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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Great God, eternal Lord, long ago, You gave us this land as a home for free people. Lord, show us that there is no law or liberty apart from You, and lead our lawmakers to serve You with faithfulness, integrity, and humility.

Lord, use them to challenge the cruelty that divides and wounds humanity. May they be Your instruments to draw people together in order to accomplish Your purposes. Use these efforts to enable America to be a light to nations, leading the way to Your promised Kingdom.

We pray in Your awesome 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BUDD). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Iowa.

CENTRAL TEXAS FLOODS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, 32 years ago today, I joined President

Clinton, Governor of Iowa Terry Branstad, and members of the Iowa congressional delegation to tour catastrophic flood damage in my home State. The great flood of 1993 ravaged nine States in America's heartland.

This reminds me of a poster we in the Midwest showed at that particular time, and I was hoping I could round it up and show it again to the Senate. But it had a picture of the Great Lakes in the satellite, and then it had a picture of the flooded areas of the Midwest. And the blue that shows up where the water is was almost as blue in the Midwest that was flooded along with the same color of the Great Lakes.

Flooded tributaries at this time of the 1993 flood overtopped levees, devastating communities, businesses, and the livelihoods connected to those businesses. More than 15 million acres of farmland were underwater. Barge traffic on the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers stopped for 2 long months. A quarter of a million residents in Des Moines went without running water for 11 days. At least 54,000 people were evacuated.

The 1993 flood amassed the largest financial loss from flooding in modern history. The second costliest flood swept the Midwest 15 years later in 2008.

Of course, the loss of life is the most significant tragedy of any natural disaster. Fifty precious lives were lost in the 1993 floods. Iowans know firsthand the anguish and despair caused by natural disasters. So, on behalf of my home State, we mourn the loss of life in Texas Hill Country from flash flooding along the Guadalupe River on July 4 of this year.

As the road to recovery gets underway, Iowans stand with Texans. The grit and resilience we have in the Midwest runs just as deep in the State of Texas.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. 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 MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, the appropriations process is officially underway here in the Senate.

Last week, the Appropriations Committee held its first markup of appropriations bills for fiscal year 2026, and I am pleased to report that the committee referred two bills to the floor with bipartisan support. Today, I want to talk about one of the bills that came out of last week's markup, and that is the Agriculture appropriations bill.

Agriculture is the lifeblood of our country, and in places like my home State of South Dakota, farming and ranching are a big part of our way of life. I know how hard American farmers and ranchers work to deliver food, fuel, and fiber to America and to the world, and I know this work can be challenging and, at times, unforgiving.

In recent years, farmers and ranchers across the country have faced some pretty fierce headwinds. Higher input costs and depressed commodity prices strained their budgets, and higher interest rates made financing more difficult. Then there were the supply chain disruptions; natural disasters and drought; and things like bird flu, African swine fever, and the New World screwworm that threaten livestock.

Just 2 weeks ago, Republicans passed a reconciliation bill that addresses many of the challenges head-on by bolstering programs that farmers and

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



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ranchers depend on. But as I said then, farmers' and ranchers' priorities are going to continue to be a priority here in the Senate, and the Agriculture appropriations bill is an example of that.

Our colleagues on the Appropriations Committee have reported a bill that provides robust funding to support America's farmers and ranchers. It provides important funding to the Farm Service Agency, including support for \$10.5 billion in capital access for farmers and ranchers. And it supports efforts to track foreign-owned land to prevent our adversaries like China from buying up America's farmland.

It also makes investments in rural development programs at USDA. In South Dakota, that money goes far in supporting water programs, electricity, and broadband programs in rural areas.

This bill also invests in conservation programs, and it advances efforts to help farmers and ranchers get their products to the market. I am glad to see support for processing capacity for meat, poultry, and egg products. And I am pleased that this bill also promotes programs that help State-inspected plants operate across State lines, which provides producers with more options for their products and supports smaller processors.

The bill also includes funding for the Agricultural Marketing Service to help facilitate greater access to international markets for American agriculture products. And the updated market data that will result from investments in this bill will help farmers and ranchers make better decisions about their businesses.

In just the past year, the threat to our food supply posed by diseases and pests has been national news. I am glad to see the Trump administration's actions to address bird flu and its effect on the egg supply have had a positive impact. And the Agriculture appropriations bill continues efforts to combat bird flu as well as other potentially devastating threats like chronic wasting disease and the New World screwworm.

Nutrition is another important part of agriculture policy, and the bill that has been reported out provides robust funding for programs like WIC and SNAP, and I appreciate Senator HOEVEN's work to find offsets for increased spending on these programs.

The work of feeding America and the world isn't easy, but I know our farmers and ranchers take a lot of pride in what they do. They know they are not just working toward the next harvest; they are keeping a heritage alive, a way of life that none of us can live without.

I appreciate the work the Appropriations Committee has put in to support our farmers and ranchers and, in particular, the leadership of Chair COLLINS and Senator HOEVEN. And to America's farmers and ranchers, we will continue to have your back.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. 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 PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

CENTRAL TEXAS FLOODS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, we continue to pray for the families of the 132 people now confirmed dead in Central Texas. We continue to pray for everyone still missing. We thank our heroic first responders who risked their lives to save those trapped in the storm.

Now, in the aftermath of the tragedy in Texas, some of us asked very necessary questions about how to prevent something like this from ever happening again: Did Federal funding cuts hinder rescue efforts? Did staffing shortages make it harder to respond?

Of course, Donald Trump didn't like these questions. He threw a fit, a tantrum. He called them lies. He said they were inappropriate. That is how he talks.

We know now why he threw a fit and acted so defensively—because, sadly, we may well have been right. Donald Trump and Kristi Noem have spent months attacking FEMA, calling for its elimination, slashing its budget, and hollowing out its workforce. And, now, their own chaos is catching up with them in the worst, worst way.

Now, they are trying to change their tune, saying they don't want to get rid of FEMA. A few months ago, they were all for getting rid of it. Now, they say they just want to change it. But there aren't enough walk-backs or pivots in the world to erase the truth. Their actions have unnecessarily harmed America's disaster response ecosystem.

Last week, I demanded an investigation into what role, if any, the administration's staff cuts to local and National Weather Service stations played in this tragedy. It is now clear that the administration fired key FEMA personnel during and, sadly, after the tragedy. So, today, it is very clear: This is a systemic problem that exists in Texas, extends beyond Texas, beyond the National Weather Service, and across FEMA.

Here are the facts about FEMA: A day after the Texas flooding, FEMA laid off workers—hundreds of call center workers. On July 7, the Agency received 16,000 calls and only answered 2,000 of them, around 16 percent.

Secretary Noem, meanwhile, issued a directive on July 11 saying that all DHS contracts of over \$100,000 had to be personally approved by her, accord-

ing to the New York Times—including, according to the New York Times, deployment of search and rescue teams. Every one of them had to be signed off.

This is not efficiency. This is adding redtape in the midst of a crisis, authored by Kristi Noem herself. Experts say this ill-advised decision very likely hindered recovery efforts.

As it stands today, FEMA is operating with a quarter fewer staffers compared to 18 months ago—one-quarter fewer—including senior-level officials, meteorologists, institutional experts, people who coordinate with public officials and other levels of government to respond to natural disasters.

In the middle of a natural disaster, Donald Trump and Kristi Noem are sowing chaos at FEMA, and their incompetence is putting lives in danger.

They and the DOGE people and so many around them, they have this fanatical dislike of all government, and so they just cut it. They don't even know what the effect will be. They don't even care. Just cut, cut, cut. Cut meteorologists who warn our people, our citizens, our farmers, our businesses of dangers that might come? Cut them? They are not waste.

Their recklessness is hurting rescue efforts. It has hurt the existing ones, and it is going to hurt more in the future, unless they reverse themselves.

We all support making Agencies like FEMA more efficient. Americans support cutting waste. Americans support improving the Federal response. But Americans sure as hell don't support DOGE-like cuts to vital places that can often be the difference between life and death.

The American people do not support this kind of chaos, this chain-saw approach to FEMA, to the National Weather Service, and to government at large. What Donald Trump and Kristi Noem are doing is chaos, and it is going to lead, unfortunately, to even more people getting hurt when the next disaster arrives.

RESCISSESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Now, on Republican cuts, this week, Senate Republicans are set to push through the Senate a bill that betrays rural communities, harms global health, weakens America's standing abroad, and, worst of all, sets the stage for even more harmful cuts down the line.

The so-called rescissions package continues a destructive Republican pattern: Cut now and ask questions later. The same thing that is happening with FEMA and the National Weather Service is happening right here. Again, use that chain saw; cut, cut, cut—whether it is waste or whether it is sinew and bone—and then later, say: Oh, maybe we shouldn't have done that.

And do you know what? Our Republican Senators, most of them, know this is wrong, but they are so afraid of Donald Trump.

Yesterday, he threatened that any of them who voted against the full rescissions package that we have before us would face his wrath. What is going on here? Does anyone stand up to these horrible, horrible cuts that hurt the American people?

Republicans, in realtime, are cutting healthcare. They are cutting education. They are cutting aid for our veterans.

Veterans are not getting—ask them. The veterans know they are not getting the healthcare they used to.

And making things even worse, Donald Trump's tariffs are coming in at the worst possible time, and in a few short months, they are going to raise the cost of groceries. They are going to hurt small businesses and do untold damage to our economy.

And, now, this package suffocates public broadcast. Well, did they even know when they said they wanted to cut it—you know, Donald Trump doesn't seem to like it—how much it helps our rural communities? It is the only place they can rely on for local news, for weather reports. And farmers across rural America depend on public broadcast to get weather reports because there is no other way. Did they know that it guts international aid that ensures America's national security? Did they even think of the consequences, just because Donald Trump says he wants it cut? And everyone knows he doesn't know the details of any of this stuff.

The rescissions package is certainly troubling, but the pattern behind it is even worse. It sets the stage for even more party line devastating cuts in the future to healthcare, to education, anything Republicans decide they don't like, all on a party-line vote, all because of obeisance and fear of Donald Trump, not a conviction that he is doing the right thing. This is a dark omen moving forward.

Our Republican friends say they fight for the middle class. They say they fight for working people. Then they turn around and take investments away from middle class and rural America.

I urge them—urge them—not to proceed with this bill as written.

HEALTHCARE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now on healthcare costs, Republicans' "Big Ugly Betrayal" will devastate American healthcare this year. Not many years down the line, not a few years down the line. It is going to hurt now.

There is a growing idea among Republican Members of Congress and then the lobbyists who talk to the press all the time that hospitals don't need to worry about the "Big Ugly Bill" because there is time to stave off or change the horrible Medicaid cuts Republicans passed and are now running away from. That is garbage.

Donald Trump and Republican leaders forced their Members to walk the

plank and cut Medicaid to the bone. So now they are in damage-control mode. They know how bad it is. They want to make their "Big Ugly Bill" seem less destructive and seem more palpable when, in reality, it is, quite literally, a death sentence for rural hospitals and vulnerable Americans. And that death sentence for so many of them is not 2 years away; it is now.

Here are the facts that show Republicans' "Big Ugly Betrayal" is having an impact right now, not later: At least 300 rural hospitals are at immediate risk of closing because of this bill already—already. Not 2 years from now. Now, this week, 2 weeks after the bill passed. Hospitals in Iowa, Nebraska, North Carolina, and Maine have announced they are closing or are in serious danger of closing. Not in 2027, not in 2028. Now. Now.

Governors in at least eight States—eight States—have called special sessions this summer. Not in 2028, not in 2027. They have called special sessions this summer or are pushing stopgap subsidies to shield doctors and hospitals from the immediate harm. States don't see the "Big Ugly Bill" as a problem for years from now. To them, to the workers, and, most of all, to the people who get healthcare in a lot of these rural hospitals, it is a problem right now.

And this fall, more problems. Not in 2028, folks. This fall, people will get notices that their insurance premiums for the Affordable Care Act will go up 75 percent on average because Republicans chose not to extend tax credits for the ACA.

This will also impact people on private insurance. If you don't have ACA, Medicaid, Medicare, you are still going to get increases in your insurance. Everyone is affected by these cuts—just about everyone—unless you are one of those billionaires who self-insures. You don't have to have insurance because you have got all the money in the world to pay any medical bill. That is not true of the vast majority of Americans.

And what they are doing is just the start. Republicans have made it clear they want even deeper cuts to Medicaid. Many in the House Freedom Caucus—those rightwingers—have said they weren't satisfied with their "Big Ugly Bill." So who is to say that Donald Trump and Russell Vought won't use rescissions or another reconciliation bill to cut healthcare even deeper? And what are our Republican colleagues going to do when the handful of rightwing Freedom Caucus people in this body and the other body say they demand cuts or they won't vote for any bill? Are they going to cave once again? Say: OK?

Let me say it again: All this talk from Republicans that many of their own cuts won't materialize is utter nonsense. Hospitals are closing now. States are reacting now. Insurance companies are adjusting now. And the harm to the American people will happen now, not later.

NOMINATION OF WHITNEY D. HERMANDORFER

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on judicial confirmation, the first judge confirmation, later today, Senate Republicans will confirm Donald Trump's first judicial nominee of his second term, Whitney Hermandorfer, to be a circuit judge on the Sixth Circuit.

We all know when it comes to judges Donald Trump cares only about one thing: total unyielding fealty to Donald Trump—not experience, not judicial independence, not knowledge or desire to pursue the law, but brazen, uncomplicated fealty to Donald Trump. That is how he chooses judges. That is how the people under him choose judges.

We have never seen this in America. You could have been a conservative like Ronald Reagan, someone like George Bush or H.W. Bush or Clinton or Obama. They all looked. You know, they wanted someone to have some philosophical kinship with them. But they said: Will they follow the law? Do they know this law?

Not this administration. It is so different than all the others in a very bad way. Donald Trump doesn't care about the law or what the Constitution says. He says that himself. He only wants his foot soldiers in black robes defending him when he tries to do whatever he wants.

Ms. Hermandorfer has failed to show that she can be an independent jurist committed to upholding the law. She has less than 10 years of legal experience. She has never served as the sole or chief counsel on a single case. She has made a career out of going after people's reproductive rights, transgender rights, and antidiscrimination policies.

When nominees like Ms. Hermandorfer are the standard, our courts are weakened; the judiciary runs amok; the American people are worse off.

I strongly—strongly—oppose her nomination.

NATIONAL SEMICONDUCTOR TECHNOLOGY CENTER

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, and finally, a very good day. I just got in from Albany in New York State. It was a very good day for Upstate New York. This morning, I was up in Albany to make a very exciting announcement years in the making. America's first ever national semiconductor technology center is now officially open for business in Albany, NY, in Upstate New York.

Today is the day I have been dreaming about since the time I wrote the Chips and Science law and when I was writing the NSTC program into the bill. I had always been thinking of Albany and of Upstate New York.

This center will be a leading hub for semiconductor innovation, not just in America but the whole world. This is a

great message for all Americans. Whether you live in Albany, New York State, or any other part of this great country, there is a bold, vital message that comes from Albany: The future of chips and the most advanced semiconductor chips is here in America—not overseas, not China.

These chips are vital to so many parts of our lives—our phones and computers and our cars and our national security and even to the AI systems that are already changing the world. Albany NanoTech will specifically focus on what is called EUV, extreme ultraviolet lithography research. It will be one of only two public facilities on Earth to be home to this EUV tool and the only one in America.

So what does this announcement mean? It is not just an abstract thing. It means major chip companies from around the world will have the ability to collaborate in New York in R&D for new chips. It means startups and other innovators will have access to the most advanced machinery to experiment and discover new innovations in semiconducting. It will even mean more good paying jobs—J-O-B-S—at Albany NanoTech and the local economy.

We all worried that China would gain the lead on this chip production. Well, now we have the answer, and that is the Albany NanoTech Center. No. 1 place in the United States and in the world for the new high-end research into semiconductor chips.

At the end of the day, this announcement, which I have worked so long and hard for since 2017—at the end of the day, this announcement will help make chips and science a reality, boosting American innovation, creating American jobs, making the United States the world leader in chipmaking.

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

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

NOMINATION OF WHITNEY D.
HERMANDORFER

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the Senate will soon vote on the nomination of Whitney Hermandorfer, President Trump's nominee to serve as judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

In May, the President announced Ms. Hermandorfer was the very first judicial nominee of his second term. And now she is the President's first judicial nominee to come to the floor of the Senate.

The President has been clear that his primary concern is not about his judicial nominee's experience, competence, or integrity. This President is not fo-

cused on temperament, independence, or respect for the rule of law. He is focused on a nominee's perceived loyalty to him and his agenda and a willingness to rule in favor of him and his administration.

When we consider the President's priorities and Ms. Hermandorfer's record, it is easy to understand why the President nominated her to serve on the Sixth Circuit. At the Office of Tennessee Attorney General, Ms. Hermandorfer leads the Strategic Litigation Unit. Why is that significant? She is not just defending State laws in Tennessee. She has turned the Attorney General's Office to an advocacy arm for the Trump agenda.

She has argued in support of President Trump's unconstitutional Executive order that purports to end birth-right citizenship. This Executive order has been blocked by every judge who has considered it. One judge—appointed by President Ronald Reagan, I might add—said:

I've been on the bench for over four decades. I can't remember another case where the question presented was as clear as this one . . . This is a blatantly unconstitutional order.

And yet Ms. Hermandorfer signed amicus briefs in support of the President's unlawful efforts to fire inspectors general and heads of independent Agencies.

Her record makes it clear that, if confirmed, she would continue to enable, rather than check, an administration that has repeatedly exceeded its authority.

Ms. Hermandorfer also refuses to acknowledge that President Trump lost the 2020 election. Let me repeat that: This nominee who seeks a lifetime appointment to the Federal bench, when asked the basic question as to whether Donald Trump won or lost the 2020 election, gave the stock answer. She refuses to acknowledge that Donald Trump lost. In response to this simple question: Did President Trump lose the 2020 election? All she could say was:

President Biden was certified as the winner of the 2020 presidential election and served as the 46th President of the United States.

This is the standard response from this administration's nominees seeking positions on the Federal bench. It is an embarrassing genuflection before the Big Lie. The question of who won the 2020 election is not a matter of political opinion; it is a matter of historical fact. The overwhelming majority of my Republican colleagues have correctly recognized that reality, and we have a right to expect nominees to acknowledge such historic realities as well.

Both President Trump's nominees, including Ms. Hermandorfer, have been afraid to admit he lost the 2020 election. Why are they afraid of it? It is a fact. They are afraid because it will make him angry. He may dump their nominations because of the answer to that question.

The fact that she is willing to condone President Trump's false claims

further demonstrates a level of partisanship and deference to this President that is unacceptable for someone seeking a lifetime position on the Federal bench.

And just in case her political leanings aren't clear enough for the record, Ms. Hermandorfer has strong ties to a range of rightwing organizations. They include the fabled Federalist Society and Teneo Network. Teneo Network is a new conservative group funded by Leonard Leo and his affiliated organizations. You may have heard the name Leonard Leo recently when President Trump called Mr. Leo a "sleazebag."

Membership in such organizations has been a litmus test for years for Republican nominees. It is the secret handshake, my friends. If you belong to the Federalist Society or now this Teneo Network, you are in. It means a nominee will use the Republican playbook for deciding important Federal cases. How does it work? You claim to be neutral, but, in fact, you contort history and overturn precedents to reach the Republicans' preferred outcome.

Ms. Hermandorfer followed this playbook to a tee in the Tennessee Attorney General's Office. She opposed LGBTQ rights and reproductive rights as well as environmental and anti-discrimination policies to protect the most vulnerable in America.

I believe we need judges on the bench who follow the law and the Constitution, not politicians in robes who rule in favor of the President and wealthy special interests.

Finally, I would like to note that Ms. Hermandorfer's academic record, although impressive, and legal record, although extreme, is short. She graduated from law school in 2015—has fewer than 10 years of legal experience. Outside of clerkships, she has only practiced law for 6 years, and she is seeking a lifetime appointment to the circuit court—one of the highest in the land. She has never served as sole or chief counsel in any case—any case—tried to verdict, judgment, or final decision.

That is a shocking lack of experience for someone nominated for a lifetime position. She will be watching trials for the first time as a judge. But, unfortunately, this kind of inexperience is common with President Trump's judicial nominees.

Make no mistake, experience is still important. Robust litigation experience ensures judicial nominees will be equipped to fulfill their duties. As an appellate judge, she is going to be standing in judgment of many trial courts. She has limited experience in that field.

Ms. Hermandorfer is the first judicial nominee we have considered this Congress. She won't be the last. In every instance, we must carefully examine the nominee's record as we consider them for a lifetime appointment. After carefully reviewing her record, I have

serious concerns. I think my colleagues, if they look at her honestly, will as well. I urge them to join me in opposing her nomination.

(Mrs. BRITT assumed the Chair.)

TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I remember 9/11 very well. I was in this building meeting with Senator DASCHLE just down the hall, and we heard news that a plane had struck a building in New York. By the time I made it to the meeting, it turned out there was a second plane that had done the same.

Madam President, 9/11 was clearly no accident. It was a terrorist act. As a result of that terrorist act, we made decisions as a nation on a bipartisan basis. One of the most bipartisan decisions we made was what to do with those who were responsible—Osama bin Laden and others. There was no doubt in my mind that we had to answer what they did with force—no doubt whatsoever. I am not inclined to that conclusion on an ordinary basis, but I saw no other alternative but to send the world a message that no one could kill so many innocent Americans and not be held personally responsible.

So there was a vote on the floor—not for the invasion of Iraq but for the invasion of Afghanistan to go after the terrorists, Osama bin Laden and his terrorist group. I voted for it. Every Senator of both political parties voted for it. The same thing was true in the House with only one exception. It was a decision we made to get involved in Afghanistan. As reluctant as I was to see us get into war, I felt we had no choice—no choice whatsoever than to make that clear. So we went in and engaged in that battle for one of the longest wars in our history.

Eventually, under President Obama, we found Osama bin Laden and removed him from this Earth and many of his followers as well. But we paid a price as well.

The men and women of the United States stood behind Congress's decision and enlisted in our services and risked their lives in combat in Afghanistan. It was a terrible assignment. They did it honorably. They did it effectively.

One of the keys to their success in eliminating Osama bin Laden and many of his followers was the support of some Afghan people who risked their own lives to step up and help American soldiers. Day in and day out, these men and women joined our forces, trying to put an end to the terrorism we knew on 9/11.

At the end of the conflict, some of those Afghans who risked their lives to help American soldiers came to the United States, and they were given what is known as temporary protected status, meaning they could stay in this country until the dangers in their home country had abated.

TPS is a temporary designation allowing certain foreign nationals from

countries experiencing turmoil to remain here without fear of being deported—back to Afghanistan in this case.

TPS was first designated for Afghans under the Biden administration in 2022 after we withdrew from Afghanistan, marking the end of America's longest war.

For over two decades, tens of thousands of Afghan civilians worked alongside our military and diplomats. Make no mistake, they were risking their lives to help us and faced the possibility of retribution in their own country. I saw firsthand during a visit to Afghanistan some years ago just how these Afghans were making that courageous sacrifice. And the lives of their families, of course, were also in danger because of it.

In return, we promised to the Afghans who risked their lives to help our troops that we would keep them safe from retaliation, and we opened our arms to welcome others, some of them fleeing brutal conditions under the Taliban.

In fact, Afghanistan today also faces the horrors of an administration that has not delivered for their people: record malnutrition, shortages of basic medicine, horrible repression of women and girls, and instability that threatens the entire region.

Listen to this carefully. The State Department—our State Department—has put out a notice that Americans should not travel to Afghanistan because it is too dangerous. So why, why are we facing the situation where this Trump administration is going to eliminate temporary protected status for the Afghans in the United States, including those who risked their lives to help our troops? Why would we send them back to a country so dangerous we warn Americans not to visit? We are also planning on closing, according to President Trump, the very office at the Department of State that protects these vulnerable Afghans here in the United States.

Now, with the lifting of this TPS designation, these Afghans already legally in the United States—including some who risked their lives to help us—may face detention and deportation, returning to horrific conditions in their homeland.

I urge the President in the strongest terms to reconsider this. It is not just the fate of these Afghans, but it is the reputation of the United States. God forbid we are ever in another conflict in some country and turn to the local population to stand by us and risk their lives to help us and when they agree, turn our backs on them again. That is not what a great nation does.

I think most Americans feel particularly that Afghans who risked their lives to help our troops deserve better than to be forced to return to the danger of Afghanistan.

This decision is a sad one for America. I think we are better than this. I am sorry the Afghans who risked their

lives to help our troops are now being abandoned by the Trump administration.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL ACT

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, 2 weeks ago, Republicans passed one of the most unpopular bills in the history of the country—one of the most unpopular bills in the history of the country. Now that it is law, we don't have to imagine anymore what might happen; we know for sure what is going to happen to tens of millions of people all across the country.

I want to focus on five things that are going to happen—five things that are going to happen because we no longer have to talk about a House version or a Senate version or what the President says he wants or if someone says "If I don't get this, I am going to vote no"; now we have a law. We have public law, Federal law.

The first thing that is going to happen is 17 million Americans, including 9 million people on Medicaid, will lose healthcare coverage in about 18 months' time. To keep their coverage, people will have to complete hours and hours of paperwork just to prove they are working. That is in spite of the fact that the number of nondisabled adults on Medicaid who don't work is very low—about 8 percent.

How do these work requirements actually function? Well, in Arkansas, which is one of the two States that tried this and then pulled it back because it was a failure, the reporting portal was only open during the day and closed between the hours of 9 p.m. and 7 a.m.

Let's say you work long hours as a truckdriver. If you are trying to log on at night to fill out your forms, you are out of luck. Let's say something unfortunate happens to you. Let's say you get in a car accident or have a bad case of the flu. Maybe you are not hospitalized, but you are incapacitated, at least temporarily. If you missed the reporting window, you might lose the coverage.

What is preposterous about these Medicaid work requirements is that in order to establish that you are either working or seeking work, you have to fill out a form. If you get sick and are bedridden and can't fill out the form, they say: Don't worry, there is an exception for a situation like that.

Guess how you apply for the exception. By filling out another form.

There are only a couple million people on Medicaid who even fit the description of someone who is non-disabled and on Medicaid. Yet the actual official projections, which is to say the way they save the money, is they are projecting that many, many millions of people are going to get kicked off of Medicaid even though they are eligible.

I know I am a Democrat, and I want this bill to fail, and I want to tell you why this is a failure of a bill, but that is literally in their projections. Without those projections, they don't have enough revenue for the biggest tax cuts for the wealthiest people in the history of the planet.

No. 2, hundreds of rural hospitals and nursing homes will close without enough funding to continue operating. More people are going to get sick because of this law, but we are going to have fewer hospitals and doctors to take care of them. Why? Because Medicaid is a big revenue stream for really all hospitals but especially rural hospitals. It can be up to about half of the payer mix.

What is a payer mix? It just means you might get paid by private insurance 30 percent, you might get paid by Medicaid 45 percent, you might have a little VA, and you might have a little private pay; it adds up to 100 percent. As you look at your revenue picture 40, 50—sometimes even more—percent of that money comes from Medicaid. If there is a huge \$1 trillion nationwide reduction in Medicaid money, that money is reduced money for rural hospitals, and rural hospitals will definitely close—not all of them but many of them.

So even if you are not on Medicaid, if you live in a place where there is a rural hospital and that is the flagship hospital for a small town, that might not be available to you. You might have to drive 2 or 3 hours for care, even emergency care.

No. 3, starting next year, tens of millions of people are going to pay hundreds of dollars a month more for health insurance.

This is what, I think, we should linger on because now that the fight over ObamaCare is sort of in the rearview mirror, people just think they get onto the ACA portal; they sign up for their healthcare; and they pay what they pay, right? Like, Oh, I am on a family plan. I want “this” level of deductible. Then it spits out how much you are going to pay every month. What tens of millions of people don't actually know is that those rates on the exchange are subsidized, and without those subsidies, we are going to go back to the bad old days of pre-ObamaCare, when people would pay absurd amounts of money for their healthcare insurance even if they are employed, even if they do have insurance.

What is, I think, underrated, both politically and on policy, is all of those rates get set in the next couple of months because, in order to start paying and in order to start enrolling, you have got to notify people: Hey, your thing that was \$289 a month now is \$789 a month. So sometime in the fall—it depends on the State, in October, November, and some people in December—people are going to get a letter, saying: If you want to stay on the same healthcare plan, here is your new price. And those new prices are going to be astronomical.

Now, we do have a disagreement between the parties. I think there are a lot of people who just don't like the public subsidy of healthcare insurance premiums. I am sure the Presiding Officer has her reservations about that kind of thing. It is about the size and the scope of government, but there is a factual aspect to this which is, whatever one's governing philosophy is and whatever one thought about the Affordable Care Act, the plain fact of the matter is, people are going to get letters from their insurance carriers with astronomical increases that they will not be able to pay.

No. 4, 5 million people are either going to lose some or all of their nutritional assistance starting next year.

You know, this trope is almost as old as I am—like some lazy person on food stamps just collecting food stamps, loving that life, going to the store, buying fancy stuff. It is \$6 a day. The average nutritional assistance amount per person per day is 6 bucks. I don't know if you know this, but we have subsidized food in the U.S. Senate, not because the government is paying for it but because all of the restaurants that operate here don't have to pay lease rent so it is a little bit cheaper than you would normally get. I can't get anything for 6 bucks downstairs in the Dirksen cafeteria, not that would feed me.

Six dollars a day is the average amount, and what the Republicans decided to do to generate savings, to find savings, is to cut nutritional assistance. Why? Because they needed to pay for the biggest tax cut in American history for the wealthiest people and corporations that has ever existed. It would be one thing if people were getting 75 bucks a day for food. It would be one thing if they were getting 25 bucks a day for food, but they are getting 6 bucks, and 5 million people will now have an enormously difficult time trying to figure out just how to survive the day—and I mean that quite literally, survive the day—to find the calories within their \$6 or \$8 or \$12 budget.

Finally, people are going to pay hundreds of dollars more per year in electricity because this bill throttles the cheapest and most abundant form of energy in wind and solar. And this is where you have got to stay with me for a moment.

I am very passionate about climate action. I think it is a planetary emergency. I think it is a moral obligation that we take care of our planet so it can sustain us for generations to come. But even if you don't care about that, the only energy that is ready to come online right now is solar energy—some wind energy but mostly solar energy. Why? Because nuclear, frankly, takes at least 10 years to permit and site, and, of course, anytime anyone wants to do any nuclear power generation, everybody in whatever neighborhood or State or county that is in tries to stop it. You don't just have regulatory risk; you have project risk, so 10 years is an

optimistic scenario. I am a big believer in nuclear energy, but 10 years is the most realistic scenario to get a bunch of nuclear energy online. Likewise, geothermal is, maybe, 5 to 8 years in the most optimistic scenario. Again, I love geothermal energy. I think it is an untapped resource across the United States of America.

We have about a 6-year gap before any of those other technologies are ready. So a lot of fossil advocates go: Well, why don't we do more gas? There is a backlog of combined-cycle gas turbines, and that can't just be fixed by saying: “I will take more.” Everybody wants more. There is a backlog. You cannot get gas generation online in the next 5 years. So what does that mean? It means, over the next 5 years, solar is the stuff that is instantly pluggable into the grid, supercheap, not terribly controversial except for in this Chamber, and ready to power the AI revolution and whatever other load needs we have.

But this bill kind of punitively, kind of ideologically decides: No, we are not for “all of the above”; you know that thing we said about whatever is cheap and plentiful and available every time we were trying to prevent clean energy from coming on the grid? Do you remember that thing we used to say? Now, really, what we meant is, we quite hate solar energy, particularly. We hate solar energy. Again, I think that is preposterous from a planetary standpoint, but even if there were no planetary crisis, this is the energy that is available to us, and we are about to face energy shortages.

The reason, for instance, Texas, of all places, has not had blackouts and brownouts is because solar can absorb wind; the Sun is high. It is 108 degrees, and everybody is pumping their air-conditioners. That also happens to be the point in time and the point of the day when all of the solar farms are running at full capacity, and they can power the grid.

So solar energy isn't something from 17 years ago when you said, you know, sometimes the Sun is shining and sometimes it is not and it is intermittent and the batteries aren't there. All of that is in the rearview mirror. All of the technical issues—not all of them. Ninety percent of the technical issues related to solar energy have been resolved.

That is the scariest thing for the fossil energy people. Do you know why? Because they can't argue that this isn't economically smarter; they just have to argue that it is woke or something, like woke electrons. Who cares where the electrons come from? If they are cheap and plentiful, we should all be for them.

So this bill is going to create shortages which will drive up the prices and, in some places, reduce power quality. What does “power quality” mean? It means we are going to have blackouts and brownouts across the country.

To do any of these things in the bill would be bad, but to do all of it—all of

it—in order to pay for the biggest wealth transfer from the poor to the rich in history is morally and economically bankrupt. Nobody asked for any of this. Trump voters were not demanding any of this. Nobody was asking to lose their healthcare or not be able to feed their kids or to pay more to keep the lights on at home, but they raced to do it anyway, knowing full well how devastating it would be for the country and for their own home States.

One final point: We are not going to stop talking about this. We are going to talk about this until it is repealed. We are going to talk about this when the rates go up for your electricity. We are going to talk about this when kids are thrown off their nutritional assistance. We are going to talk about this when rural hospitals close. We are going to talk about this when your insurance coverage rates go up.

We are not going to stop talking about this because this document which was enacted into law is a perfect encapsulation of the difference between the political parties. My party is flawed—obviously, my party is flawed—but I have never seen my party propose a bill that transferred so much money from the poor to the rich, and I have never seen my party propose a bill that raises the price of electricity, that raises the price of food, and that raises the price of healthcare. So we are going to talk about this today, tomorrow, and for the next 18 months until this thing is repealed from the Federal lawbooks.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, time flies these days, but it was just over a week ago when the House and the Senate passed what President Trump called the One Big Beautiful Bill, just in time for him to sign it before the deadline that he himself requested of July 4th.

This comes after naysayers and the media said it couldn't be done—simply, that the Speaker didn't have the votes with the razor-thin margins, and that, here in the Senate, we would not be able to get the majority vote we needed to pass this bill into law. But we did. To all those detractors and Debbie Downers, it looked like this pessimism was completely unwarranted.

Now that the Republicans have proven their critics wrong by accomplishing what they insisted had to be done in order to avoid a tax increase on millions of Americans, our colleagues across the aisle do what they do best, and that is criticize what we have done, which they themselves were unwilling to do. But having offered no positive alternative, all they can do is what they have learned to do, which is to oppose each and every thing that President Trump and Republicans propose.

Ever since the Big Beautiful Bill was signed into law, and even when lawmakers were working hard to make it over the finish line, our Democratic colleagues said that they found political gold in this bill and that this would be the pathway for them to win back the majority in the House of Representatives in 2026. And, of course, the mainstream media have parroted their party line, claiming that this bill will end up being unpopular.

They have done everything from describing this as not the Big Beautiful Bill but as the “Big Ugly Bill” and claiming that somehow it benefits only a fraction of the American people at the top 1 percent and accusing us of fiscal irresponsibility, while they claim that somehow the most vulnerable among us have become even more vulnerable. None of these accusations are true.

Of course, again, our Democratic colleagues could have worked with us to pass a bipartisan piece of legislation but chose not to do so. They have no positive policy proposals or vision for what America should be doing. At a time when we are confronting a multi-trillion-dollar tax increase, all they can do is criticize and, of course, reflexively oppose each and every thing that President Trump is for.

But I think it is important to point out what we were able to accomplish in this bill and why it was so important that we were successful. This legislation prevents hard-working taxpayers from facing the largest tax hike in American history.

After 4 years of the Biden administration, we saw 40-year-high inflation. The cost of everything has gone up because of massive overspending during the 4 years of the Biden-Harris administration. Taxpayers have already sustained a cut in their standard of living through this hidden tax called inflation. So the last thing they needed or they deserved was a massive tax increase on top of this 40-year-high inflation, where everything, on average, is, let's say, an estimate of 20 percent more expensive than it was before the Biden administration.

In addition to preventing that multi-trillion-dollar tax increase, we made these tax provisions permanent, preventing future Congresses from allowing that tax increase to take effect. We also provided additional benefits to working parents by making sure that their child tax credit wasn't cut in half.

And, of course, the President promised no tax on tips and no tax on overtime for millions of middle-class families. We felt it was important—and I know the President did—to keep his promise.

In Texas, the Big Beautiful Bill will save my constituents an average of \$3,000 next year. That is real money to most Texas families.

The other allegation by Democrats is that somehow this bill was not fiscally responsible. Well, we are \$36 trillion-

plus in debt. But, again, here is another example of where our Democratic colleagues have nothing to say about how we address these problems, other than: Let's raise taxes on the American people.

According to the Wall Street Journal, about 62 percent of taxpayers would see their taxes go up if Democrats had their way and the temporary tax provisions in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act had expired.

But it is important for us to begin to chip away at that national debt. I have said, time and time again, that we are spending more money on interest on the national debt than we are on defense, which is an unsustainable trajectory in a very dangerous world. I have been an advocate of looking at ways to trim mandatory spending programs, and the Big Beautiful Bill does just that.

I think what most people don't fully understand, including Members of Congress, is that the Federal Government spends roughly \$6.5 trillion a year. We appropriate about a third of that during the appropriations process, but the rest of it is on autopilot. It is mandatory spending programs that Congress does not appropriate on an annual basis. But once we turn it on, it continues until it is changed—usually never—and it goes up more and more each year with cost-of-living provisions.

Then there is the Tax Code itself, which is used sometimes for what is called tax expenditures. So we needed to look at ways to begin to reform some of the mandatory spending programs, if we were going to have a prayer at reducing the national debt, even by a little, as a first step.

While this bill was not perfect—and, certainly, no piece of legislation ever is—it did make important reforms that will help us bend the curve of our debt trajectory.

For example—and Democrats opposed this—we implemented work requirements for able-bodied adults without dependents to receive means-tested programs like Medicaid.

So let's back up a little bit.

Means-tested programs have income requirements. If you go above that threshold, you don't qualify. If you fall below it, you do. But Democrats have succeeded in making sure that able-bodied adults were receiving massive benefits under safety net programs, even though they were able to work and provide for their families and should have been working.

In fact, our healthcare system had gotten so out of whack that more money was going to able-bodied adults than to the disabled, to pregnant women, and to children under the Medicaid Program. Our bill fixed that.

Are work requirements for able-bodied adults some sort of radical conservative or Republican idea? Not if you look at the polling, which says that 62

percent of Americans, which is a bipartisan number, support work requirements for able-bodied adults for means-tested programs.

I am, frankly, surprised it is only 62 percent. It is only common sense that people who can work should work. It is actually better for them. Work provides dignity and a sense of self-worth. The idea that we should continue to subsidize people playing video games, sitting on their couch at home, is beyond the pale. I think, certainly, the American taxpayer deserves better than to spend their hard-earned money on people who can and should be working.

Then I offered an amendment to the Big Beautiful Bill that sort of, I think, cast the position of Democrats versus Republicans in a very clear light. My amendment would have penalized States for giving Medicaid benefits to illegal immigrants who were charged or convicted of serious crimes like murder, human trafficking, child abuse, or child pornography. Forty-three Democrats voted against that.

Turning it the other way around, that means 43 Democrats were for providing government benefits to illegal immigrants who were charged or convicted of very serious crimes.

You really can't make this stuff up. It is stranger than fiction.

Our colleagues across the aisle showed their true colors by voting for taxpayers to continue paying for government handouts to folks who shouldn't really be in this country in the first place, but for the open border policies of the Biden administration.

One accusation I find particularly ironic from our friends across the aisle has been this idea that we have somehow added redtape to Medicaid by requiring recipients to verify their eligibility for the program two times a year.

People come in and out of the Medicaid Program based on that means testing, based on their earnings threshold. So checking periodically to make sure that people still qualify strikes me as making good sense.

But when Republicans talk about cutting redtape, we are talking about ways we can get government out of the way of our small businesses and our entrepreneurs so that our economy can grow and so that people can create wealth for themselves and their families and their beneficiaries. We are talking about reducing the government's footprint so that the magic of American innovation can take place, unstifled by unnecessary regulations.

This bill will allow America to return to being the land of opportunity, where hard-working men and women who have a dream for a better life can build a business to support themselves and their families and have something to pass on to the next generation and, at the same time, to provide jobs for people who want to work and provide for their families.

So eligibility verification for those receiving means-tested government

benefits is not simply redtape. It is a perfectly reasonable requirement, when someone is receiving a government benefit, to prove that you actually are eligible according to the law.

This will also help us safeguard our safety net for those who are truly among the most vulnerable and to root out waste, fraud, and abuse.

There is no evidence that anything that the bill did or will do will reduce things like the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weather forecasting. Yet we hear Democrats claiming that somehow this bill is responsible for things like the terrible flooding that occurred in Texas on July 4. There is simply no evidence of that. Yet that doesn't stop them and some of the press from parroting these false claims that some of the provisions of the bill, which was just signed on July 4, somehow had that effect.

Now, our Democratic colleagues are simply unreconciled to the fact that last November, voters gave Republicans a mandate. President Trump won the electoral vote, the popular vote, and every single swing State, and Republicans won the majorities in both Houses—in the Senate and in the House of Representatives. And passing the Big Beautiful Bill was an important step in keeping our promises to the American people and advancing President Trump's legislative agenda.

But there is more. In addition to extending President Trump's tax cuts, a critical part of his campaign was to restore security to the U.S.-Mexico border and to end the rampage of criminal activity that went unchecked during the Biden administration. So in addition to spending reforms and tax cuts, the Big Beautiful Bill made good on his promise—and my promise and the promise of many of us—to take steps to secure our southern border and to protect and to support, once again, law enforcement rather than to make it impossible for them to do their job.

In Texas, Governor Abbott and the State spent billions of dollars on something called Operation Lone Star, which is a fill-the-gap program that the State implemented because the Biden administration refused to secure the border, which is a Federal Government responsibility. And the Federal Government should have funded that effort but did not.

The Big Beautiful Bill includes provisions to reimburse States like Texas for their efforts to do the Federal Government's job but one that the Federal Government simply refused to do under the Biden-Harris administration. I think reimbursement of that funding is only fair, and I am glad the Senate and the House have now made that a provision of this legislation.

This legislation will also fulfill President Trump's pledge to make our cities and streets safe again through provisions that bolster our Nation's border security and law enforcement efforts.

Over at Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE, the Big Beautiful

Bill will provide additional funding to hire, retain, and train personnel who will carry out the President's immigration agenda—something that he was elected on. And people repudiated the position of the Biden-Harris administration, which essentially was one of no controls.

The hard-working men and women in law enforcement at ICE will receive performance and signing bonuses as well as recruitment, hiring, and onboarding costs for those personnel. The bill provides resources for ICE and Federal law enforcement training upgrades as well as fleet modernization. These are important elements of actually enforcing our immigration laws.

It will support enforcement and removal operations so that criminal aliens who entered the country during the Biden administration can be removed.

In addition to the criminals, there are roughly 1½ million people who have pursued some relief in the form of asylum but have been denied any sort of relief from immigration laws and who have been ordered removed from the country but have simply stayed in the United States and defied being repatriated. Well, that is now going to change under the Trump administration.

Our bill also allocates funding for the Department of Justice to combat drug trafficking and illegal drug use as well as to investigate and prosecute crimes related to illegal immigration.

These provisions will help keep America safer by shoring up law enforcement across the board to right the wrongs of the previous administration.

During the last 4 years, Texas, because of our 1,200-mile common border with Mexico, has particularly suffered under President Biden and DHS Secretary Mayorkas's reckless open border policies. This legislation is an important step in correcting the previous administration's costly and in some cases deadly errors.

Last November, the voters voted to turn the page on the failed policies of the Biden administration, and passing this bill was a critical step in reversing those policies. This bill will put more money in taxpayers' pockets and allow us to avoid the largest tax increase in American history. It will strengthen our border and support law enforcement.

I was disheartened and disappointed but not surprised, frankly, that our Democratic colleagues voted to block the bill, preferring instead—I assume, since they offered no viable alternative—to foist that large tax increase on the American people, which would have amounted to a \$2.6 trillion tax hike on households earning less than \$400,000 a year. I am glad they did not prevail, and I am sure those taxpayers agree. Next April, when tax season rolls around, I am confident taxpayers will agree and will be thanking the Grand Old Party for this One Big Beautiful Bill.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF TRUMP ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, on July 13, 2024, an assassin nearly killed President Trump. The gunman injured him and two rally participants and killed Corey Comperatore. We keep him and his family in our prayers as well as everyone affected that day. Today, 1 year and 1 day later, I come to the floor to provide an update on my ongoing oversight of that attempted assassination.

The day of the shooting, I launched an investigation focused on gathering and releasing information to the public. I didn't want the public to be kept in the dark. Public transparency stops conspiracy theories. Sixty years after JFK's assassination, we still have questions being asked. Unfortunately, there are still aspects to that shooting where the government hasn't been transparent.

The Biden administration stonewalled my oversight requests. I strongly urge the new administration to let all the facts breathe, unlike the last administration.

The day of the shooting, my oversight unit quickly got to work. They talked to patriotic whistleblowers. They performed dozens of witness interviews, including local law enforcement officials, rally goers, and local businesses. My staff obtained and reviewed weeks' worth of security footage, text messages, pictures, law enforcement briefing materials, after-action reports, and other records. They also obtained police body camera footage that provided the first video of what happened in the aftermath of that shooting. I made it all public.

At the time, my investigative work unveiled the most detailed picture of the Trump assassination attempt. As part of my oversight, I asked the Department of Homeland Security inspector general to review the matter. I also requested that the Government Accountability Office do the same as I asked the inspector general to do. The American people wanted answers. They wanted accountability in the aftermath of this tragedy. I worked hard to do just that, and I know there is more work to be done.

This past weekend, the Government Accountability Office produced to me its report on the July 13 assassination attempt. The Government Accountability Office report starts by stating:

The U.S. Secret Service failed to implement security measures that could have prevented the assassination attempt on then-former President Donald J. Trump during a July 13, 2024, campaign rally.

According to the report, prior to the July 13 rally, Secret Service received information from the intelligence community about a threat against President Trump's life. Yet this threat in-

formation wasn't shared with Secret Service personnel or local law enforcement officials—all responsible for securing that event. Clearly, had all Federal, State, and local law enforcement officials known of this threat, it would have changed how they secured the AGR building where the sniper opened fire from.

As I previously made public, Secret Service and its local partners had cell phone issues on July 13. The Government Accountability Office report found that the Secret Service didn't have a policy to assess cellular service at the site even though communication is key during any major event like this. This resulted in the Secret Service not receiving real-time threat information and updates during the search for the gunman. Every delayed second in finding the gunman meant that he was one step closer to carrying out his evil objective.

I previously made public documents showing that the Secret Service had issues with a counterdrone system at the rally. The Government Accountability Office confirmed my previous oversight. GAO found that the Secret Service's counterdrone operator lacked the training, knowledge, and support to fix and operate the counterdrone system. According to the Government Accountability Office report, these problems occurred because the Secret Service didn't follow its own requirements that personnel must complete training before operating a counterdrone system.

The GAO report says the Secret Service said that using a counterdrone is like "turning on a flashlight." Yet the counterdrone did not work, and the Secret Service could not fix it. Had a counterdrone been operating as planned, it could have identified the shooter's drone and even the shooter.

The Government Accountability Office's report also found that the Secret Service planned to use farm equipment to address a line-of-sight issue when securing the AGR building. Before the rally, a campaign staffer asked Secret Service to modify the plan, and the advance team did as the staffer requested.

But they didn't notify senior officials overseeing the rally of these changes. If they had, the senior officials might have overruled them.

While the report says the Secret Service has made changes to correct some of these problems, they still have more work to do. The Secret Service operates in a zero-fail mission, and they don't have room for any error.

Every failure exposed by the Government Accountability Office report must be turned into positive changes in the Secret Service. I want my colleagues to know that I will be riding hard on them until I am satisfied the job is done.

I want to close out by thanking the law enforcement officers serving on the frontlines, including the Secret Service, Capitol Police, their law enforce-

ment partners, and, of course, their families—all working hard and sacrificing to keep the public and the government safe.

I am grateful to you all and do not, in the future then, take the days that seem uneventful for granted.

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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

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

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

NOMINATION OF WHITNEY D. HERMANDORFER

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, this is such a significant day. In just a few minutes, this Chamber will vote to confirm Ms. Whitney Hermandorfer to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

She is the very first judicial nomination of President Trump's second term, and there is a good reason that the President selected Ms. Hermandorfer for the circuit court.

There is no one more qualified to take on this important role as an appellate judge for our great Nation.

Now, a little bit about her background. She is a Tennessee native. She attended Nashville's Harpeth Hall School, and she was an outstanding athlete and an outstanding student at the Harpeth Hall School, which, as an educational institution, has a really long history of producing and graduating remarkable women. And Ms. Hermandorfer is one of those.

She graduated magna cum laude from Princeton, and she was first in her law school class at GWU.

And it will not surprise my colleagues to learn that Ms. Hermandorfer's career has been a stellar career. After graduating from law school, she was an associate at Williams & Connolly, where her practice focused on appellate litigation and regulatory and administrative law.

She also clerked for four Federal judges, including three Supreme Court Justices: Justice Alito, Justice Barrett, and then Judge Kavanaugh when he was on the DC Circuit. Since 2003, she has served as director of the strategic litigation unit in the Office of Tennessee Attorney General Jonathan Skrmetti.

In that role, she has not only been an aggressive attorney, she has led a team of talented attorneys in the AG's office, fighting to protect the constitutional rights of Tennesseans. There is no doubt that she will serve our Nation admirably on the Sixth Circuit. She will be a tireless advocate for our Constitution.

She will show respect for the rule of law. She will show respect for the Constitution as it is written. She will not

be a judge who will try to rewrite it. She is eminently qualified to serve, and I urge all my colleagues to vote to confirm her nomination.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of Whitney D. Hermandorfer, of Tennessee, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit.

VOTE ON HERMANDORFER NOMINATION

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Utah (Mr. CURTIS), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN), and the Senator from Vermont (MR. WELCH) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 46, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 384 Ex.]

YEAS—46

Banks	Crapo	Johnson
Barrasso	Cruz	Justice
Blackburn	Daines	Kennedy
Boozman	Ernst	Lankford
Britt	Fischer	Lummis
Budd	Graham	Marshall
Capito	Grassley	McConnell
Cassidy	Hagerty	Moody
Collins	Hawley	Moran
Cornyn	Hoeven	Moreno
Cotton	Husted	Mullin
Cramer	Hyde-Smith	Ricketts

Risch	Sheehy	Wicker
Schmitt	Thune	Young
Scott (FL)	Tillis	
Scott (SC)	Tuberville	

NAYS—42

Alsobrooks	Heinrich	Peters
Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Sanders
Blumenthal	Kaine	Schatz
Blunt Rochester	Kelly	Schiff
Booker	Kim	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Coons	Klobuchar	Smith
Cortez Masto	Luján	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Markey	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warnock
Gallego	Murphy	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden

NOT VOTING—12

Curtis	Murkowski	Rounds
Fetterman	Murray	Slotkin
Lee	Paul	Sullivan
McCormick	Rosen	Welch

The nomination was confirmed.

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

The majority leader.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call with respect to the pending nomination be waived.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 65, Luke Pettit, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

John Thune, John Barrasso, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John R. Curtis, Rick Scott of Florida, Bernie Moreno, Pete Ricketts, Eric Schmitt, Jon A. Husted, Roger Marshall, Jim Justice, Tommy Tuberville, Bill Hagerty, Joni Ernst, James E. Risch, Marsha Blackburn, Tim Sheehy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the mandatory quorum call under rule XXII has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Luke Pettit, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Utah (Mr. CURTIS), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK),

the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN), and the Senator from Vermont (MR. WELCH) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 60, nays 28, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 385 Ex.]

YEAS—60

Alsobrooks	Graham	Moreno
Banks	Grassley	Mullin
Barrasso	Hagerty	Peters
Blackburn	Hassan	Reed
Boozman	Hawley	Ricketts
Britt	Hoover	Risch
Budd	Husted	Schiff
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Collins	Justice	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kelly	Shaheen
Cotton	Kennedy	Sheehy
Cramer	Kim	Thune
Crapo	Klobuchar	Tillis
Cruz	Lankford	Tuberville
Daines	Lummis	Warner
Durbin	Marshall	Warnock
Ernst	McConnell	Whitehouse
Fischer	Moody	Wicker
Gillibrand	Moran	Young

NAYS—28

Baldwin	Heinrich	Padilla
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Blunt Rochester	Kaine	Schumer
Booker	King	Smith
Cantwell	Luján	Van Hollen
Coons	Markey	Warren
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Wyden
Duckworth	Murphy	
Gallego	Ossoff	

NOT VOTING—12

Curtis	Murkowski	Rounds
Fetterman	Murray	Slotkin
Lee	Paul	Sullivan
McCormick	Rosen	Welch

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 60 and the nays are 28, and the motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Luke Pettit, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

REMEMBERING COLONEL CARLYLE
“SMITTY” HARRIS (RET.)

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, it is a profound honor to pay tribute to the late U.S. Air Force Colonel Carlyle Smith “Smitty” Harris of Tupelo, Mississippi, an American hero who spent 8 years as a Prisoner of War in Vietnam.

A courageous Air Force pilot who was shot down behind enemy lines, he displayed remarkable bravery and heroism enduring torture, solitary confinement, and abuse in the infamous “Hanoi Hilton.”

Colonel Harris’ strength and determination left an indelible mark on American history. Carlyle “Smitty” Harris enlisted in the Air Force in January 1951 and earned his pilot wings in 1953. After years of advanced pilot training and as a flight instructor, he was stationed at Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan, in 1964.

On April 4, 1965, while flying the F-105 fighter-bomber over North Vietnam, his plane was shot down behind enemy lines. He was captured immediately and forced to march to the nearest village, surrounded by angry and armed captors. He had no idea what horrors awaited him in the infamous Hoa Lo prison, better known to most Americans by its nickname: the “Hanoi Hilton.”

As the sixth American pilot captured in the air war over North Vietnam, Colonel Harris joined the ranks of hundreds of other American prisoners of war, including future Senator John McCain and Medal of Honor recipient George “Bud” Day, who would suffer years of brutal captivity. While imprisoned, Colonel Harris displayed profound ingenuity and resilience. He recalled the Tap Code—an old World War II-era method of communication by tapping on water pipes—and teaching it to his fellow POWs. The Tap Code became a vital lifeline for the POWs, allowing them to maintain contact, boost morale, and resist their North Vietnamese captors’ efforts to isolate them. Colonel Harris is credited with helping to save hundreds of lives by preserving the prisoners’ sanity and fostering a sense of unity amid brutal conditions. His sacrifice, endurance, and leadership exemplify the highest ideals of service and heroism.

Equally inspiring is the strength and faith of his wife Louise Lambert Harris, who gave birth to their third child just 42 days after her husband’s capture. Through all the years of uncertainty and separation, Louise remained a steadfast source of hope, not only for her own family but for other POW families as well. Her encouragement and support served as a beacon for others enduring similar hardship.

Colonel Harris was finally released from captivity on February 12, 1973, and retired from the Air Force in 1979. For his bravery and service over the course of his military career, he earned numerous decorations, including two Silver Stars, three Legion of Merits, the Distinguished Flying Cross, two

Bronze Stars for valor, two Air Medals, two Purple Hearts, and two Commendation Medals.

After his release from captivity and meeting his 8-year-old son for the first time and reuniting with his two daughters who were now young ladies, Harris and Louise vowed never to waste another day. They faithfully kept that vow, constantly living life to the fullest and cherishing their lives together. Following his service, this son of Mississippi earned degrees in law and banking. He became a community leader and an advocate for veterans and youth. In 2019, he wrote the bestselling book, “Tap Code, The Epic Survival Tale of a Vietnam POW and the Secret Code That Changed Everything.”

Colonel Carlyle “Smitty” Harris, a man of deep faith, passed away on Sunday, July 6, 2025, in Tupelo, MS. He was a true Mississippi hero whose courageous service helped preserve the freedoms we enjoy today.

I join everyone from around the Nation who honor Smitty Harris’ extraordinary life, his legacy of resilience, and his contributions to our Nation. I also express my deepest condolences to Louise, their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

May Colonel Carlyle “Smitty” Harris’ story continue to inspire future generations to serve with honor, courage, and compassion.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO LESTER CROWN

• Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, it is with great pride that I rise to celebrate the 100th birthday of Lester Crown on June 7, 2025. Lester Crown is a dedicated leader, philanthropist, entrepreneur, activist, father, son, husband, and—to me—a loyal and cherished friend.

Rooted in the Crown family and their business is a tradition to support Illinois’ economy and its people. From a young age, Lester became a familiar face in the family’s construction business, Material Service Corporation, MSC. Deciding to further his passions in science and business, Lester graduated from Northwestern University with a degree in chemical engineering and Harvard University with a master of business administration. Following his education on the east coast, Lester decided to come home to Illinois and began to work full-time at MSC, eventually becoming the company’s CEO. After MSC merged with General Dynamics, Lester continued in a leadership role and served on the board until 2006. With Lester’s leadership, the company acquired stakes in companies that have had an outsized role in our State and Nation, including real estate, finance, telecommunication, and even our favorite Chicago Bulls.

Those who know Lester have seen his passion for service and philanthropy up close. He continues to champion causes

that provide Chicagoans—and all Illinoisans—the opportunity to prosper. Through Crown Family Philanthropies, he works to advance just and lasting social impact in Chicago and far beyond, and his decades-long dedication to the Jewish community has been exemplary. In recognition of his continued work, Lester has received many awards, including the Order of Lincoln, the highest award bestowed by the State of Illinois, Making History Award from the Chicago History Museum, the Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy, and the Blessed are the Peacemakers Award from the Catholic Theological Union.

Lester has made a profound impact through business, philanthropy, and service to his fellow citizens. Please join me in wishing Lester a wonderful 100th birthday. •

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE DANBY

• Mr. KING. Mr. President, over the course of my career in public service, I have had the distinct pleasure of working with—and sometimes being on the receiving end of interrogation by—hard-working, thoughtful members of the Maine press corps. They work day-in and day-out to keep us government officials honest—and to keep members of the Maine public informed. There are few, however, that have had quite as much lasting impact on all of us as George Danby.

George Danby began his career as a journalism cartoonist 50 years ago today—never mind that he was still a high school student. On July 14, 1975, he began his storied career at the Bangor Daily News when he submitted an illustration to them that they wisely accepted. Over the years, he has drawn thousands of cartoons spotlighting not just leaders in Maine, but also critical story lines and public figures from around the world.

He has drawn nine sitting Presidents and seven Governors. As a former Governor of Maine, I have been stung my fair share by his sharp pen and wit. But humor gets us all and Danby’s incredible cartoons have hung in my offices throughout various points of my career. Years ago, I even said that Danby “has the uncanny knack, essential to the cartoonist’s art, of getting to the essence of the matter in a way that’s memorable, accurate and usually funny (if being the butt of a joke published in the state’s largest newspaper is your idea of funny).”

And he is not just a visual communicator. In addition to his drawing skills, Danby has a thoughtful way with words. He is one of the few people who you can sit down with, disagree, and still find a way to move forward. In fact, he was no stranger to controversy. Yet, each time he drew a cartoon with searing commentary on the latest headlines, he found a way to open Maine readers’ eyes and minds—and, in doing so, moving Maine’s dialogue forward.

When I asked Danby's colleague of more than 20 years, editorial page editor Susan Young, about Danby and his career, she had this to say: "Through his long and ongoing career in Bangor and beyond, George has never lost his keen sense of what matters in Maine, and to Mainers. He uses his artist's eye to urge us all to be better leaders, citizens and neighbors. Maine is lucky for his long career in his beloved home state."

Thank you, George, for your long-lasting service to our State. We are better off because of your work, your vision, and your continued commitment to truth, insight, and humor. And for that, we will be forever grateful.●

RECOGNIZING SANDERS CANDY

• Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Sanders Candy as they celebrate 150 years of confectionery arts in the State of Michigan. Since 1875, Sanders has touched the hearts and taste buds of Michiganders through their delicious, handcrafted treats, a staple of special occasions, and gift giving across the State of Michigan. It is a privilege to recognize such a significant milestone for a Detroit institution.

Frederick Sanders Schmidt opened his first candy shop with a "passionate dream and a borrowed barrel of sugar" on June 17, 1875, on the corner of Woodward and Gratiot Avenue. Visitors were dazzled to find a breathtaking variety of sweet treats, such as chocolates, caramels, cakes, and pies. The company expanded at a rapid pace across southeast Michigan, opening new locations like the aptly named "Palace of Sweets," known for its ornate and spacious interior and wide array of confections, including new desserts like their iconic bumpy cake.

Over its 150 years, Sanders has gone through many changes, but their values and innovative spirit have never wavered. To accommodate increased demand, their factory became one of the first in Detroit to install an electric motor, a novel technology at the time, and hired a then unknown mechanic named Henry Ford to service it when it inevitably broke down. They were also recognized as an early pioneer in carryout services and the use of dry ice for safe food storage.

In recent years, the company has continued this innovative spirit by altering their business strategy to adapt to changing consumer habits, including expanding their online presence and offering delivery directly to customers' homes. In 2021, they launched the Second Nature Brands Innovation Center at their factory in Clinton Township as part of a new initiative to expand research and development. Visitors to the Innovation Center meet the artisans behind Sanders' treats and indulge in the creation of new desserts.

Today, Sanders continues to delight customers at their locations in Rochester and Clinton Township and be-

yond. On Mackinac Island, their vast selection of fudge is a vital part of what makes the location so memorable to visitors from around the world. And their expansion into national supermarket chains means that customers no longer need to live here in Michigan to enjoy the treats that have delighted Michiganders for now 150 years.

Given their renowned history and their legacy of innovation and excellence, I ask you to join me in recognizing Sanders as they celebrate their 150th anniversary. Since their founding, they have grown from a small Detroit candy shop to a Michigan icon, and I wish them all the best as they continue to satisfy the sweeter tastes of customers all around the country.●

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE QUEEN LILIUOKALANI KEIKI HULA COMPETITION

• Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, this month marks the 50th anniversary of the Queen Liliuokalani Keiki Hula Competition. Since its founding in 1976 by the Kalihi-Palama Culture and Arts Society, this annual event has brought together thousands of young dancers from across Hawaii and the world to celebrate the legacy of Queen Liliuokalani through hula (dance) and oli (chant).

This year, more than 600 children ages 6 to 12 will showcase their talent, discipline, and connection to Hawaiian culture as participants in this competition. Through traditional hula kahiko and contemporary hula auana, these young dancers embody the stories, values, and spirit of Hawaii. They grow up immersed in the Native Hawaiian traditions and cultural practices that help create a sense of community and identity. The related cultural demonstrations and exhibitions from local artisans and the Hawaii State Archives help share some of that knowledge and history with both the participants and attendees.

This milestone marks not only five decades of excellence in Hawaiian dance and chant but also an enduring commitment to revitalization of the Hawaiian culture. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Queen Liliuokalani Keiki Hula Competition and in recognizing its contribution to the preservation and celebration of Hawaiian culture.●

TRIBUTE TO E. CLEMENT "CLEM" SHUTE, JR.

• Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to E. Clement "Clem" Shute, Jr., as he receives the 2025 Dianne Feinstein Lake Tahoe Award. For over 50 years, Mr. Shute has been a fierce advocate and champion for the environmental protection of Lake Tahoe.

After graduating from the Boalt Hall School of Law in 1964, now known as

the University of California, Berkeley School of Law, Mr. Shute dove into environmental law and advocacy. Mr. Shute helped pioneer California environmental law, initially through his position as the assistant attorney general in the California Attorney General's Office, where he was responsible for the environment and consumer protection section, and later through his law firm. As assistant attorney general, he was legal advisor to the Governor's Office of Planning and Research and counsel to the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, where he led innovative environmental litigation that safeguarded the Bay Area's natural beauty and environment.

In 1980, Mr. Shute joined fellow environmental lawyers Marc Mihaly and Mark Weinberger to establish Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger LLP law firm, where upon cofounding the business, he represented the town of Tiburon in the groundbreaking decision by the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold open space zoning against claims of inverse condemnation.

With Mr. Shute's particular expertise in wetland regulation, solid waste regulation, airport expansion, and other issues affecting Lake Tahoe and the San Francisco Bay area, he is a valued and consistent environmental law advisor not only in the northern California area but also throughout the State. He served on the California Advisory Board of the Trust for Public Land, helping preserve, expand, and increase accessibility to green spaces across the State. Mr. Shute is also credited for helping launch the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, where he served as a board member for nearly a decade and played a vital role in negotiating the regional plan update.

Mr. Shute notably has also received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the California Lawyers Association for his contributions to environmental law, the Peter Behr Lifetime Achievement Award from the Marin Conservation League, and has been named a California Super Lawyer for several years, among other honors.

I ask all Members to join me in thanking Clem Shute for over half a century of dedicated service as one of Lake Tahoe's greatest advocates and congratulate him upon receiving the Dianne Feinstein Lake Tahoe Award.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 6:29 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276d and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, the Speaker appoints the following Members on the part of the House of Representatives to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group: Mr. Bergman of Michigan, Mr. Stauber of Minnesota, Ms. Tenney of New York, Mr. Finstad of Minnesota, Mr. Langworthy of New York, and Mr. Baumgartner of Washington.

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 3003, and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, the Speaker appoints the following Members on the part of the House of Representatives to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Mr. Aderholt of Alabama, Mr. Hudson of North Carolina, Mr. Murphy of North Carolina, Mr. Ellzey of Texas, Mr. Cohen of Tennessee, Mr. Cleaver of Missouri, Mr. Veasey of Texas, and Mr. Doggett of Texas.

The message further announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 6913, and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, the Speaker appoints the following Members on the part of the House of Representatives to the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China: Mrs. Kiggans of Virginia and Mr. Strong of Alabama.

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-1286. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Economic Development Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Elimination of Supplementary Grant Regulation" (RIN0610-AA77) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1287. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Economic Development Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment to Environment Regulation" (RIN0610-AA87) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1288. A communication from the Senior Attorney Advisor, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revision of National Environmental Policy Act Regulations" (RIN2125-AF80) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1289. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Reconsideration of the Dust-Lead Hazard Standards and dust-Lead Post-Abandonment Clearance Levels: Correction" (RIN2070-AK91) (FRL No. 8524.1-02-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1290. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Missouri; Control of Emissions During Petroleum Liquid Storage, Loading, and Transfer" (FRL No. 12732-02-R7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1291. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Louisiana; Nonattainment Plan for the Evangeline Parish 2010 Sulfur Dioxide Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standard Nonattainment Area" (FRL No. 12753-02-R6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1292. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Integrated Iron and Steel Manufacturing Facilities Technology Review: Interim Final Rule" (FRL No. 5919.4-03-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1293. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Volatile Organic Compound Emission Standards for Aerosol Coatings: Interim Final Rule" (RIN2060-AW62) (FRL No. 12710-01-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1294. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Coke Ovens: Pushing, Quenching, and Battery Stacks, and Coke Oven Batteries; Residual Risk and Technology Review, and Periodic Technology Review" (FRL No. 8471.1-03-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1295. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Ohio; Moderate Attainment Plan Elements for the Cleveland Area for the 2015 Ozone Standard" (FRL No. 11757-02-R5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1296. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Priorities List" (FRL No. 12162-02-OLEM) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1297. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Ohio; Regional Haze Plan for the Second Implementation Period" (FRL No. 12175-02-R5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1298. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of State Air Quality Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Oklahoma; Control of Emissions From Existing Municipal Solid Waste Landfills" (FRL No. 12425-02-R6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1299. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Florida; Revisions to Stationary Sources - Removal of Clean Air Interstate Rule Provisions" (FRL No. 12620-02-R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1300. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Louisiana; Interstate Transport Requirements for the 2010 SO₂ NAAQS" (FRL No. 12681-02-R6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1301. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; West Virginia; Regional Haze State Implementation Plan for the Second Implementation Period" (FRL No. 12731-02-R3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1302. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; California; Revised Format for Nonregulatory Provisions" (FRL No. 12792-01-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

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. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 2264. A bill to improve the emergency management capabilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. MULLIN):

S. 2265. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Los Angeles, California, and the 2034 Olympics and Paralympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City, Utah; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. REED, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 2266. A bill to provide for automatic renewal protections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SHEEHY (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. BUDD):

S. 2267. A bill to establish the Payroll Audit Independent Determination program in the Department of Labor; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CRAMER (for himself, Ms. ALSO BROOKS, Ms. LUMMIS, and Mr. FETTERMAN):

S. 2268. A bill to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 to include the Secretary of Agriculture as a member of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SCHMITT:

S. 2269. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to increase the criminal penalties for assaulting, resisting, or impeding an officer or employee of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida:

S. 2270. A bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate the portion of the Myakka River in Sarasota County, Florida, as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. KELLY):

S. 2271. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report on security cooperation with Guyana; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 2272. A bill to provide access to reliable, clean, and drinkable water on Tribal lands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Ms. LUMMIS (for herself and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. 2273. A bill to amend the Act of July 10, 1890, to modify certain provisions relating to the disposal of public land in the State of Wyoming for educational purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. Res. 320. A resolution designating July 2025 as “Plastic Pollution Action Month”; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MULLIN:

S. Con. Res. 17. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that any public rendition of “The Star-Spangled Banner” should be performed as written by Francis Scott Key, in English; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 237

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 237, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide public safety officer benefits for exposure-related cancers, and for other purposes.

S. 275

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 275, a bill to improve the provision of care and services under the Veterans

Community Care Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 339

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 339, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of multi-cancer early detection screening tests.

S. 367

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 367, a bill to prohibit the importation, sale, manufacture, transfer, or possession of .50 caliber rifles, and for other purposes.

S. 383

At the request of Mr. KAYNE, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 383, a bill to extend Federal Pell Grant eligibility of certain short-term programs.

S. 645

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 645, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the individuals and communities who volunteered or donated items to the North Platte Canteen in North Platte, Nebraska, during World War II from December 25, 1941, to April 1, 1946.

S. 812

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 812, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure veterans may obtain a physical copy of a form for reimbursement of certain travel expenses by mail or at medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 907

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 907, a bill to amend the Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2022 to make technical corrections.

S. 1027

At the request of Mr. KAYNE, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO) were added as cosponsors of S. 1027, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make employers of spouses of military personnel eligible for the work opportunity credit.

S. 1137

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1137, a bill to provide that the Federal Communications Commission may not prevent a State or Federal correctional facility from utilizing jamming equipment, and for other purposes.

S. 1245

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1245, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand health care and benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs for military sexual trauma, and for other purposes.

S. 1281

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1281, a bill to establish a new non-immigrant visa for mobile entertainment workers.

S. 1369

At the request of Mr. KAYNE, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1369, a bill to support 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.

S. 1383

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 1383, a bill to establish the Veterans Advisory Committee on Equal Access, and for other purposes.

S. 1528

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1528, a bill to amend the National Child Protection Act of 1993 to ensure that businesses and organizations that work with vulnerable populations are able to request background checks for their contractors who work with those populations, as well as for individuals that the businesses or organizations license or certify to provide care for those populations.

S. 1532

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1532, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 1547

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1547, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to reauthorize the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund, and for other purposes.

S. 1569

At the request of Mr. BANKS, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1569, a bill to modify the criteria for

recognition of accrediting agencies or associations for institutions of higher education.

S. 1573

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1573, a bill to amend the Small Business Act to reauthorize and modify the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Research programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1715

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1715, a bill to prohibit payment card networks and covered entities from requiring the use of or assigning merchant category codes that distinguish a firearms retailer from a general merchandise retailer or sporting goods retailer, and for other purposes.

S. 1754

At the request of Mr. BANKS, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1754, a bill to counter the military-civil fusion strategy of the Chinese Communist Party and prevent United States contributions to the development of dual-use technology in China.

S. 1782

At the request of Mrs. MOODY, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1782, a bill to prohibit discrimination on the basis of mental or physical disability in cases of organ transplants.

S. 1809

At the request of Mrs. MOODY, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1809, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking or transmitting video of defense information, and for other purposes.

S. 1816

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1816, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish requirements with respect to the use of prior authorization under Medicare Advantage plans.

S. 1874

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) WAS ADDED AS A COSPONSOR OF S. 1874, A BILL TO AMEND THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT TO REAUTHORIZE CERTAIN NURSING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

S. 1945

At the request of Mr. JUSTICE, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1945, a bill to prohibit States and local governments from prohibiting or limiting the connection, reconnection,

modification, installation, transportation, distribution, or expansion of an energy service based on the type or source of energy to be delivered, and for other purposes.

S. 2051

At the request of Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2051, a bill to authorize the Department of Housing and Urban Development to transform neighborhoods of extreme poverty into sustainable, mixed-income neighborhoods with access to economic opportunities, by revitalizing severely distressed housing, and investing and leveraging investments in well-functioning services, educational opportunities, public assets, public transportation, and improved access to jobs, and for other purposes.

S. 2067

At the request of Mr. SCHMITT, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2067, a bill to rescind certain budget authority proposed to be rescinded in special messages transmitted to the Congress by the President on June 3, 2025, in accordance with section 1012(a) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974.

S. 2203

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2203, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to build safer, thriving communities, and save lives, by investing in effective community-based violence reduction initiatives, and for other purposes.

S. 2210

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) were added as cosponsors of S. 2210, a bill to ensure that the provision of portable benefits to an individual is not considered in determining whether such individual is an employee of a person, and for other purposes.

S. 2211

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2211, a bill to reauthorize the Special Diabetes Program for Type 1 Diabetes and the Special Diabetes Program for Indians.

S. 2230

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2230, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reinstate the rules for wagering losses.

S. 2231

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota

(Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2231, a bill to protect human rights and enhance opportunities for LGBTQI people around the world, and for other purposes.

S. 2262

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2262, a bill to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to clarify the nature of public investment for purposes of certain rulemaking, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 236

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 236, a resolution calling for the return of abducted Ukrainian children before finalizing any peace agreement to end the war against Ukraine.

S. RES. 240

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 240, a resolution affirming that diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility are fundamental values of the United States and emphasizing the ongoing need to address discrimination and inequality in the workplace, pre-K through 12th grade and higher education systems, government programs, the military, and our society.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. MULLIN):

S. 2265. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Los Angeles, California, and the 2034 Olympics and Paralympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City, Utah; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the America's Olympic and Paralympic Games Commemorative Coins Act.

After a 26-year absence, the Olympics are making a big return to American soil with Los Angeles, CA and Salt Lake City, UT, set to host the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games and the 2034 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, respectively.

The America's Olympic and Paralympic Games Commemorative Coin Act would direct the Treasury Department to mint and issue coins in commemoration of these games. The 2028 summer games—or LA28—will be the ninth time that the United States and the third time that Los Angeles will host the modern Olympics. The 2034 winter games will be the 10th time that our Nation and the second time that Salt Lake City will host the modern Olympics.

The proceeds from the sale of these coins will support the hosting of the

2028 and 2034 Games and aid in the execution of their legacy programs, including the promotion of youth sports in the United States. It is also worth noting that this bill would come at no cost to the Federal Government.

As you may know, the United States is one of the only countries with an Olympic committee that does not receive funding from the Federal Government. All U.S.-hosted Olympic Games must instead rely on corporate partnerships, proceeds from broadcast agreements and ticket sales, and philanthropic contributions.

Historically, Congress has authorized commemorative coins to honor the Olympic Games and Olympic athletes, including for the 1984, 1996, and 2002 Olympic Games in the United States. The 2028 games are 3 years from today, and preparations for this grand event have already been underway in the region. This legislation can help ensure the 2028 and 2034 games have the resources necessary to be world-class events and showcase all that America has to offer.

I thank Senators CURTIS, SCHIFF, and MULLIN for introducing this legislation with me in the Senate, as well as Representatives SHERMAN, LUCAS, CALVERT, KAMLAGER-DOVE, and MOORE for leading the companion in the House. I hope all our colleagues will join us in supporting this bill to ensure that Los Angeles, CA, Salt Lake City, UT, and our entire Nation are able to put on successful and memorable Olympic and Paralympic Games.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 320—DESIGNATING JULY 2025 AS “PLASTIC POLLUTION ACTION MONTH”

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 320

Whereas plastic pollution represents a global threat that will require individual and collective action, both nationally and internationally, to address;

Whereas approximately 460,000,000 tons of plastic are produced each year, a number that is projected to triple by 2050;

Whereas, in the United States—

(1) the rate of plastic waste recycling decreased in 2021 to between 4 and 6 percent; and

(2) less than 3 percent of plastic waste is recycled into a similar quality product;

Whereas a study from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development found that, in 2024, the United States—

(1) mismanaged 3 percent of plastic waste; (2) landfilled 73 percent of plastic waste; (3) incinerated 19 percent of plastic waste; and

(4) recycled 5 percent of plastic waste;

Whereas single-use plastics account for not less than 40 percent of the plastic produced every year;

Whereas more than 12,000,000 tons of plastic waste enter the ocean every year from land-based sources alone;

Whereas, if no action is taken, the flow of plastics into the ocean is expected to triple by 2040;

Whereas, as of the date of adoption of this resolution, studies estimate that there are approximately 171,000,000,000 pieces of plastic in the oceans of the world;

Whereas, of those 171,000,000,000 pieces of plastic in the ocean, 1 percent floats, 5 percent washes up on beaches, and 94 percent sinks to the bottom;

Whereas more than 2,000 marine species have consumed plastics;

Whereas plastics, and associated chemicals of plastics, are ingested by humans and are associated with well-established human health risks;

Whereas studies show that scientists have found microplastic particles in the blood, lungs, colons, breastmilk, livers, feces, sputum, and placentas of humans;

Whereas studies suggest that humans ingest up to 1,500,000 microplastic particles per day;

Whereas taking action to reduce plastic production and use, to collect and clean up litter, and to reuse and recycle more plastics will lead to less plastic pollution;

Whereas, every July, individuals challenge themselves to reduce their plastic footprint through “Plastics Free July”;

Whereas, during the 50-year period preceding the date of adoption of this resolution, more than 18,000,000 volunteers have joined the International Coastal Cleanup to collect more than 380,000,000 pounds of plastic and debris while simultaneously recording their findings to inform research and upstream action;

Whereas switching to reusable items instead of single-use items can prevent waste, save water, and reduce litter; and

Whereas July 2025 is an appropriate month to designate as “Plastic Pollution Action Month” to recommit to taking action, individually and as a country, to reduce plastic pollution; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates July 2025 as “Plastic Pollution Action Month”;

(2) recognizes the dangers to human health and the environment posed by plastic pollution; and

(3) encourages all individuals in the United States to protect, conserve, maintain, and rebuild public health and the environment by responsibly participating in activities to reduce plastic pollution in July 2025 and year-round.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 17—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT ANY PUBLIC RENDITION OF “THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER” SHOULD BE PERFORMED AS WRITTEN BY FRANCIS SCOTT KEY, IN ENGLISH

Mr. MULLIN submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. CON. RES. 17

Whereas “The Star-Spangled Banner”, written by Francis Scott Key in 1814, was designated as the national anthem of the United States by Congress in 1931;

Whereas the lyrics of “The Star-Spangled Banner”, as originally composed in English, reflect the historical and cultural significance of the resilience and unity of the United States during a time of national challenge;

Whereas the English-language text of the anthem, as written by Francis Scott Key,

serves as a unifying symbol of the heritage and patriotism of the United States;

Whereas preserving the original English lyrics in public performances honors the historical context and intent of the anthem as a representation of the values and identity of the United States; and

Whereas maintaining the integrity of the anthem’s original language fosters a shared understanding and respect for its meaning among all people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That—

(1) any public rendition of “The Star-Spangled Banner” should be performed as written by Francis Scott Key, in the English language, to preserve the historical and cultural integrity of the national anthem and maintain its unifying significance for the people of the United States; and

(2) performers and organizers of public events are encouraged to honor the tradition of presenting “The Star-Spangled Banner” in its original English form, as a tribute to its historical and patriotic importance.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2852. Mr. THUNE (for Mr. MERKLEY) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 283, commemorating the 90th birthday of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama on July 6, 2025, as “A Day of Compassion” and expressing support for the human rights and distinct religious, cultural, linguistic, and historical identity of the Tibetan people.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2852. Mr. THUNE (for Mr. MERKLEY) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 283, commemorating the 90th birthday of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama on July 6, 2025, as “A Day of Compassion” and expressing support for the human rights and distinct religious, cultural, linguistic, and historical identity of the Tibetan people; as follows:

In the matter following the resolving clause, strike paragraph (3) and insert the following:

(3) affirms the Tibetan people’s internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, including their right to exercise regional autonomy and to protect the distinct religious, cultural, linguistic, and historical identity of the Tibetan people;

NOTICE OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEEDING

I, Senator JIM BANKS, intend to object proceeding to the nomination of Col. George H. Sebren Jr. to grade of Brigadier General, dated July 14, 2025.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following law clerks to the Senate Judiciary Committee be granted floor privileges until July 31, 2025: Isabella Jackson-Saitz, Dakota Willenbrock, Benjamin Bui, and Elizabeth Schluter.

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

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I have a unanimous consent request that the

following law clerks in Senator CAPITTO's office be granted floor privileges until July 16, 2025: Hannah Bedard and George Minning.

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

NATIONAL MANUFACTURING ADVISORY COUNCIL ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 89, S. 433.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 433) to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish the National Manufacturing Advisory Council within the Department of Commerce, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment, as follows:

(The part of the bill intended to be inserted is printed in italic.)

S. 433

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Manufacturing Advisory Council Act".

SEC. 2. NATIONAL MANUFACTURING ADVISORY COUNCIL.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADVISORY COUNCIL.—The term "Advisory Council" means the National Manufacturing Advisory Council established under subsection (b).

(2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term "appropriate committees of Congress" means—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

(E) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(F) the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate;

(G) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives;

(H) the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives;

(I) the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives;

(J) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives;

(K) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(L) the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives.

(3) ECONOMICALLY DISTRESSED AREA.—The term "economically distressed area" means an area that meets 1 or more of the requirements described in section 301(a) of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3161(a)).

(4) RURAL AREA.—The term "rural area" means an area located outside a metropolitan statistical area, as designated by the Office of Management and Budget.

(5) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Commerce.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Energy, the United States Trade Representative, and the Secretary of Education, shall establish within the Department of Commerce the National Manufacturing Advisory Council.

(c) MISSION.—The mission of the Advisory Council shall be to—

(1) provide a forum for—

(A) regular communication between the Federal Government and the manufacturing sector, including manufacturing workers, in the United States; and

(B) discussing and proposing solutions to problems relating to the manufacturing sector in the United States, including the manufacturing workforce, supply chain interruptions, and regulatory and other logistical challenges;

(2) advise the Secretary regarding policies and programs of the Federal Government that affect manufacturing, including the manufacturing workforce, in the United States; and

(3) annually produce a national strategic plan, as described in subsection (g), that provides recommendations to the Secretary and the appropriate committees of Congress regarding how to help the United States remain the preeminent destination throughout the world for investment in manufacturing, which shall be based on the execution of the duties of the Advisory Council.

(d) DUTIES.—The duties of the Advisory Council shall include the following:

(1) Meeting not less frequently than once every 180 days, in a manner to be determined by the Secretary and that is in compliance with chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code, in order to provide independent advice and recommendations to the Secretary regarding issues involving manufacturing in the United States.

(2) Identifying and assessing the impact that technological developments, critical production capacity, skill availability, investment patterns, and emerging defense needs have on the manufacturing competitiveness of the United States and providing advice and recommendations to the Secretary regarding that impact.

(3) Soliciting input from the public and private sectors and academia relating to emerging trends in manufacturing, and the responsiveness of Federal programming with respect to manufacturing, and providing advice and recommendations to the Secretary for areas of increased Federal attention with respect to manufacturing.

(4) Identifying, and providing advice and recommendations to the Secretary regarding, global and domestic manufacturing trends, including on matters such as supply chain interruptions, logistical challenges, and demographic and technological changes affecting the manufacturing base in the United States.

(5) Providing advice and recommendations to the Secretary on matters relating to investment in, and support of, the manufacturing workforce in the United States, including on matters such as—

(A) worker participation in planning for the deployment of new technologies across the manufacturing sector in the United States and within workplaces in that sector;

(B) training and education priorities for the Federal Government and employers to assist workers in adapting the skills and experiences of those workers to fit the demands of the manufacturing sector in the United States in the 21st century;

(C) how the development of new technologies and processes have impacted, and will impact, the manufacturing workforce of

the United States and the economy of the United States, which shall be based on input from manufacturing workers;

(D) policies and procedures that expand access to jobs, career advancement opportunities, and management opportunities in the manufacturing sector in the United States for low-income individuals in the United States, or new entrants into that sector, in both urban and rural areas; and

(E) how to improve access to demand-driven manufacturing-related education, training, and re-training for workers, including at community and technical colleges, through other institutions of higher education, and through apprenticeships and work-based learning opportunities.

(6) Providing recommendations to the Secretary on ways to—

(A) provide—

(i) manufacturing-related worker education, training, and development; and

(ii) entrepreneurship training relating to manufacturing;

(B) connect individuals and businesses with services described in subparagraph (A) that are offered in the communities of those individuals or businesses;

(C) coordinate services relating to manufacturing employee engagement, including employee ownership and workforce training;

(D) connect manufacturers with community and technical colleges, other institutions of higher education, State or local workforce development boards established under section 101 or 107 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3111, 3122), labor organizations, and nonprofit job training providers to develop and support training and job placement services, and apprenticeship and online learning platforms, for new and incumbent manufacturing workers;

(E) integrate new technologies and processes into the manufacturing sector in the United States and address the workforce impacts of those new technologies and processes; and

(F) develop best practices for manufacturers to incorporate, or transition to, employee ownership structures.

(7) With respect to the matters described in paragraphs (1) through (6), soliciting input from—

(A) economically distressed areas;

(B) geographically diverse regions of the United States, including both urban and rural areas; and

(C) areas of the United States that have suffered mass layoffs in the manufacturing sector.

(8) Identifying Federal, State, or other regulations that may have caused, or will cause, unnecessary supply chain disruptions, impaired business operations, increased prices, or other costly burdens for consumers and the manufacturing sector in the United States and recommending to the Secretary steps to—

(A) mitigate those consequences; and

(B) foster an environment in the United States that is favorable to manufacturers, manufacturing workers, and consumers.

(9) Completing other specific tasks requested by the Secretary.

(e) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory Council shall—

(A) consist of not more than 30 individuals appointed by the Secretary with a balance of backgrounds, experiences, and viewpoints; and

(B) include individuals with manufacturing experience who represent—

(i) private industry, including small and medium-sized manufacturers and any relevant standards development organizations or relevant trade associations;

(ii) academia; and
 (iii) labor.

(2) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—The Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, accept recommendations from the public regarding the appointment of individuals under paragraph (1).

(3) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Each member of the Advisory Council shall be appointed by the Secretary for a term of 3 years.

(B) RENEWAL.—The Secretary may renew an appointment made under subparagraph (A) for not more than 2 additional terms.

(C) STAGGER TERMS.—The Secretary may stagger the terms of the members of the Advisory Council to ensure that the terms of those members expire during different years.

(D) VACANCIES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), a member appointed to fill a vacancy on the Advisory Council occurring before the expiration of the term for which the predecessor of the newly appointed member was appointed shall be appointed only for the remainder of that term of the predecessor.

(ii) FURTHER SERVICE.—A member of the Advisory Council who is appointed for the remainder of a term of a predecessor under clause (i) may serve after the expiration of that term of the predecessor and until the date on which the Secretary has appointed a successor.

(f) TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—All functions of the United States Manufacturing Council of the International Trade Administration of the Department of Commerce, as in existence on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, shall be transferred to the Advisory Council.

(2) DEEMING OF NAME.—Any reference in any law, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States Manufacturing Council of the International Trade Administration of the Department of Commerce shall be deemed a reference to the Advisory Council.

(3) EXISTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—Any Federal advisory committee of the Department of Commerce that is operating on the day before the date of enactment of this Act under a charter filed in accordance with section 1008(c) of title 5, United States Code, for the purpose of addressing the purposes and duties described in this section shall satisfy the requirement under subsection (b) to establish the Advisory Council if, not later than 180 days after that date of enactment, the Federal advisory committee is modified, as necessary, to comply with the requirements of this section.

(g) NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Advisory Council holds the initial meeting of the Advisory Council, and annually thereafter, the Advisory Council shall submit to the Secretary and the appropriate committees of Congress—

(1) a national strategic plan for manufacturing in the United States that is based on the execution of the duties of the Advisory Council under subsection (d); and

(2) a detailed statement of the activities that the Advisory Council conducted to carry out the duties of the Advisory Council under subsection (d).

(h) DEPARTMENTAL SUPPORT.—In accordance with prevailing laws and regulations, the Secretary, as the Secretary considers appropriate, shall furnish to the Advisory Council relevant information that—

(1) is in the possession of the Department of Commerce; and

(2) relates to the mission of the Advisory Council.

(i) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section.

(j) SUNSET.—The Advisory Council shall terminate on September 30 of the fifth year after the year in which the Advisory Council holds the first meeting of the Advisory Council.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment be agreed to and the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

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

The committee-reported amendment was agreed to.

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the bill, as amended?

Hearing none, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill, as amended, pass?

The bill (S. 433), as amended, was passed as follows:

S. 433

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “National Manufacturing Advisory Council Act”.

SEC. 2. NATIONAL MANUFACTURING ADVISORY COUNCIL.

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(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

(E) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(F) the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate;

(G) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives;

(H) the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives;

(I) the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives;

(J) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives;

(K) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(L) the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives.

(3) ECONOMICALLY DISTRESSED AREA.—The term “economically distressed area” means an area that meets 1 or more of the requirements described in section 301(a) of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3161(a)).

(4) RURAL AREA.—The term “rural area” means an area located outside a metropolitan statistical area, as designated by the Office of Management and Budget.

(5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act,

the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Energy, the United States Trade Representative, and the Secretary of Education, shall establish within the Department of Commerce the National Manufacturing Advisory Council.

(c) MISSION.—The mission of the Advisory Council shall be to—

(1) provide a forum for—

(A) regular communication between the Federal Government and the manufacturing sector, including manufacturing workers, in the United States; and

(B) discussing and proposing solutions to problems relating to the manufacturing sector in the United States, including the manufacturing workforce, supply chain interruptions, and regulatory and other logistical challenges;

(2) advise the Secretary regarding policies and programs of the Federal Government that affect manufacturing, including the manufacturing workforce, in the United States; and

(3) annually produce a national strategic plan, as described in subsection (g), that provides recommendations to the Secretary and the appropriate committees of Congress regarding how to help the United States remain the preeminent destination throughout the world for investment in manufacturing, which shall be based on the execution of the duties of the Advisory Council.

(d) DUTIES.—The duties of the Advisory Council shall include the following:

(1) Meeting not less frequently than once every 180 days, in a manner to be determined by the Secretary and that is in compliance with chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code, in order to provide independent advice and recommendations to the Secretary regarding issues involving manufacturing in the United States.

(2) Identifying and assessing the impact that technological developments, critical production capacity, skill availability, investment patterns, and emerging defense needs have on the manufacturing competitiveness of the United States and providing advice and recommendations to the Secretary regarding that impact.

(3) Soliciting input from the public and private sectors and academia relating to emerging trends in manufacturing, and the responsiveness of Federal programming with respect to manufacturing, and providing advice and recommendations to the Secretary for areas of increased Federal attention with respect to manufacturing.

(4) Identifying, and providing advice and recommendations to the Secretary regarding, global and domestic manufacturing trends, including on matters such as supply chain interruptions, logistical challenges, and demographic and technological changes affecting the manufacturing base in the United States.

(5) Providing advice and recommendations to the Secretary on matters relating to investment in, and support of, the manufacturing workforce in the United States, including on matters such as—

(A) worker participation in planning for the deployment of new technologies across the manufacturing sector in the United States and within workplaces in that sector;

(B) training and education priorities for the Federal Government and employers to assist workers in adapting the skills and experiences of those workers to fit the demands of the manufacturing sector in the United States in the 21st century;

(C) how the development of new technologies and processes have impacted, and will impact, the manufacturing workforce of the United States and the economy of the

United States, which shall be based on input from manufacturing workers;

(D) policies and procedures that expand access to jobs, career advancement opportunities, and management opportunities in the manufacturing sector in the United States for low-income individuals in the United States, or new entrants into that sector, in both urban and rural areas; and

(E) how to improve access to demand-driven manufacturing-related education, training, and re-training for workers, including at community and technical colleges, through other institutions of higher education, and through apprenticeships and work-based learning opportunities.

(6) Providing recommendations to the Secretary on ways to—

(A) provide—

(i) manufacturing-related worker education, training, and development; and

(ii) entrepreneurship training relating to manufacturing;

(B) connect individuals and businesses with services described in subparagraph (A) that are offered in the communities of those individuals or businesses;

(C) coordinate services relating to manufacturing employee engagement, including employee ownership and workforce training;

(D) connect manufacturers with community and technical colleges, other institutions of higher education, State or local workforce development boards established under section 101 or 107 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3111, 3122), labor organizations, and nonprofit job training providers to develop and support training and job placement services, and apprenticeship and online learning platforms, for new and incumbent manufacturing workers;

(E) integrate new technologies and processes into the manufacturing sector in the United States and address the workforce impacts of those new technologies and processes; and

(F) develop best practices for manufacturers to incorporate, or transition to, employee ownership structures.

(7) With respect to the matters described in paragraphs (1) through (6), soliciting input from—

(A) economically distressed areas;

(B) geographically diverse regions of the United States, including both urban and rural areas; and

(C) areas of the United States that have suffered mass layoffs in the manufacturing sector.

(8) Identifying Federal, State, or other regulations that may have caused, or will cause, unnecessary supply chain disruptions, impaired business operations, increased prices, or other costly burdens for consumers and the manufacturing sector in the United States and recommending to the Secretary steps to—

(A) mitigate those consequences; and

(B) foster an environment in the United States that is favorable to manufacturers, manufacturing workers, and consumers.

(9) Completing other specific tasks requested by the Secretary.

(e) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory Council shall—

(A) consist of not more than 30 individuals appointed by the Secretary with a balance of backgrounds, experiences, and viewpoints; and

(B) include individuals with manufacturing experience who represent—

(i) private industry, including small and medium-sized manufacturers and any relevant standards development organizations or relevant trade associations;

(ii) academia; and

(iii) labor.

(2) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—The Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, accept recommendations from the public regarding the appointment of individuals under paragraph (1).

(3) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Each member of the Advisory Council shall be appointed by the Secretary for a term of 3 years.

(B) RENEWAL.—The Secretary may renew an appointment made under subparagraph (A) for not more than 2 additional terms.

(C) STAGGER TERMS.—The Secretary may stagger the terms of the members of the Advisory Council to ensure that the terms of those members expire during different years.

(D) VACANCIES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), a member appointed to fill a vacancy on the Advisory Council occurring before the expiration of the term for which the predecessor of the newly appointed member was appointed shall be appointed only for the remainder of that term of the predecessor.

(ii) FURTHER SERVICE.—A member of the Advisory Council who is appointed for the remainder of a term of a predecessor under clause (i) may serve after the expiration of that term of the predecessor and until the date on which the Secretary has appointed a successor.

(f) TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—All functions of the United States Manufacturing Council of the International Trade Administration of the Department of Commerce, as in existence on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, shall be transferred to the Advisory Council.

(2) DEEMING OF NAME.—Any reference in any law, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States Manufacturing Council of the International Trade Administration of the Department of Commerce shall be deemed a reference to the Advisory Council.

(3) EXISTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—Any Federal advisory committee of the Department of Commerce that is operating on the day before the date of enactment of this Act under a charter filed in accordance with section 1008(c) of title 5, United States Code, for the purpose of addressing the purposes and duties described in this section shall satisfy the requirement under subsection (b) to establish the Advisory Council if, not later than 180 days after that date of enactment, the Federal advisory committee is modified, as necessary, to comply with the requirements of this section.

(g) NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Advisory Council holds the initial meeting of the Advisory Council, and annually thereafter, the Advisory Council shall submit to the Secretary and the appropriate committees of Congress—

(1) a national strategic plan for manufacturing in the United States that is based on the execution of the duties of the Advisory Council under subsection (d); and

(2) a detailed statement of the activities that the Advisory Council conducted to carry out the duties of the Advisory Council under subsection (d).

(h) DEPARTMENTAL SUPPORT.—In accordance with prevailing laws and regulations, the Secretary, as the Secretary considers appropriate, shall furnish to the Advisory Council relevant information that—

(1) is in the possession of the Department of Commerce; and

(2) relates to the mission of the Advisory Council.

(i) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section.

(j) SUNSET.—The Advisory Council shall terminate on September 30 of the fifth year after the year in which the Advisory Council holds the first meeting of the Advisory Council.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

ILLEGAL RED SNAPPER AND TUNA ENFORCEMENT ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 86, S. 283.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 283) to require the Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology and the Administrator of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to develop a standard methodology for identifying the country of origin of seafood to support enforcement against illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 283) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 283

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 “Illegal Red Snapper and Tuna Enforcement Act”.

SEC. 2. METHODOLOGY FOR IDENTIFYING THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN OF SEAFOOD.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(3) KEY AGENCY LEADERSHIP.—The term “key agency leadership” means the Administrator and the Under Secretary in consultation with the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the Commandant of the Coast Guard.

(4) RED SNAPPER.—The term “red snapper” means the species *Lutjanus campechanus*.

(5) TUNA.—The term “tuna” means the following species of tuna:

(A) Bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*).

(B) Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*).

(C) Bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*).

(6) UNDER SECRETARY.—The term “Under Secretary” means the Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology and the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

(b) STANDARD METHODOLOGY FOR IDENTIFICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Key agency leadership shall, in accordance with this section, jointly develop a standard methodology, based on chemical analysis, for identifying the country of origin of seafood to support enforcement against illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—Key agency leadership shall ensure that the methodology developed under this subsection—

(A) is consistent with the needs of Federal and State law enforcement agencies in combating illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing;

(B) minimizes processing time;

(C) involves the use of a field kit that can be easily carried by one individual; and

(D) to the extent practicable, can be used to test prepared food, including raw preparations of seafood such as ceviche, sashimi, sushi, and poke.

(3) INITIAL SPECIES FOR IDENTIFICATION.—In developing the methodology under this subsection, key agency leadership shall conduct pilot studies on red snapper, as an example of a stationary stock, and tuna, as an example of a highly migratory stock.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that includes the following:

(1) A summary of the methodology developed under subsection (b).

(2) A plan for operationalizing the methodology developed under subsection (b).

(3) In the event that any aspect of the methodology developed under subsection (b) is impracticable, an explanation of why, whether additional research would make developing such a methodology practicable, and whether a different approach other than chemical analysis might be practicable.

SEC. 3. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR IUU FISHING ENFORCEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense is authorized to, in coordination with the United States Coast Guard, expend funds appropriated for the Department of Defense for operation and maintenance to provide maritime technical assistance to maritime forces from other nations in efforts to combat illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing (commonly known as “IUU fishing”) and other transnational organized crime. Such technical assistance may include providing observers, shipriders, and specialized personnel to deploy with such maritime forces, in addition to remote sensing, analysis of data, and operational intelligence, as appropriate and consistent with United States law and policy.

(b) APPLICATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority provided under subsection (a) shall apply to the use of the United States Coast Guard members deployed to and operating aboard Department of Defense, partner nation, or international partner platforms, as well as partner nation personnel operating aboard United States military and Coast Guard assets or international partner vessels, as appropriate.

COMMEMORATING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF HIS HOLINESS THE 14TH DALAI LAMA ON JULY 6, 2025, AS “A DAY OF COMPASSION”

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 283.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 283) commemorating the 90th birthday of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama on July 6, 2025, as “A Day of Compassion” and expressing support for the human rights and distinct religious, cultural, linguistic, and historical identity of the Tibetan people.

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Merkley amendment, at the desk, to the resolution be agreed to; that the resolution, as amended, be agreed to; that the preamble be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 2852) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the resolution.)

In the matter following the resolving clause, strike paragraph (3) and insert the following:

(3) affirms the Tibetan people’s internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, including their right to exercise regional autonomy and to protect the distinct religious, cultural, linguistic, and historical identity of the Tibetan people;

The resolution (S. Res. 283), as amended, was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, as amended, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 283

Whereas July 6, 2025, marks the 90th birthday of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama;

Whereas the 14th Dalai Lama was born in northeastern Tibet in 1935, was enthroned as the 14th incarnation in 1940, and was called upon to assume temporal leadership of Tibet in 1950 in response to a tumultuous time as the newly established People’s Republic of China sent its military to seize control of Tibet;

Whereas the leader of the People’s Republic of China, Mao Zedong, assured the Dalai Lama that “the Tibetan people have the right of exercising national regional autonomy” under Chinese rule and conveyed to the Dalai Lama that Tibet’s distinct religious and cultural traditions would be respected, as reflected in the Seventeen Point Agreement of 1951;

Whereas the Government of the People’s Republic of China, led by the Chinese Communist Party, steadily eroded the Tibetan autonomy to which it committed in the Seventeen Point Agreement through repressive political and military actions, leading to tension, resistance, and ultimately the Dalai Lama’s exile in 1959;

Whereas, in March 1959, the Dalai Lama fled Tibet after Chinese Communist forces

began shelling Lhasa and has since been residing in India, along with tens of thousands of Tibetan refugees;

Whereas, for more than 7 decades, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama has significantly advanced greater understanding, tolerance, harmony, and respect among the religious faiths of the world;

Whereas the Dalai Lama has led the effort to preserve the rich and distinct cultural, religious, historical, and linguistic heritage of the people of Tibet while working to safeguard other endangered cultures throughout the world;

Whereas the Dalai Lama has been gravely concerned by the degraded state of the environment of Tibet and the unchecked exploitation of the natural resources of Tibet, including fresh water, because they have implications not only for Tibetans, but also for the whole of Asia;

Whereas, beginning in 1979, the Dalai Lama has visited various parts of the United States and subsequently gained the admiration of all levels of society in the United States;

Whereas the people of the United States have consistently expressed their appreciation for the culture and religion of Tibetan Buddhists, including through their support of its preservation, and political and diplomatic support for the Dalai Lama in his capacity as a spiritual leader;

Whereas there is strong bipartisan support from successive Congresses and Administrations for the Dalai Lama’s vision for Tibet and the world and for a negotiated resolution that leads to meaningful autonomy for Tibetans that ensures they are able to freely practice their religion, culture, and language;

Whereas, on October 17, 2007, Congress awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to the Dalai Lama, finding in the Fourteenth Dalai Lama Congressional Gold Medal Act (Public Law 109-287; 120 Stat. 1231) that he is recognized around the world as “a leading figure of moral and religious authority” and is “the unrivaled spiritual and cultural leader of the Tibetan people”;

Whereas, wherever followers of Tibetan Buddhism reside, including Tibet, the United States, Bhutan, India, Mongolia, Nepal, the Russian Federation, and other countries around the world, those followers look to the Dalai Lama for religious leadership and spiritual guidance;

Whereas the Universal Declaration of Human Rights holds that “[e]veryone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion,” including the freedom to change religion or belief and to practice it in private or public;

Whereas at least 159 Tibetans in Tibet are known to have self-immolated, with statements or records left by many of them calling for freedom for Tibet and the return of the Dalai Lama;

Whereas, in 1991, section 355 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1992 and 1993 (Public Law 102-138; 105 Stat. 713) expressed the sense of Congress that Tibet “is an occupied country under the established principles of international law” and that “Tibet’s true representatives are the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan government in exile as recognized by the Tibetan people”;

Whereas, in 1961, with the support of the United States, United Nations General Assembly Resolution 1723 called for “the cessation of practices which deprive the Tibetan people of their fundamental human rights and freedoms, including their right to self-determination”;

Whereas the Government of the People’s Republic of China has interfered in the identification and installation of reincarnated

leaders of Tibetan Buddhism as part of its efforts to maintain control over Tibet, including, in 1995, arbitrarily detaining the then-recently identified 11th Panchen Lama, Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, then a 6-year-old boy, and installing China's own candidate, Gyaltzen Norbu, as Panchen Lama;

Whereas, in 2011, the 14th Dalai Lama declared that the responsibility for identifying a future 15th Dalai Lama will "primarily rest" with officials of Gaden Phodrang, the Dalai Lama's office, and that "apart from the reincarnation recognized through such legitimate methods, no recognition or acceptance should be given to a candidate chosen for political ends by anyone, including those in the People's Republic of China";

Whereas, in 2011, the 14th Dalai Lama initiated a historic devolution of power to the Central Tibetan Administration, in which he formally renounced his political role, transferring full democratic governance to an elected Tibetan leadership, thereby ensuring a democratic and secular political system for Tibet;

Whereas, on December 21, 2020, the Tibetan Policy and Support Act of 2020 (subtitle E of title III of division K of Public Law 116-260; 134 Stat. 3119) was passed, strengthening the landmark Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 (22 U.S.C. 6901 note), including by—

(1) addressing the issue of water security and environmental destruction in Tibet;

(2) providing humanitarian assistance and support for Tibetans in Tibet and in exile;

(3) stipulating that the objectives of the United States Special Coordinator for Tibet include promoting "substantive dialogue without preconditions, between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Dalai Lama, his or her representatives, or democratically elected leaders of the Tibetan community";

(4) stating that it is the policy of the United States that "decisions regarding the selection, education, and veneration of Tibetan Buddhist religious leaders are exclusively spiritual matters that should be made by the appropriate religious authorities within the Tibetan Buddhist tradition and in the context of the will of practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism" and that the wishes of the 14th Dalai Lama "should play a key role" in the selection, education, and veneration of a future 15th Dalai Lama; and

(5) stating that it is the policy of the United States to hold accountable, including through the imposition of sanctions, any officials of the People's Republic of China or the Chinese Communist Party who directly interfere with the identification and installation of a future Dalai Lama;

Whereas, on July 12, 2024, the Promoting a Resolution to the Tibet-China Dispute Act (Public Law 118-70; 138 Stat. 1488) was signed into law, with the Act affirming that it is the policy of the United States that the

Tibet issue must be resolved in accordance with international law by peaceful means, through dialogue without preconditions, and that the People's Republic of China should cease propagating disinformation about Tibet's history, and stating that it is the sense of Congress that the People's Republic of China's claims that Tibet has been part of the People's Republic of China since "ancient times" are "historically inaccurate";

Whereas the Central Tibetan Administration, the institution that represents and reflects to the greatest extent the aspirations of the Tibetan diaspora around the world, has officially decided to celebrate the 14th Dalai Lama's 90th birth year as the "Year of Compassion"; and

Whereas the 14th Dalai Lama has highlighted the oneness of humanity and has dedicated his life to the promotion of compassion and human values and is considered a leader of compassion by the international community: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes July 6, 2025, as a "Day of Compassion";

(2) congratulates His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama on his 90th birthday and affirms its recognition of his outstanding contributions to peace, nonviolence, human rights, and mutual respect within and across faiths;

(3) affirms the Tibetan people's internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, including their right to exercise regional autonomy and to protect the distinct religious, cultural, linguistic, and historical identity of the Tibetan people;

(4) reiterates, as outlined in the Tibetan Policy and Support Act of 2020 (subtitle E of title III of division K of Public Law 116-260), that the identification and installation of Tibetan Buddhist religious leaders, including a future 15th Dalai Lama, is a matter that should be determined by the present 14th Dalai Lama and within the Tibetan Buddhist faith community, in accordance with the inalienable right to religious freedom;

(5) reiterates that any attempt by the Government of the People's Republic of China or any other government to recognize a successor or reincarnation of the 14th Dalai Lama and any future Dalai Lamas not selected by the Tibetan people would represent a clear abuse of the right to religious freedom of Tibetan Buddhists and the Tibetan people; and

(6) requests that a copy of this resolution be presented to His Holiness the Dalai Lama as an expression of its esteem and respect.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2025

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it

stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, July 15; 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 be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of Calendar No. 65, Luke Pettit, postclosure; further, that notwithstanding rule XXII, at 11:30 a.m., the Senate vote on confirmation of the Pettit nomination and if cloture is then invoked on Calendar No. 134, Anthony Tata, the Senate recess subject to the call of the Chair following the cloture vote to allow for the weekly conference meetings and the official Senate photograph; further, that when the Senate reconvenes, all postclosure time be expired and the Senate vote on confirmation of the Tata nomination and if confirmed, the Senate then vote on the motion to invoke cloture on Calendar No. 184, Joseph Edlow; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Tuesday's session of the Senate, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

Mr. THUNE. For the information of the Senate, we will have two votes after the official photograph at 2:15 p.m. tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:53 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, July 15, 2025, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate July 14, 2025:

THE JUDICIARY

WHITNEY D. HERMANDORFER, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SIXTH CIRCUIT.