

the Putin regime by enriching its enablers. He was recognized and awarded on numerous occasions for his work fighting corruption and promoting democratic ideals. Those recognitions and awards include the 2015 Prize of the Platform of European Memory and Conscience, a nomination for the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize, the 2021 Boris Nemtsov Prize for Courage, the 2021 Moral Courage Award by the Geneva Summit for Human Rights and Democracy, the 2021 Knight of Freedom Award by the Casimir Pulaski Foundation, and the 2021 Sakharov Prize by the European Parliament.

(6) Alexei Navalny and fellow dissident Vladimir Kara-Murza endured several poisonings and other attempts on their lives carried out by Putin's government.

(7) Renaming the street near the official residence of the Russian Ambassador to the United States serves as a continuing expression of solidarity between the people of the United States and the people of the Russian Federation, who are engaged in a sustained, peaceful, and patriotic struggle for fundamental freedoms.

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF ALEXEI NAVALNY WAY.

(a) DESIGNATION OF WAY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The area of Sumner Row Northwest between 16th Street Northwest and L Street Northwest in Washington, District of Columbia, shall be known and designated as “Alexei Navalny Way”.

(2) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the area referred to in paragraph (1) shall be deemed to be a reference to “Alexei Navalny Way”.

(b) SIGNS.—The District of Columbia shall construct 2 street signs—

(1) that contain the phrase “Alexei Navalny Way”;

(2) one of which shall be placed immediately above existing signs between 1135 16th Street Northwest and 1119–1125 16th Street Northwest;

(3) one of which shall be placed on a sign post at 1555 L Street Northwest; and

(4) that are similar in design to the signs used by the District of Columbia to designate the location of Metro stations.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself,
Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SANDERS,
Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. WARREN, Ms.
BALDWIN, Mr. KING, Mr. SCHATZ,
Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. KAINE,
and Mr. FETTERMAN):

S. 624. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to achieve parity between the cost-of-living adjustment with respect to an annuity under the Federal Employees Retirement System and an annuity under the Civil Service Retirement System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of the Equal COLA Act, which I introduced today.

The Federal Government's workforce is central to protecting our national security and delivering critical services to hundreds of millions of Americans. As such, it is essential that the Federal Government attract and retain an effective workforce and, once their service is complete, ensure retirees receive the dignified retirement that they deserve. It is clear that now more than ever, Congress must step up and support our Federal workforce.

Unfortunately, in 1986, Congress created a two-tiered system that now pre-

vents nearly 800,000 retired Federal employees from receiving a full cost-of-living adjustment when consumer prices increase more than 2 percent from year to year.

In January, some Federal retirees received a 2.5-percent COLA. However, other Federal retirees received only a 2.0-percent increase due to this policy, which fails to protect retired employees living on a fixed income. I believe all Federal retirees who have worked in service to our country should receive a full adjustment to their benefits each year that is consistent with national economic trends.

That is why I am proud to reintroduce this legislation to fix this unfair system and ensure that all retired Federal employees receive full retirement benefits that keep up with the cost of living.

I hope my colleagues will join me in support of this bill to ensure that retired Federal employees no longer pay the price of a misguided law and that their benefits fully keep pace with the cost of living.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I have one request for a committee to meet during today's session of the Senate. It has the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committee is authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, to conduct a business meeting.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, February 19; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business then be closed, and the Senate resume consideration of Calendar No. 13, S. Con. Res. 7; further, that at 12 noon, the Senate execute the order of February 13 in relation to the Loeffler nomination and that following disposition of the Loeffler nomination, the Senate recess until 2:15 to allow for the weekly conference lunches; finally, that all time during recess and adjournment count equally towards Calendar No. 13, S. Con. Res. 7; and that if any nominations are confirmed during Wednesday's session, the motions to re-

consider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, is it Wednesday yet? It feels like it. I got over here to vote at 5.

ORDERS FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order following the remarks of Senator MERKLEY.

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

Mr. KENNEDY. To whom I apologize for him having to wait so long because of our inefficiencies.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, this evening we had a vote on the motion to proceed to the Republican budget resolution, and that passed. It was a simple majority vote. And this budget resolution has a very simple, straightforward theme: Families lose, and billionaires win.

The plan is simple: Slash programs for families, give massive tax giveaways to millionaires and billionaires, and run the country deeper into debt.

That is not a plan that my constituents back home would vote for or support. They don't want to see the programs that enable families to stand on their feet be slashed or destroyed. They don't think that our megamillionaires and billionaires need more massive giveaways, and they certainly don't want to see the debt run up in the process. But that is where we are.

Now, my Republican colleagues might say: Well, not so fast. This bill is really about securing our border and national defense.

But don't let that fool you. Senate Democrats are happy to entertain an appropriations bill to address these issues. In fact, we had a strong, bipartisan defense spending bill in the Appropriations Committee last year. Senate Democrats also supported a bipartisan immigration bill, and that was just a year ago May; but the bill was killed. Bipartisan, negotiated bill was killed when then-Candidate Trump said: Senate Republicans, I don't want you to fix the problem. I want to have this as a campaign element, the chaos at the border, so don't fix it.

So it was killed. So you have Democrats ready to work on national defense, as we have in the past, and willing to work on security at the border.

So this bill is not about that. This bill is about this: Slashing programs