data collected by the tool described in paragraph (1);

''(B) focus on areas in which fatal and nonfatal overdoses occur and trends of concern;

''(C) provide for interoperability with existing Federal, State, local, and Tribal overdose data collection tools and overdose data collection tools of coalitions of law enforcement agencies; and

''(D) make data collected through the program available to Federal, State, Tribal, and territorial governments and coalitions of law enforcement agencies.

''(4) AUDIT; APPLICATION.—A State, unit of local government, coalition of law enforcement agencies, or Indian tribe seeking to use a grant received under subsection (a) for a program described in paragraph (1) of this subsection shall—

''(A) conduct an audit of available data and resources; and

''(B) in order to avoid duplication, submit the audit conducted under subparagraph (A) as a part of the application for the grant of the State, unit of local government, coalition of law enforcement agencies, or Indian tribe.

''(5) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this subsection, the Attorney General shall consult with the heads of agencies that maintain overdose data collection tools, including the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy.''.

INVEST TO PROTECT ACT OF 2023

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 1144 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1144) to establish a grant program to provide assistance to local law enforcement agencies, 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 Cortez Masto substitute amendment at the desk be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 3342) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under ''Text of Amendments.'')

The bill (S. 1144), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

NATIVE AMERICAN CHILD PROTECTION ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 663, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 663) to amend the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time.

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

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I know of no further debate on the bill.

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

The bill (H.R. 663) was passed.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

IHS WORKFORCE PARITY ACT OF 2024

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 553, S. 3022.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3022) to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to allow Indian Health Service scholarship and loan recipients to fulfill service obligations through half-time clinical practice, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Indian Affairs, 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 ''IHS Workforce Parity Act of 2024''.

SEC. 2. INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP AND LOAN RECIPIENTS.

(a) INDIAN HEALTH PROFESSIONS SCHOLARSHIPS.—Section 104(b)(3) of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1613a(b)(3)) is amended by striking the paragraph designation and all that follows through the end of subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

''(3)(A) The active duty service obligation under a written contract with the Secretary under section 338A of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254l) that an individual has entered into under that section shall, if that individual is a recipient of an Indian Health Scholarship—

''(i) be met by full-time (as defined in section 331(j) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254d(j))) practice—

''(I) in the Service;

''(II) in a program conducted under a contract entered into under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.);

''(III) in a program assisted under title V; or

''(IV) in the private practice of the applicable profession if, as determined by the Secretary, in accordance with guidelines issued by the Secretary, the practice—

''(aa) is situated in a physician or other health professional shortage area; and

''(bb) addresses the health care needs of a substantial number of Indians; or

''(ii) be met by half-time (as defined in section 331(j) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254d(j))) practice in a program described in any of subclauses (I) through (IV) of clause (i) if the individual agrees, in writing—

''(I) to double the period of obligated service that would otherwise be required if the individual were satisfying the period of obligated service through full-time (as so defined) practice; and

''(II) that if the individual fails to begin or complete the period of obligated service described in subclause (I), the procedures described in section 108(l)(2) for determining damages for breach of contract will be used after converting that period of obligated service or service performed into its full-time equivalent.''.

(b) INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM.—Section 108 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1616a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (f)(1)(B), by striking clause (iii) and inserting the following:

''(iii) to serve for a period of time (referred to in this section as the 'period of obligated service') equal to—

''(I) 2 years, or a longer period of time as the individual may agree to serve, in the full-time (as defined in section 331(j) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254d(j))) clinical practice of the profession of the individual in an Indian health program to which the individual may be assigned by the Secretary;

''(II) 4 years, or a longer period of time as the individual may agree to serve, in the half-time (as defined in that section) clinical practice of the profession of the individual in an Indian health program to which the individual may be assigned by the Secretary, subject to the condition that if the individual has agreed to serve for a period longer than 2 years of full-time (as so defined) service, as described in subclause (I), the half-time (as so defined) service obligation shall be the amount of time required for the individual to complete an equivalent amount of service on a half-time (as so defined) basis; or

''(III) 2 years in the half-time (as so defined) clinical practice of the profession of the individual in an Indian health program to which the individual may be assigned by the Secretary with a loan payment amount equal to 50 percent of the amount that would otherwise be payable for full-time (as so defined) service for that same period of obligated service; and

''(iv) in the case of an individual completing a period of obligated service through half-time (as so defined) clinical practice, that if the individual fails to begin or complete that period of obligated service, the procedures described in subsection (l)(2) for determining damages for breach of contract under this section will be used after converting the period of obligated service or service performed into its full-time (as so defined) equivalent;''; and

(2) in subsection (l)(2), in the undesignated matter following subparagraph (D), by inserting the following before ''Amounts'': ''Periods of obligated service completed in half-time (as defined in section 331(j) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254d(j))) clinical practice shall be converted to their full-time (as defined in that section) equivalents for purposes of determining damages for breach of contract under this paragraph.''.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to and that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

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

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

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 PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 3022), as amended, was passed.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

DETERRING EXTERNAL THREATS AND ENSURING ROBUST RESPONSES TO EGREGIOUS AND NEFARIOUS CRIMINAL ENDEAVORS ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 5398 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 5398) to authorize sentencing enhancements for certain criminal offenses directed by or coordinated with foreign governments.

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.

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

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 5398) was passed, as follows:

S. 5398

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Deterring External Threats and Ensuring Robust Responses to Egregious and Nefarious Criminal Endeavors Act'' or the ''DETERRENCE Act''.

SEC. 2. KIDNAPPING.

Section 1201 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (i);

(2) by inserting after subsection (g) the following:

''(h) SENTENCE ENHANCEMENTS FOR OFFENSES DIRECTED BY OR COORDINATED WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The sentence of a person convicted of an offense under subsection (a) may be increased by up to 10 years if such offense was committed knowingly at the direction of or in coordination with a foreign government or an agent of a foreign government.

''(2) CONSPIRACY.—The sentence of a person convicted of conspiring to commit a violation of subsection (a) as part of a conspiracy under the elements specified in subsection (c) may be increased by up to 10 years if—

''(A) 1 or more of the persons involved in such conspiracy were knowingly acting in coordination with a foreign government or an agent of a foreign government; and

''(B) the person convicted of conspiring to commit a violation of subsection (a) knew that 1 or more of the persons involved in such conspiracy were knowingly acting in coordination with a foreign government or an agent of a foreign government.

''(3) ATTEMPT.—The sentence of a person convicted of an attempt to violate subsection (a) may be increased by up to 5 years if such attempt was knowingly at the direction of or in coordination with a foreign government or an agent of a foreign government.''; and

(3) in subsection (i), as so designated, by inserting ''DEFINITION.—'' before ''As used in this section''.

SEC. 3. USE OF INTERSTATE COMMERCE FACILITIES IN THE COMMISSION OF MURDER-FOR-HIRE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1958 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c);

(2) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

''(b) SENTENCE ENHANCEMENTS FOR OFFENSES DIRECTED BY OR COORDINATED WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.—The sentence of a person convicted of an offense under subsection (a)—

''(1) may be increased by up to 5 years, if such offense was committed knowingly at the direction of or in coordination with a foreign government or an agent of a foreign government; and

''(2) may be increased by up to 10 years—

''(A) if such offense was committed knowingly at the direction of or in coordination with a foreign government or an agent of a foreign government; and

''(B) personal injury results.''; and

(3) in subsection (c), as so redesignated, by inserting ''DEFINITIONS.—'' before ''As used in this section''.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 2332b(g)(2) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking ''section 1958(b)(2)'' and inserting ''section 1958''.

(2) Section 1010A(d) of the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. 960a(d)) is amended by striking ''section 1958(b)(1)'' and inserting ''section 1958''.

SEC. 4. INFLUENCING, IMPEDING, OR RETALIATING AGAINST A FEDERAL OFFICIAL BY THREATENING OR INJURING A FAMILY MEMBER.

Section 115(b) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(5) The sentence of a person convicted of an offense under subsection (a), if such offense was committed knowingly at the direction of or in coordination with a foreign government or an agent of a foreign government—

''(A) may be increased by up to 5 years if the offense committed was an assault involving physical contact with the victim of that assault or the intent to commit another felony;

''(B) may be increased by up to 10 years if—

''(i) the offense committed was an assault resulting in bodily injury (including serious bodily injury (as that term is defined in section 1365 of this title));

''(ii) the offense involved any conduct that, if the conduct occurred in the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States, would violate section 2241 or 2242 of this title; or

''(iii) a dangerous weapon was used during and in relation to the offense; and

''(C) may be increased by up to 10 years if the offense committed was a murder, attempted murder, or conspiracy to murder.''.

SEC. 5. STALKING.

Section 2261A of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''Whoever—'' and inserting ''(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), whoever—''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) ENHANCED PENALTIES FOR OFFENSES INVOLVING FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.—The sentence of a person convicted of an offense under paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (a), if such offense was committed knowingly at the direction of or in coordination with a foreign government or an agent of a foreign government—

''(1) may be increased by up to 5 years if—

''(A) serious bodily injury (including permanent disfigurement or life threatening bodily injury) to the victim results;

''(B) the offender uses a dangerous weapon during the offense; or

''(C) the victim of the offense is under the age of 18 years;

''(2) may be increased by up to 10 years if death of the victim results; and

''(3) may be increased by up to 30 months in any other case.''.

SEC. 6. PROTECTION OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE UNITED STATES.

Section 1114 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

''(b) SENTENCE ENHANCEMENTS FOR OFFENSES DIRECTED BY OR COORDINATED WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.—The sentence of a person convicted of an offense under subsection (a) may be increased by up to 10 years if such offense was committed knowingly at the direction of or in coordination with a foreign government or an agent of a foreign government.''.

SEC. 7. PRESIDENTIAL AND PRESIDENTIAL STAFF ASSASSINATION, KIDNAPPING, AND ASSAULT.

Section 1751 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (f) through (k) as subsections (g) through (i), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

''(f)(1) The sentence of a person convicted of an offense under subsection (a), (b), or (c) may be increased by up to 10 years if such offense was committed knowingly at the direction of or in coordination with a foreign government or an agent of a foreign government.

''(2) The sentence of a person convicted of conspiring to kill or kidnap any individual designated in subsection (a) as part of a conspiracy under the elements specified in subsection (d) may be increased by up to 10 years if—

''(A) 1 or more of the persons involved in such conspiracy were knowingly acting in coordination with a foreign government or an agent of a foreign government; and

''(B) the person convicted of conspiring to kill or kidnap an individual designated in subsection (a) knew that 1 or more of the persons involved in such conspiracy were knowingly acting in coordination with a foreign government or an agent of a foreign government.

''(3) The sentence of a person convicted of an offense under subsection (e) may be increased by up to 10 years if—

''(A) the victim was any person designated in subsection (a)(1); and

''(B) such offense was committed knowingly at the direction of or in coordination with a foreign government or an agent of a foreign government.

''(4) The sentence of a person convicted of an offense under subsection (e) may be increased by up to 10 years if—

''(A) the victim was any person designated in subsection (a)(2); and

''(B) such offense was committed knowingly at the direction of or in coordination with a foreign government or an agent of a foreign government.

''(5) The sentence of a person convicted of an offense under subsection (e) may be increased by up to 10 years if—

''(A)(i) the offense involved the use of a dangerous weapon; or

''(ii) personal injury resulted; and

''(B) such offense was committed knowingly at the direction of or in coordination with a foreign government or an agent of a foreign government.''.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

NATIONAL MILITARY TOXIC EXPOSURES AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 932, which is at the desk.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 932) designating the month of October 2024 as ''National Military Toxic Exposures Awareness Month''.

There being no objection, 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 with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 932) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

MORNING BUSINESS

TRIBUTE TO DIANNE NELLOR

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Dianne Nellor, who is retiring after serving on the Senate Appropriations Committee for nearly 22 years and who has left her fingerprints on so much of the crucial legislation to support our farmers, strengthen our food supply, and keep our families healthy.

Dianne Nellor first joined the Senate Appropriations Committee in 2003 under Chair Stevens, on the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies. In 2018, Dianne was named clerk of the subcommittee. She has served as clerk of the subcommittee under Senators MERKLEY, BALDWIN, and HEINRICH—and we all can attest that she has been an invaluable member of the team.

At a time of immense global change and in an era where climate change has put intense focus on issues like food supply chains, crop resilience, keeping small farms afloat, and putting food on the table, the investments we make in our agriculture and in our families have huge implications for our Nation's future. Dianne has worked tirelessly to help the Senate solve problems, address these challenges, and ensure Congress makes critical strategic investments in FDA, our farmers, and our families.

Among her many accomplishments, Dianne helped negotiate 18 annual appropriations bills and 3 full-year continuing resolutions, drafted at least 17 supplemental bills, and has remained a tireless advocate for international food aid and child nutrition programs. The progress we made on these issues is part of an incredible legacy she has written into our Nation's laws through her work. Dianne has also been a mentor to staff and an advocate for many issues that are important to Senators and their communities back home.

We all owe Dianne a debt of gratitude for working through many long nights and completing many hard negotiations in service of our Nation. As chair of the Appropriations Committee, I have leaned on Dianne's wisdom and counsel, and it is clear to all that her expertise, dedication, and ability to work across the aisle to make progress have made our country stronger. She will be deeply missed.

On behalf of all the past committee leadership—and all the Senators and staff—who have worked with Dianne over the years and who know firsthand just how impactful her counsel has been, I would like to thank you, Dianne, for your service. You will be missed, and we wish you all the best for what lies ahead. Thank you.

REMEMBERING JAMES A. McCLURE

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, today I rise with my colleagues Senator MIKE CRAPO, Congressman MIKE SIMPSON, and Congressman RUSS FULCHER to acknowledge former Idaho U.S. Senator James A. McClure who, on December 27, would have celebrated his 100th birthday. Senator McClure was a remarkable man whose dedication to the State of Idaho and the United States left an indelible mark on our Nation's history. We are proud to recognize him not only as a distinguished public servant but also as an esteemed alumnus of the University of Idaho, where his legacy continues to inspire future generations.

Senator McClure's political career was nothing short of exceptional. A proud graduate of the University of Idaho's College of Law, he served as the Payette County prosecuting attorney, an Idaho State Senator, and a three-term Member of Congress before his election to the U.S. Senate, where he served from 1973 to 1991. His committee assignments included the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, which he chaired from 1981 to 1987, underscoring his leadership and expertise in Federal land management and American energy production. Among Senator McClure's accomplishments were the creation of the Federal Department of Energy and the Hells Canyon National Recreation area.

Beyond his political achievements, Senator McClure's commitment to public service was evident in his contributions to the University of Idaho. Together with his wife Louise, he was a steadfast supporter of the university, established the James and Louise McClure Endowment for the Sciences and Public Policy, and served on various boards, including the U of I Foundation and the College of Law Advisory Board. The James A. and Louise McClure Center for Public Policy, established in 2007, embodies their passion for evidence-based research and its application in public policy.

The McClure Center's focus on research, civic engagement, science policy, and student programs reflect the values that Senator McClure championed throughout his life. By inspiring students and stakeholders alike, the center continues to uphold the highest standards of excellence and impact, reinforcing the importance of informed public policy in Idaho and beyond.

On this occasion, we are proud to honor Senator McClure's legacy of public service, commitment to education, and support for the State of Idaho, which will resonate for generations to come.

TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN ROE LEWIS

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Stephen Roe Lewis, Governor of the Gila River Indian Community in Arizona, for being named one of TIME Magazine's 100 most influential climate leaders in 2024.

Governor Lewis is the longest serving Governor of the Gila River Indian Community, presiding over its reservation with a land area of 583.749 square miles and a 2020 census population of over 14,000 Tribal citizens. Spearheading his vision of a ''blue-green economy'' that prioritizes conserving water and producing renewable energy, with the ultimate goal of becoming a net-zero Tribe, Governor Lewis is doing something that has never been achieved before in the Western Hemisphere: turning canals into solar-power systems.

Governor Lewis is a solutions-focused leader, whose tireless work is a testament to the strength of the people of

the Gila River Indian Community. I have had the privilege of working with Governor Lewis for many years—and I am grateful for his strong partnership in delivering results on behalf of the Arizonans we serve.

While writing and negotiating the bipartisan infrastructure law, I worked closely with Governor Lewis to secure never-before-seen water and transportation infrastructure investments in communities across Arizona.

Thanks to Governor Lewis' partnership, I was proud to lead into law the Blackwater Trading Post Land Transfer Act, increasing land rights and economic opportunities for the Gila River Indian Community.

Both Governor Lewis and I understand that Arizona's water future requires working together to meet the drought challenge. As a trusted member of my Water Advisory Council, Governor Lewis is an advocate for the Community's interests and needs and fights for the well-being of our entire State.

Governor Lewis takes innovative approaches to conserve and replace supplies from the Colorado River by working collaboratively with others in Arizona and in the Basin. In 2022, during one of my Water Advisory Council meetings, Governor Lewis announced that the Community would be able to offer 250,000-acre-feet of water a year, totaling 750,000 over 3 years, for conservation and to increase the assured water supplies of Arizona municipalities—a decision that takes real leadership.

Arizona's water crisis requires leaders who are willing and committed to working around the clock to deliver solutions. Time and time again, Governor Lewis has demonstrated a deep commitment to strengthening our water future in the face of historic drought. I am confident that, with leaders like Governor Lewis at the table, we will continue delivering lasting solutions and giving Arizonans peace of mind that our water supply is safe and secure for generations to come.

Governor Lewis is a valuable voice, not just for Tribal sovereignty and his community, but for Arizona and the entire Southwest. He is a cheerful warrior who knows how to get things done—and I am proud to call him my friend.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO ROGER S. CHRISTENSEN

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, with my colleagues Senator JIM RISCH and Representative MIKE SIMPSON, we join in honoring Roger Christensen for his decades of service to Idahoans as Bonneville County Commissioner.

Roger Christensen of Idaho Falls has been a steady, experienced hand at the helm of Bonneville County for the past 30 years. He became commissioner in January 1995 and has served faithfully until his upcoming retirement in January 2025, giving him the distinction of being the longest serving Bonneville County commissioner. Roger has led the Bonneville County Board of Commissioners as its chairman for the majority of his time as commissioner. He has dedicated those years meaningfully, as he has been influential in strengthening the fiscal health of the county. This financial discipline has helped the county provide for necessities and plan for the future, setting it on a more secure economic path.

Throughout, he has lent his experience in accounting, business, and as a college professor to advancing local priorities in the county that has grown considerably over his tenure. Some of the many efforts he moved forward and resolved over the years include relocating the Bonneville County Fairgrounds and selecting judges, to name just a couple. When facing considerable challenges, he kept a perceptive focus on completing the task at hand. His work has been marked by principles of transparency, treading lightly, forging partnerships, aiming for a smooth and simple government, and well-reasoned decision-making.

In addition to his service as commissioner, Roger has pursued his passion for community service through many other capacities. He served in leadership roles for the Idaho Association of Counties, including his service as the association's president in 2009. He dedicated 14 years to service on the Catastrophic Health Care Cost, CAT, Program Board; 4 years to the Supreme Court Drug Court Oversight Committee; 2 years to the Board of Directors for the National Association of Counties; 21 years to the Magistrates Commission; and 16 years to the Eastern Idaho Regional Sewer District.

Thank you, Roger, for your unwavering leadership of Bonneville County. You can retire knowing you have made a lasting, positive impact. And you have, undoubtedly, etched a clear example of outstanding governance in the minds and hearts of all those who have been fortunate enough to know you and benefit from your service. We wish you all the best for a retirement filled with more time with your wife, grandchildren, and many other loved ones.●

RECOGNIZING ELLIOTT ART STUDIO

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

In 2023, Chad and Alyssa Elliott opened Elliott Art Studio in Jefferson. Chad Elliott, a lifelong artist and painter, started creating art as early as 5 years old. His skills and passion for art grew after graduating with a degree in ceramics from Graceland University. While honing his skills, Chad also discovered a new passion for music, teaching himself guitar and integrating this creative outlet into his life as an artist. Today, Chad tours the country as a musician, both as a solo artist and as one-half of a duo named the Weary Ramblers. The Iowa duo was even considered for seven Grammy nominations this year.

Chad created all of his art in a home studio before his family moved to Jefferson in 2023. Inspired by the community's vibrant support for the arts, the Elliotts decided to open a brick-and-mortar location to create, sell, and teach art to aspiring artists. The studio is sectioned into a gallery in the front that displays finished pieces and a workshop in the back to develop art. The Elliotts also purchased a pottery wheel and kiln to create ceramics pieces in the studio. The studio has grown to become more than an art space, hosting concerts with local artists, open mic nights, and song circles.

Chad and Alyssa manage Elliott Art Studio, with their children contributing their own artwork to the gallery. Recently, the couple expanded their products to offer hoodies and home decor featuring Chad's designs. They also plan to launch painting and pottery classes, as well as artistic workshops.

To give back to the community that helped inspire the studio, the Elliotts are active in the Jefferson community through their involvement on the downtown Jefferson business promotions team, which helps support small businesses in the community. Chad also shares his talents throughout Iowa, painting murals in Coon Rapids, Spencer, and his hometown of Guthrie Center. The business looks forward to celebrating their second anniversary in Jefferson in May 2025.

Elliott Art Studio's commitment to inspire the next generation of Iowa artists is commendable. I want to congratulate the Elliotts for their creativity and dedication to growing the art community, and I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa.●

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL COURTNEY

● Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, with my colleagues Senator MIKE CRAPO and Congressman MIKE SIMPSON, we congratulate and honor the retirement of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Twin Falls District Manager Michael ''Mike'' Courtney after 33 years of faithful service.

Mike grew up in Twin Falls and attended the University of Idaho, where he received a bachelor's degree in rangeland resource management. His Federal career started in 1991 as a rangeland management specialist and wild horse and burro specialist in the BLM Salmon District Office. He then

served in the Jarbidge Field Office in Twin Falls as the rangeland management specialist, Burley field office manager, and the Twin Falls acting district manager. For the last decade, Mike has proudly served as the BLM Twin Falls District Manager. During his career, Mike has held many roles, including temporary details as the Shoshone field manager, Twin Falls associate district manager, deputy State director for resources in the Idaho State BLM Office, and as the Nevada BLM State director.

Mike has managed many issues and policies in the Magic Valley and Idaho, including the Murphy Complex Fire, the Sage Grouse Initiative, innovative grazing management, gun range development, fire rehabilitation and reseeding, and more. Throughout his career, Mike has been a calm, levelheaded leader who works to find solutions.

After the Murphy Complex Fire, one of Idaho's largest rangeland fires, Mike was instrumental in establishing and developing Rangeland Fire Protection Associations (RFPA) in Idaho. Through the program, the BLM trains farmers, ranchers, and local communities how to fight fires to better equip them to be the first line of defense on rangeland fires. RFPAs have had a positive and substantial impact in helping to minimize and control rangeland fires, which threaten people and property in Idaho and throughout the West.

Mike has received numerous awards for his work in the BLM, including Outstanding Rangeland Management Specialist, Outstanding Service and Leadership as Deputy State Director, Exemplary Contributions to the Sage Grouse Initiative, Director's Excellence through Team Accomplishment, and the Director's Excellence in Leadership. He has also been recognized as the Idaho Cattle Association Friend of the Industry.

Mike is a dedicated public servant, helping with the Kimberly School District's athletic programs and becoming an integral part of Kimberly, Twin Falls, and the Magic Valley communities.

Congratulations, Mike Courtney, on your well-earned retirement. Your deep roots, extensive knowledge, and experience in Idaho have been a great benefit to our State and the Nation. Thank you for your outstanding and distinguished service to the BLM and the people of Idaho. We wish you the best in your future endeavors.●

REMEMBERING JIM JOHNSTON

● Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I rise today, along with my colleagues Senator MIKE CRAPO and Congressman MIKE SIMPSON, to honor the life and legacy of Jim Johnston, who passed away on November 26, 2024. Jim was not just a resident of Pocatello; he was its biggest and most enthusiastic supporter, a presence felt at every grand opening, community event, and local initiative.

Jim's impact on Pocatello cannot be overstated. He was a dedicated public servant who served multiple terms on the Pocatello City Council and was a friend to many. His unwavering support for Idaho State University and its initiatives—such as the Welcome Back Orange and Black and Celebrate Idaho State events—highlighted his passion for uplifting our community.

Beyond his numerous accolades, including the Distinguished Citizen and Lifetime Achievement Award from the Pocatello-Chubbuck Chamber of Commerce, Jim was a man of action. As a founding member of Citizens Community Bank, a board trustee for the Idaho State Historical Society, and a significant contributor to Habitat for Humanity and the Chief Pocatello statue project, Jim's life was a testament to public service. His selflessness is illustrated in a story shared by his son Greg about how Jim won a dream vacation for himself and his wife Karen but chose instead to donate the $10,000 prize to Habitat for Humanity. This act of generosity encapsulated Jim's character and desire to improve the lives of others.

A devoted member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Jim held several leadership positions. Jim and Karen, his wife of nearly 60 years, took pride in instilling their values of faith and service to their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. We thank them for their commitment, which has undoubtedly bettered the lives of countless Idahoans and members of the Pocatello community.

As we reflect on Jim Johnston's remarkable life, we remember a man who embodied the spirit of Pocatello—a successful businessman, realtor, volunteer, and above all, a loving father and grandfather. His contributions to the city, our State, and the people of Idaho will resonate for generations to come.

Today, we honor Jim Johnston's memory by continuing his legacy of service, kindness, and community spirit. He will be dearly missed, but his impact will endure in the hearts of those who had the privilege of knowing him.●

TRIBUTE TO DANIELA BECERRA

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Daniela Becerra, a fall 2024 intern with my Orlando office, for the good work she did for my office and the people of Florida.

Daniela is currently a student at the University of Central Florida, where she is majoring in legal studies and finance. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who was devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Daniela, and I look forward to hearing of her good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO BRENNAN MICHAEL BORALLY

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Brennan Michael Borally, a fall 2024 intern with my Orlando office, for the good work he did for my office and the people of Florida.

Brennan is currently a student at Stetson University, where he is majoring in political science. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who was devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Brennan, and I look forward to hearing of his good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO JULIA ROSE GIBBS

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Julia Rose Gibbs, a fall 2024 intern with my Orlando office, for the good work she did for my office and the people of Florida.

Julia is currently a student at the University of Central Florida, where she is majoring in political science and pursuing an intelligence and national security minor. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who was devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Julia, and I look forward to hearing of her good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO DALEZKA ASTRID DE LA MATA GOGNY

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Dalezka Astrid De La Mata Gogny, a fall 2024 intern with my Orlando office, for the good work she did for my office and the people of Florida.

Dalezka is currently a student at Seminole State College, where she is majoring in finance. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who was devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Dalezka, and I look forward to hearing of her good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO MIAH JAZMINE PEREZ

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Miah Jazmine Perez, a fall 2024 intern with my Orlando office, for the good work she did for my office and the people of Florida.

Miah is currently a student at the University of Florida and Valencia College, where she is majoring in political science and psychology. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who was devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Miah, and I look forward to hearing of her good work in the years to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 2:15 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 4199. An act to authorize additional district judges for the district courts and convert temporary judgeships.

H.R. 1097. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Everett Alvarez, Jr., in recognition of his service to the Nation.

H.R. 3254. An act 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.

H.R. 3797. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an alternative manner of furnishing certain health insurance coverage statements to individuals.

H.R. 3801. An act 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.

H.R. 5301. An act to amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes.

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

H.R. 6960. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Emergency Medical Services for Children program.

H.R. 7872. An act to amend the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act to modify certain requirements applicable to salinity control units, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills, except S. 4199, were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

At 2:20 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 59. An act to implement merit-based reforms to the civil service hiring system that replace degree-based hiring with skills- and competency-based hiring.

S. 141. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve certain programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs for home and community based services for veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 223. An act to amend the Controlled Substances Act to fix a technical error in the definitions.

S. 932. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for the halt in pension payments for Members of Congress sentenced for certain offenses, and for other purposes.

S. 2414. An act to require agencies with working dog programs to implement the recommendations of the Government Accountability Office relating to the health and welfare of working dogs, and for other purposes.

S. 2513. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve benefits administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 3938. An act to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Lynchburg, Virginia, as the ''Private First Class Desmond T. Doss VA Clinic''.

S. 3946. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1106 Main Street in Bastrop, Texas, as the ''Sergeant Major Billy D. Waugh Post Office''.

S. 3998. An act to provide for the permanent appointment of certain temporary district judgeships.

S. 4077. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 180 Steuart Street in San Francisco, California, as the ''Dianne Feinstein Post Office''.

S. 4610. An act to amend title 36, United States Code, to designate the bald eagle as the national bird.

S. 4716. An act to amend section 7504 of title 31, United States Code, to improve the single audit requirements.

S. 5314. An act to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Tulsa, Oklahoma, as the James Mountain Inhofe VA Medical Center.

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

H.R. 1377. An act to direct the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to take certain actions to enhance the representation of the United States and promote United States leadership in communications standards-setting bodies, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3293. An act to require the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to establish an interagency strike force to ensure that certain Federal land management agencies, including the organizational units of such agencies, prioritize the review of requests for communications use authorizations, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3343. An act to require the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to submit to Congress a plan for the Assistant Secretary to track the acceptance, processing, and disposal of certain Form 299s, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4534. An act to require a review of women and lung cancer, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4955. An act to name the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Monroeville, Pennsylvania, as the ''Henry Parham VA Clinic''.

H.R. 6020. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to eliminate consideration of the income of organ recipients in providing reimbursement of expenses to donating individuals, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6244. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1535 East Los Ebanos Boulevard in Brownsville, Texas, as the ''1st Lieutenant Andres Zermeno Post Office Building''.

H.R. 6394. An act to provide for the creation of a Congressional time capsule in commemoration of the semiquincentennial of the United States, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7188. An act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a national, evidence-based education campaign to increase public and health care provider awareness regarding the potential risks and benefits of human cell and tissue products transplants, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7224. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Stop, Observe, Ask, and Respond to Health and Wellness Training Program.

H.R. 8150. An act to require the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to establish procedures for conducting maintenance projects at ports of entry at which the Office of Field Operations conducts certain enforcement and facilitation activities.

H.R. 8667. An act to rename the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Cadillac, Michigan, as the ''Duane E. Dewey VA Clinic''.

H.R. 9124. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Auburn, California, as the ''Louis A. Conter VA Clinic''.

H.R. 9487. An act to amend the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970 to authorize the Legislative Counsel of the House of Representatives to designate more than one of the attorneys of the Office of the Legislative Counsel as a Deputy Legislative Counsel, and for other purposes.

H.R. 9489. An act to sunset the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress, and for other purposes.

H.R. 9595. An act to improve Federal technology procurement, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 7213) to amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance and reauthorize activities and programs relating to autism spectrum disorder, 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. 1377. An act to direct the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to take certain actions to enhance the representation of the United States and promote United States leadership in communications standards-setting bodies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 3293. An act to require the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to establish an interagency strike force to ensure that certain Federal land management agencies, including the organizational units of such agencies, prioritize the review of requests for communications use authorizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 3343. An act to require the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to submit to Congress a plan for the Assistant Secretary to track the acceptance, processing, and disposal of certain Form 299s, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 4534. An act to require a review of women and lung cancer, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 4955. An act to name the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Monroeville, Pennsylvania, as the ''Henry Parham VA Clinic''; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 6020. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to eliminate consideration of the income of organ recipients in providing reimbursement of expenses to donating individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 6244. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1535 East Los Ebanos Boulevard in Brownsville, Texas, as the ''1st Lieutenant Andres Zermeno Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 6394. An act to provide for the creation of a Congressional time capsule in commemoration of the semiquincentennial of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

H.R. 7224. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Stop, Observe, Ask, and Respond to Health and Wellness Training Program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 8667. An act to rename the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Cadillac, Michigan, as the ''Duane E. Dewey VA Clinic''; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 9124. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Auburn, California, as the ''Louis A. Conter VA Clinic''; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

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

H.R. 8150. An act to require the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to establish procedures for conducting maintenance projects at ports of entry at which the Office of Field Operations conducts certain enforcement and facilitation activities.

H.R. 9489. An act to sunset the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

EC–6834. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Truth in Lending (Regulation Z) Annual Threshold Adjustments (Credit Cards, HOEPA, and Qualified Mortgages)'' received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 11, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6835. A communication from the Counsel, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Appraisals for Higher-Priced Mortgage Loans Exemption Threshold'' (RIN1557–AF28) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 12, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6836. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fair Credit Reporting Act Disclosures'' received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 11, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6837. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Eighth Biennial Report to Congress: Estimates of Natural Gas and Oil Reserves, Reserves Growth, and Undiscovered Resources in Federal and State Waters off the Coasts of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama''; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–6838. A communication from the Biologist of Domestic Listing, Fish and Wildlife Services, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for Swale Paintbrush'' (RIN1018–BF79) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 12, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6839. A communication from the Manager of Delisting and Foreign Species, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for the Fluminense Swallowtail Butterfly, Harris' Mimic Swallowtail Butterfly, and Hahnel's Amazonian Swallowtail Butterfly'' (RIN1018–BG69) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 12, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6840. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Reports of the Cultural Property Advisory Committee in FY 2023 and FY 2024''; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–6841. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Report to Congress on Department of State Actions in FY 2023 and FY 2024 Pursuant to the Convention on Cultural Property Implementation Act''; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–6842. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revised Timeline Regarding Implementation of Amended Section 6050W(e)'' (Notice 2024–85) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 11, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–6843. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Exempt organization rulings and determination letters procedures'' (Rev. Proc. 2025–5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 11, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–6844. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Taxable Income or Loss and Currency Gain or Loss with Respect to a Qualified Business Unit'' (RIN1545–BO07) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 11, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–6845. A communication from the Chief of Policy Analysis and Program Standards, Office of Workers' Compensation Programs, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Black Lung Benefits Act: Authorization of Self-Insure'' (RIN1240–AA16) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 12, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–6846. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Personal Protective Equipment in Construction'' (RIN1218–AD25) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 12, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–6847. A communication from the Director of the Peace Corps, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report for the period of April 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–6848. A communication from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to compliance by the United States courts of appeals and district courts with the time limitations established for deciding habeas corpus death penalty petitions; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–6849. A communication from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on applications for delayed-notice search warrants and extensions during fiscal year 2024; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–6850. A communication from the Senior Advisor for Oversight, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Changes in Rates VA Pays for Special Modes of Transportation; Delay of Effective Date from February 16, 2025, until February 16, 2029'' (RIN2900–AS19) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 12, 2024; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

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

S. 131. A bill to amend chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to cover, for purposes of workers' compensation under such chapter, services by physician assistants and nurse practitioners provided to injured Federal workers, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118–299).

S. 2270. A bill to establish and maintain a database within each agency for executive branch ethics records of noncareer appointees (Rept. No. 118–300).

S. 3926. A bill to amend the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 to ensure that other transaction agreements are reported to USAspending.gov, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118–301).

S. 4700. A bill to modify the government-wide financial management plan, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118–302).

S. 5312. A bill to require agencies to create consistent organizational hierarchies, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118–303).

H.R. 3208. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a DHS Cybersecurity On-the-Job Training Program, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118–304).

H.R. 6972. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to require an Executive agency whose head is a member of the National Security Council to notify the Executive Office of the President, the Comptroller General of the United States, and congressional leadership of such head becoming medically incapacitated within 24 hours, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118–305).

H.R. 7528. An act to amend section 206 of the E-Government Act of 2002 to improve the integrity and management of mass comments and computer-generated comments in the regulatory review process, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118–306).

H.R. 8631. An act to prohibit the Secretary of Homeland Security from procuring certain foreign-made batteries, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118–307).

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

H.R. 9592. An act to amend title 44, United States Code, to modernize the Federal Register, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118–308).

By Ms. CANTWELL, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 690. A bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to evaluate and consider the impact of the telecommunications network equipment supply chain on the deployment of universal service, and for other purposes.

By Ms. CANTWELL, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 1008. A bill to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a consumer product safety standard with respect to rechargeable lithium-ion batteries used in micromobility devices, and for other purposes.

By Ms. CANTWELL, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2238. A bill to direct the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to develop a National Strategy to Close the Digital Divide, and for other purposes.

S. 2645. A bill to reduce the health risks of heat by establishing the National Integrated Heat Health Information System within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Integrated Heat Health Information System Interagency Committee to improve extreme heat preparedness, planning, and response, requiring a study, and establishing financial assistance programs to address heat effects, and for other purposes.

S. 2714. A bill to establish the National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource, and for other purposes.

S. 3162. A bill to improve the requirement for the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to establish testbeds to support the development and testing of trustworthy artificial intelligence systems and to improve interagency coordination in development of such testbeds, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. REED for the Committee on Armed Services.

*Army nomination of Maj. Gen. Gregory J. Brady, to be Lieutenant General.

*Army nomination of Maj. Gen. Johnny K. Davis, to be Lieutenant General.

Navy nominations beginning with Capt. Walter H. Allman III and ending with Capt. Thomas J. Zerr, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 12, 2024.

Navy nominations beginning with Capt. Andrew M. Biehn and ending with Capt. Brian A. Metcalf, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 12, 2024.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Col. Timothy S. Brady, Jr. and ending with Col. Jeremy S. Winters, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 18, 2024.

Navy nominations beginning with Rear Adm. (lh) John E. Dougherty IV and ending with Rear Adm. (lh) Douglas L. Williams, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 18, 2024.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. (lh) Thomas M. Henderschedt, to be Rear Admiral.

Navy nominations beginning with Rear Adm. (lh) Christopher D. Alexander and ending with Rear Adm. (lh) Michael S. Wosje, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 18, 2024.

*Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. Luke C. G. Cropsey, to be Lieutenant General.

*Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. Mark B. Pye, to be Lieutenant General.

Air Force nomination of Col. Matthew C. Brown, to be Brigadier General.

*Army nomination of Lt. Gen. Joseph P. McGee, to be Lieutenant General.

Army nomination of Col. Tonri C. Brown, to be Brigadier General.

Army nomination of Col. John W. Sannes, to be Brigadier General.

*Army nomination of Lt. Gen. Curtis A. Buzzard, to be Lieutenant General.

*Army nomination of Maj. Gen. Brett G. Sylvia, to be Lieutenant General.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, for the Committee on Armed Services I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

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

Air Force nominations beginning with Justin S. Alberico and ending with Jonathan A. Zannis, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 9, 2024.

Air Force nominations beginning with Stephen M. Addington and ending with Joshua J. Wolfram, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 9, 2024.

Air Force nominations beginning with Lee Edmond Akers and ending with Michael Gray Yttri, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 9, 2024.

Air Force nominations beginning with Phillip N. Alvarez and ending with Stanley Y. Wong, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 9, 2024.

Air Force nominations beginning with Eric Starr Buss and ending with Jonathan M. Walker, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 9, 2024.

Air Force nominations beginning with Stephen V. S. Alexander and ending with Yesun Yoon, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 9, 2024.

Air Force nominations beginning with Lakisha N. Albertie and ending with Keri L. Young, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 18, 2024.

Air Force nominations beginning with John C. Batka and ending with Richard Y. K. Yoo, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 18, 2024.

Air Force nomination of Keith A. Schultz, to be Colonel.

Air Force nomination of Francis X. Parr III, to be Major.

Air Force nomination of Jay E. Butterfield, to be Colonel.

Air Force nominations beginning with Thomas A. Hutton and ending with Robert D. Mcallister, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 18, 2024.

Air Force nominations beginning with Robert L. Bell and ending with Daniel J. Brown, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 18, 2024.

Air Force nomination of Gabriel R. Bultz, to be Major.

Army nominations beginning with Cora L. Allen and ending with 0003434384, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 18, 2024.

Army nomination of Rafael J. Kaplan, to be Major.

Navy nominations beginning with Christopher D. Caraway and ending with Bradford M. Winkelman, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 18, 2024.

Navy nomination of Erik C. Hedval, to be Captain.

Navy nomination of Keith C. Braddy, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Space Force nomination of Kenneth N. Wooten, to be Major.

Space Force nomination of Brenda L. Beegle, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. RICKETTS):

S. 5544. A bill to reduce the number of student visas available to nationals of the People's Republic of China until China removes certain restrictions on United States students pursuing postsecondary educational opportunities in China and to restrict the types of postsecondary study available to Chinese nationals in the United States to include sensitive topics with potential dual-use military application; Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mr. KIM):

S. 5545. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements to laws relating to the payment of certain benefits administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs that are affected by death, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BENNET:

S. 5546. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide funding for innovations in community policing, mental health care, and community safety, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida:

S. 5547. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to require States to verify certain eligibility criteria for individuals enrolled for medical assistance quarterly, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 5548. A bill to amend title III of the Social Security Act to improve the accuracy of payment of unemployment compensation benefits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. OSSOFF):

S. 5549. A bill to establish a grant program within the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to award grants to States that require the recording of all child welfare forensic interviews with children and adults, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mrs. BRITT):

S. 5550. A bill to amend the mission statement of the United States Military Academy to include the phrase ''Duty, Honor, Country''; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Ms. ERNST):

S. 5551. A bill to extend the statute of limitations for offenses relating to pandemic-era programs to be 10 years; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 5552. A bill to modify a provision supporting the execution of bilateral agreements concerning illicit transnational maritime activity and to authorize the President to impose sanctions with respect to illegal , unreported, or unregulated fishing and the sale, supply, purchase, or transfer of endangered species, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 5553. A bill to provide for the use of capability-based analysis of price of goods or services offered by nontraditional defense contractors; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 5554. A bill to authorize the conveyance by the Secretary of the Army of certain property located in Paris, Texas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 5555. A bill to provide authority to use Defense Modernization Account funds for time-sensitive equipment modernization; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 5556. A bill to require a solid rocket motor industrial base strategy; to the Committee on Armed Services.

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

S. 5557. A bill to require identification in medical records of the Department of Defense of the affiliation of certain non-Department of Defense health care providers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

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

S. 5558. A bill to require all high-mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicles of the Army to be equipped with an anti-lock brake system and electronic stability control kit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Ms. WARREN):

S. 5559. A bill to amend the Act of August 9, 1955 (commonly known as the ''Long-Term Leasing Act''), to authorize leases of up to 99 years for land in the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Reservation and land held in trust for the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. OSSOFF (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 5560. A bill to amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 with respect to the eligibility of youth sports facilities for certain grants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 5561. A bill to establish a Federal standard in order to improve the Nation's resilience to current and future flood risk; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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

S. 5562. A bill to modify United States-Israel anti-tunnel cooperation; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. KING, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 5563. A bill to require the use of prescription drug monitoring programs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida:

S. 5564. A bill to increase the rate of duty on garlic originating from the People's Republic of China; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. OSSOFF (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 5565. A bill to encourage States to report to the Attorney General certain information regarding inmates who give birth in the custody of law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 5566. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income any judgments, awards, and settlements with respect to sexual assault or sexual harassment claims, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 5567. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a study to assess the unintended impacts on the health and safety of people engaged in transactional sex, in connection with the enactment of the Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act of 2017 and the loss of interactive computer services that host information related to sexual exchange, to direct the Attorney General to submit a report on human trafficking investigations and prosecutions in connection with the same, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 5568. A bill to amend title XVI of the Social Security Act to provide that the supplemental security income benefits of adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities shall not be reduced by reason of marriage; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 5569. A bill to establish a State rail formula grant program, to direct the Federal Railroad Administration to create a Green Railroads Fund, to expand passenger rail programs, to address air quality concerns, to establish rail workforce training centers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. 5570. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to establish a grant program to rebuild and improve transportation infrastructure at urban waterfronts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida:

S. 5571. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to foreign persons that knowingly engage in significant operations in the defense and related materiel sector or the surveillance technology sector of the economy of the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 5572. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Homeland Security from procuring certain foreign-made batteries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Mr. COTTON, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 5573. A bill to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for a safe harbor from infringement of a method of use patent relating to drugs or biological products; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. REED):

S. 5574. A bill to support Lebanon's rule of law and democratic institutions through sanctions, grants, and scholarships, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 5575. A bill to designate the Patsye Crites Forest; considered and passed.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. LEE, Mr. LANKFORD, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. DAINES, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S.J. Res. 122. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to ''Waste Emissions Charge for Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems: Procedures for Facilitating Compliance, Including Netting and Exemptions''; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. RICKETTS (for himself and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. Res. 928. A resolution honoring the life of Nebraska community leader John Edmund Gottschalk; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. Res. 929. A resolution expressing support for the designation of November 20, 2024, through December 20, 2024, as ''National Survivors of Homicide Victims Awareness Month''; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. Res. 930. A resolution condemning the Government of Azerbaijan for perpetrating an ethnic cleansing campaign against the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. Res. 931. A resolution recognizing the exceptional service of Ambassador Michael Herzog during his tenure as Ambassador of Israel to the United States; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Ms. ROSEN):

S. Res. 932. A resolution designating the month of October 2024 as ''National Military Toxic Exposures Awareness Month''; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 262

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Vermont

(Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 262, a bill to prohibit, or require disclosure of, the surveillance, monitoring, and collection of certain worker data by employers, and for other purposes.

S. 291

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 291, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 296

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 296, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide an additional tool to prevent certain frauds against veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 334

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 334, a bill to modify the restriction in section 3326 of title 5, United States Code, relating to the appointment of retired members of the Armed Forces to positions in the Department of Defense to apply to positions at or above the GS–14 level.

S. 1370

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1370, a bill to reauthorize and limit the pre-disaster mitigation program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 1441

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1441, a bill to establish a Center for Biomedical Innovation and Development in order to accelerate innovation and development of advanced medical countermeasure products.

S. 1597

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1597, a bill to amend chapter 110 of title 18, United States Code, to prohibit gender transition procedures on minors, and for other purposes.

S. 1631

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 1631, a bill to enhance the authority granted to the Department of Homeland Security and Department of Justice with respect to unmanned aircraft systems and unmanned aircraft, and for other purposes.

S. 1673

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1673, a bill to amend title XVIII to protect patient access to ground ambulance services under the Medicare program.

S. 2085

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2085, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of multi-cancer early detection screening tests.

S. 2330

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2330, a bill to authorize the Small Business Administration to provide business loans to finance business software or cloud computing services, and for other purposes.

S. 2372

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2372, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to streamline enrollment under the Medicaid program of certain providers across State lines, and for other purposes.

S. 2477

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2477, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide pharmacy payment of certain services.

S. 3015

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3015, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to address telework for Federal employees, and for other purposes.

S. 3047

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3047, a bill to award payments to employees of Air America who provided support to the United States from 1950 to 1976, and for other purposes.

S. 3229

At the request of Mr. BUDD, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3229, a bill to prohibit Federal agencies from restricting the use of convertible virtual currency by a person to purchase goods or services for the person's own use, and for other purposes.

S. 3698

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3698, a bill to amend title 11, District of Columbia Official Code, to revise references in such title to individuals with intellectual disabilities.

S. 4035

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4035, a bill to require the Director of the Office of Personnel Management to take certain actions with respect to the health insurance program carried out under chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, and for other purposes.

S. 4374

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4374, a bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to include screening for loneliness and coordination of supportive services and health care to address the negative health effects of loneliness, to require a report on loneliness, and for other purposes.

S. 4510

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4510, a bill to amend the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 to delay implementation of the inclusion of oral-only ESRD-related drugs in the Medicare ESRD prospective payment system.

S. 4588

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4588, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Defense to develop and implement a process for sharing military service data with States.

S. 4715

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) 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. 4766

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4766, a bill to strengthen requirements for the use of accessible information and communications technology by Federal departments and agencies.

S. 4821

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4821, a bill to require executive agencies to take steps to better meet the statutory deadline for processing communications use applications, and for other purposes.

S. 4933

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4933, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the tax-exempt controlled entity rules with respect to certain stock of government-sponsored enterprises.

S. 5080

At the request of Mr. OSSOFF, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5080, a bill to amend title 39 of the United States Code to require the Postmaster General to be appointed by the President, subject to Senate confirmation, and for other purposes.

S. 5097

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5097, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to establish a demonstration project to improve outpatient clinical care for individuals with sickle cell disease.

S. 5224

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5224, a bill to prohibit the imposition of requirements that handguns have certain features generally absent from firearms in common use, to restore the civil and natural rights of the people of the United States in States hostile to liberty, and for other purposes.

S. 5322

At the request of Mr. OSSOFF, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 5322, a bill to amend the United States Sentencing Guidelines applicable to human smuggling offenses, and for other purposes.

S. 5388

At the request of Mr. WELCH, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5388, a bill to restore funding for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

S. 5408

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) 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. 5428

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5428, a bill to provide women with increased access to preventative and life-saving cancer screening.

S. 5523

At the request of Mr. WELCH, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5523, a bill to provide clarification of assistance related to safeguarding and the elimination of landmines, other explosive remnants of war, and conventional arms.

S. 5528

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5528, a bill to require an updated assessment of the public schools on installations of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3332

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3332 intended to be proposed to H.R. 5009, a bill to reauthorize wildlife habitat and conservation programs, and for other purposes.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 928—HONORING THE LIFE OF NEBRASKA COMMUNITY LEADER JOHN EDMUND GOTTSCHALK

Mr. RICKETTS (for himself and Mrs. FISCHER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 928

Whereas John Edmund Gottschalk was born in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1943;

Whereas John Edmund Gottschalk served as the chief executive officer and publisher of the Omaha World-Herald from 1989 to 2008, which he ran with tremendous integrity and led its modernization effort;

Whereas John Edmund Gottschalk was inducted into the Omaha Business Hall of Fame and the Nebraska Press Association Hall of Fame and was recognized in 1994 for his civic leadership and philanthropy by being named as the 98th King of Aksarben;

Whereas John Edmund Gottschalk's extensive civic life included such varied positions as chairman of the United Service Organizations Board of Governors, national president of the Boy Scouts of America, and chairman of Omaha Performing Arts;

Whereas John Edmund Gottschalk was dedicated to the preservation of downtown Omaha, and as an avid outdoorsman, he fought to conserve Nebraska's wildlife for future generations; and

Whereas, together with his wife, John Edmund Gottschalk fostered over 100 infants awaiting adoption: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of John Edmund Gottschalk;

(2) honors the life and legacy of John Edmund Gottschalk for his unwavering dedication to Nebraska as a civic leader and philanthropist; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of John Edmund Gottschalk.

SENATE RESOLUTION 929—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF NOVEMBER 20, 2024, THROUGH DECEMBER 20, 2024, AS ''NATIONAL SURVIVORS OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS AWARENESS MONTH''

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 929

Whereas the United States faces a national public health crisis of gun violence;

Whereas, on average, over 20,000 homicides each year continue to rob families and communities of loved ones;

Whereas homicides increased by 30 percent in 2020, compounding the many deaths caused by COVID–19;

Whereas, for every 1 homicide victim, there are at least 10 surviving family members, and the number of survivors of homicide victims grows greater each year as they navigate life after the tragic loss of their loved one;

Whereas homicide victims are loved and grieved by parents, grandparents, siblings, family members, partners, children, friends, neighbors, classmates, colleagues, and communities across the country;

Whereas, in the United States, almost 1 in 4 Black and Hispanic or Latinx adults report having lost a loved one to a gun-related homicide;

Whereas losing a loved one to homicide is one of the most traumatic events a person can experience;

Whereas, in the United States, homicide is the leading cause of death for Black teenagers and the second leading cause of death for teenagers overall;

Whereas more than ½ of women who are victims of homicides are killed because of intimate partner violence;

Whereas 40 percent of homicides in the United States go unsolved;

Whereas losing a loved one to homicide results in short-term and chronic physical and behavioral health consequences that carry significant behavioral and economic burdens on families and communities impacted by murder, trauma, grief, and loss;

Whereas all families of homicide victims deserve to be treated with dignity and compassion;

Whereas surviving family members need holistic, coordinated, compassionate, and consistent support and services in the immediate aftermath of a homicide and ongoing opportunities for healing in the months and years afterward;

Whereas surviving family members want to remember and honor their loved ones' lives regardless of the circumstances surrounding their death;

Whereas survivors of homicide victims are transforming their pain into purpose by informing, influencing, and impacting public policy, and working to create and sustain an environment where all families can live in peace and all people are valued;

Whereas survivors, advocates, and providers are working together to implement equitable and effective community-based responses to homicide;

Whereas the leadership of surviving family and community members is essential to disrupting cycles of violence and promoting peace in all communities; and

Whereas recognition of the needs of survivors can help combat trauma, foster healing, and inform joy for families and communities impacted by homicide: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for the designation of November 20, 2024, through December 20, 2024, as ''National Survivors of Homicide Victims Awareness Month'';

(2) supports efforts to—

(A) raise awareness of survivors of homicide victims;

(B) take care of those affected by homicide, including families, schools, and communities, with appropriate services and information; and

(C) encourage research to—

(i) better address the needs of families and communities severely impacted by violence; and

(ii) consider ways to improve access to, and the quality of, behavioral health services for survivors of homicide victims; and

(3) calls on the people of the United States, interest groups, and affected persons to—

(A) promote awareness of survivors of homicide victims;

(B) take an active role in the fight to end gun violence and homicide;

(C) respond to all families suffering in the aftermath of homicide with consistency, compassion, and competence, and by centering the principles of love, unity, faith, hope, courage, justice, and forgiveness; and

(D) observe National Survivors of Homicide Victims Awareness Month with appropriate activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 930—CONDEMNING THE GOVERNMENT OF AZERBAIJAN FOR PERPETRATING AN ETHNIC CLEANSING CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE ARMENIAN POPULATION OF NAGORNO-KARABAKH

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

S. RES. 930

Whereas Nagorno-Karabakh is part of the traditional homeland of the Armenian people and has been a center of Armenian life and culture for millennia;

Whereas the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh have continually sought to exercise their right of self-determination and established a government separate from Azerbaijan;

Whereas, on December 12, 2022, the Government of Azerbaijan initiated a grueling blockade of Nagorno-Karabakh that deprived the region's population of food, medicine, fuel, and other necessities for nearly 10 months;

Whereas, on September 19, 2023, the Government of Azerbaijan launched a full-scale military offensive against the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh that took the lives of hundreds of soldiers and dozens of civilians;

Whereas the Government of Azerbaijan used the threat of further violence to coerce the Armenian leadership of Nagorno-Karabakh to surrender their autonomy and dissolve their governing institutions;

Whereas over 100,000 Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh, facing the threat of further ethnic violence, fled to Armenia as refugees within 2 weeks of Azerbaijan's assault;

Whereas the rhetoric of President Ilham Aliyev and other Azerbaijani officials demonstrates a clear ethnic animus that continues to undermine efforts to build a durable and dignified peace;

Whereas international legal experts, including former Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court Luis Moreno Ocampo and former United Nations genocide expert Juan Mendez, have determined that Azerbaijan's blockade of Nagorno-Karabakh violated the United Nations Genocide Convention;

Whereas Azerbaijan has a responsibility to protect ethnic Armenian cultural heritage sites in Nagorno-Karabakh, including churches, monasteries, cemeteries, and other cultural monuments and should support UNESCO to assess and catalog the region's many culturally significant sites;

Whereas the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom recommends that Azerbaijan be designated as a country of particular concern, in part because of the destruction of Christian religious sites in Nagorno-Karabakh;

Whereas, according to the Government of Armenia, dozens of Armenian prisoners of war, civilian captives, and members of the political leadership of Nagorno-Karabakh are now unjustly imprisoned in Azerbaijan on politically motivated charges or no charges at all;

Whereas the political leaders of Nagorno-Karabakh now imprisoned by the Government of Azerbaijan, including Davit Manukyan, Davit Babayan, Levon Mnatsakanyan, Arkadi Ghukasyan, Bako Sahakyan, Arayik Harutyunyan, Davit Ishkhanyan, and Ruben Vardanyan, should be afforded due process in accordance with the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Azerbaijan is a party;

Whereas there are still thousands missing from the over 30-year conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh;

Whereas the Government of Azerbaijan has a well-documented record of subjecting Armenian prisoners to torture, humiliation, and other violations of fundamental rights afforded by the Geneva Conventions;

Whereas, as a result of Azerbaijan's ethnic cleansing campaign, over 100,000 displaced persons from Nagorno-Karabakh now seek refuge in Armenia where, because of the country's limited resources, they face difficulties accessing housing, food security, employment, and health care;

Whereas the United States Government has announced more than $10,700,000 in urgent humanitarian assistance to respond to the crisis, but much more is needed;

Whereas international law provides for a right of return for populations displaced from their country of origin, including under the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the 1966 Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Fourth Geneva Convention, and the European Convention on Human Rights to which Azerbaijan is a party;

Whereas the International Court of Justice issued a binding provisional measure in November 2023 requiring the Government of Azerbaijan to provide for the safe, unimpeded, and expeditious return of Armenian refugees who wish to return to their homes in Nagorno-Karabakh;

Whereas, in 2024, Freedom House, in partnership with Armenian and international human rights organizations, issued a report that they hope will contribute to the finding that the Azerbaijani authorities have engaged in a systematic and deliberate campaign aimed at the ethnic cleansing of the Armenian population from Nagorno-Karabakh, thereby committing egregious violations of human rights and international law;

Whereas, prior to the Azerbaijani assault on Nagorno-Karabakh, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Europe and Eurasia Yuri Kim testified before Congress that the United States Government ''will not tolerate'' any Azerbaijani attack on Nagorno-Karabakh;

Whereas the United States Government has yet to impose meaningful accountability measures on Azerbaijan for perpetrating an inhumane blockade and campaign of ethnic cleansing in Nagorno-Karabakh;

Whereas failing to hold the Government of Azerbaijan accountable for ethnic cleansing emboldens Azerbaijan's leaders to engage in further anti-Armenian aggression;

Whereas, in recent years, the Government of Armenia has sought to deepen its ties to the United States and other liberal democracies and to distance itself from Russia;

Whereas the Government of Azerbaijan illegally occupies approximately 200 square kilometers of Armenia's internationally recognized territory, including approximately 150 square kilometers captured during the aggressive military actions from 2020 to 2023;

Whereas the United States Government has a special interest in ensuring that Armenia's security is not jeopardized because of its embrace of democracy and rejection of Vladimir Putin's murderous regime;

Whereas the Government of Azerbaijan continues to demand unilateral territorial concessions from Armenia through the threat of force, often referring to portions of sovereign Armenian territory as ''western Azerbaijan'';

Whereas the United States Government has taken a direct role in facilitating a durable conflict-resolution process between Armenia and Azerbaijan; and

Whereas the Government of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia continue to engage in talks that have yet to finalize a peace agreement, leaving many concerned about potential for future violence: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the atrocities perpetrated by the Government of Azerbaijan against the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh;

(2) recognizes that Azerbaijan's blockade and subsequent military offensive against the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh constitute acts of ethnic cleansing;

(3) affirms the fundamental right of displaced Armenians to return to their homes in Nagorno-Karabakh with strong protections in place to ensure their security; and

(4) calls on the President and the relevant Federal agencies to take immediate action to—

(A) impose targeted sanctions on Azerbaijani government officials complicit in human rights abuses;

(B) restrict United States military aid to Azerbaijan consistent with 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act (Public Law 102–511; 22 U.S.C. 5812 note) ;

(C) reaffirm the findings of the 2024 Freedom House report which documented a deliberate campaign by the Government of Azerbaijan to ethnically cleanse the Armenian population from Nagorno-Karabakh and recognizes that these actions against the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh constitute ethnic cleansing;

(D) provide robust humanitarian assistance to respond to the refugee crisis in Armenia and rally the international community to do the same;

(E) continue to strengthen the United States-Armenia security partnership as the Government of Armenia bolsters its ties to Western allies; and

(F) facilitate diplomacy to achieve a just and lasting peace in the South Caucasus that provides for the release of all Armenians unjustly imprisoned by the Government of Azerbaijan, establishes a right of return and security guarantees for the displaced Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh, and preserves the Armenian cultural heritage of Nagorno-Karabakh.

SENATE RESOLUTION 931—RECOGNIZING THE EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE OF AMBASSADOR MICHAEL HERZOG DURING HIS TENURE AS AMBASSADOR OF ISRAEL TO THE UNITED STATES

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

S. RES. 931

Whereas, since November 15, 2021, Ambassador Michael Herzog has served as Ambassador of Israel to the United States;

Whereas, prior to serving as Ambassador of Israel to the United States, Ambassador Herzog served the State of Israel as—

(1) the head of the Strategic Planning Division;

(2) Military Secretary and Chief of Staff to four Defense Ministers; and

(3) a special envoy for diplomatic negotiations for the Prime Minister;

Whereas, during his entire tenure as Ambassador of Israel to the United States, Ambassador Herzog has worked in a bipartisan manner, stating, ''Bipartisan support for Israel is a fundamental component of our relations with the United States'';

Whereas Ambassador Herzog has been one of the most effective voices for the State of Israel and has been instrumental in meeting Israel's needs during this traumatic time in the history of the Jewish State; and

Whereas Ambassador Herzog has worked tirelessly to build on the success of the Abraham Accords and advance normalization efforts between the State of Israel and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the exceptional service of Ambassador Michael Herzog during his tenure as Ambassador of Israel to the United States;

(2) commends Ambassador Herzog for his commitment to building a more peaceful region through his work to further expand upon the Abraham Accords; and

(3) encourages the United States and the State of Israel to continue to build off the work Ambassador Herzog has done during his tenure to ensure the relationship between Israel and the United States continues to grow and prosper.

SENATE RESOLUTION 932—DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2024 AS ''NATIONAL MILITARY TOXIC EXPOSURES AWARENESS MONTH''

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

S. RES. 932

Whereas the profound impacts of military toxic exposures on generations of veterans and military families have created the persistent and urgent need for enhanced public awareness and preventative health measures;

Whereas the history of military toxic exposures dates back more than a century, particularly with the use of chemical warfare in World War I;

Whereas, despite reductions in certain chemical agents during World War II, members of the Armed Forces continued to face significant toxic exposures, including hazardous substances from naval vessels and herbicides during the Korean War and Agent Orange and other tactical herbicides during the Vietnam War;

Whereas the impact of toxic exposure is not limited to veterans alone, but can also affect their families, including their children with medical conditions potentially related to their parents' service, including children born with health issues following the Vietnam War;

Whereas the legacy of toxic exposure extends to veterans known as ''Atomic Veterans'', who experienced hazardous radiation exposure, further compounding the health risks associated with service in the Armed Forces;

Whereas generations of veterans have faced toxic exposures while serving abroad;

Whereas veterans have encountered other toxic exposures and environmental hazards during service in the Armed Forces, including contaminated drinking water, asbestos, polychlorinated biphenyl, lead, and radiation;

Whereas, in 1991, the Vietnam Veterans of America achieved a significant legislative victory, when Congress passed the Agent Orange Act of 1991 (Public Law 102–4), leading to the recognition of Agent Orange as a presumptive hazard and paving the way for benefits for affected veterans;

Whereas subsequent conflicts, including the Persian Gulf War, have seen soldiers, airmen, sailors, and marines facing similar debilitating health issues due to toxic exposures, reinforcing the need for continued advocacy and research;

Whereas multiple veterans service organizations, including Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America, the Vietnam Veterans of America, and others have worked tirelessly to secure legislative improvements, including studies on the effects of toxic exposure and the passage of the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–168), also known as the PACT Act;

Whereas the PACT Act expanded eligibility for benefits and health care to veterans of all eras who were exposed to toxic substances;

Whereas the PACT Act established a new, responsive framework so that the Department of Veterans Affairs could more rapidly and transparently make decisions on the presumption of connection to service in the Armed Forces for illnesses and other conditions associated with toxic exposure;

Whereas burn pits, hazardous particulate matter, Agent Orange, oil well fires, fuel leaks, and other toxic events present in various conflicts have emerged as significant health concerns, necessitating research into their long-term effects on veterans and their families;

Whereas the lessons from toxic exposures guide the work and research of the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and Congress;

Whereas the effects of toxic exposure are not confined to members of the Armed Forces and their family members, but also can impact civilian workers and residents of military installations exposed to hazardous materials;

Whereas continued vigilance is necessary to prevent future incidents of toxic exposure; and

Whereas the designation of October 2024 as ''National Military Toxic Exposures Awareness Month'' serves to highlight the historical significance of toxic exposure during service in the Armed Forces, raise awareness of toxic exposure, and commend the work of veterans and veterans' advocates who labor to meet the needs of former members of the Armed Forces who were exposed to toxic substances while in service of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 2024 as ''National Military Toxic Exposures Awareness Month'';

(2) recognizes the profound impact toxic exposures have had on veterans, members of the Armed Forces, their families, and their survivors;

(3) honors the sacrifices of individuals impacted by toxic exposure in the Armed Forces;

(4) calls upon the Department of Defense to reinforce the commitment by the Federal Government to prevent future incidents of toxic exposure among members of the Armed Forces;

(5) will continue to explore legislative initiatives aimed at improving health outcomes and preventive measures for current and future generations of members of the Armed Forces and veterans;

(6) commends the Department of Defense for striving to meet or exceed industry standards while working within status of forces agreements with host partner nations overseas in various international locations and urges continued efforts to meet or exceed such standards;

(7) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Military Toxic Exposures Awareness Month by—

(A) honoring the sacrifices of individuals impacted by toxic exposure in the Armed Forces;

(B) promoting awareness of the ongoing challenges and of the resources available to veterans and their families, caregivers, and survivors from the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

(C) supporting affected veterans and their families; and

(8) encourages the Department of Veterans Affairs to continue educating the public and advocating for veterans and their families and survivors affected by toxic exposure by—

(A) promoting awareness of the impact of toxic exposure on veterans, members of the Armed Forces, and their families;

(B) encouraging veterans to utilize available resources from the Department of Veterans Affairs, veterans service organizations, and other entities;

(C) providing opportunities for research to understand the impacts of toxic exposure and to prevent future incidents of toxic exposure;

(D) reaching all veterans who may have encountered toxic exposures during service in the Armed Forces and offering screenings and relevant information;

(E) improving clinical practice guidelines for veterans exposed to toxic substances that best meet the unique medical needs of those veterans; and

(F) working with civic-minded groups and the people of the United States to thank members of the Armed Forces and veterans for their service and sacrifice.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3333. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5009, to reauthorize wildlife habitat and conservation programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3334. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5009, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3335. Mr. GRASSLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 82, to amend title II of the

Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3336. Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 82, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3337. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5009, to reauthorize wildlife habitat and conservation programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3338. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5009, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3339. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. HAGERTY)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3502, to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to prevent consumer reporting agencies from furnishing consumer reports under certain circumstances, and for other purposes.

SA 3340. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. PETERS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 4181, to require the development of a workforce plan for the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

SA 3341. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Ms. HASSAN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1299, to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to periodically review the automatic maximum coverage under Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance program and the Veterans' Group Life Insurance program, and for other purposes.

SA 3342. Mr. SCHUMER (for Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1144, to establish a grant program to provide assistance to local law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3333. Mr. SANDERS proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5009, reauthorize wildlife habitat and conservation programs, and for other purposes; which was oredred to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. REDUCTION IN MILITARY SPENDING.

The total amount of funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act is hereby reduced by 10 percent, with the amount of such reduction to be applied on a pro rata basis among the accounts and funds for which amounts are authorized to be appropriated by this Act, excluding accounts and funds relating to military personnel, the Defense Health Program, and assistance to Ukraine. The amount of reduction for each account and fund subject to such requirement shall be applied on a pro rata basis across each program, project, and activity funded by such account or fund.

SA 3334. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5009, to reauthorize wildlife habitat and conservation programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SPENDING REDUCTIONS IN THE ABSENCE OF AN UNQUALIFIED AUDIT OPINION.

If during any fiscal year after fiscal year 2024, the Secretary of Defense determines that a department, agency, or other element of the Department of Defense has not achieved an unqualified opinion on its full financial statements for the calendar year ending during such fiscal year—

(1) the amount available to such department, agency, or element for the fiscal year in which such determination is made shall be equal to the amount otherwise authorized to be appropriated minus 1.0 percent;

(2) the amount unavailable to such department, agency, or element for that fiscal year pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be applied on a pro rata basis against each program, project, and activity of such department, agency, or element in that fiscal year; and

(3) the Secretary shall deposit in the general fund of the Treasury for purposes of deficit reduction all amounts unavailable to departments, agencies, and elements of the Department in the fiscal year pursuant to determinations made under paragraph (1).

SA 3335. Mr. GRASSLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 82, to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Social Security Fairness Act of 2024''.

SEC. 2. ELIMINATING APPLICATION OF GOVERNMENT PENSION OFFSET AND WINDFALL ELIMINATION PROVISION FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES AND STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES IN STATES THAT AGREE TO EXTEND SOCIAL SECURITY COVERAGE TO SUCH EMPLOYEES.

(a) GOVERNMENT PENSION OFFSET.—Section 202(k)(5) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 402(k)(5)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

''(D)(i) For purposes of subparagraph (A), in the case of an individual who receives a monthly periodic benefit which is based upon such individual's earnings while in the service of any State or political subdivision thereof, no reduction of a monthly insurance benefit under such subparagraph shall apply for any month beginning after the date of enactment of this subparagraph if, for such month, such State satisfies the conditions described in clause (ii).

''(ii)(I) The conditions described in this clause with respect to a State for any month are that an agreement has been entered into between the Commissioner of Social Security and such State to extend the insurance system established by this title to services performed by individuals as employees of such State or any political subdivision thereof such that, pursuant to such agreement, all such employees who, as of the effective date of such agreement, have not attained age 52 (or, in the case of employees in a position that is subject to a mandatory retirement age that is lower than age 62, have not attained the age that is 10 years less than such mandatory retirement age) shall be covered by the insurance system established by this title.

''(II) The requirements of section 218 shall apply to an agreement described in subclause (I).

''(iii) In the case of any individual who received periodic benefits under a retirement system before the date of enactment of this subparagraph, clause (i) shall apply with respect to any monthly insurance benefit of such individual for any month beginning after the date of enactment of this subparagraph in which the State that established such retirement system satisfies the conditions described in clause (ii).

''(iv) For purposes of this subparagraph, the term 'political subdivision' has the same meaning given such term under section 218(b)(2).

''(E)(i) For purposes of subparagraph (A), in the case of an individual who receives a monthly periodic benefit which is based upon such individual's earnings while in the service of the Federal Government, no reduction of a monthly insurance benefit under such subparagraph shall apply for any month beginning on or after the date specified in clause (iii).

''(ii) In the case of any individual who, before the date specified in clause (iii), received a monthly periodic benefit which is based upon such individual's earnings while in the service of the Federal Government, clause (i) shall apply with respect to any monthly insurance benefit of such individual for any month beginning on or after such date.

''(iii) The date specified in this clause is the first day of the first month as of which, in every State, the service of at least 50 percent of all employees of the State or any political subdivision thereof constitutes 'employment' as defined in section 210.''.

(b) WINDFALL ELIMINATION PROVISION.—Section 215 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''Nonapplication of Windfall Elimination Provision for Federal Employees and State and Local Government Employees in States That Agree to Extend Social Security Coverage to Such Employees

''(j)(1)(A) For purposes of subsection (a)(7) or (d)(3), in the case of an individual who receives a monthly periodic payment for any month beginning on or after the date of enactment of this subsection which is based upon such individual's earnings while in the service of any State or political subdivision thereof (as defined in section 218(b)(2)), no computation or recomputation of the primary insurance amount of such individual under such subsection shall apply if, for such month, such State satisfies the conditions described in section 202(k)(5)(D)(ii).

''(B) In the case of any individual who received periodic payments under a retirement system (as defined in section 218(b)(4)) before the date of enactment of this subsection, the primary insurance amount of such individual shall be recomputed without regard to subsection (a)(7) or (d)(3), effective with the first month beginning after the date of enactment of this subsection in which the State that established such retirement system satisfies the conditions described in section 202(k)(5)(D)(ii).

''(2)(A) For purposes of subsection (a)(7) or (d)(3), in the case of an individual who receives a monthly periodic payment for any month beginning on or after the date of enactment of this subsection which is based upon such individual's earnings while in the service of the Federal Government, no computation or recomputation of the primary insurance amount of such individual under such subsection shall apply for any month beginning on or after the date specified in section 205(k)(5)(E)(iii).

''(B) In the case of any individual who, before the date specified in section 205(k)(5)(E)(iii), received a monthly periodic payment which is based upon such individual's earnings while in the service of the Federal Government, the primary insurance amount of such individual shall be recomputed without regard to subsection (a)(7) or (d)(3), effective with the first month beginning on or after such date.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect

to monthly insurance benefits payable under title II of the Social Security Act for months beginning after December 31, 2024.

SA 3336. Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 82, to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act of 2024''.

SEC. 2. REPLACEMENT OF THE WINDFALL ELIMINATION PROVISION WITH A FORMULA EQUALIZING BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS WITH NONCOVERED EMPLOYMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 215(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(a)) is amended by inserting after paragraph (7) the following:

''(8)(A) In the case of an individual whose primary insurance amount would be computed under paragraph (1) of this subsection—

''(i) who first becomes eligible for an old-age or disability insurance benefit after 2067,

''(ii) who subsequently becomes entitled to such benefit, and

''(iii) who has earnings derived from noncovered service performed in a year after 1977,

the primary insurance amount of such individual shall be the amount computed or recomputed under this paragraph.

''(B) The primary insurance amount of an individual described in subparagraph (A), as computed or recomputed under this paragraph, shall be the product derived by multiplying—

''(i) the individual's primary insurance amount, as determined under paragraph (1) of this subsection and subparagraph (C) of this paragraph, by

''(ii) a fraction—

''(I) the numerator of which is the individual's average indexed monthly earnings (determined without regard to subparagraph (C)), and

''(II) the denominator of which is an amount equal to the individual's average indexed monthly earnings (as determined under subparagraph (C)),

rounded, if not a multiple of $0.10, to the next lower multiple of $0.10.

''(C)(i) For purposes of determining an individual's primary insurance amount pursuant to clauses (i) and (ii)(II) of subparagraph (B), the individual's average indexed monthly earnings shall be determined by treating all recorded noncovered earnings (as defined in clause (ii)(I)) derived by the individual from noncovered service performed in each year after 1977 as 'wages' (as defined in section 209 for purposes of this title), which shall be treated as included in the individual's adjusted total covered earnings (as defined in clause (ii)(II)) for such calendar year together with amounts consisting of 'wages' (as so defined without regard to this subparagraph) paid during such calendar year and self-employment income (as defined in section 211(b)) for taxable years ending with or during such calendar year.

''(ii) For purposes of this subparagraph:

''(I) The term 'recorded noncovered earnings' means earnings derived from noncovered service (other than noncovered service as a member of a uniformed service (as defined in section 210(m)) for which satisfactory evidence is determined by the Commissioner to be available in the records of the Commissioner.

''(II) The term 'adjusted total covered earnings' means, in connection with an individual for any calendar year, the sum of the wages paid to the individual during such calendar year (as adjusted under subsection (b)(3)) plus the self-employment income derived by the individual during any taxable year ending with or during such calendar year (as adjusted under subsection (b)(3)).

''(iii) The Commissioner of Social Security shall provide by regulation or other public guidance for methods for determining whether satisfactory evidence is available in the records of the Commissioner for earnings for noncovered service (other than noncovered service as a member of a uniformed service (as defined in section 210(m))) to be treated as recorded noncovered earnings. Such methods shall provide for reliance on earnings information which is provided to the Commissioner by employers and which, as determined by the Commissioner, constitute a reasonable basis for treatment of earnings for noncovered service as recorded noncovered earnings. In making determinations under this clause, the Commissioner shall also take into account any documentary or other evidence of earnings derived from noncovered service by an individual which is provided by the individual to the Commissioner and which the Commissioner considers appropriate as a reasonable basis for treatment of such earnings as recorded noncovered earnings.

''(D) Upon the death of an individual whose primary insurance amount is computed or recomputed under this paragraph, such primary insurance amount shall be computed or recomputed under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

''(E) In the case of any individual whose primary insurance amount would be computed under this paragraph who first becomes entitled after 1985 to a monthly periodic payment made by a foreign employer or foreign country that is based in whole or in part upon noncovered service, the primary insurance amount of such individual shall be computed or recomputed under paragraph (7) or paragraph (1), as applicable, for months beginning with the first month of the individual's initial entitlement to such monthly periodic payment.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 215(a)(7)(A) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(a)(7)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i)—

(A) by striking ''after 1985'' and inserting ''after 1985 and before 2068''; and

(B) by striking ''or'' at the end;

(2) in clause (ii)—

(A) by striking ''after 1985'' each place it appears and inserting ''after 1985 and before 2068''; and

(B) by adding ''or'' at the end;

(3) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

''(iii) is an individual described in paragraph (8)(E),''; and

(4) by striking ''hereafter in this paragraph and in subsection (d)(3)'' and inserting ''in this paragraph, paragraphs (8) and (9), and subsection (d)(3)''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to monthly insurance benefits payable on or after January 1, 2025.

SEC. 3. BENEFIT CALCULATION DURING TRANSITION PERIOD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 215(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(a)), as amended by section 2, is further amended by inserting after paragraph (8) the following:

''(9) In the case of an individual whose primary insurance amount would be computed under paragraph (1) of this subsection—

''(A) who first becomes eligible for an old-age or disability insurance benefit after 2024 and before 2068,

''(B) who subsequently becomes entitled to such benefit, and

''(C) who has earnings derived from noncovered service performed in a year after 1977,

the primary insurance amount of such individual shall be the higher of the amount computed or recomputed under paragraph (7) without regard to this paragraph or the amount that would be computed or recomputed under paragraph (8) if the individual were an individual described in subparagraph (A) of such paragraph.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 215(a)(7)(A) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(a)(7)(A)), as amended by section 2(b), is further amended by striking ''shall be computed or recomputed'' and inserting ''shall, subject to paragraph (9), be computed or recomputed''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to monthly insurance benefits payable on or after January 1, 2025.

SEC. 4. ADDITIONAL MONTHLY PAYMENT FOR INDIVIDUALS WHOSE BENEFIT AMOUNT IS REDUCED BY THE WINDFALL ELIMINATION PROVISION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 215(a) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(a)), as amended by sections 2 and 3, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(10)(A) For any month beginning at least 270 days after the date of enactment of the Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act of 2024, the Commissioner of Social Security shall, subject to subparagraphs (C) and (D), make an additional monthly payment of $100 to each individual who is an eligible individual for such month, and an additional monthly payment of $50 to each individual (other than an eligible individual) who is entitled to a benefit under section 202 for such month on the basis of the wages and self-employment income of such eligible individual.

''(B) For purposes of this paragraph, the term 'eligible individual' for a month means an individual who—

''(i)(I) first becomes eligible for an old-age or disability insurance benefit under this title before 2025, or

''(II) is an individual described in paragraph (8)(E), and

''(ii) is entitled to an old-age or disability insurance benefit under this title for such month based on a primary insurance amount that was computed or recomputed under paragraph (7) (and not subsequently recomputed under any other paragraph of this subsection).

''(C) In any case in which this title provides that no monthly benefit under section 202 or 223 shall be paid to an individual for a month, no additional monthly payment shall be paid to the individual for such month. This subparagraph shall not apply in the case of an individual whose monthly benefit under section 202 or 223 is reduced, regardless of the amount of the reduction, based on the individual's receipt of other income or benefits for such month or the application of section 203(a) or due to the adjustment or recovery of an overpayment under section 204.

''(D)(i) An individual is not entitled to receive more than one additional monthly payment for a month under this paragraph.

''(ii) An eligible individual who is entitled to a benefit under section 202 on the basis of the wages and self-employment income of another eligible individual for a month shall receive an additional monthly payment under this paragraph in the amount of $100 for such month.

''(E) Except for purposes of adjustment or recovery of an overpayment under section 204, an additional monthly payment under this paragraph shall not be subject to any reduction or deduction under this title.

''(F) Whenever benefit amounts under this title are increased by any percentage effective with any month as a result of a determination made under subsection (i), each of the dollar amounts in subparagraph (A) shall be increased by the same percentage for months beginning with such month.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to monthly insurance benefits payable for months beginning at least 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 5. REPORTING OF NONCOVERED EARNINGS ON SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT STATEMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1143(a)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b–13(a)(2)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) through (E) as subparagraphs (C) through (F); and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

''(B) the amount of earnings derived by the eligible individual from service performed after 1977 which did not constitute employment (as defined in section 210), not including service as a member of a uniformed service (as defined in section 210(m)), as shown by the records of the Commissioner at the date of the request;''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to Social Security account statements issued on or after January 1, 2025.

SEC. 6. STUDY ON PARTNERING WITH STATE AND LOCAL PENSION SYSTEMS.

(a) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner of Social Security shall study and test the administrative feasibility of partnering with State and local pension systems, or other governmental entities, to improve the collection and sharing of information relating to State and local noncovered pensions.

(2) COORDINATION WITH STATE AND LOCAL PENSION SYSTEMS.—In conducting the study described in paragraph (1), the Commissioner shall coordinate with State and local pension systems that reflect the diversity of systems and individual experiences to explore the development of automated data exchange agreements that facilitate reporting of information relating to noncovered pensions.

(b) REPORT.—The Commissioner of Social Security shall conclude the study described in subsection (a) not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act. As soon as possible after conclusion of the study and not later than 4½ years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commissioner shall submit to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate a report on the results of the study. Such report shall include the following:

(1) A discussion of how the automated data exchange agreements could be implemented to cover noncovered pensions nationally, including the range of implementation timelines across State and local pension systems, or with other governmental entities.

(2) An analysis of the barriers to developing automated data exchange agreements and lessons learned that can help address these barriers.

(3) A description of alternative methods for obtaining information related to noncovered pensions, and an analysis of the barriers to obtaining noncovered pension data through such methods.

(4) An explanation of how coverage information is obtained by the Social Security Administration when an individual purchases service credits to apply to a new covered or noncovered pension after moving from another covered or noncovered pension within the State or in another State.

(5) An estimate of the total amount, as of the date of the enactment of this Act, of noncovered pensions not reported to the Social Security Administration as a result of noncompliance with voluntary reporting policies.

(c) STATE AND LOCAL PENSION INFORMATION TO BE REQUESTED BY THE COMMISSIONER.—Section 202 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 402) is amended by inserting after subsection (l) the following:

''(m) STATE AND LOCAL PENSION INFORMATION TO BE REQUESTED BY THE COMMISSIONER.—

''(1) The Commissioner may partner with States to request information, including the information specified in paragraph (2), with respect to any designated distribution (as defined in section 3405(e)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) from an employer deferred compensation plan (as defined in section 3405(e)(5) of such Code) of the State (or political subdivision thereof) to a participant of such plan in any case in which any portion of such participant's earnings for service under such plan did not constitute 'employment' as defined in section 210 for purposes of this title.

''(2) The information specified in this paragraph is the following:

''(A) The name and Social Security account number of the participant receiving the designated distribution.

''(B) The dollar amount of the designated distribution and the date paid.

''(C) The date on which the participant initially became eligible for a designated distribution under the plan and, if different, the date of payment of the initial designated distribution.

''(D) The dates of each period of service under the plan that did not constitute 'employment' as defined in section 210 for purposes of this title, and the dates of any other period of service under the plan.''.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term ''noncovered pension'' means a pension any part of which is based on noncovered service (within the meaning of section 215(a)(7) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(a)(7))); and

(2) the term ''covered pension'' means any other pension.

SA 3337. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5009, to reauthorize wildlife habitat and conservation programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

TITLE ___—REPUBLIC ACT

SEC. ___01. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Reforming Emergency Powers to Uphold the Balances and Limitations Inherent in the Constitution Act'' or the ''REPUBLIC Act''.

Subtitle A—Congressional Review of National Emergencies

SEC. ___11. CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF NATIONAL EMERGENCIES.

The National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.) is amended by inserting after title I the following:

''TITLE II—DECLARATIONS OF FUTURE NATIONAL EMERGENCIES

''SEC. 201. DECLARATIONS OF NATIONAL EMERGENCIES.

''(a) AUTHORITY TO DECLARE NATIONAL EMERGENCIES.—With respect to Acts of Congress authorizing the exercise, during the period of a national emergency, of any special or extraordinary power, the President is authorized to declare such a national emergency by proclamation. Such proclamation shall immediately be transmitted to Congress and published in the Federal Register.

''(b) SPECIFICATION OF PROVISIONS OF LAW TO BE EXERCISED.—No powers or authorities made available by statute for use during the period of a national emergency shall be exercised unless and until the President specifies the provisions of law under which the President proposes that the President or other officers will act in—

''(1) a proclamation declaring a national emergency under subsection (a); or

''(2) one or more Executive orders relating to the emergency published in the Federal Register and transmitted to Congress.

''(c) PROHIBITION ON SUBSEQUENT ACTIONS IF EMERGENCIES NOT APPROVED.—

''(1) SUBSEQUENT DECLARATIONS.—If a joint resolution of approval is not enacted under section 203 with respect to a national emergency before the expiration of the 30-day period described in section 202(a), or with respect to a national emergency proposed to be renewed under section 202(b), the President may not, during the remainder of the term of office of that President, declare a subsequent national emergency under subsection (a) with respect to the same circumstances.

''(2) EXERCISE OF AUTHORITIES.—If a joint resolution of approval is not enacted under section 203 with respect to a power or authority specified by the President in a proclamation under subsection (a) or an Executive order under subsection (b)(2) with respect to a national emergency, the President may not, during the remainder of the term of office of that President, exercise that power or authority with respect to that emergency.

''(d) EFFECT OF FUTURE LAWS.—No law enacted after the date of the enactment of this Act shall supersede this title unless it does so in specific terms, referring to this title, and declaring that the new law supersedes the provisions of this title.

''SEC. 202. EFFECTIVE PERIODS OF NATIONAL EMERGENCIES.

''(a) TEMPORARY EFFECTIVE PERIODS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A declaration of a national emergency shall remain in effect for a period of 30 calendar days from the issuance of the proclamation under section 201(a) (not counting the day on which the proclamation was issued) and shall terminate when such period expires unless there is enacted into law a joint resolution of approval under section 203 with respect to the proclamation.

''(2) EXERCISE OF POWERS AND AUTHORITIES.—Any emergency power or authority made available under a provision of law specified pursuant to section 201(b) may be exercised pursuant to a declaration of a national emergency for a period of 30 calendar days from the issuance of the proclamation or Executive order (not counting the day on which such proclamation or Executive order was issued). That power or authority may not be exercised after such period expires unless there is enacted into law a joint resolution of approval under section 203 approving—

''(A) the proclamation of the national emergency or the Executive order; and

''(B) the exercise of the power or authority specified by the President in such proclamation or Executive order.

''(3) EXCEPTION IF CONGRESS IS UNABLE TO CONVENE.—If Congress is physically unable to convene as a result of an armed attack upon the United States or another national emergency, the 30-day periods described in paragraphs (1) and (2) shall begin on the first day Congress convenes for the first time after the attack or other emergency.

''(b) RENEWAL OF NATIONAL EMERGENCIES.—A national emergency declared by the President under section 201(a) or previously renewed under this subsection, and not already

terminated pursuant to subsection (a) or (c), shall terminate on the date that is one year after the President transmitted to Congress the proclamation declaring the emergency or Congress approved a previous renewal pursuant to this subsection, unless—

''(1) the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to Congress an Executive order renewing the emergency; and

''(2) there is enacted into law a joint resolution of approval renewing the emergency pursuant to section 203 before the termination of the emergency or previous renewal of the emergency.

''(c) TERMINATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Any national emergency declared by the President under section 201(a) shall terminate on the earliest of—

''(A) the date provided for in subsection (a);

''(B) the date provided for in subsection (b);

''(C) the date specified in an Act of Congress terminating the emergency; or

''(D) the date specified in a proclamation of the President terminating the emergency.

''(2) EFFECT OF TERMINATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Effective on the date of the termination of a national emergency under paragraph (1)—

''(i) except as provided by subparagraph (B), any powers or authorities exercised by reason of the emergency shall cease to be exercised;

''(ii) any amounts reprogrammed or transferred under any provision of law with respect to the emergency that remain unobligated on that date shall be returned and made available for the purpose for which such amounts were appropriated; and

''(iii) any contracts entered into pursuant to authorities provided as a result of the emergency shall be terminated.

''(B) SAVINGS PROVISION.—The termination of a national emergency shall not affect—

''(i) any legal action taken or pending legal proceeding not finally concluded or determined on the date of the termination under paragraph (1);

''(ii) any legal action or legal proceeding based on any act committed prior to that date; or

''(iii) any rights or duties that matured or penalties that were incurred prior to that date.

''SEC. 203. REVIEW BY CONGRESS OF NATIONAL EMERGENCIES.

''(a) JOINT RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'joint resolution of approval' means a joint resolution that contains only the following provisions after its resolving clause:

''(1) A provision approving—

''(A) a proclamation of a national emergency made under section 201(a);

''(B) an Executive order issued under section 201(b)(2); or

''(C) an Executive order issued under section 202(b).

''(2) A provision approving a list of all or a portion of the provisions of law specified by the President under section 201(b) in the proclamation or Executive order that is the subject of the joint resolution.

''(b) PROCEDURES FOR CONSIDERATION OF JOINT RESOLUTIONS OF APPROVAL.—

''(1) INTRODUCTION.—After the President transmits to Congress a proclamation declaring a national emergency under section 201(a), or an Executive order specifying emergency powers or authorities under section 201(b)(2) or renewing a national emergency under section 202(b), a joint resolution of approval may be introduced in either House of Congress by any member of that House.

''(2) REQUESTS TO CONVENE CONGRESS DURING RECESSES.—If, when the President transmits to Congress a proclamation declaring a national emergency under section 201(a), or an Executive order specifying emergency powers or authorities under section 201(b)(2) or renewing a national emergency under section 202(b), Congress has adjourned sine die or has adjourned for any period in excess of 3 calendar days, the majority leader of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, or their respective designees, acting jointly after consultation with and the concurrence of the minority leader of the Senate and the minority leader of the House, shall notify the Members of the Senate and House, respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate if, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

''(3) CONSIDERATION IN SENATE.—In the Senate, the following shall apply:

''(A) REPORTING AND DISCHARGE.—If the committee to which a joint resolution of approval has been referred has not reported it at the end of 10 calendar days after its introduction, that committee shall be automatically discharged from further consideration of the resolution and it shall be placed on the calendar.

''(B) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.—Notwithstanding Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, when the committee to which a joint resolution of approval is referred has reported the resolution, or when that committee is discharged under subparagraph (A) from further consideration of the resolution, it is at any time thereafter in order (even though a previous motion to the same effect has been disagreed to) for a motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution, and all points of order against the joint resolution (and against consideration of the joint resolution) are waived. The motion to proceed is subject to 4 hours of debate divided equally between those favoring and those opposing the joint resolution of approval. The motion is not subject to amendment, or to a motion to postpone, or to a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business.

''(C) FLOOR CONSIDERATION.—A joint resolution of approval shall be subject to 10 hours of consideration, to be divided evenly between the proponents and opponents of the resolution.

''(D) AMENDMENTS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), no amendments shall be in order with respect to a joint resolution of approval.

''(ii) AMENDMENTS TO STRIKE OR ADD SPECIFIED PROVISIONS OF LAW.—Clause (i) shall not apply with respect to any amendment—

''(I) to strike a provision or provisions of law from the list required by subsection (a)(2); or

''(II) to add to that list a provision or provisions of law specified by the President under section 201(b) in the proclamation or Executive order that is the subject of the joint resolution of approval.

''(E) MOTION TO RECONSIDER FINAL VOTE.—A motion to reconsider a vote on passage of a joint resolution of approval shall not be in order.

''(F) APPEALS.—Points of order, including questions of relevancy, and appeals from the decision of the Presiding Officer, shall be decided without debate.

''(4) CONSIDERATION IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—In the House of Representatives, the following shall apply:

''(A) REPORTING AND DISCHARGE.—If the committee to which a joint resolution of approval has been referred has not reported it to the House within 10 calendar days after the date of referral, such committee shall be discharged from further consideration of the joint resolution.

''(B) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the third legislative day after the committee to which a joint resolution of approval has been referred reports it to the House or has been discharged from further consideration, and except as provided in clause (ii), it shall be in order to move to proceed to consider the joint resolution in the House. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion. The motion shall not be debatable. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is disposed of shall not be in order.

''(ii) SUBSEQUENT MOTIONS TO PROCEED TO JOINT RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL.—A motion to proceed to consider a joint resolution of approval shall not be in order after the House has disposed of another motion to proceed on that resolution.

''(C) FLOOR CONSIDERATION.—Upon adoption of the motion to proceed in accordance with subparagraph (B)(i), the joint resolution of approval shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution to final passage without intervening motion except two hours of debate, which shall include debate on any amendments, equally divided and controlled by the sponsor of the joint resolution (or a designee) and an opponent. A motion to reconsider the vote on passage of the joint resolution shall not be in order.

''(D) AMENDMENTS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), no amendments shall be in order with respect to a joint resolution of approval.

''(ii) AMENDMENTS TO STRIKE OR ADD SPECIFIED PROVISIONS OF LAW.—Clause (i) shall not apply with respect to any amendment—

''(I) to strike a provision or provisions of law from the list required by subsection (a)(2); or

''(II) to add to that list a provision or provisions of law specified by the President under section 201(b) in the proclamation or Executive order that is the subject of the joint resolution.

''(5) RECEIPT OF RESOLUTION FROM OTHER HOUSE.—If, before passing a joint resolution of approval, one House receives from the other a joint resolution of approval from the other House, then—

''(A) the joint resolution of the other House shall not be referred to a committee and shall be deemed to have been discharged from committee on the day it is received; and

''(B) the procedures set forth in paragraphs (3) and (4), as applicable, shall apply in the receiving House to the joint resolution received from the other House to the same extent as such procedures apply to a joint resolution of the receiving House.

''(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The enactment of a joint resolution of approval under this section shall not be interpreted to serve as a grant or modification by Congress of statutory authority for the emergency powers of the President.

''(d) RULES OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE.—This section is enacted by Congress—

''(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the Senate and the House of Representatives, respectively, and as such is deemed a part of the rules of each House, respectively, but applicable only with respect to the procedure to be followed in the House in the case of joint resolutions described in this section, and supersedes other rules only to the extent that it is inconsistent with such other rules; and

''(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either House to change the rules (so far as relating to the procedure of

that House) at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of that House.

''SEC. 204. APPLICABILITY.

''This title shall apply to a national emergency pursuant to which the President proposes to exercise emergency powers or authorities made available under any provision of law that is not a provision of law described in section 604(a).''.

SEC. ___12. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

Section 401 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1641) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the first sentence by inserting '', and make publicly available'' after ''transmit to Congress''; and

(B) in the second sentence by inserting '', and make publicly available,'' before ''a final report''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(d) REPORT ON EMERGENCIES.—The President shall transmit to the entities described in subsection (g), with any proclamation declaring a national emergency under section 201(a) or any Executive order specifying emergency powers or authorities under section 201(b)(2) or renewing a national emergency under section 202(b), a report, in writing, that includes the following:

''(1) A description of the circumstances necessitating the declaration of a national emergency, the renewal of such an emergency, or the use of a new emergency authority specified in the Executive order, as the case may be.

''(2) The estimated duration of the national emergency, or a statement that the duration of the national emergency cannot reasonably be estimated at the time of transmission of the report.

''(3) A summary of the actions the President or other officers intend to take, including any reprogramming or transfer of funds, and the statutory authorities the President and such officers expect to rely on in addressing the national emergency.

''(4) The total expenditures estimated to be incurred by the United States Government during such six-month period which are directly attributable to the exercise of powers and authorities conferred by such declaration.

''(5) In the case of a renewal of a national emergency, a summary of the actions the President or other officers have taken in the preceding one-year period, including any reprogramming or transfer of funds, to address the emergency.

''(e) PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO CONGRESS.—The President shall provide to the entities described in subsection (g) such other information as such entities may request in connection with any national emergency in effect under title II.

''(f) PERIODIC REPORTS ON STATUS OF EMERGENCIES.—If the President declares a national emergency under section 201(a), the President shall, not less frequently than every 6 months for the duration of the emergency, report to the entities described in subsection (g) on the status of the emergency, the total expenditures incurred by the United States Government, and the actions the President or other officers have taken and authorities the President and such officers have relied on in addressing the emergency.

''(g) ENTITIES DESCRIBED.—The entities described in this subsection are—

''(1) the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

''(2) minority leader of the House of Representatives;

''(3) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives; and

''(4) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.''.

SEC. ___13. EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN NATIONAL EMERGENCIES INVOKING INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY ECONOMIC POWERS ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), as amended by this subtitle, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''TITLE VI—DECLARATIONS OF CERTAIN EMERGENCIES INVOKING INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY ECONOMIC POWERS ACT

''SEC. 604. APPLICABILITY.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—This title shall apply to a national emergency pursuant to which the President proposes to exercise emergency powers or authorities made available under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

''(b) EFFECT OF ADDITIONAL POWERS AND AUTHORITIES.—This title shall not apply to a national emergency or the exercise of emergency powers and authorities pursuant to the national emergency if, in addition to the exercise of emergency powers and authorities described in subsection (a), the President proposes to exercise, pursuant to the national emergency, any emergency powers and authorities under any other provision of law.''.

(b) TRANSFER.—Sections 201, 202, and 301 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), as such sections appeared on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, are—

(1) transferred to title VI of such Act (as added by subsection (a));

(2) inserted before section 604 of such title (as added by subsection (a)); and

(3) redesignated as sections 601, 602, and 603, respectively.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Title II of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), as such title appeared the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, is amended by striking the heading for such title.

SEC. ___14. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) NATIONAL EMERGENCIES ACT.—Title III of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1631) is repealed.

(b) INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY ECONOMIC POWERS ACT.—Section 207(b) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1706) is amended by striking ''concurrent resolution'' each place it appears and inserting ''joint resolution''.

SEC. ___15. EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICABILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—This subtitle and the amendments made by this subtitle shall—

(1) take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) except as provided in subsection (b), apply with respect to national emergencies declared under section 201 of the National Emergencies Act on or after such date.

(b) APPLICABILITY TO RENEWALS OF EXISTING EMERGENCIES.—With respect to a national emergency declared under section 201 of the National Emergencies Act before the date of the enactment of this Act that would expire or be renewed under section 202(d) of that Act (as in effect on the day before such date of enactment), that national emergency shall be subject to the requirements for renewal under section 202(b) of that Act, as amended by section ___11.

(c) SUPERSESSION.—This subtitle and the amendments made by this subtitle shall supersede title II of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.) as such title was in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act.

Subtitle B—Limitations on Emergency Authorities

SEC. ___21. PROTECTIONS FOR UNITED STATES PERSONS WITH RESPECT TO USE OF AUTHORITIES UNDER INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY ECONOMIC POWERS ACT.

The International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 203 the following:

''SEC. 203A. PROTECTIONS FOR UNITED STATES PERSONS.

''(a) LIMITATIONS FOR NECESSITIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided by paragraph (2) and in accordance with this section, no authority provided under section 203 may be exercised to target a United States person.

''(2) EXCEPTION FOR ISSUANCE OF GENERAL LICENSES.—An authority provided under section 203 may be exercised to target a United States person if the President has, before using the authority, issued a general license that ensures that the United States person has sufficient access to the necessities of life, including food, nutritional support, water, shelter, clothing, sanitation, medicine, health care and other vital services, and gainful employment where necessary to provide the United States person a means for subsistence.

''(3) DUE PROCESS FOR UNITED STATES PERSONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—When taking an action pursuant to authority provided by section 203 to target a United States person, the President shall—

''(i) provide contemporaneous notice of the action to the United States person;

''(ii) not later than one week after taking the action, provide the United States person with the record on which the decision to take the action was based, including an unclassified summary, or a redacted version, of any classified information that provides the United States person with substantially the same ability to respond to that information as the classified information;

''(iii) provide the United States person with the opportunity to request review of the decision and to submit information in support of that request;

''(iv) provide the United States person with the opportunity for an administrative hearing not later than 90 days after requesting a review under clause (iii), unless the United States person agrees to a longer period; and

''(v) render a written decision on a request for review under clause (iii) not later than 90 days after the hearing under clause (iv), or, if no such hearing is requested, not later than 90 days after the later of—

''(I) the request for review; or

''(II) the submission of information in support of that request.

''(B) FAILURE TO RENDER TIMELY DECISION.—Failure to render a decision within the time frame specified in subparagraph (A)(v) shall be considered an agency action for purposes of section 702 of title 5, United States Code.

''(b) WARRANT FOR SEIZURE OF PROPERTY OF UNITED STATES PERSONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—When taking an action pursuant to authority provided by section 203 to target a United States person, the President may not block or otherwise prevent the access of the United States person to property in which the United States person has an ownership interest except pursuant to a warrant issued using the procedures described in the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure (or, in the case of a court-martial or other proceeding under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (chapter 47 of title 10, United States Code), issued under section 846 of title 10, United States Code (article 46 of

the Uniform Code of Military Justice), in accordance with regulations prescribed by the President) by a court of competent jurisdiction.

''(2) DELAYED WARRANTS.—To the extent consistent with the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, a court shall permit the temporary blocking of property under section 203 without a warrant on an emergency basis, or use other means lawfully available to the court, to enable the Federal Government to identify the property that is subject to blocking while reducing the risk of property flight.

''(c) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A United States person that is the target of an action taken by the President pursuant to any authority provided under section 203 may bring an action in a United States court of competent jurisdiction, after exhaustion of any available administrative remedies, to obtain judicial review of the lawfulness of that action, including whether the action was authorized by the Executive order or orders specifying the measures to be taken under section 203 in response to a determination issued under section 202.

''(2) CONDUCT OF REVIEW.—In an action brought under paragraph (1)—

''(A) the review of the court shall be de novo;

''(B) any party may introduce evidence not included in the administrative record;

''(C) any administrative record or portions thereof may be entered into evidence, and questions of authentication or hearsay shall bear on the weight to be accorded the evidence rather than its admissibility;

''(D) classified information shall be handled in accordance with the Classified Information Procedures Act (18 U.S.C. App.), except that references to the 'defendant' in such Act shall be deemed to apply to the plaintiff; and

''(E) the court shall have the authority to order injunctive relief, actual damages, and attorneys' fees.

''(3) OTHER MEANS OF REVIEW.—The availability of judicial review under this subsection shall not preclude other available means of judicial review, including under section 702 of title 5, United States Code, except that a person may not exercise the right to judicial review under more than one provision of law.

''(d) UNITED STATES PERSON DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'United States person' means—

''(1) a United States national; or

''(2) an entity—

''(A) organized under the laws of the United States or any jurisdiction within the United States; and

''(B) in which more than 50 percent of the controlling interest is owned by a person described in paragraph (1).''.

SEC. ___22. EXCLUSION OF AUTHORITY TO IMPOSE DUTIES AND IMPORT QUOTAS FROM INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY ECONOMIC POWERS ACT.

Section 203 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

''(c)(1) The authority granted to the President by this section does not include the authority to impose duties or tariff-rate quotas or (subject to paragraph (2)) other quotas on articles entering the United States.

''(2) The limitation under paragraph (1) does not prohibit the President from excluding all articles, or all of a certain type of article, imported from a country from entering the United States.''.

SEC. ___23. PRESIDENTIAL WAR POWERS UNDER COMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1934.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 706 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 606) is amended—

(1) by striking subsections (c) through (g); and

(2) by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (c).

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 309(h) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 309(h)) is amended—

(1) by inserting ''and'' before ''(2)''; and

(2) by striking ''Act;'' and all that follows and inserting ''Act.''.

SEC. ___24. DISCLOSURE TO CONGRESS OF PRESIDENTIAL EMERGENCY ACTION DOCUMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 days after the conclusion of the process for approval, adoption, or revision of any presidential emergency action document, the President shall submit that document to the appropriate congressional committees.

(b) DOCUMENTS IN EXISTENCE BEFORE DATE OF ENACTMENT.—Not later than 15 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees all presidential emergency action documents in existence before such date of enactment.

(c) OVERSIGHT.—

(1) SENATE.—The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate shall have—

(A) continuing legislative oversight jurisdiction in the Senate with respect to the proposal, creation, implementation, and execution of presidential emergency action documents; and

(B) access to any and all presidential emergency action documents.

(2) HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—The Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives shall have—

(A) continuing legislative oversight jurisdiction in the House of Representatives with respect to the proposal, creation, implementation, and execution of presidential emergency action documents; and

(B) access to any and all presidential emergency action documents.

(3) DUTY TO COOPERATE.—All officers and employees of any Federal agency shall have the duty to cooperate with the exercise of oversight jurisdiction described in this subsection.

(4) SECURITY CLEARANCES.—The chairpersons and ranking members of the appropriate congressional committees, and designated staff of those committees, shall be granted all security clearances required to access, and granted access to, presidential emergency action documents, including under relevant Presidential or agency special access and compartmented access programs.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

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

(B) the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives.

(2) FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term ''Federal agency''—

(A) has the meaning given the term ''agency'' in section 552(f) of title 5, United States Code; and

(B) includes the Executive Office of the President, the Executive Office of the Vice President, the Office of Management and Budget, and the National Security Council.

(3) PRESIDENTIAL EMERGENCY ACTION DOCUMENT.—The term ''presidential emergency action document'' refers to any document created by any Federal agency before, on, or after the date of the enactment of this Act, that is—

(A) designated as a presidential emergency action document or presidential emergency action directive;

(B) designed to implement a presidential decision or transmit a presidential request when an emergency disrupts normal executive, legislative, judicial, or other Federal governmental processes;

(C) a Presidential Policy Directive, regardless of whether the directive is available to the public, that triggers any change in policies, procedures, or operations of the Federal Government upon the declaration by the President of an emergency; or

(D) any other document, briefing, or plan, regardless of whether the document, briefing, or plan exists in any tangible or written form, that triggers any change in operations of the Federal Government upon the declaration by the President of an emergency.

SA 3338. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5009, to reauthorize wildlife habitat and conservation programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

TITLE ____—REPUBLIC ACT

SEC. ___01. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Reforming Emergency Powers to Uphold the Balances and Limitations Inherent in the Constitution Act'' or the ''REPUBLIC Act''.

Subtitle A—Congressional Review of National Emergencies

SEC. ___11. CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF NATIONAL EMERGENCIES.

The National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.) is amended by inserting after title I the following:

''TITLE II—DECLARATIONS OF FUTURE NATIONAL EMERGENCIES

''SEC. 201. DECLARATIONS OF NATIONAL EMERGENCIES.

''(a) AUTHORITY TO DECLARE NATIONAL EMERGENCIES.—With respect to Acts of Congress authorizing the exercise, during the period of a national emergency, of any special or extraordinary power, the President is authorized to declare such a national emergency by proclamation. Such proclamation shall immediately be transmitted to Congress and published in the Federal Register.

''(b) SPECIFICATION OF PROVISIONS OF LAW TO BE EXERCISED.—No powers or authorities made available by statute for use during the period of a national emergency shall be exercised unless and until the President specifies the provisions of law under which the President proposes that the President or other officers will act in—

''(1) a proclamation declaring a national emergency under subsection (a); or

''(2) one or more Executive orders relating to the emergency published in the Federal Register and transmitted to Congress.

''(c) PROHIBITION ON SUBSEQUENT ACTIONS IF EMERGENCIES NOT APPROVED.—

''(1) SUBSEQUENT DECLARATIONS.—If a joint resolution of approval is not enacted under section 203 with respect to a national emergency before the expiration of the 30-day period described in section 202(a), or with respect to a national emergency proposed to be renewed under section 202(b), the President may not, during the remainder of the term of office of that President, declare a subsequent national emergency under subsection (a) with respect to the same circumstances.

''(2) EXERCISE OF AUTHORITIES.—If a joint resolution of approval is not enacted under section 203 with respect to a power or authority specified by the President in a proclamation under subsection (a) or an Executive order under subsection (b)(2) with respect to a national emergency, the President may not, during the remainder of the term of office of that President, exercise that power or authority with respect to that emergency.

''(d) EFFECT OF FUTURE LAWS.—No law enacted after the date of the enactment of this Act shall supersede this title unless it does so in specific terms, referring to this title, and declaring that the new law supersedes the provisions of this title.

''SEC. 202. EFFECTIVE PERIODS OF NATIONAL EMERGENCIES.

''(a) TEMPORARY EFFECTIVE PERIODS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A declaration of a national emergency shall remain in effect for a period of 30 calendar days from the issuance of the proclamation under section 201(a) (not counting the day on which the proclamation was issued) and shall terminate when such period expires unless there is enacted into law a joint resolution of approval under section 203 with respect to the proclamation.

''(2) EXERCISE OF POWERS AND AUTHORITIES.—Any emergency power or authority made available under a provision of law specified pursuant to section 201(b) may be exercised pursuant to a declaration of a national emergency for a period of 30 calendar days from the issuance of the proclamation or Executive order (not counting the day on which such proclamation or Executive order was issued). That power or authority may not be exercised after such period expires unless there is enacted into law a joint resolution of approval under section 203 approving—

''(A) the proclamation of the national emergency or the Executive order; and

''(B) the exercise of the power or authority specified by the President in such proclamation or Executive order.

''(3) EXCEPTION IF CONGRESS IS UNABLE TO CONVENE.—If Congress is physically unable to convene as a result of an armed attack upon the United States or another national emergency, the 30-day periods described in paragraphs (1) and (2) shall begin on the first day Congress convenes for the first time after the attack or other emergency.

''(b) RENEWAL OF NATIONAL EMERGENCIES.—A national emergency declared by the President under section 201(a) or previously renewed under this subsection, and not already terminated pursuant to subsection (a) or (c), shall terminate on the date that is one year after the President transmitted to Congress the proclamation declaring the emergency or Congress approved a previous renewal pursuant to this subsection, unless—

''(1) the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to Congress an Executive order renewing the emergency; and

''(2) there is enacted into law a joint resolution of approval renewing the emergency pursuant to section 203 before the termination of the emergency or previous renewal of the emergency.

''(c) TERMINATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Any national emergency declared by the President under section 201(a) shall terminate on the earliest of—

''(A) the date provided for in subsection (a);

''(B) the date provided for in subsection (b);

''(C) the date specified in an Act of Congress terminating the emergency; or

''(D) the date specified in a proclamation of the President terminating the emergency.

''(2) EFFECT OF TERMINATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Effective on the date of the termination of a national emergency under paragraph (1)—

''(i) except as provided by subparagraph (B), any powers or authorities exercised by reason of the emergency shall cease to be exercised;

''(ii) any amounts reprogrammed or transferred under any provision of law with respect to the emergency that remain unobligated on that date shall be returned and made available for the purpose for which such amounts were appropriated; and

''(iii) any contracts entered into pursuant to authorities provided as a result of the emergency shall be terminated.

''(B) SAVINGS PROVISION.—The termination of a national emergency shall not affect—

''(i) any legal action taken or pending legal proceeding not finally concluded or determined on the date of the termination under paragraph (1);

''(ii) any legal action or legal proceeding based on any act committed prior to that date; or

''(iii) any rights or duties that matured or penalties that were incurred prior to that date.

''SEC. 203. REVIEW BY CONGRESS OF NATIONAL EMERGENCIES.

''(a) JOINT RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'joint resolution of approval' means a joint resolution that contains only the following provisions after its resolving clause:

''(1) A provision approving—

''(A) a proclamation of a national emergency made under section 201(a);

''(B) an Executive order issued under section 201(b)(2); or

''(C) an Executive order issued under section 202(b).

''(2) A provision approving a list of all or a portion of the provisions of law specified by the President under section 201(b) in the proclamation or Executive order that is the subject of the joint resolution.

''(b) PROCEDURES FOR CONSIDERATION OF JOINT RESOLUTIONS OF APPROVAL.—

''(1) INTRODUCTION.—After the President transmits to Congress a proclamation declaring a national emergency under section 201(a), or an Executive order specifying emergency powers or authorities under section 201(b)(2) or renewing a national emergency under section 202(b), a joint resolution of approval may be introduced in either House of Congress by any member of that House.

''(2) REQUESTS TO CONVENE CONGRESS DURING RECESSES.—If, when the President transmits to Congress a proclamation declaring a national emergency under section 201(a), or an Executive order specifying emergency powers or authorities under section 201(b)(2) or renewing a national emergency under section 202(b), Congress has adjourned sine die or has adjourned for any period in excess of 3 calendar days, the majority leader of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, or their respective designees, acting jointly after consultation with and the concurrence of the minority leader of the Senate and the minority leader of the House, shall notify the Members of the Senate and House, respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate if, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

''(3) CONSIDERATION IN SENATE.—In the Senate, the following shall apply:

''(A) REPORTING AND DISCHARGE.—If the committee to which a joint resolution of approval has been referred has not reported it at the end of 10 calendar days after its introduction, that committee shall be automatically discharged from further consideration of the resolution and it shall be placed on the calendar.

''(B) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.—Notwithstanding Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, when the committee to which a joint resolution of approval is referred has reported the resolution, or when that committee is discharged under subparagraph (A) from further consideration of the resolution, it is at any time thereafter in order (even though a previous motion to the same effect has been disagreed to) for a motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution, and all points of order against the joint resolution (and against consideration of the joint resolution) are waived. The motion to proceed is subject to 4 hours of debate divided equally between those favoring and those opposing the joint resolution of approval. The motion is not subject to amendment, or to a motion to postpone, or to a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business.

''(C) FLOOR CONSIDERATION.—A joint resolution of approval shall be subject to 10 hours of consideration, to be divided evenly between the proponents and opponents of the resolution.

''(D) AMENDMENTS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), no amendments shall be in order with respect to a joint resolution of approval.

''(ii) AMENDMENTS TO STRIKE OR ADD SPECIFIED PROVISIONS OF LAW.—Clause (i) shall not apply with respect to any amendment—

''(I) to strike a provision or provisions of law from the list required by subsection (a)(2); or

''(II) to add to that list a provision or provisions of law specified by the President under section 201(b) in the proclamation or Executive order that is the subject of the joint resolution of approval.

''(E) MOTION TO RECONSIDER FINAL VOTE.—A motion to reconsider a vote on passage of a joint resolution of approval shall not be in order.

''(F) APPEALS.—Points of order, including questions of relevancy, and appeals from the decision of the Presiding Officer, shall be decided without debate.

''(4) CONSIDERATION IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—In the House of Representatives, the following shall apply:

''(A) REPORTING AND DISCHARGE.—If the committee to which a joint resolution of approval has been referred has not reported it to the House within 10 calendar days after the date of referral, such committee shall be discharged from further consideration of the joint resolution.

''(B) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the third legislative day after the committee to which a joint resolution of approval has been referred reports it to the House or has been discharged from further consideration, and except as provided in clause (ii), it shall be in order to move to proceed to consider the joint resolution in the House. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion. The motion shall not be debatable. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is disposed of shall not be in order.

''(ii) SUBSEQUENT MOTIONS TO PROCEED TO JOINT RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL.—A motion to proceed to consider a joint resolution of approval shall not be in order after the House has disposed of another motion to proceed on that resolution.

''(C) FLOOR CONSIDERATION.—Upon adoption of the motion to proceed in accordance with subparagraph (B)(i), the joint resolution of approval shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution to final passage without intervening motion except two hours of debate, which shall include debate on any amendments, equally divided and

controlled by the sponsor of the joint resolution (or a designee) and an opponent. A motion to reconsider the vote on passage of the joint resolution shall not be in order.

''(D) AMENDMENTS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), no amendments shall be in order with respect to a joint resolution of approval.

''(ii) AMENDMENTS TO STRIKE OR ADD SPECIFIED PROVISIONS OF LAW.—Clause (i) shall not apply with respect to any amendment—

''(I) to strike a provision or provisions of law from the list required by subsection (a)(2); or

''(II) to add to that list a provision or provisions of law specified by the President under section 201(b) in the proclamation or Executive order that is the subject of the joint resolution.

''(5) RECEIPT OF RESOLUTION FROM OTHER HOUSE.—If, before passing a joint resolution of approval, one House receives from the other a joint resolution of approval from the other House, then—

''(A) the joint resolution of the other House shall not be referred to a committee and shall be deemed to have been discharged from committee on the day it is received; and

''(B) the procedures set forth in paragraphs (3) and (4), as applicable, shall apply in the receiving House to the joint resolution received from the other House to the same extent as such procedures apply to a joint resolution of the receiving House.

''(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The enactment of a joint resolution of approval under this section shall not be interpreted to serve as a grant or modification by Congress of statutory authority for the emergency powers of the President.

''(d) RULES OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE.—This section is enacted by Congress—

''(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the Senate and the House of Representatives, respectively, and as such is deemed a part of the rules of each House, respectively, but applicable only with respect to the procedure to be followed in the House in the case of joint resolutions described in this section, and supersedes other rules only to the extent that it is inconsistent with such other rules; and

''(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either House to change the rules (so far as relating to the procedure of that House) at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of that House.

''SEC. 204. APPLICABILITY.

''This title shall apply to a national emergency pursuant to which the President proposes to exercise emergency powers or authorities made available under any provision of law that is not a provision of law described in section 604(a).''.

SEC. ___12. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

Section 401 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1641) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the first sentence by inserting '', and make publicly available'' after ''transmit to Congress''; and

(B) in the second sentence by inserting '', and make publicly available,'' before ''a final report''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(d) REPORT ON EMERGENCIES.—The President shall transmit to the entities described in subsection (g), with any proclamation declaring a national emergency under section 201(a) or any Executive order specifying emergency powers or authorities under section 201(b)(2) or renewing a national emergency under section 202(b), a report, in writing, that includes the following:

''(1) A description of the circumstances necessitating the declaration of a national emergency, the renewal of such an emergency, or the use of a new emergency authority specified in the Executive order, as the case may be.

''(2) The estimated duration of the national emergency, or a statement that the duration of the national emergency cannot reasonably be estimated at the time of transmission of the report.

''(3) A summary of the actions the President or other officers intend to take, including any reprogramming or transfer of funds, and the statutory authorities the President and such officers expect to rely on in addressing the national emergency.

''(4) The total expenditures estimated to be incurred by the United States Government during such six-month period which are directly attributable to the exercise of powers and authorities conferred by such declaration.

''(5) In the case of a renewal of a national emergency, a summary of the actions the President or other officers have taken in the preceding one-year period, including any reprogramming or transfer of funds, to address the emergency.

''(e) PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO CONGRESS.—The President shall provide to the entities described in subsection (g) such other information as such entities may request in connection with any national emergency in effect under title II.

''(f) PERIODIC REPORTS ON STATUS OF EMERGENCIES.—If the President declares a national emergency under section 201(a), the President shall, not less frequently than every 6 months for the duration of the emergency, report to the entities described in subsection (g) on the status of the emergency, the total expenditures incurred by the United States Government, and the actions the President or other officers have taken and authorities the President and such officers have relied on in addressing the emergency.

''(g) ENTITIES DESCRIBED.—The entities described in this subsection are—

''(1) the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

''(2) minority leader of the House of Representatives;

''(3) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives; and

''(4) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.''.

SEC. ___13. EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN NATIONAL EMERGENCIES INVOKING INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY ECONOMIC POWERS ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), as amended by this subtitle, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''TITLE VI—DECLARATIONS OF CERTAIN EMERGENCIES INVOKING INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY ECONOMIC POWERS ACT

''SEC. 604. APPLICABILITY.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—This title shall apply to a national emergency pursuant to which the President proposes to exercise emergency powers or authorities made available under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

''(b) EFFECT OF ADDITIONAL POWERS AND AUTHORITIES.—This title shall not apply to a national emergency or the exercise of emergency powers and authorities pursuant to the national emergency if, in addition to the exercise of emergency powers and authorities described in subsection (a), the President proposes to exercise, pursuant to the national emergency, any emergency powers and authorities under any other provision of law.''.

(b) TRANSFER.—Sections 201, 202, and 301 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), as such sections appeared on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, are—

(1) transferred to title VI of such Act (as added by subsection (a));

(2) inserted before section 604 of such title (as added by subsection (a)); and

(3) redesignated as sections 601, 602, and 603, respectively.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Title II of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), as such title appeared the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, is amended by striking the heading for such title.

SEC. ___14. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) NATIONAL EMERGENCIES ACT.—Title III of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1631) is repealed.

(b) INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY ECONOMIC POWERS ACT.—Section 207(b) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1706) is amended by striking ''concurrent resolution'' each place it appears and inserting ''joint resolution''.

SEC. ___15. EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICABILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—This subtitle and the amendments made by this subtitle shall—

(1) take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) except as provided in subsection (b), apply with respect to national emergencies declared under section 201 of the National Emergencies Act on or after such date.

(b) APPLICABILITY TO RENEWALS OF EXISTING EMERGENCIES.—With respect to a national emergency declared under section 201 of the National Emergencies Act before the date of the enactment of this Act that would expire or be renewed under section 202(d) of that Act (as in effect on the day before such date of enactment), that national emergency shall be subject to the requirements for renewal under section 202(b) of that Act, as amended by section ___11.

(c) SUPERSESSION.—This subtitle and the amendments made by this subtitle shall supersede title II of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.) as such title was in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act.

Subtitle B—Limitations on Emergency Authorities

SEC. ___21. PROTECTIONS FOR UNITED STATES PERSONS WITH RESPECT TO USE OF AUTHORITIES UNDER INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY ECONOMIC POWERS ACT.

The International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 203 the following:

''SEC. 203A. PROTECTIONS FOR UNITED STATES PERSONS.

''(a) LIMITATIONS FOR NECESSITIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided by paragraph (2) and in accordance with this section, no authority provided under section 203 may be exercised to target a United States person.

''(2) EXCEPTION FOR ISSUANCE OF GENERAL LICENSES.—An authority provided under section 203 may be exercised to target a United States person if the President has, before using the authority, issued a general license that ensures that the United States person has sufficient access to the necessities of life, including food, nutritional support, water, shelter, clothing, sanitation, medicine, health care and other vital services, and gainful employment where necessary to provide the United States person a means for subsistence.

''(3) DUE PROCESS FOR UNITED STATES PERSONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—When taking an action pursuant to authority provided by section 203 to target a United States person, the President shall—

''(i) provide contemporaneous notice of the action to the United States person;

''(ii) not later than one week after taking the action, provide the United States person with the record on which the decision to take the action was based, including an unclassified summary, or a redacted version, of any classified information that provides the United States person with substantially the same ability to respond to that information as the classified information;

''(iii) provide the United States person with the opportunity to request review of the decision and to submit information in support of that request;

''(iv) provide the United States person with the opportunity for an administrative hearing not later than 90 days after requesting a review under clause (iii), unless the United States person agrees to a longer period; and

''(v) render a written decision on a request for review under clause (iii) not later than 90 days after the hearing under clause (iv), or, if no such hearing is requested, not later than 90 days after the later of—

''(I) the request for review; or

''(II) the submission of information in support of that request.

''(B) FAILURE TO RENDER TIMELY DECISION.—Failure to render a decision within the time frame specified in subparagraph (A)(v) shall be considered an agency action for purposes of section 702 of title 5, United States Code.

''(b) WARRANT FOR SEIZURE OF PROPERTY OF UNITED STATES PERSONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—When taking an action pursuant to authority provided by section 203 to target a United States person, the President may not block or otherwise prevent the access of the United States person to property in which the United States person has an ownership interest except pursuant to a warrant issued using the procedures described in the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure (or, in the case of a court-martial or other proceeding under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (chapter 47 of title 10, United States Code), issued under section 846 of title 10, United States Code (article 46 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), in accordance with regulations prescribed by the President) by a court of competent jurisdiction.

''(2) DELAYED WARRANTS.—To the extent consistent with the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, a court shall permit the temporary blocking of property under section 203 without a warrant on an emergency basis, or use other means lawfully available to the court, to enable the Federal Government to identify the property that is subject to blocking while reducing the risk of property flight.

''(c) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A United States person that is the target of an action taken by the President pursuant to any authority provided under section 203 may bring an action in a United States court of competent jurisdiction, after exhaustion of any available administrative remedies, to obtain judicial review of the lawfulness of that action, including whether the action was authorized by the Executive order or orders specifying the measures to be taken under section 203 in response to a determination issued under section 202.

''(2) CONDUCT OF REVIEW.—In an action brought under paragraph (1)—

''(A) the review of the court shall be de novo;

''(B) any party may introduce evidence not included in the administrative record;

''(C) any administrative record or portions thereof may be entered into evidence, and questions of authentication or hearsay shall bear on the weight to be accorded the evidence rather than its admissibility;

''(D) classified information shall be handled in accordance with the Classified Information Procedures Act (18 U.S.C. App.), except that references to the 'defendant' in such Act shall be deemed to apply to the plaintiff; and

''(E) the court shall have the authority to order injunctive relief, actual damages, and attorneys' fees.

''(3) OTHER MEANS OF REVIEW.—The availability of judicial review under this subsection shall not preclude other available means of judicial review, including under section 702 of title 5, United States Code, except that a person may not exercise the right to judicial review under more than one provision of law.

''(d) UNITED STATES PERSON DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'United States person' means—

''(1) a United States national; or

''(2) an entity—

''(A) organized under the laws of the United States or any jurisdiction within the United States; and

''(B) in which more than 50 percent of the controlling interest is owned by a person described in paragraph (1).''.

SEC. ___22. EXCLUSION OF AUTHORITY TO IMPOSE DUTIES AND IMPORT QUOTAS FROM INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY ECONOMIC POWERS ACT.

Section 203 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

''(c)(1) The authority granted to the President by this section does not include the authority to impose duties or tariff-rate quotas or (subject to paragraph (2)) other quotas on articles entering the United States.

''(2) The limitation under paragraph (1) does not prohibit the President from excluding all articles, or all of a certain type of article, imported from a country from entering the United States.''.

SEC. ___23. PRESIDENTIAL WAR POWERS UNDER COMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1934.

Section 706 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 606) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c), by inserting ''and declares a national emergency'' after ''in the interest of national security or defense,''; and

(2) in subsection (d), by striking ''there exists'' and inserting ''a national emergency exists by virtue of there being''.

SEC. ___24. DISCLOSURE TO CONGRESS OF PRESIDENTIAL EMERGENCY ACTION DOCUMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 days after the conclusion of the process for approval, adoption, or revision of any presidential emergency action document, the President shall submit that document to the appropriate congressional committees.

(b) DOCUMENTS IN EXISTENCE BEFORE DATE OF ENACTMENT.—Not later than 15 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees all presidential emergency action documents in existence before such date of enactment.

(c) OVERSIGHT.—

(1) SENATE.—The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate shall have—

(A) continuing legislative oversight jurisdiction in the Senate with respect to the proposal, creation, implementation, and execution of presidential emergency action documents; and

(B) access to any and all presidential emergency action documents.

(2) HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—The Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives shall have—

(A) continuing legislative oversight jurisdiction in the House of Representatives with respect to the proposal, creation, implementation, and execution of presidential emergency action documents; and

(B) access to any and all presidential emergency action documents.

(3) DUTY TO COOPERATE.—All officers and employees of any Federal agency shall have the duty to cooperate with the exercise of oversight jurisdiction described in this subsection.

(4) SECURITY CLEARANCES.—The chairpersons and ranking members of the appropriate congressional committees, and designated staff of those committees, shall be granted all security clearances required to access, and granted access to, presidential emergency action documents, including under relevant Presidential or agency special access and compartmented access programs.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

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

(B) the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives.

(2) FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term ''Federal agency''—

(A) has the meaning given the term ''agency'' in section 552(f) of title 5, United States Code; and

(B) includes the Executive Office of the President, the Executive Office of the Vice President, the Office of Management and Budget, and the National Security Council.

(3) PRESIDENTIAL EMERGENCY ACTION DOCUMENT.—The term ''presidential emergency action document'' refers to any document created by any Federal agency before, on, or after the date of the enactment of this Act, that is—

(A) designated as a presidential emergency action document or presidential emergency action directive;

(B) designed to implement a presidential decision or transmit a presidential request when an emergency disrupts normal executive, legislative, judicial, or other Federal governmental processes;

(C) a Presidential Policy Directive, regardless of whether the directive is available to the public, that triggers any change in policies, procedures, or operations of the Federal Government upon the declaration by the President of an emergency; or

(D) any other document, briefing, or plan, regardless of whether the document, briefing, or plan exists in any tangible or written form, that triggers any change in operations of the Federal Government upon the declaration by the President of an emergency.

SA 3339. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. HAGERTY)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3502, to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to prevent consumer reporting agencies from furnishing consumer reports under certain circumstances, 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 ''Homebuyers Privacy Protection Act''.

SEC. 2. TREATMENT OF PRESCREENING REPORT REQUESTS.

Section 604(c) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681b(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(4) TREATMENT OF PRESCREENING REPORT REQUESTS.—

''(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

''(i) CREDIT UNION.—The term 'credit union' means a Federal credit union or a State credit union, as those terms are defined in section 101 of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C 1752).

''(ii) INSURED DEPOSITORY INSTITUTION.—The term 'insured depository institution' has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813(c)).

''(iii) RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE LOAN.—The term 'residential mortgage loan' has the meaning given the term in section 1503 of the S.A.F.E. Mortgage Licensing Act of 2008 (12 U.S.C. 5102).

''(iv) SERVICER.—The term 'servicer' has the meaning given the term in section 6(i) of the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 (12 U.S.C. 2605(i)).

''(B) LIMITATION.—If a person requests a consumer report from a consumer reporting agency in connection with a credit transaction involving a residential mortgage loan, that agency may not, based in whole or in part on that request, furnish a consumer report to another person under this subsection unless that other person—

''(i) has submitted documentation to that agency certifying that such other person has, pursuant to paragraph (1)(A), the authorization of the consumer to whom the consumer report relates; or

''(ii)(I) has originated a current residential mortgage loan of the consumer to whom the consumer report relates;

''(II) is the servicer of a current residential mortgage loan of the consumer to whom the consumer report relates; or

''(III)(aa) is an insured depository institution or credit union; and

''(bb) holds a current account for the consumer to whom the consumer report relates.''.

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act, and the amendments made by this Act, shall take effect on the date that is 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 3340. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. PETERS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 4181, to require the development of a workforce plan for the Federal Emergency Management Agency; as follows:

On page 12, line 15, strike ''and'' and all that follows through ''any'' on line 16, and insert the following:

(E) specific strategies for identifying, addressing, preventing, and mitigating discriminatory actions or decisions based on political affiliation; and

(F) any

SA 3341. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Ms. HASSAN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1299, to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to periodically review the automatic maximum coverage under Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance program and the Veterans' Group Life Insurance program, 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 ''Fairness for Servicemembers and their Families Act of 2024''.

SEC. 2. PERIODIC REVIEW OF AUTOMATIC MAXIMUM COVERAGE UNDER SERVICEMEMBERS' GROUP LIFE INSURANCE AND VETERANS' GROUP LIFE INSURANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 19 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 1980B. Periodic review of automatic maximum coverage

''(a) IN GENERAL.—On January 1, 2025, and every five years thereafter, the Secretary shall—

''(1) complete a review of how the amount specified in section 1967(a)(3)(A)(i) compares to the amount described in subsection (b); and

''(2) submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate the results of the review, which may serve as a guide for coverage increases within the existing administrative incremental structure.

''(b) AMOUNT DESCRIBED.—The amount described in this subsection is the amount equal to—

''(1) $500,000; multiplied by

''(2) the average percentage by which the Consumer Price Index changed during the five fiscal years preceding the review under subsection (a).

''(c) CONSUMER PRICE INDEX DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'Consumer Price Index' means the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 19 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1980A the following new item:

''1980B. Periodic review of automatic maximum coverage.''.

SA 3342. Mr. SCHUMER (for Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1144, to establish a grant program to provide assistance to local law enforcement agencies, 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 ''Invest to Protect Act of 2023''.

SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

(1) DE-ESCALATION TRAINING.—The term ''de-escalation training'' means training relating to taking action or communicating verbally or non-verbally during a potential force encounter in an attempt to stabilize the situation and reduce the immediacy of the threat so that more time, options, and resources can be called upon to resolve the situation without the use of force or with a reduction in the force necessary.

(2) DIRECTOR.—The term ''Director'' means the Director of the Office.

(3) ELIGIBLE LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The term ''eligible local government'' means—

(A) a county, municipality, town, township, village, parish, borough, or other unit of general government below the State level that employs fewer than 175 law enforcement officers; and

(B) a Tribal government that employs fewer than 175 law enforcement officers.

(4) LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.—The term ''law enforcement officer'' has the meaning given the term ''career law enforcement officer'' in section 1709 of title I the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10389).

(5) OFFICE.—The term ''Office'' means the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services of the Department of Justice.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the Office a grant program to—

(1) provide training and access to mental health resources to local law enforcement officers; and

(2) improve the recruitment and retention of local law enforcement officers.

(c) AUTHORITY.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall award grants to eligible local governments as a part of the grant program established under subsection (b).

(d) APPLICATIONS.—

(1) BARRIERS.—The Attorney General shall determine what barriers exist to establishing a streamlined application process for grants under this section.

(2) REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall submit to Congress a report that includes a plan to execute a streamlined application process for grants under this section under which an eligible local government seeking a grant under this section can reasonably complete the application in not more than 2 hours.

(B) CONTENTS OF PLAN.—The plan required under subparagraph (A) may include a plan for—

(i) proactively providing eligible local governments seeking a grant under this section with information on the data eligible local governments will need to prepare before beginning the grant application; and

(ii) ensuring technical assistance is available for eligible local governments seeking a grant under this section before and during the grant application process, including through dedicated liaisons within the Office.

(3) APPLICATIONS.—In selecting eligible local governments to receive grants under this section, the Director shall use the streamlined application process described in paragraph (2)(A).

(e) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—An eligible local government that receives a grant under this section may use amounts from the grant only for—

(1) de-escalation training for law enforcement officers;

(2) victim-centered training for law enforcement officers in handling situations of domestic violence;

(3) evidence-based law enforcement safety training for—

(A) active shooter situations;

(B) the safe handling of illicit drugs and precursor chemicals;

(C) rescue situations;

(D) recognizing and countering ambush attacks; or

(E) response to calls for service involving—

(i) persons with mental health needs;

(ii) persons with substance use disorders;

(iii) veterans;

(iv) persons with disabilities;

(v) vulnerable youth;

(vi) persons who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or trafficking; or

(vii) persons experiencing homelessness or living in poverty;

(4) the offsetting of overtime costs associated with scheduling issues relating to the participation of a law enforcement officer in the training described in paragraphs (1) through (3), (9), and (10);

(5) a signing bonus for a law enforcement officer in an amount determined by the eligible local government;

(6) a retention bonus for a law enforcement officer—

(A) in an amount determined by the eligible local government that does not exceed 20 percent of the salary of the law enforcement officer; and

(B) who—

(i) has been employed at the law enforcement agency for not fewer than 5 years;

(ii) has not been found by an internal investigation to have engaged in serious misconduct; and

(iii) commits to remain employed by the law enforcement agency for not less than 3 years after the date of receipt of the bonus;

(7) a stipend for the graduate education of law enforcement officers in the area of mental health, public health, or social work, which shall not exceed the lesser of—

(A) $10,000; or

(B) the amount the law enforcement officer pays towards such graduate education;

(8) providing access to patient-centered behavioral health services for law enforcement officers, which may include resources for risk assessments, evidence-based, trauma-informed care to treat post-traumatic stress disorder or acute stress disorder, peer support and counselor services and family supports, and the promotion of improved access to high quality mental health care through telehealth;

(9) the implementation of evidence-based best practices and training on the use of lethal and nonlethal force;

(10) the implementation of evidence-based best practices and training on the duty of care and the duty to intervene; and

(11) data collection for police practices relating to officer and community safety.

(f) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANT RECIPIENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall establish reasonable reporting requirements specifically relating to a grant awarded under this section for eligible local governments that receive such a grant in order to assist with the evaluation by the Office of the program established under this section.

(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing requirements under paragraph (1), the Director shall consider the capacity of law enforcement agencies with fewer than 175 officers to collect and report information.

(g) DISCLOSURE OF OFFICER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION BONUSES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which an eligible local government that receives a grant under this section awards a signing or retention bonus described in paragraph (5) or (6) of subsection (e), the eligible local government shall disclose to the Director and make publicly available on a website of the eligible local government the amount of the bonus.

(2) REPORT.—The Attorney General shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an annual report that includes each signing or retention bonus disclosed under paragraph (1) during the preceding year.

(h) GRANT ACCOUNTABILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—All grants awarded by the Director under this section shall be subject to the accountability provisions described in this subsection.

(2) AUDIT REQUIREMENT.—

(A) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the term ''unresolved audit finding'' means a finding in the final audit report of the Inspector General of the Department of Justice that the audited grantee has used grant funds for an unauthorized expenditure or otherwise unallowable cost that is not closed or resolved within 12 months from the date when the final audit report is issued.

(B) AUDITS.—Beginning in the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this subsection, and in each fiscal year thereafter, the Inspector General of the Department of Justice shall conduct audits of recipients of grants under this section to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse of funds by grantees. The Inspector General of the Department of Justice shall determine the appropriate number of grantees to be audited each year.

(C) MANDATORY EXCLUSION.—A recipient of grant funds under this section that is found to have an unresolved audit finding shall not be eligible to receive grant funds under this section during the first 3 fiscal years beginning after the end of the 12-month period described in subparagraph (A).

(D) REIMBURSEMENT.—If an eligible local government is awarded grant funds under this section during the 3-fiscal-year period during which the eligible local government is barred from receiving grants under subparagraph (C), the Attorney General shall—

(i) deposit an amount equal to the amount of the grant funds that were improperly awarded to the grantee into the General Fund of the Treasury; and

(ii) seek to recoup the costs of the repayment to the fund from the grant recipient that was erroneously awarded grant funds.

(3) ANNUAL CERTIFICATION.—Beginning in the fiscal year during which audits commence under paragraph (2)(B), the Attorney General shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives an annual certification—

(A) indicating whether—

(i) all audits issued by the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Justice under paragraph (2) have been completed and reviewed by the appropriate Assistant Attorney General or Director;

(ii) all mandatory exclusions required under paragraph (2)(C) have been issued; and

(iii) all reimbursements required under paragraph (2)(D) have been made; and

(B) that includes a list of any grant recipients excluded under paragraph (2) from the previous year.

(i) PROGRAM EVALUATION.—Not less frequently than annually, the Attorney General shall analyze the information provided by eligible local governments pursuant to the reporting requirements established under subsection (f)(1) to evaluate the efficacy of programs funded by the grant program under this section.

(j) PREVENTING DUPLICATIVE GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Before the Director awards a grant to an eligible local government under this section, the Attorney General shall compare potential grant awards with other grants awarded by the Attorney General to determine if grant awards are or have been awarded for a similar purpose.

(2) REPORT.—If the Attorney General awards grants to the same applicant for a similar purpose, whether through the grant program under this section or another grant program administered by the Department of Justice, the Attorney General shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

(A) a list of all such grants awarded, including the total dollar amount of any such grants awarded; and

(B) the reason the Attorney General awarded multiple grants to the same applicant for a similar purpose.

(k) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section not more than $50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I have three 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 17, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 17, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 17, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2024

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, finally, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it recess until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, December 18, and that all postcloture time with respect to the House message with respect to H.R. 5009 be considered expired at 11:45 a.m.; further, that upon disposition of the House message, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 693, H.R. 82, and that the cloture motion with respect to the motion to proceed ripen at 2 p.m.

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

RECESS UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:40 p.m., recessed until Wednesday, December 18, 2024, at 10 a.m.