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Senate

The Senate met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TIM SHEEHY, a Senator from the State of Montana.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Our Father God, author of liberty who has made and preserved us as a nation, bless today our lawmakers who are called to serve the Republic by bringing order out of chaos, hope out of despair, and peace out of strife. May they lift the shield of their integrity against the enemies of justice and truth at this time when the world's hopes depend on character.

Guide our legislators so that Your providence will prevail in these challenging times. Make them worthy of the sacrifices of those who day by day give their all to keep us free.

We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The senior assistant executive clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 17, 2025.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TIM SHEEHY, a Sen-

ator from the State of Montana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of Joshua M. Divine, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern and Western Districts of Missouri.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

MEDICAID

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, the Democrat hysteria over Republicans' One Big Beautiful Bill is in full swing, and Democrats seem to have fixated on the bill's Medicaid provisions as a useful tool, they hope, to attack Republicans. And they decided that a good talking point is to blame rural hospital closures, including current rural hospital closures, on our bill's Medicaid provisions.

Well, there is only one little problem. The provisions of our bill the Demo-

crats would like you to believe threaten rural hospitals, those provisions don't even go into effect until 2028, 2½ years from now. Suggesting that those provisions are responsible for rural hospitals closing this month is the height of absurdity.

I said there was one little problem with Democrats' argument, but, in fact, there are a whole lot of problems with Democrats' arguments, starting with the fact that rural hospital closures are a longstanding problem, not something that is suddenly being triggered by our bill.

Under President Biden, Medicaid spending soared, and yet rural hospitals still closed. Why? Because rural hospitals have to deal with a lot of challenges that hospitals in major metropolitan areas don't have to deal with. Despite those challenges, many rural hospitals are finding ways to adjust to keep their doors open and to serve their communities, and we have taken steps with our bill to ensure that they can continue to do so with a \$50 billion fund for vulnerable providers like rural hospitals—a fund that goes into effect this year.

Our goal with this fund is to give rural hospitals and other vulnerable providers the time and resources to find solutions to some of the challenges they are facing and to give State governments the time to look at their budgets and develop ways of assisting rural hospitals that don't involve pushing State responsibilities onto Federal taxpayers.

Now, hopefully, what I have said so far brings some much needed clarity and accuracy to this discussion. But I want to step back for a minute and discuss the overall scope of what we are doing with the Medicaid provisions in our bill.

We are restoring Medicaid to what it was originally intended to be—a Federal-State partnership to support the most vulnerable Americans. Let me just repeat that. We are restoring Medicaid to what it was originally intended

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



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to be—a Federal-State partnership to support the most vulnerable Americans.

There has been drift on both of those in the past few years. We have drifted from a Federal-State partnership to a situation where the Federal Government picks up more and more—sometimes close to all—of the tab. And we have drifted from a focus on the most vulnerable Americans.

Medicaid was created to serve the most vulnerable populations: the elderly poor, the disabled, pregnant women, and children in need. But in 2010, President Obama and Democrats allowed States to expand Medicaid to include able-bodied adults earning up to 138 percent of the Federal poverty level. They gave States an incentive to do so by promising that the Federal Government would pick up almost all of the tab.

Now combine that with the Biden administration's Medicaid rules and waivers, and both the Medicaid population and Federal spending on Medicaid have exploded.

Medicaid spending has grown by more than 50 percent since 2019—50 percent since 2019. That is utterly unsustainable, and it threatens the stability of the program for the most vulnerable populations.

So Republicans implemented several commonsense measures to slow the rate of Medicaid growth and refocus the program on Americans most in need. Know what I said—slow the rate of Medicaid growth.

We are not cutting Medicaid. We are simply slowing the rate of growth.

As Senate Finance Committee Chairman CRAPO noted, only in Washington—only in Washington—is a smaller increase in spending considered a cut.

So what did we do in our bill? We implemented measures to remove noncitizens from the Medicaid rolls. We implemented an extremely mild work requirement, just 20 hours per week for able-bodied, working-age adults without young children. We overturned Biden-era regulations that made it difficult to remove individuals who don't qualify for Medicaid, and we took aim at rampant abuse of the provider tax loophole.

Now, use of this loophole, which sees States inflate Medicaid service prices in order to garner a larger reimbursement from the Federal Government, has been a problem for quite a while now.

In fact, President Obama proposed multiple budgets featuring measures to rein in abuse of the provider tax. But States continued to take advantage of the gimmick; and thanks to waivers that the Biden administration issued to California and other blue States last year allowing them to further exploit a similar loophole, taxpayers were on the hook for tens of billions of dollars in new spending.

So we took action to rein things in. We are not eliminating States' ability

to use the provider tax loophole, but we are instituting limits—the identical limits, in fact, that President Obama proposed imposing.

We are making States take responsibility for their Medicaid decisions—States like California, which chooses to spend State funds to have its Medicaid program cover illegal immigrants. They should not be able to, in effect, have the Federal Government bail them out for their reckless spending decisions.

Resources are not unlimited, and States need to shoulder their share of the Federal-State Medicaid partnership rather than pushing off their costs onto Federal taxpayers.

The net effect of all of these measures—like removing ineligible individuals and individuals who refuse to work from the Medicaid rolls and restraining State abuse of the provider tax loophole—will be able to put Medicaid on a more sustainable fiscal footing going forward and put a renewed emphasis on the vulnerable individuals this program was actually created to serve.

Vulnerable individuals will also be helped by the major investment our bill makes in expanding home and community-based services for individuals with developmental disabilities. This will reduce multiyear waiting lists for services and allow individuals with disabilities to access the care that they need at home or in their communities.

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act was developed to make hard-working Americans safer, stronger, and more secure. And the Medicaid provisions of the bill fit right in with that mandate. By refocusing available Medicaid dollars on those this program was originally intended to serve, we will make vulnerable Americans more secure and ensure that this program will continue to be available to Americans in need long into the future.

Mr. President, that sounds like a good day's work.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

RESCSSIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, last night, while Americans were asleep, Senate Republicans gutted critical funding for local TV and radio, for foreign aid that keeps America safe, all to keep paying for their billionaire tax cuts.

On the very same day that communities in Alaska turned to public radio and TV for tsunami warning updates, Republicans in Washington voted to

take that funding away. It is senseless, it is cruel, and just defies common sense. Republicans have become the party of “cut, cut, cut now, ask questions later; cut healthcare for 17 million Americans; cut food assistance for hungry kids; cut good-paying energy jobs, let Beijing get ahead of us.” Never mind that kids will go hungry or that families will lose insurance or that people get sick and die.

Make no mistake—make no mistake—just like with the “Big Ugly Bill” the more Americans learn about what Republicans just did in this rescission package, the more they won't like it and the more Republicans will squirm. We saw a lot of squirming last night.

When parents see Republicans just axed educational programming, when people see Republicans just axed “Sesame Street” to pay for tax cuts for billionaires, when rural Americans see Republicans not just betrayed them and defunded public radio—sometimes the only source in rural areas so vital to natural disasters, it is the only news source there—the consequences will be severe. Americans will remember. Democrats will ensure that they don't forget.

We will make sure Americans don't forget what Republicans are doing, just like we are doing with the “Big Ugly Bill,” just like these taxes for billionaires, just like these massive Medicaid cuts.

Last night's vote axing PBS, axing local TV will haunt Republicans as the damage sets in. Today, tomorrow, next month, next year, Americans will be talking about these cuts at their dinners, at the grocery store, at dinner, at the park, because the cuts will be felt everywhere.

Here is what Americans don't want: They don't want Republicans to rubberstamp DOGE's awful and damaging cuts, no questions asked. Republicans never seem to challenge Donald Trump or DOGE—or both.

When you cut investments that actually make people's lives better, when you cut those investments like healthcare, local TV, and education, people get angry. So make no mistake, when Donald Trump and Republicans rammed the “Big Ugly Bill” through, Americans quickly saw how Donald Trump and Republicans betrayed them, and their popularity is already declining.

When families saw the consequences, when Americans saw the Medicaid cuts, when kids are getting food ripped from their mouths so billionaires can pay less in taxes, it is disastrous for Donald Trump and many Republicans, and we saw that on many faces across the aisle last night who didn't want to do what Trump wanted them to do but were forced into it because of threats or frailty or fear.

Well, the same thing has happened, as I speak. As I speak, Democrats are fighting in the Appropriations Committee to unwind the awful DOGE cuts

against veterans, and that is just what is happening to our veterans through these DOGE cuts. What is happening to them is terrible.

Our veterans—these are the people who volunteered, who risked their lives. Many of them came back with injuries and PTSD. And when they get to the veterans hospitals, because there have been such cuts, their care is inadequate. They risked their lives for us, and Republicans and Trump and DOGE cut veterans' health and veterans' care. It is outrageous—outrageous—and they are doing it.

We have heard a lot of verbiage: Oh, we love our veterans. And then they cut what our veterans need and want.

The meeting today in the Appropriations Committee shows that there is a way Republicans can undo these awful DOGE cuts. Reversing DOGE cuts through the MILCON appropriations bill today is a direct rebuke to Donald Trump. It is saying to Trump: We don't like what you did, but we will see if Republicans come along, if they will defy Trump and vote to undo the DOGE cuts.

It is simple. Republicans have a choice to make as we move forward. They can put their constituents over Trump and work with Democrats to continue funding the government in a responsible way, or they can continue to go it alone and continue to bow in obeisance to Donald Trump and rubberstamp his awful cuts that do such harm to our Americans in uniform.

And if they go it alone, without undoing the terrible things that DOGE did here and elsewhere, Democrats will make them pay a price, just as we have made them pay a price on reconciliation.

Republicans can continue to bow in obeisance to Trump and rubberstamp whatever cuts he tells them to make, but you can't just push these awful cuts farther and farther down people's throats and not expect them—the people—to respond.

Republicans, for their own good and for the good of the country, need to be careful about making so many devastating cuts so quickly and just on party-line vote in reconciliation and rescission and whatever else they might come up with to avoid the process.

And if Republicans keep going down this road, if they choose to ignore the bipartisan process, if they keep reneging on funding agreements reached in committee, if they prefer to strike deals with Donald Trump and Russell Vought to use impoundment decisions and pocket rescissions to cut whatever they want on a party-line vote, the harms to the American people will be devastating.

It will be devastating in healthcare. It will be devastating to our farmers. It will be devastating to our veterans. It will be devastating to the millions of people who were promised jobs in healthcare and clean energy.

It will be Americans back home who will see even more cuts as they proceed on this road, if they do—more cuts to housing, more cuts to education, to research, to economic development.

It will be our farmers who see their costs go up. It will be our small businesses who get taken advantage of by special interests and by erratic tariff policies.

The consequences for this Chamber and our country will be stark—very stark, indeed.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

On judges, today, Republicans will spend the day ramming through more of Donald Trump's extreme judicial nominees.

When choosing his judges, only one thing matters to Donald Trump: unquestioned fealty to him—brazen, unquestioned fealty.

It doesn't matter what the law is. It doesn't matter about judicial independence or precedent or even the Constitution. The only thing that Trump cares about in a judge—we have seen this. We know it. Our Republican colleagues who just march in lockstep to vote for these awful judges know it. The only thing Trump cares about is unyielding fealty to him, and he says it brazenly.

We have never seen such a disturbing litmus test for judges in America. The judges before the Senate today are no different than the previous ones: radical, inexperienced, and chosen not for their fairness but for their ideological fealty to Donald Trump and the hard right.

The first nominee, Joshua Divine of Missouri, is a political operative—a political operative—with no judicial experience, who made a career attacking everything from voting rights to commonsense gun safety, to defending government overreach into people's private lives.

It is said that Donald Trump wants to make sure that no one in this Senate who gets nominated has ever shown any—any—independence. He looks through their campaign finance; he looks through who they have worked for—for no independence.

Mr. Divine hasn't even been out of law school 10 years and spent less than half that time practicing as an attorney.

The next nominee, Cristian Stevens, is also of Missouri. He similarly made a name for himself by undermining racial justice efforts in our judicial system and siding almost relentlessly with corporations in cases of worker discrimination.

That is who Donald Trump puts in.

If the average American has the ability to go to court and fight their boss and anything else, Donald Trump wants nominees who will always side with the big shots, with the well-connected.

Nominees like Divine and Stevens should frighten anyone who cares about a strong, independent judiciary. They have failed to show the American people that they won't just be Donald

Trump's foot soldiers in black robes. The Senate should reject their nominations.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip.

RESCISSESS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, this morning—in the early hours of this morning—Republicans voted to save the American taxpayers over \$9 billion.

Now, predictably, the Democratic leader came to the floor today in the U.S. Senate making false claims.

Let's be clear. Emergency alert infrastructure remains funded through the Department of Homeland Security and FEMA. None of that was touched.

But let me go through a list of some of the things that Republicans voted to not spend money on—things that have already previously been approved by the Democrats, and every one of the Democrats said: Nope, we want to spend all of that money on these things.

How about electric buses in Africa to the tune of \$500,000? How about teaching about environmental racism—\$7.4 million? How about vegan food programs in Africa? How about \$882,000 to fund social media mentorship in Serbia and Belarus? How about \$2.1 million for climate resilience in Southeast Asia, in Latin America, and in East Africa? How about \$3.3 million for civic engagement in Zimbabwe?

The Democrats wanted all of these things to continue to be spent, and the American taxpayers reject all of it.

How about \$4.4 million for a South Pacific youth climate corps?

Who comes up with this way to spend money? Only Democrats who want to spend and spend and spend.

And, of course, \$6.2 million to address the needs of Venezuelan migrants in Colombia.

I am proud of the votes of the Republicans to say these are taxpayer dollars that should not be spent. Every Democrat—every single Democrat—said: Keep sending the money to projects like that; keep spending that money.

Last night, for the first time since 1993—1993, and we are now 2025—the first time in all of that time that the Senate came and stripped out the spending by passing a bill on the U.S. Senate floor last night to finally say enough is enough of this kind of reckless Washington spending that the American people have rejected and that this Congress is now going to end.

ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL ACT

Mr. President, I come to the floor today on a different matter, and that is because, earlier this month, President Trump signed into law his historic economic plan—a historic economic plan for the future of our country, an economic plan that unleashes American energy and, with it, American prosperity.

It makes it easier to produce American energy—American oil, American natural gas, American coal—right here at home. It opens up energy production

onshore, offshore, and in Alaska—all vital areas in this country and for our economy.

And what does this all mean? It means lower energy prices and more savings for the American people.

Wyoming is America's energy breadbasket. It is where American energy's future begins and continues. We have a long and storied history—as does your State, Mr. President—and we are going to continue that and grow it into the future.

And just last Friday, Wyoming opened the first rare earth mine in America in 70 years. It is called the Brooks Mine, and it is located just outside the city of Sheridan, WY. Now, most Americans probably haven't heard of the Brooks Mine, but we need to know about it because it is going to have a very important role, and people will feel the influence and the importance of that mine. It is going to mean a lot in terms of prices, in terms of jobs, and also for national security.

Wyoming minerals mined by Wyoming workers are going to build a safer, more prosperous America because the mine holds over a billion tons of coal. Also, it critically includes over 2 million tons of critical minerals. These are the minerals that we use in smart phones and cars, washers and dryers, and even fighter jets.

Secretary of Energy Chris Wright came to Sheridan, WY, for the groundbreaking ceremony last Friday. He called it “a landmark moment”—one for workers, one for manufacturers, and one for our energy independence. He is exactly right.

Today, America is dangerously dependent on China for critical minerals. China controls 85 percent of the world's refined rare earth mineral elements today—85 percent. Some of it they mine there, but they also get it from mines around the world, and it gets sent there for processing. But they control 85 percent of the refined rare earth elements supplied.

Today, what is China doing? We know what they are doing. They are weaponizing this power to pressure our country and to threaten our U.S. supply chains. We can't be safe as a nation if we are dependent on our adversaries. We cannot prosper if we cannot properly power our Nation.

That is why this critical minerals mine in Wyoming matters. It reflects our commitments to our own independence, our own freedom, getting rid of the dependence. This last administration, the last 4 years, they put our head in a noose in terms of energy, energy availability, energy costs, and also critical elements from around the world.

America's future depends on abundant energy resources, and Wyoming energy resources and Wyoming energy workers will power that future.

Look, America is an energy superpower. We have the resources; we have the workers; we have the know-how. Now, finally, we are acting like it. Re-

publicans are focused on restoring American energy dominance.

No more of this Joe Biden prioritized the climate over energy that is available, affordable, and reliable. The American people rejected it. We saw what it did to raising energy prices, what it cost to heat our homes, cool the homes, fill the gas tank in the last administration. People suffered the pain of the policies of that Democrat administration.

We are getting America back on track: stronger, safer, more prosperous. And we are not going to stop until the American people see and feel the results they deserve.

I yield the floor.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Divine nomination.

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

Mr. BARRASSO. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, in a moment, we will begin the process of confirming four outstanding new judges to the bench in the State of Missouri. This has been a long road for my State. We have waited a long time to have these four vacancies filled, and I am absolutely delighted that in just a few moments, we will begin to fill them. And I want to thank President Trump for nominating four truly outstanding individuals to these roles:

Josh Divine, who is the current solicitor general of the State of Missouri and whom I had the privilege of having serve on my staff as my chief counsel, among other roles, for a number of years; Judge Cris Stevens, who is currently serving the Missouri State courts with distinction; Maria Lanahan, who is serving the Missouri Attorney General's Office even now; and Zachary Bluestone, who is a Federal prosecutor in the State of Missouri. Each of these four individuals will soon take his or her place on the Federal bench and I am confident will be a great credit not just to my State but to the United States, where I hope they will serve as Federal judges for a very long time to come.

I want to say just a brief word about each of them. I want to start with Josh Divine, whom we will be voting on here just shortly. Josh currently serves as Missouri's solicitor general, and before that, as I said, he served here in the Senate as my chief counsel. In fact, I have had the opportunity to work with

Josh on a number of occasions. I first hired him to the Missouri Attorney General's Office when I was attorney general, and he was just a young deputy. He served there and then came to the Senate and served on my staff and clerked at the U.S. Supreme Court, then came back here to the Senate as my chief counsel and then back to the State of Missouri.

Josh's record as solicitor general of Missouri is truly exceptional. He has argued—litigated—numerous cases in our State courts and Federal courts, from the trial court level all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, and here is the thing that really strikes me about Josh's record. If you total up his courtroom victories for Missouri, the dollar amounts that he has won on behalf of the State of Missouri, you won't believe the total. It is \$725 billion—billion—in successful judgments on behalf of the people of Missouri. That includes a successful lawsuit against the Chinese Communist Party for their role in the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent coverup and the many harms that it caused to the people of Missouri.

This is a very successful litigator. This is a very successful trial lawyer, a very successful appellate lawyer, and he is going to make an absolutely outstanding judge on the Federal bench for the State of Missouri.

I want to share just one personal story about Josh that I think illustrates his character more even than his win record does. You know, just a few years ago in the midst of an intense period of work for the State of Missouri, Josh and his family were taking a brief vacation, and he was catastrophically injured in a skiing accident that left him unable to walk. In fact, for a number of days, doctors feared for his life. I remember getting the call; people saying that, you know, Josh Divine has been seriously, seriously injured. We don't know if he is going to live.

He lived, thank God, and then they told him: You may or may not walk again. Do you know, over a period of months that followed, Josh set himself to regaining, with 100 percent confidence, his ability to walk. And I remember talking to him while he was yet in intensive care and then in the hospital for a long period of time and seeing the pictures of him propped up there in his bed already back to work for the State of Missouri, with his briefs around him, his laptop in front of him, writing briefs, on calls, trying to direct motions, argue them, if possible, over the phone. It was incredible.

And what he did then for a period of months after that is he taught himself to walk again. You will see him, I am sure, walking in and out of the courthouse soon in his new role on the bench. He has regained, with 100 percent capacity, his ability to walk, and it really is a testament to his determination, to his grit, to his faith, and also to his family.

Who really deserves the praise here is his exceptional wife Elizabeth, mother

of six children with Josh. I think a seventh is on the way. They are an incredible family. They are an incredible couple. They have already served the State of Missouri with distinction, and I know Josh is going to continue to serve the State with distinction for years to come.

Judge Cris Stevens is such an exceptional jurist, and I know that my good friend and colleague Senator SCHMITT will have more to say about him in just a moment. They worked very closely together, and Judge Stevens, as I said, is already serving the State with distinction on the State bench. We look forward to having him on the Federal bench for many years to come.

And Maria Lanahan and Zach Bluestone both have rendered distinguished—distinguished—service to the State of Missouri; in Maria's case, in the Missouri Attorney General's Offices, arguing cases for the State, winning judgments for the State; and Zach Bluestone, a Federal prosecutor who has been prosecuting violent crimes, going after child sex abusers, and taking the worst of the worst off of our streets in the State of Missouri. He is an exceptional Federal prosecutor. He is going to be an exceptional Federal judge.

As we come to the end of what has been a long road, to be honest, for these judicial nominations in the State of Missouri, I just couldn't be more grateful. And I want to end by how I began by thanking President Trump for his exceptional leadership, thanking him for choosing these four outstanding individuals who I know are going to make the State of Missouri proud. They are going to make the United States proud, and in just a few minutes here, I look forward to casting the first vote to begin this process to seeing them on the Federal bench.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The other Senator from Missouri.

Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I ask for unanimous consent to speak up to 5 minutes before the scheduled rollcall.

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

Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I want to echo the comments from Senator HAWLEY. This is a very proud day for the State of Missouri and significant that the first district court judges that are coming before this body under President Trump's second term in office will be filling the bench, the four vacancies, in the Eastern District of Missouri: Josh Divine, Cris Stevens, Maria Lanahan, Zach Bluestone.

I want to talk about Mr. Divine and Mr. Stevens, briefly, here, both of whom worked in the office when I was attorney general, Josh very briefly. He came on, originally, with Senator HAWLEY. But Cris Stevens, I want to talk about him first.

You know, when you are in a role like attorney general, you need a lot of good people around you, and you have

a core team. And for me, that process, you kind of rely on a lot of social capital over the years, and you ask around. You have some relationships, but you have people who then refer you to people, and you go through an interview process. And Cris Stevens was the name that just kept coming up. And I didn't know Cris before that. I knew his reputation just a little bit.

But when he and I got together and visited about the vision for what we wanted to do with the office, we instantly clicked. He is an incredible family man, a devout Catholic, his wife Leigh—they have great kids. He is a wonderful father.

And before he came to my office, he was probably one of the more decorated and storied criminal prosecutors in the U.S. Attorney's Office in generations. I mean, if there was a tough criminal case, Cris Stevens was the guy. And so I brought him in originally as our criminal chief. He later—when Tom Albus, who was my first assistant, went on to become a judge, Cris Stevens then took that first assistant role. And what I was always impressed by Cris was not only his work ethic but his willingness to work with younger lawyers, to be a mentor. His legal acumen was beyond reproach. He is a brilliant guy. He is going to do an incredible job on that court.

I am just so proud for him and his family today as this vote happens, and he will ascend to that really important role, a lifetime appointment, and will do the business of the people on that bench. We need more people like Cris Stevens so it is really a special day.

Josh Divine, as Senator HAWLEY mentioned, is a very, very smart guy. He has done a great job in the Solicitor General's Office with the current attorney general, Andrew Bailey. He will do a phenomenal job on the bench.

We are really lucky to have such a deep legal bench in the State of Missouri. As these nominees came forward, we just have an embarrassment of riches in Missouri. I think that is true, and the first two of them will be voted on here today.

And as I mentioned, Maria Lanahan and Zach Bluestone will come after that.

So I just want to wish congratulations to them as this vote takes place, and I can't recommend both of them more strongly. And, again, it is a real honor for the State of Missouri to have these two incredible jurists before this body for their confirmation vote.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby

move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 260, Joshua M. Divine, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern and Western Districts of Missouri.

John Thune, Todd Young, Markwayne Mullin, John R. Curtis, Shelley Moore Capito, Ted Budd, Ashley B. Moody, Tommy Tuberville, Joni Ernst, John Barrasso, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Mike Rounds, Lindsey Graham, Pete Ricketts, Tim Sheehy, Roger F. Wicker, Ted Cruz.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Joshua M. Divine, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern and Western Districts of Missouri, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted "YEA."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 412 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Banks	Graham	Moreno
Barrasso	Grassley	Mullin
Blackburn	Hagerty	Murkowski
Boozman	Hawley	Paul
Britt	Hoeven	Ricketts
Budd	Husted	Risch
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cassidy	Johnson	Schmitt
Collins	Justice	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Sheehy
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Curtis	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	McCormick	Young
Ernst	Moody	
Fischer	Moran	

NAYS—46

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

NOT VOTING—2

Smith Tillis

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 46, and the motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 325

Mr. GALLEGGO. Mr. President, I am introducing this resolution to require

the Department of Justice to release its files related to Jeffery Epstein.

For years, Donald Trump and the MAGA movement have railed on about the Epstein files. They have told the American people they are going to release the files and expose the elites. Pam Bondi has said she has the files on her desk, and they are ready to go public.

The names of these shady elites who have abused children were just sitting there, and she was ready for it to be released.

But now a complete reversal.

Trump is straight up gaslighting the American public. Does he think the American people are that dumb? Did he really think the American people would not forget what he had said for years on the campaign trail?

Just yesterday, we learned that the Trump administration abruptly fired one of the lead prosecutors in the Epstein case—no explanation. No warning. Just gone.

So what happened? It is really easy to run a campaign and rile up people, but when it is Trump's turn to actually expose the elites, Trump has chickened out. And it is because he is one of those elites, and he is taking care of his own.

It is all connected. Just look at his legislative agenda: tax breaks for his rich buddies; subsidizing private jet purchases. Again and again, he rigs the system against everyday Americans. And that is what this resolution is about, to show the American people they deserve the truth.

No more shady coverups. If there is any evidence of a coverup in the Epstein case, the public has a right to know. If there is a list, the public deserves to see it. Americans deserve to see the truth, even if it is not what Donald Trump and his elite friends want.

If the Department of Justice has these files and there is nothing to hide, then release them and prove it. Trump's own people have told us a million times that they have it and that they promised to make it public. So bring it out. It doesn't matter who is implicated in that.

The American people are done with these games, these lies, and the two systems of justice: one for the elites and one for everyone else.

Enough with the secrets. The American people deserve the truth. So I am calling on my fellow Senators to join me in demanding the Department of Justice release the Epstein files to restore public trust, affirm institutional accountability, and to prevent the politicization of justice.

With that, as if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 325, submitted earlier today; further, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, this is nothing but political theater. It is so obvious that the Democrats are just using this for a political football.

If they are really serious about this, what happened the last 4 years? Where were they? Silent. Doing nothing but covering up for an absent President. And now, all of a sudden, they want to talk about transparency.

We haven't even figured out who ran the White House the last 4 years, and now all of a sudden, they want to make something of this. Are you kidding me?

If they are serious about it, then why didn't they say something the last 4 years? This is nothing more than just political theater trying to go after a President that they truly despise; therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. GALLEGUO. Mr. President, the Senate just had the chance to demand transparency and stand up for the truth. Instead, my colleagues chose to protect the powerful and perpetuate years of misinformation.

Transparency is the foundation of accountability. When people are told again and again that the evidence exists, and then, suddenly, they're told it doesn't, that undermines the faith in our entire system, and it's an insult to the intelligence of every single American paying attention.

You don't rebuild public trust by hiding the truth Mr. President; you do it by proving you have nothing to hide. So I'll ask again, if there's nothing to hide in the Epstein case, then what are you so afraid of? What are they hiding? Why did the Trump administration abruptly fire the prosecutor leading the case? Why the silence? Why the backpedaling? Why the objection?

The Department of Justice should work for the people, not the powerful elites.

Today's resolution should have made that clear.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, next year, we will celebrate the 250th anniversary of our Nation's founding, and I am glad that in anticipation of this great celebration, President Trump has issued an Executive order outlining preparations that our country will make to celebrate this anniversary.

As part of this effort, President Trump has also issued a separate Executive order specifically directing the elimination of woke and anti-American displays at the Smithsonian museum.

Now, this may come as a shock to many people, but every single Institution in this city seems to be infected with political ideology and bureaucratic agendas, and the Smithsonian is no exception.

The 21 museums that make up the Smithsonian Institution have been a

treasure for a long time; but, unfortunately, in recent years, they have strayed from their true mission. These museums should be a place where up-and-coming generations of Americans can go to learn about American heroes and who built our great Nation.

They should be places where they learn about our Founding Fathers, the founding documents like the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, the pioneers who explored and settled this great land, and those who endured great hardships in order to make a better life for their children.

There are so many great stories of Americans, people who have done so much to make our country what it is today. These stories are what our young people need to hear because how else will you inspire the upcoming generation to stand on the shoulders of their forebearers and continue to make life better for more and more people who call this great country home?

How will we teach those who will one day lead this Nation—whether that is in government or in business, in medicine or any other field—that these pursuits are honorable and they have a purpose, if they have not yet learned these lessons about the heroic men and women who have gone on before them?

Unfortunately, as I indicated a moment ago, the Smithsonian has strayed from its original reason for being. The Smithsonian Institution was founded in 1846 for the expressed purpose of increasing the diffusion of knowledge among men. It was founded as a gift by James Smithson, who devised his entire estate to the U.S. Government.

Congress, as we now know, accepted this gift and provided for its governance and its financing. The Smithsonian Institution operates as a trust, which means that it is an executive Agency of the U.S. Government and is chaired by a 17-member Board of Regents.

But since its original founding in 1846, something has gone terribly wrong with the direction of the Smithsonian. A writer and mother of six recently described her experience taking her children to museums in our Nation's Capital on a warm summer day.

At the family's first stop, the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, her 4-year-old was excited to see dinosaur skeletons. But she was disappointed to learn that much of the dinosaur exhibit was dedicated to climate change.

One exhibit specifically read:

Since the last ice age, Earth's climate has warmed. But now that warming is getting faster because of us.

Well, you don't have to be a climate denier—and I am not—to recognize that something is profoundly wrong with this message.

Is it really the message a 4-year-old needs to learn, that climate change is something that she or he is personally guilty of contributing to?

Unfortunately, to the mother's dismay, she said the museum's website highlighted additional polarizing displays. A historian from the museum told the mother:

The second-floor popular culture exhibit—probably the most popular in the museum—is a Marxist struggle session. Every single exhibit is interpreted through a race-class-gender lens.

Is that really what we want to be teaching the upcoming generation of Americans at our most esteemed museums?

No. It seems like the Smithsonian has lost its way.

Instead of celebrating the contributions of remarkable Americans or educating our children about the animals that once roamed the planet, Smithsonian Institution museums are telling children they should feel guilty for contributing to climate change and introducing them to topics, which are clearly not age-appropriate.

But sometimes, it is not what the Smithsonian includes in their exhibits which is troubling; it is what they choose to exclude.

Who can forget the snub to Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas in the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture?

I recall when the museum opened, the Smithsonian had zero plans to reference Justice Clarence Thomas, the second of two Black Justices to ever serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Instead, what they chose to highlight is the testimony of Anita Hill in what came to be known as a “high-tech lynching” that followed.

Well, this was, obviously, a biased presentation and one that was clearly on its head. And I introduced a resolution at the time asking them to recognize the historical importance of Justice Thomas and his service to the Court.

After a groundswell of opposition in the months that followed, the museum finally did include him in an exhibit. But, the previous exhibit featuring Anita Hill and not the Justice is a stain on the Smithsonian that I will never forget.

I remember talking to the head of the Smithsonian at the time. Basically, he said: Thank you, Senator, for your call, but Congress doesn't have anything to say about what we do at the Smithsonian.

Well, he is wrong, and these are not messages that the Smithsonian should be sending.

America's history is a tale of triumph over incredible odds in the pursuit of freedom, and it is one that all of our children and our grandchildren deserve to learn in an unbiased and apolitical way.

Now, some have argued that the Smithsonian is subject to oversight by Congress and the executive branch. Others have said: No, it is purely a private, independent entity.

But a close examination of the Institution's history will show that it has always been a government institution, an institution of the U.S. Government.

After James Smithson willed his estate for an establishment for the in-

crease and diffusion of knowledge, the Senate—the U.S. Senate, what we are today—passed a bill to establish and organize the Smithsonian Institution that was signed into law by President Polk in 1846.

Now, that doesn't sound like a private, independent entity to me if Congress has to pass a law.

And then Congress delegated the governance of the Smithsonian Institution to a Board of Regents. This Board includes a Chief Justice of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, as well as three sitting Senators and Representatives.

Moreover, the Smithsonian receives more than half of its funds—its operating funds—from the American taxpayer, from the Federal Government. It is pretty hard to make the case that an Institution that gets the majority of its funding from Congress and is governed by a board of government officials is anything but a government entity. In fact, you can't make that argument because the evidence is all to the contrary.

Furthermore, the Institutions are structured much like other government Agencies headed by a Secretary who oversees several Under Secretaries. I don't know of any private corporations whose CEOs are referred to as “secretary.”

Moreover, the Smithsonian Institution itself has argued time and time again in court that they are, in fact, a government entity. In a case called *Raven v. Sajet*, a Federal court agreed, ruling that the “Smithsonian is a government institution through and through.” That means that the Smithsonian is clearly subject to oversight by the U.S. Government, including the executive branch and the Congress.

Our country was founded on the ideals of individual liberty, justice, and equality before the law. These are values that our institutions should teach, particularly to the next generation—not “woke” ideology and political agendas. So as we prepare for the celebration of America's 250th birthday, I would encourage—strongly encourage—the Smithsonian Institution to reconsider its purpose and to return to the principles and ideals laid out in the founding documents they so proudly display, to the benefit of all Americans.

I would close with this prediction: We know from recent events—some as recent as early this morning when we took the step that many of us have talked about for many years, and that is eliminating taxpayer support for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting—there are more than enough media entities that are capable of communicating the news and other information of interest to our constituents, the 350 million people in the country. We don't need to subsidize those with taxpayer money. Indeed, if you look at the First Amendment of the Constitution, it guarantees a free press. Can the press truly be free if it is financed and

subsidized by the government? I don't see how that is possible.

So starting early this morning with the vote on the rescissions package and the defunding, at least in terms of Federal funds—private funds and donations are certainly fine—but we finally have begun the step of bringing accountability to the Nation's Capital. No longer will the bureaucracy simply take the taxpayers' money and do what they want regardless of oversight by the Congress and the executive branch and the oversight, in essence, of the American people. Those days are over.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

NOMINATION OF LT. GEN. THOMAS M. CARDEN, JR.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, 2 weeks ago, I informed Senate leadership of my intent to object to the Senate proceeding to Trump's nominee to serve as Vice Chief of the National Guard Bureau. So I rise today to both publicly and clearly explain my hold on this nomination and to demand that the Trump administration release all remaining U.S. military forces from the unnecessary and political deployment to Los Angeles.

Earlier this week, the Trump administration did announce that they would be releasing 2,000 National Guard troops from deployment—no, not from an overseas mission, not from some disaster response to a region in need, but from a deployment against their own fellow citizens.

Around 2,000 National Guard women and men and an additional 700 marines are still in Los Angeles today. Why? Because Donald Trump needs a distraction.

Think back to about a month ago. The President found himself at the lowest point of his Presidency thus far. He was drowning in negative headlines, everything from his failing tariff wars that continue to raise prices and costs on working families, to Vladimir Putin embarrassing him on the world stage, to a messy, public breakup with Elon Musk. So in order to change the news cycle, which he does so often, to shift the headlines away from his many, many failures, President Trump chose to ramp up ICE raids in California.

When Californians took to the streets to exercise their First Amendment rights by peacefully protesting, Trump responded by federalizing the California National Guard, and then later the U.S. Marines were ordered in to intimidate the people of Los Angeles.

It was the first time that the National Guard has been deployed against the wishes of the State's Governor since 1965.

None of these servicemembers signed up to become a political prop, but Trump has put them in this impossible position that he knew would escalate tensions in the region and take them away from their critical missions elsewhere.

That is exactly why, in late June, a few weeks ago, the head of U.S. Northern Command requested that Secretary Hegseth return at least 200 troops from the National Guard's wildfire unit who were stuck in Los Angeles for Trump's political purposes, because every day that those troops were unnecessarily deployed to Los Angeles was another day that their primary mission went unmet. We are talking about undermining firefighting and fire mitigation efforts as we are approaching peak wildfire season. This is dangerous and unnecessary.

Because the Trump administration continued to keep thousands of troops in Los Angeles, 2 weeks ago, I exercised my constitutional duty as a U.S. Senator to advise and consent to nominations in order to block the nomination of LTG Thomas Carden.

Lieutenant General Carden currently serves as second in command of Northern Command, the combatant command that has overseen Trump's orders to militarize Los Angeles.

But I want to be very clear about something. My objection is about more than Lieutenant General Carden. None of what we are seeing in Los Angeles through this militarization is business as usual. Deploying the Guard against the wishes of the Governor, against the wishes of the mayor, and against even the wishes of local law enforcement—the sheriff, the police chief—none of that is normal.

So today, I am making it clear to all of my colleagues of my intent to oppose any expedited consideration of this nomination until two conditions are met:

First, every last guardsman and marine must be released from this deployment in Los Angeles. Stop militarizing our cities and using our servicemembers as political pawns.

Second, I will maintain my hold until I have been given sufficient commitments and assurances from this administration that no guardsmen from other States will be sent to enforce the President's political demands on California.

Until both of these conditions are met, I will maintain my hold on this nomination.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

NOMINATION OF AARON LUKAS

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, today, I encourage my Senate colleagues to confirm Mr. Aaron Lukas as the next Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence.

Mr. Lukas's long career serving our Nation as a CIA officer makes him well suited for this important position. He has more than 20 years of intelligence experience, which includes working as a CIA Station Chief and joint duty rotations at the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and the National Security Council.

With Mr. Lukas's knowledge, experience, and know-how, he has the right

background to assist Director Gabbard with eliminating bureaucratic bloat and returning our intelligence community to its core mission of aggressively stealing the secrets of our adversaries.

I am grateful to Mr. Lukas for his decades of service, and I would like to thank him and his family for being willing to answer the call of our country to serve once again.

For all these reasons, I again encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting Mr. Lukas's nomination to be the Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, at 2:15 p.m. today, the Senate vote on the motions to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar Nos. 263, 96, 108, 91, and 114, and that the mandatory quorum calls be waived; further, that if cloture is invoked on the nominations individually, all postcloture time be expired, including Executive Calendar No. 260, and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader, no earlier than Monday, July 21; finally, that if confirmed, 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

JEFFREY EPSTEIN

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, Donald Trump has made some farfetched statements over the last few months, but a stunner in the last few days was his claim that the Jeffrey Epstein matter was a "hoax" and a "scam."

Here is why the President is wrong. The figure at the center of this story was an ultra-rich, well-connected sex trafficker. He was a serial rapist of women and young girls. And for some reason, the Trump administration that claimed they would be the most transparent administration ever turned on a dime.

The President had run on a campaign with a promise to expose the Epstein files. Now, he and the Attorney General, Pam Bondi, say, nope, nothing to investigate when it comes to Epstein and sex trafficking. All these claims are just ludicrous.

I want the American people to know that is wrong. If you want to know why, just look at the latest report from our investigators that was discussed in the New York Times this morning. Somewhere in the Treasury Department, locked away in a cabinet drawer, is a big Epstein file that is full of actionable information—"follow the money"—details about his financing and operations that await investigation.

Last year, the Biden administration allowed our investigators to look at portions of the file. We did that at the Treasury Building. Here is what it says. Treasury's Epstein file details 4,725 wire transfers. Let me repeat that—4,725 wire transfers—adding up to nearly \$1.1 billion flowing in and out of just one of Mr. Epstein's bank accounts. If you ask me, that is more than 4,000 potential lines of investigation right there. Hundreds of millions more flowed through other accounts. That is even a lot more to investigate.

The file shows that Mr. Epstein used multiple Russian banks, which are now under sanctions, to process payments related to sex trafficking. A lot of the women and girls he targeted came from Russia, Belarus, Türkiye, and elsewhere.

One shudders to think about the kinds of people who must have been involved in trafficking these women and young girls out of those countries and into the Epstein web of abuse.

Again, these are all potential leads the Department of Justice ought to be digging into. This is about years and years of international sex trafficking.

None of this is a hoax. None of it is a scam. I would like to say, I consider it insulting to the intelligence of the American people for the Trump administration to simply say there is nothing to investigate here.

When the Trump administration came in with a lot of fanfare about transparency and openness, I said I am going to follow up on that. So I wrote to the Attorney General, Ms. Bondi; Treasury Secretary Bessent; FBI Director Patel, and I asked them all to produce the Epstein file to the Senate Finance Committee so it could be reviewed. In fact, I made that request multiple times. The Trump commitment to transparency based on the response didn't mean a whole lot because they just refused.

Here is what one Treasury official wrote back to me:

The Department of Treasury has previously made documents available relating to the matter in response to your inquiries. Accordingly, we understand that you have the information you seek from the Treasury related to this request. We thank you for your attention to this important issue.

For anybody who is familiar with how these discussions go in Washington, DC, what I just read was code for the bureaucrats saying: You are asking for information. Go pound sand.

The Trump administration may be trying to close the books on the Epstein sex trafficking, but I want it understood, as a senior member of the Senate Finance Committee, where we spend a lot of time looking at where substantial sums of money are going, particularly if they may be promoting wrongdoing and helping to evade taxes, we are going to stay on this fight to hold the wealthy individuals accountable for the harm that they, clearly, were involved in, injuring the young women and others in this sex trafficking.

I am going to have more follow-up for Attorney General Bondi very quickly. As for today, if she doesn't want to do the investigating, doesn't want the DOJ to do it, let me just reinstate my original demand: Have that Treasury information given to the Senate Finance Committee and have us, on a bipartisan basis, do our work. That is what we do in important investigations.

If the Trump people believe they need additional authority to carry out the requests that I make, again, this afternoon, let me offer to help them write the bill myself. The idea that there is nothing more to investigate—not when you have 4,000 wire transfers, many of them associated with the possibility of wrongdoing and sex trafficking promoting—the idea that you have that and there is nothing to investigate when it comes to the Epstein sex trafficking operation is ridiculous.

Pam Bondi was the attorney general in the State of Florida where a lot of the Epstein crimes were committed. The Attorney General ought to know better, of all people.

I can't begin to understand the President's handling of this or why he thinks this is just going to go away. But I am here to say that our investigators have spent 3 full years looking into this. And the reason why is because we feel so strongly about the horror of sex trafficking and our commitment to root it out.

The President of the Senate is new to this body, but I am sure he has dealt with these issues before. You can't have a much bigger horror in front of you than sex trafficking abuse. So we are talking about real evil—real evil—done to women and girls by Jeffrey Epstein. And, Mr. President, nobody gets to sweep that under the rug.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

REMEMBERING JOHN STULP, JR.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I rise today to remember the life of John Stulp, Jr., a son of Colorado's Eastern Plains, Colorado's first and only water czar, and the former commissioner of agriculture for our State.

In his 45 extraordinary years of public service, John was appointed by five Governors—of both parties—to two cabinet positions and six State boards and commissions.

Governor Bill Ritter, who appointed John as commissioner of agriculture, said:

If we had an award for the most universally loved cabinet member, it would be John Stulp.

I agree.

After graduating from Colorado State University with a degree in veterinary science, John returned to Prowers County with his beloved wife Jane. Together, they ran Stulp Land and Livestock for 50 years, growing dryland wheat and raising cattle, while continuing to practice veterinary medicine.

I was honored to spend time with him and learn from John, including a visit to the Stulp farm in 2013.

Over the years, the Stulp family farm has welcomed Members of Congress, State legislators, commissioners, and school groups with open arms and warm hospitality. John always had something cold to drink when you were there.

He was a farmer first, and of farming he said:

You don't farm because you want to; you do it because you have to. It's in your blood.

John was elected county commissioner in deep-red Prowers County as a Democrat, which testifies precisely to the kind of leader he was—steady, willing to work toward compromise, and always putting the needs of South-eastern Colorado first.

We could use his example around here.

As a water czar under then-Governor Hickenlooper, he had the enormous task of creating a water plan for the next 50 years. Skeptical at first, John's quiet and thoughtful approach brought rural and urban users to the table and helped forge compromise over some of the toughest issues that we face in the West and in Colorado.

He knew that rural Colorado was counting on him, I would suspect, all of his life, but he was also thinking beyond himself and beyond his own backyard—about the next generation of Coloradans: his 5 kids and now 14 grandkids and about what they would inherit.

John leaves an incredible legacy in Colorado, not just with regard to the work he did to ensure that rural Colorado was represented in the capital of Denver or in the expertise and counsel he gave to countless leaders but, I would say, most importantly to him, in his family.

I send, on behalf of the people of Colorado, my condolences to the entire Stulp family—to John's children, to his grandchildren, to his wife Jane.

Colorado will feel his loss, and his leadership will be deeply missed. I think his example will testify to the standard every one of us should strive for of leadership in our States and in our communities and as members of our families.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORENO). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CRUZ. 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 ARIELLE ROTH

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I rise in support of the nomination of Arielle Roth to serve as Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, or NTIA.

Having worked closely with Arielle, I can attest personally that there is no

one better to lead the NTIA and to advise the President on telecommunications issues. As the telecommunications policy director to the Senate Commerce Committee, Arielle led my legislative and oversight efforts on communications and broadband policy with integrity, creativity, and dedication. I am not sure I have ever met someone as passionate about telecommunications law and policy as Arielle. Her work ethic is indefatigable, only rivaled by her dedication to public service. President Trump's administration and the American people are blessed to be getting her talents in this new role.

Arielle will play an integral role in the management of the Federal Government's use of electromagnetic spectrum. She will work closely with Federal Agencies to protect critical uses of spectrum, whether for national defense, weather forecasting, or transportation, while identifying opportunities to free up spectrum for commercial use. As I have stated before, American leadership in spectrum is vital to the security of global telecommunications networks, to our own national security, and to our economic success.

NTIA also plays a crucial role in administering billions of dollars for Federal broadband programs, including the \$42 billion BEAD program. President Trump and Secretary Lutnick have charted a new course from the prior administration's inaction and ideological hand-wringing. With Arielle at the helm of NTIA, I have no doubt that BEAD will succeed in its mission of connecting Americans to the internet as expeditiously and efficiently as possible.

Arielle's qualifications show that she is the right person for this job. Her telecommunications experience dates back to her time as a legal fellow at the Hudson Institute's Center for Economics of the Internet. Then, for 4 years, Ms. Roth served at the Federal Communications Commission as the Wireline Advisor for then-Commissioner Michael O'Rielly. She next turned to Congress, where she worked on telecommunications policy at the House Energy and Commerce Committee and, later, as legislative counsel to our former colleague Senator Roy Blunt, a long-serving member of the Senate Commerce Committee.

Arielle has been a tireless and expert advocate in defending and promoting key conservative values. She has consistently fought to defend the taxpayer, to defend free speech, with particular passion to defending kids online. Arielle was key in delivering policy victories many said were impossible.

Simply put, her experience both in Congress and at the FCC makes her ideally suited to lead NTIA. Arielle will serve President Trump and Secretary Lutnick well in their mission to advance government efficiency, economic growth, and innovation. The American people will benefit enormously from her service.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support Arielle Roth's nomination to be NTIA Administrator. She was voted out of the Commerce Committee with bipartisan support, and my hope is that she will be confirmed on this floor with bipartisan support.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to start this vote early.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 263, Cristian M. Stevens, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri.

John Thune, Todd Young, Markwayne Mullin, John R. Curtis, Shelley Moore Capito, Ted Budd, Ashley B. Moody, Tommy Tuberville, Joni Ernst, John Barrasso, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Mike Rounds, Lindsey Graham, Pete Ricketts, Tim Sheehy, Roger F. Wicker, Ted Cruz.

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 Cristian M. Stevens, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), and the Senator from Min-

nesota (Ms. SMITH) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 49, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 413 Ex.]

YEAS—49

Banks	Grassley	Mullin
Barrasso	Hagerty	Murkowski
Blackburn	Hawley	Paul
Boozman	Hoeven	Ricketts
Britt	Husted	Risch
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Capito	Johnson	Schmitt
Cassidy	Justice	Scott (FL)
Collins	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lankford	Sheehy
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Curtis	McConnell	
Daines	McCormick	Wicker
Fischer	Moody	Young
Graham	Moreno	

NAYS—43

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

NOT VOTING—8

Cramer	Moran	Smith
Ernst	Schiff	Tillis
King	Shaheen	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 49, the nays are 43, and the motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Cristian M. Stevens, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 96, Aaron Lukas, of Arkansas, to be Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence.

John Thune, Ted Budd, Katie Boyd Britt, Todd Young, Roger Marshall, Tommy Tuberville, Deb Fischer, Shelley Moore Capito, John Barrasso, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Steve Daines, Marsha Blackburn, Eric Schmitt, Pete Ricketts, Mike Crapo, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Tim Sheehy.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Aaron Lukas, of Arkansas, to be Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted "yea."

Mr. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 49, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 414 Ex.]

YEAS—49

Banks	Grassley	Mullin
Barrasso	Hagerty	Murkowski
Blackburn	Hawley	Paul
Boozman	Hoeven	Ricketts
Britt	Husted	Risch
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Capito	Johnson	Schmitt
Cassidy	Justice	Scott (FL)
Collins	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lankford	Sheehy
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Curtis	McConnell	
Daines	McCormick	Wicker
Fischer	Moody	Young
Graham	Moreno	

NAYS—40

Alsobrooks	Hirono	Rosen
Baldwin	Kaine	Sanders
Bennet	Kelly	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kim	Schumer
Blunt Rochester	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Booker	Luján	Smith
Cantwell	Markey	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warnock
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Fetterman	Murray	Welch
Gallego	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	
Hassan	Peters	Wyden
Hickenlooper	Reed	

NOT VOTING—11

Coons	Heinrich	Shaheen
Cramer	King	Tillis
Durbin	Moran	Warner
Ernst	Schiff	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BUDD). On this vote, the yeas are 49, the nays are 40. The motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Aaron Lukas, of Arkansas, to be Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence.

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 assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 108, Bradley Hansell, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security.

John Thune, Todd Young, Markwayne Mullin, John R. Curtis, Shelley Moore Capito, Ted Budd, Ashley B. Moody, Tommy Tuberville, Joni Ernst, John Barrasso, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Mike Rounds, Lindsey Graham, Pete Ricketts, Tim Sheehy, Roger F. Wicker, Ted Cruz.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Bradley Hansell, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security, 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 North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted "yea."

Mr. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGOS), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 57, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 415 Ex.]

YEAS—57

Baldwin	Crapo	Husted
Banks	Cruz	Hyde-Smith
Barrasso	Curtis	Johnson
Blackburn	Daines	Justice
Boozman	Fetterman	Kaine
Britt	Fischer	Kelly
Budd	Graham	Kennedy
Capito	Grassley	Lankford
Cassidy	Hagerty	Lee
Collins	Hassan	Lummis
Cornyn	Hawley	Marshall
Cotton	Hoeven	McConnell

McCormick	Ricketts	Sheehy
Moody	Risch	Sullivan
Moreno	Rosen	Thune
Mullin	Rounds	Tuberville
Murkowski	Schmitt	Warnock
Paul	Scott (FL)	Wicker
Reed	Scott (SC)	Young

NAYS—31

Alsobrooks	Kim	Schatz
Bennet	Klobuchar	Schumer
Blumenthal	Luján	Slotkin
Blunt Rochester	Markey	Smith
Booker	Merkley	Van Hollen
Cantwell	Murphy	Warren
Cortez Masto	Murray	Welch
Duckworth	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden
Hickenlooper	Peters	
Hirono	Sanders	

NOT VOTING—12

Coons	Gallego	Schiff
Cramer	Heinrich	Shaheen
Durbin	King	Tillis
Ernst	Moran	Warner

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUSTED). On this vote, the yeas are 57, the nays are 31. The motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Bradley Hansell, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security.

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. 91, Arielle Roth, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.

John Thune, Bernie Moreno, Lindsey Graham, Tommy Tuberville, Steve Daines, Marsha Blackburn, Joni Ernst, James Lankford, John Barrasso, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Shelley Moore Capito, John R. Curtis, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Roger Marshall, Mike Rounds, John Boozman, Pete Ricketts.

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 Arielle Roth, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER),

the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted "yea."

Mr. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGOS), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN), the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 34, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 416 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Banks	Graham	Moreno
Barrasso	Grassley	Mullin
Blackburn	Hagerty	Murkowski
Boozman	Hawley	Paul
Britt	Hoeven	Ricketts
Budd	Husted	Risch
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cassidy	Johnson	Schmitt
Collins	Justice	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Sheehy
Crapo	Lee	Sullivan
Cruz	Lummis	Thune
Curtis	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Fetterman	McCormick	Young
Fischer	Moody	

NAYS—34

Alsobrooks	Hirono	Reed
Baldwin	Kelly	Sanders
Bennet	Kim	Schatz
Blumenthal	Klobuchar	Schumer
Blunt Rochester	Luján	Slotkin
Booker	Markey	Smith
Cantwell	Merkley	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warren
Duckworth	Murray	Welch
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Wyden
Hassan	Padilla	
Hickenlooper	Peters	

NOT VOTING—16

Coons	Kaine	Tillis
Cramer	King	Warner
Durbin	Moran	Warnock
Ernst	Rosen	Whitehouse
Gallego	Schiff	
Heinrich	Shaheen	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 34, and the motion was agreed to.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Arielle Roth, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the

Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 114, John Hurley, of California, to be Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Crimes.

John Thune, John R. Curtis, Tommy Tuberville, Bernie Moreno, Tim Sheehy, Marsha Blackburn, Joni Ernst, Chuck Grassley, Bill Hagerty, Cindy Hyde-Smith, James E. Risch, Pete Ricketts, Steve Daines, Lindsey Graham, Mike Rounds, Rick Scott of Florida, James Justice.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of John Hurley, of California, to be Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Crimes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted “yea.”

Mr. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGOS), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN), the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 46, nays 36, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 417 Ex.]

YEAS—46

Banks	Daines	Marshall
Barrasso	Fischer	McConnell
Blackburn	Graham	McCormick
Boozman	Grassley	Moody
Britt	Hagerty	Moreno
Budd	Hoeven	Mullin
Capito	Husted	Murkowski
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Ricketts
Collins	Johnson	Risch
Cornyn	Justice	Rounds
Cotton	Kennedy	Schmitt
Crapo	Lankford	Scott (FL)
Cruz	Lee	Lummis

Sheehy	Thune	Wicker
Sullivan	Tuberville	Young

NAYS—36

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Peters
Baldwin	Hirono	Reed
Bennet	Kelly	Sanders
Blumenthal	Kim	Schatz
Blunt Rochester	Klobuchar	Schumer
Booker	Luján	Slotkin
Cantwell	Markey	Smith
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Fetterman	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Welch
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden

NOT VOTING—18

Coons	Heinrich	Schiff
Cramer	Kaine	Scott (SC)
Durbin	King	Shaheen
Ernst	Moran	Tillis
Gallego	Paul	Warner
Hawley	Rosen	Whitehouse

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 46, the nays are 36.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of John Hurley, of California, to be Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Crimes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

TRIBUTE TO E. GORDON GEE

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a dear friend of mine who has dedicated nearly two decades of his life to the service of our great State of West Virginia and, really, to the betterment of our students seeking higher education; the man who has been President of more universities than anyone else in the world—Dr. E. Gordon Gee, president of West Virginia University, who retired this week.

Dr. Gee—or Gordon, as we call him—was fortunate to serve two tenures as President of WVU, first from 1981 to 1985 and, again, from 2013 to 2025, where he brought his strong desire for community and his absolute love of education to our home among the hills in West Virginia in Morgantown.

I know I speak for everyone when I say how much we will miss his signature bow ties—and I think he must have thousands of them—and his love for athletics, which has led him to be a leader, not just at WVU and his other schools but also at the NCAA. You know, he even offered to suit up for the WVU football team, although he is quick to admit he is not much of an athlete. But he has such infectious energy and thoughtful guidance, and his legacy will be felt at WVU for generations to come.

To understand the impact that Gordon has made on West Virginia, I must expand on what WVU really means to our State and people far outside our borders. WVU was established in 1867, initially named the Agricultural College of West Virginia. It became our State's first public land-grant university. Since then, individuals from across our State, country, and world,

have become Mountaineers, and many are WVU grads, including many members of my family.

There are a couple of things I must note about WVU. First of all, Mountaineers are everywhere. There isn't a town across West Virginia or an airport across the country—and I would even say the world—where you don't see the trademark blue and gold Flying WV logo or hear “Country Roads” being played. Mountaineers serve as a point of pride to our State and bring recognition to the wonderful people, passion, culture, and history that we have in our State of West Virginia.

Second, Mountaineers are changing the world. Across WVU's 13 colleges and schools—whether it is engineering, agriculture, law, or medicine—Mountaineers are making a difference. WVU is the State's only institution to hold the title of an R1 university, the benchmark that recognizes exceptional research capacity. This is a status that WVU received in 2016 under Gordon's leadership.

Gordon's connection to West Virginia isn't just a professional one; it is a personal one too. He chose to return to West Virginia, not once but twice, because he believes in West Virginia, our people, and WVU. When he speaks of his love and passion for our State, it is unmistakably heartfelt. Gordon believes in the power of education. And that belief has left its mark, not only on Morgantown but across every corner of our great State and, honestly, across the country.

When Gordon became president of WVU the first time in 1981, he was only 37 years old. When he returned to Blaney House—which is the residence of the president—in 2013, I will say he came back seasoned with the experience and perspective that WVU really needed.

Through the foundation of his four pillars—education, healthcare, prosperity, and purpose—Gordon has guided WVU through both times of success and tumult, including through a global pandemic. He made education for our children in West Virginia more accessible and obtainable and moved our State toward one of his principles that Virginians should not have to leave our State's borders to receive the healthcare that they deserve.

The impact Gordon has made is apparent in many areas, but particularly noteworthy is the impact he has made through the continued expansion of WVU Medicine. As the chairman of the WVU Medicine board of directors, Gordon oversaw the addition of 20 hospitals under the WVU Medicine umbrella that span across our State and increased the capacity and research support for WVU's world-class facilities, like the Rockefeller Neuroscience Institute, our Cancer Institute, Heart and Vascular Institute, and new Children's Hospital.

As West Virginia's Senator, I have had the privilege to work with the wonderful and incredibly impressive

people of WVU Medicine and have visited these facilities many times. Let me tell you, they are on the cutting-edge of medical achievements that will save lives and change our world. Gordon's leadership has been a critical part of this success, and it is fitting that his recently finished portrait will live at the WVU Medicine campus.

Although Gordon was born in Utah, he is the first to tell you that he is a "born-again" West Virginian. He has made our State his home, and the effort and energy that he puts toward benefiting the lives of his fellow West Virginians is evident.

Two of Gordon's four pillars that I mentioned earlier—purpose and prosperity—relate directly to economic development in our State. Along with the Marshall president, Brad Smith, Gordon was central to developing the First Ascent Program in West Virginia. This program connects recent WVU and Marshall graduates with workforce opportunities within our State that launch their professional careers and keep our best and brightest at home, contributing to our communities.

The dynamic duo, as I would call them, also worked together to establish Ascend West Virginia, which has been a successful effort to attract remote workers to West Virginia's mountains, highlighting the wonderful outdoor recreation opportunities that our State offers to young professionals and their family.

Additionally, Gordon has made it a priority to visit and spend time every year in all 55 counties of our State, showing the excellent work of the WVU Extension services, designed to build prosperity, enhance educational opportunities, improve health, and create purpose in communities across the entirety of our State.

While Gordon's presence as WVU President will be missed, we know that he will continue to make a difference in West Virginia. As I said when I started this speech, the legacy he built will continue to be felt for generations to come.

I know that I join Gordon and our State when I say we look forward to the leadership and experience that the new WVU president, Michael Benson, brings to Morgantown. In a recent article published at the WVU Magazine, I found the advice that Gordon gave to his successor to be wise, true, and eloquent:

If you love the state and its people, they will love you back.

And that has certainly been the case for Dr. E. Gordon Gee and the time he has spent in Morgantown.

On a personal note, Charlie and I have been the recipients of emails, texts, and letters from Gordon that have lifted us up in tough times and, really, in good times, as well. I have leaned on Gordon's counsel as I have made difficult decisions. And he has always taken the time to give me very thoughtful advice. Both Charlie and I can safely say our lives have been en-

hanced by Gordon and by the friendship that we have fostered with him and Laurie.

Here in the U.S. Senate—and as I look at the President of the Senate, I know this is true of you, being from Ohio—there are many Members here in the U.S. Senate that have Gordon on speed dial. But I am eternally grateful we West Virginians are the ones who get to claim him.

Gordon, I wish you the best in your next chapter. And I have heard him talk about his retirement. He always reminds everybody, "I have not died. I have not died." But I hope you enjoy the well-deserved time that you can now spend with your Laurie, who has made an incredible mark on our State and the university alongside you, as well as your daughter Rebekah and those two beautiful young twin granddaughters whom you love so dearly.

Thank you, Gordon, for all you have done for WVU, West Virginia, all of your leadership, your vision, your heart, your sense of humor, and all that you have done for our State and our people, those of us, like you, who call it home.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

RESCSSIONS

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, in the past month, my great folks in Oklahoma have started learning a new term around here that is an old term, actually, but it is a term we use all the time, "vote-arama."

I have to tell you, it makes me sleepy just to say the word because vote-arama is a part of the 1974 Budget Act that allows for unlimited debate on an issue of certain types of budget process, rescissions, that we did yesterday, and then trying to be able to go back even farther to be able to deal with a reconciliation.

I want to spend just a couple of minutes talking about it because so many folks that I talk to have no perspective on this. It is good to be able to get some context.

The 1974 Budget Act set out 12 different appropriations bills that are done. That is how our budget is actually done. That is how we actually spend. When the House and the Senate and the President sign that, those 12 bills are now law so they have to be done; that has to be spent. But if the President were to say: I don't want to spend this amount; I don't think that it is necessary, it is the law so it has to be done. But the President can actually send back over to Congress a rescissions and say: I would like permission to turn this part off, and, literally, make a new law to be able to say we are not going to spend this.

That is what has happened here in the last 24 hours. The President sent over, about 40 days ago, a rescissions for \$9 billion and said: I don't think this needs to be spent.

I will talk a little bit about the context of that in a moment, but it was on

foreign aid, and it was on National Public Radio and PBS. It was \$1 billion for PBS and National Public Radio, and it was \$8 billion for foreign aid. He sent it over and said: I don't think this needs to be spent.

What has been interesting is to be able to see the national conversation on this on social media as if this cuts off all foreign aid everywhere. I have to tell you, I have some of my good friends at home who would be fine with all foreign aid being cut off, but that is not what happened. What happened was actually going through and examining what foreign aid do we want to keep and what foreign aid do we think is wasteful, that we shouldn't keep in it.

So what actually happened? Let me set some context on this first.

There are things like PEPFAR, which I have been very supportive of. For the last couple of decades, the United States has made one of the biggest impacts in the world on slowing down the spread of AIDS worldwide. The work that has been done in Africa, through PEPFAR, on AIDS, on tuberculosis, and on malaria has literally saved millions of lives and has dramatically slowed down that virus movement. The innovation that not only affects Americans who suffer with those but also affects the entire world and the movement of that disease has led us to actually engage in areas like Ebola and other areas to be able to go and fight them and make sure that diseases that are happening there that are highly communicable don't spread to us or to other parts of the world. All of us who have experienced COVID know full well that it is better to be able to attack it early than it is to be able to fight it later. PEPFAR has been that entity that has done that. This bill that we just walked through in the rescission didn't affect that aid at all. We said: No. We are going to continue to be able to do that.

Programs like Food for Peace and the McGovern-Dole Program that actually feed the hungry around the world—some of my farmers and ranchers in Oklahoma even and some of the mills that are there actually take some of the food that is grown there—it is literally packaged in the Midwest, and it is shipped all over the world to feed hungry folks—that is still in place. That has not changed.

I know a lot of folks on social media say: Oh, my gosh. This is cutting off all food aid everywhere else.

No, that is actually not what happened. We have worked through our foreign aid programs to counter the Chinese Communist Party's influence around the world, but that wouldn't affect it. In fact, that was specifically isolated out to say: No, we are going to continue to do that because we have got to push back against the communism that has spread across the world.

What about combating anti-Semitism, human trafficking, and religious persecution? No, no. We protected all

of those and made sure those were not affected.

Polio eradication efforts around the world, especially for children, is protected. We didn't make any change to that. All of that foreign aid is still going out.

Again, I have folks at home who say that is somebody else's problem, but the vast majority of Americans and Oklahomans say: Hey, we need to make sure that we are engaging in humanitarian needs in the places where we can as we are also fighting our debt and deficit.

But what are some of the areas we actually did cut? Because we actually did eliminate \$8 billion. Let me give you a couple of examples of that.

We actually did a 25-percent reduction in the resettlement fund that is run through the State Department. Now, why would we cut 25 percent of the resettlement fund? Well, 18 months ago, the United States was facing 2.5 million people a year illegally crossing our border, and there was work across all of government that the Biden administration was doing to try to manage these people in very mass numbers. Well, guess what. We have fewer than 200 now a day even attempting to cross our southern border. So there is not a need for this massive resettlement fund anymore because the borders are under control, so this fund was cut 25 percent.

Now, we are still involved in some resettlement efforts in other places for refugees around the world, and we are still involved in disaster aid, but we don't need near as large a fund for this because there is not near the problem that there used to be because our border is more secure.

The Office of Management and Budget literally went through the State Department, line by line, and identified all of these different line items and said: What did we spend our money on in this account last year? This went to humanitarian aid.

But then they also identified different areas that the State Department took for some of these funds and said they spent it on these areas. For instance, the State Department spent \$2.5 million to teach children how to make environmentally friendly reproductive health decisions. Well, we cut that, and I think most Americans would say: What in the world are we doing with that?

They spent \$3 million creating an Iraqi version of "Sesame Street" to be able to use in Iraq.

They spent \$4.5 million on the Melanesian Youth Climate Corps.

They spent a ton of money on a pride parade, with the U.S. taxpayer sponsoring a pride parade in Southern Africa.

There was money that was spent to promote vegan food in Zambia.

There was money spent for social media mentorships in Serbia and Belarus.

There was \$18 million spent to improve gender diversity in the Mexican

street lighting industry. Do you know what? We cut that. What we saved was aid for polio, for AIDS, for food. What we cut was money for gender diversity improvements for the Mexican street lighting industry.

So, yes, we did cut some funds back, but it was very intentional to go back and identify the areas that most folks at home would scratch their heads and say: Tell me again why we spent our tax dollars on that. Tell me again why I worked overtime to pay for my family to be able to make more money and pay more taxes so that my money would go to be able to teach children how to make environmentally friendly reproductive health decisions overseas.

That is what we went after, and I am grateful that we actually didn't just talk about doing something; we did it.

Not only did we do that on the State Department's side, but we engaged in something that a lot of people have talked about for a long time: NPR and PBS. Now, I have got nothing against "Sesame Street." I have got nothing against the "Antiques Roadshow." I have got nothing against NPR programs. If people want to be able to listen to that, well, that is fine. They are in America, and they can have the opportunity to be able to listen to it. This has been interesting just to be able to hear their conversation about it because the conversation has been that we shut the whole program down, that NPR is closing down tomorrow. Well, that is just not true. Let me tell you what we actually did with this rescission.

We gave about a year and a half of time to NPR and to PBS to find some additional funding because, with NPR, 90 percent of their funding right now—90 percent of their funding—comes from private sources. The Federal taxpayer just pays 10 percent of it. That 10 percent for PBS and for NPR equals \$1 billion. It is a big number, but it is just 10 percent of the funding. They provide sponsorships.

I asked the question: How does every other television station and every other radio station seem to operate and find enough sponsors to be able to cover them but that somehow, magically, NPR will not be able to cover the last 10 percent of their costs? That is absurd. Of course, they will be able to do that.

I have smiled and jokingly said to folks: If MSNBC can find enough sponsors to cover it, NPR can as well.

Listen, they will be able to find enough sponsors, and they have got time to be able to actually do that. We didn't cut them off tomorrow. We gave them about 18 months of time and said: You need to start finding some other sponsorships to be able to get ready for that because some people really like PBS. That is great. They will still be out there.

I grew up in a time period like some folks in this room grew up in. I was the remote control when I was growing up, OK? We would sit on the couch, and

Mom would say to me: Go up to the TV and turn the dial, because I was the remote control in our family because we had four stations. We had ABC, NBC, CBS, and PBS. Those are the four stations that we had. We established that as a nation we need to be able to get emergency information out because that was the best way to communicate because we had four stations in America. That was it.

Well, that is not true anymore. There are thousands of stations that are available over the air for free, and there are streaming platforms galore if you want to be able to spend a hundred bucks a month for each of them. We have got lots of things on our cell phones and have access to it. There are lots of different options now that are very different. I think some people don't realize that, in 1983, Ronald Reagan proposed taking the funds away from PBS and from NPR, saying it was not needed—in 1983—because we had enough options, much less now, when thinking about all of the options we have.

It has been fascinating for people to be able to say: If we don't have PBS, people will not know how to respond in an emergency. They desperately need that for an emergency.

I have to tell you, I live in a rural State, the great State of Oklahoma. We have, occasionally, a few storms that roll through Oklahoma. I actually don't know a person who says: Oh, my gosh. It looks stormy. I think I will turn on NPR.

I actually don't know that person. They pull out their cell phones, and they look and see what is going on, on the radar or they track through unlimited numbers of great options for meteorologists in our State, and that is true all over the country.

Again, I don't belittle what they are doing—people can choose to be able to listen—but to say the only way a television station or a radio station is going to function in America is if taxpayers pay for it means you ignore the thousands of other options that are out there.

So, no, we are not cutting them off except for the funding and saying: Hey, decades ago, this might have been an appropriate use of funds, but when we have \$2 trillion in overspending, maybe we should start looking for billions of dollars to be able to reduce our spending. We are not just talking about it; we actually did it and said: OK. Let's start finding strategic ways to be able to do this. So, in the last 24 hours, the House and the Senate agreed, and we are reducing our total spending by \$9 billion in very strategic ways. Now, that is the rescission package. That is one vote-arama for our long night last night.

ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL ACT

Mr. President, if we go back a couple of weeks ago, we were on a reconciliation bill—another vote-arama with unlimited amendments, that we had literally more than 24 hours of amendments on. As we walked through that

experience, that was all about: What are we going to do on tax policy, and what are we going to do about the One Big Beautiful Bill?

I have to tell you, I have friends at home who catch me and say: I have heard the term over and over again. I really don't know what is in the "One Big Beautiful Bill." I have just heard people say it.

I even have a friend of mine who owns a restaurant, and he actually has on his menu now the "One Big Beautiful Burger" because it has just become a catchphrase.

Well, let me tell you a little bit about it because I want people to know a little bit more about what is actually in there. This was passed by the House and the Senate, and the President of the United States signed it into law on the Fourth of July, and that bill will have dramatic effects in so many areas.

It is half of the farm bill that needs to be done that, quite frankly, we couldn't get done in the last Congress because our Democratic colleagues would not agree with us on what we were doing on some of the farm programs. Well, guess what. We just got those done. Every farmer and rancher in my State is ecstatic that more than half of the farm bill has now already been done. We are not talking about it. We actually did that. Now, we have got more to go in other policy areas, but reference prices and so many other things that needed to be updated just got updated.

It was able to prevent a tax increase for every single American—every single American, not just the wealthy. For every single American who pays taxes, their tax rate was scheduled to go up on January 1 of next year until now. We passed the One Big Beautiful Bill, and it did the first big thing it needed to do: prevent a tax increase. It kept the rates the same so that Americans would not have a huge tax increase.

It also added a new border wall structure. It added new border agents. It added ICE agents. It added detention facilities so that we don't have a couple of months of a secure border, but we have structures that are going into place to be able to make sure, long term, we have a secure border. Now, there is more to do in law in other areas, but the financial part of it we put in place. It isn't for a single year. We have actually put that in place for 4 years to be able to make sure that the funding would be there to be able to have the structures in place to be able to do that.

There was significant funding that was put in to be able to modernize our military, especially our Navy. We are very, very behind in that area so there are strategic investments in that.

There are strategic investments in the Coast Guard, which is decades behind. If you go to a Coast Guard station right now, you will find older ships, older ports, out-of-date cameras, out-of-date radar. They desperately

need to be updated. So, for all of our coastal communities, they know how dependent they are on the Coast Guard. This One Big Beautiful Bill finally puts an investment into our Coast Guard to be able to increase safety.

While I am talking about safety, we all know we desperately need to be able to modernize our air traffic control. This bill provides \$12.5 billion to finally bring our air traffic control up to a modern system. If you walk into an air traffic control tower, it looks like you just walked into the 1960s, but it won't in the days ahead because the investment has been made to be able to modernize the air traffic control based on what is in this bill. It is one of the most significant investments that we have had in a very, very long time in strategic areas that desperately needed help.

Now, I have heard from a lot of folks on this; that this is a giant deficit bill. I get that. I have seen all of those things on social media. But if you went to the Congressional Budget Office—and everybody is welcome to look at that online. If you went to the Congressional Budget Office and looked for their final, final score—this is after all the amendments, all the text changes, after everything has been done—the final score from the Congressional Budget Office was \$400 billion in savings, not in deficit; \$400 billion in savings was the final score when they came out, once everything was all said and done. I understand, on social media, there are lots of other things flying around there. I urge you to go check the last score to make sure it had all the information and that everything was up-to-date on this.

There are a couple of things I had the privilege of being able to work on for a long time on this bill. Many of them took years. There is kind of a running joke in the Senate that nothing moves fast in the Senate until it does. Many of these issues I have literally worked on for years to be able to make sure that they are ready for this moment. I want to talk through just a couple of them to make sure everybody knows what is really going on.

One of them is called full expensing. If you own a business, you know what that is. If you don't own a business, you have no idea. But if you are a small business or a manufacturer, if you buy a truck or a piece of heavy equipment or manufacturing equipment, you have to expense that out as your business expense over several years. That is really hard to do. Typically, in the first year you buy it, you have to take out a loan to pay your taxes because you had a big capital expense and you don't have enough money to be able to float to be able to cover your taxes as well. We shifted the policy permanently in this bill, where every business that buys a big piece of capital or equipment, they can expense it out in that year that they bought it. It doesn't make any difference on the amount of revenue coming into the

Treasury, but it makes a huge difference to that individual businessowner and incentivizes them to be able to buy another big piece of equipment the next year.

Do you know what that does? That encourages more manufacturing in the country because when they buy that truck, when they buy that tractor, when they buy that piece of equipment for their manufacturing, they get more efficient. And the business that made that truck, that makes that piece of equipment, they get more business, and it churns the economy.

Every single economist, right or left, says if you do full expensing, it helps your economy. That was in this One Big Beautiful Bill. That allows now—until Congress changes this, which I hope they never do—no expiration. Full expensing now is a part of our Tax Code because I think that is essential to be able to be there.

There is another piece that I worked on, and it is connected to this full expensing. In 2021, my Democratic colleagues did a bill they called the Inflation Reduction Act. They changed the energy tax policy in that. And in that, they created a new tax just on oil and gas companies to say they can't write off their expenses like every other company can. There was like a special punishment just put in, a special new tax piece put in just for oil and gas companies. It is called intangible drilling costs—IDC, as you will hear the term used.

We were able to say if we are going to treat all manufacturing the same, if they get a chance to expense out, that should also be true for oil and gas companies. They shouldn't be punished. They should be treated—watch this—the same as everyone else. It is not a special perk for them. They would be treated equally as every other manufacturer across the country. That provision is in here.

What does that do? That increases domestic production of domestic energy, and it encourages a lot of companies that are out there that have a lot of jobs that are based here in America to be able to continue to invest in their workers and bring in more energy to the United States.

It was a very significant provision that I actually had the opportunity to be able to work on for years to be able to get that done.

Another change that I disagreed with in our 2017 bill—shocking that we don't all agree on everything, on every aspect. But in 2017, we changed who could actually take a deduction for donating to a nonprofit. In 2017, it became only those in the upper brackets could, those who are called itemizers, the top 9 percent of Americans. They could actually donate to a nonprofit and then deduct that from their taxes. That has bothered me ever since.

The result of that is billions of dollars less that has been donated to nonprofits. After years of working on this and talking to my colleagues, we all

agree, we have got to be able to fix that.

In this bill, we changed it. As of next year, every American who pays taxes, if you donate to a nonprofit—and you pick who it is; it doesn't matter—if you donate to a nonprofit, you can write off up to \$2,000 of your donations to a nonprofit on your taxes.

Why did we do that? We did that because we strongly believe that government is not the only safety net in America. There are three safety nets in America. The family is the first safety net. The second safety net are nonprofits and houses of worship all over the country. The third is government.

Government can never meet all the needs. Government may be able to send you a check, but if you are going to get a mentor, if you are going to get somebody to walk alongside you, that is often a nonprofit.

Nonprofits are the ones who take care of the hungry and the homeless and the hurting face-to-face in every single community—tiny little nonprofits, houses of worship all over the country that volunteer their time.

This will encourage more investment in those nonprofits to strengthen our safety net. For those who are hurting the most in our country, they would be able to get help directly where they are.

Quite frankly, if we want to incentivize great help toward the people who are right there in their community, then let's have stronger nonprofits. We did that in this bill. We are not talking about it; we did it.

President Biden put in a rule last year that many of us were shocked by, quite frankly, on both sides of the aisle. He put in a rule saying, for nursing homes all across the country, skilled nursing facilities, whoever it may be, they have got to have a certain new level of staffing. That sounds like a nice idea to say you have got to have more nurses there all the time. That seems nice if you are in Washington, DC, but if you are in rural America, guess what. There just aren't enough nurses to do that.

So in many of these nursing facilities, they have a nurse who is nearby, and when there is a crisis, they are on call all the time, but they are not physically there. But they are putting in a new requirement that they have to physically be there. Do you know what that means? That means rural nursing homes could not operate because they physically don't have enough nurses in the area to do that.

That meant many rural nursing homes in my State were already looking at closing and just moving operations into the suburbs and into the cities where they can get enough nurses. That makes people in my State have to drive farther to see their loved one. That is wrong. That is just wrong.

We changed that in this bill, and we said, no, we are not going to have that.

It sounds like a nice idea. In reality, it shuts down access in rural America

to family members who are at one of the most vulnerable moments they have ever had in their life. We want to make sure families can surround people in those really tough days that happen for many people in nursing and skilled nursing facilities.

Just three quick stories. I know I have talked for a long time. But when I say it is a big beautiful bill, it is big. There is a lot that is in it that I think a lot of people have missed. But if I can just give you three quick stories.

Let me talk about a senior adult in Bethany, OK. Her name is Marilyn. She just found out about the new standard deduction that is in the One Big Beautiful Bill for senior adults that are working senior adults. She just found out about it.

She told us: Our Social Security benefits that we've paid into for all these years are key, but they're buying less and less these days. So we're really excited about maybe having some improvement on that.

She said: You just never know what life's going to bring. And so the benefit of not being taxed now on my Social Security benefits and being able to keep more of my Social Security that I paid into is essential for me, as she said, because many of us that are using that for our living expenses and with the intention of not drawing down our reserves, our savings so we can make sure that it is still there for the future.

She is pretty excited about this change in the law where working seniors will not have to pay as much taxes and won't pay taxes on their Social Security benefits.

Todd Gibson, he is the police chief in Moore, OK. We talked to him about the no tax on overtime. This was his statement: Police Officers do a lot of work on overtime.

There are a lot of Capitol Police who walk around here. In the last couple of weeks, they have done a lot of overtime.

Todd said this: Any bit of money that a police officer can pour back into their family and back into their home is a positive thing. In the rural and smaller organizations, this is really going to make an impact to retain quality people in the community that provide public safety.

He is pretty excited about the no tax on overtime.

Finally, last story, there is a waitress in Yukon, OK. Her name is Rheanna. She is really excited about the no tax on tips.

She told us this: Tips play a huge role in my take-home pay. Being able to take home more of my hard-earned tips means I will be able to support my family a lot better. Not only does every hard-earned dollar that I make go towards things like my car note, a mortgage, and childcare, being able to keep more of it and to put it toward the things that I love and people that I love, that will go a long ways. It's coming at a great time.

She said: The interest rates and the groceries are going up. That gives me

an upper hand to be able to have extra cash in my pocket.

So we were thinking about people all over our States as we worked on the One Big Beautiful Bill.

And I understand the dissension and the divisions. We don't all agree on things. But as we worked on this bill, we are trying to figure out what is the best tax policy for every American. What are the areas where we are the most vulnerable, and what do we need to solve? That is what we worked on in the One Big Beautiful Bill.

Mr. President, you know full well because you know this bill well. I didn't even have time to cover all of it. That is hitting the high points of it. There is a lot more there, and I think in the days ahead, as people get the facts and the information about what really happened, they are going to be grateful to have a little bit of breathing room to be able to support their family just a little bit more.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 171.

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

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Terrance Cole, of Virginia, to be Administrator of Drug Enforcement.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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. 171, Terrance Cole, of Virginia, to be Administrator of Drug Enforcement.

John Thune, Markwayne Mullin, John Barrasso, Tim Sheehy, Pete Ricketts, Steve Daines, Bernie Moreno, Mike Rounds, Rick Scott of Florida, Eric Schmitt, Tommy Tuberville, Jim Banks, Thom Tillis, David McCormick, James Lankford, Jon A. Husted, Bill Hagerty.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2026—Motion to Proceed

MR. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 121, H.R. 3944.

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

The clerk will report the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar 121, H.R. 3944, a bill making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

MR. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk for the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 121, H.R. 3944.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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 motion to proceed to Calendar No. 121, H.R. 3944, a bill making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

John Thune, David McCormick, Marsha Blackburn, James E. Risch, Jon A. Husted, Jim Banks, Tom Cotton, Steve Daines, Ashley B. Moody, Cynthia M. Lummis, Mike Crapo, Roger F. Wicker, Roger Marshall, James Lankford, Todd Young, Mike Rounds, Dan Sullivan.

MORNING BUSINESS

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

MR. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 25-00. This transmittal notifies a cost increase in excess of the total value previously described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 23-42 of September 20, 2023.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-00

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(C), AECA)

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Kuwait.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 23-42; Date: September 20, 2023; Implementing Agency: Army; Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description: On September 20, 2023, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 23-42 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of the replacement of expiring limited life components and certifications testing in order to support an operational life of thirty (30) years for Patriot Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) missiles. Included in this potential sale were: test and repair of PAC-3 missiles; stockpile reliability testing and field returns; repair and return of classified and unclassified PAC-3 missile items and ground support equipment (GSE) component level parts; replenishment of classified and unclassified missile spares, GSE spares, and seeker spares; tools to improve the turnaround time of the repair and recertification efforts; air transportation services for missile processing; U.S. Government and contractor technical and logistics support; training devices; organizational equipment; support equipment; test equipment; technical data and publications; personnel training and training equipment; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost was \$150 million. There was no Major Defense Equipment (MDE) associated with this sale.

This transmittal notifies an increase in non-MDE value by \$100 million, due to recent cost increases. There are no additional MDE or non-MDE items being reported with this notification. The estimated non-MDE and total case values will increase by \$100 million to a revised \$250 million.

(iv) Significance: Recent cost increases have brought about the need to add value to the original notification. The proposed value increase will improve Kuwait's capability to meet current and future threats.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a major non-NATO ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology: None.
(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: July 17, 2025.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

MR. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act

requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-38, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Lebanon for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$100 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-38

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Lebanon.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$0.
Other \$100 million.
Total \$100 million.
Funding Source: Foreign Military Financing.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: Foreign Military Sales (FMS) case LE-D-QAF was below congressional notification threshold at \$43.7 million (\$0 in Major Defense Equipment) and included Cartridge Actuated Devices and Propellant Actuated Devices (CAD/PADs); engine components, parts, and accessories; aircraft engine and ground handling equipment; major and minor modifications; aircraft components, spares, and accessories; spare parts, consumables, and accessories, and repair and return support; unclassified software delivery and support; unclassified publications and technical documentation; clothing, textiles, and individual equipment; transportation support; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The Government of Lebanon has requested that the case be amended to include support equipment; and other elements of logistics and program support. This amendment will cause the case to exceed the notification threshold, and thus notification of the entire program is required. The above notification requirements are combined as follows:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-Major Defense Equipment: The following non-MDE items will be included: Cartridge Actuated Devices and Propellant Actuated Devices (CAD/PADs); engine components, parts, and accessories; aircraft engine and ground handling equipment; major and minor modifications; aircraft components, spares, and accessories; spare parts, consumables and accessories, and repair and return support; unclassified software delivery and support; unclassified publications and technical documentation; clothing, textiles, and individual equipment; transportation support; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; support equipment; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (LE-D-QAF).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: LE-D-SAH.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None Known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: None.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: July 11, 2025.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Lebanon—A-29 Super Tucano Aircraft Sustainment

The Government of Lebanon has requested to buy support equipment and other related elements of logistics and program and support that will be added to a previously implemented case whose value was under the congressional notification threshold. The original Foreign Military Sales (FMS) case, valued at \$43.7 million (\$0 in Major Defense Equipment), included Cartridge Actuated Devices and Propellant Actuated Devices (CAD/PADs); engine components, parts, and accessories; aircraft engine and ground handling equipment; major and minor modifications; aircraft components, spares, and accessories; spare parts, consumables, and accessories, and repair and return support; unclassified software delivery and support; unclassified publications and technical documentation; clothing, textiles, and individual equipment; transportation support; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$100 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by improving the security of a partner country that continues to be an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East.

The Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) have deployed to southern Lebanon to implement the November 2024 cessation of hostilities. The sale of A-29 sustainment will support the LAF's implementation of the cessation of hostilities by providing maintenance to this critical aircraft which is used to conduct close air support as part of ground maneuver operations as well as manned intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance. Lebanon will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment and services into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Sierra Nevada Corporation, located in Sparks, NV. At this time, the U.S. Government is not aware of any offset agreement proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset

agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Lebanon.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 25-0S. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1)AECA certification 18-39 of November 16, 2018.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-0S

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(C), AECA)

(i) Perspective Purchaser: NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA) as Lead Nation for Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, and the United Kingdom.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 18-39;

Date: November 16, 2018;

Implementing Agency: Air Force.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description: On November 16, 2018, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 18-39 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of five hundred (500) KMU-556 F/B Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) kits for GBU-31 2000 lb; forty (40) KMU-557 F/B JDAM kits for GBU-31 2000 lb; one thousand five hundred (1,500) KMU-572 F/B JDAM kits for GBU 38 500 lb; one thousand (1,000) Munitions Adapter Unit (MAU)-210 F/B Enhanced Computer Control

Groups (ECCGs) for GBU-48 1000 lb EPII; three hundred (300) MAU-210 F/B ECCGs for GBU-49 500-lb EPII; three hundred (300) MXU-650K/B AFGs for GBU-49 500-lb EPII; one thousand twenty-five (1,025) MAU-209 C/B or MAU-169 L/B CCGs for GBU-12 500 lb Paveway II; one thousand twenty-five (1,025) MXU-650 K/B AFGs for GBU-12 500 lb Paveway II; four thousand three hundred sixty-five (4,365) Joint Programmable Fuze, FMU-152 A/B for all GBU types. Also included Detector Sensing Unit (DSU)-38A/B Laser kits, DSU-33D/B proximity sensors, Wireless Paveway Avionics Kit (WIPAK) interfaces for Enhanced Paveway II bombs, repair and return services, transportation, engineering services, and other support services. The estimated total case value was \$320.5 million. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$240.5 million of this total.

This transmittal notifies the inclusion of the following additional MDE items: two hundred eighty-six (286) Munitions Adaptor Unit (MAU)-169L/B Computer Control Groups (CCGs) for GBU-12 500 lb Paveway II; two hundred eighty-six (286) MXU-650C/B Air Foil Groups (AFGs) for GBU-12 500 lb Paveway II; one hundred fifty-five (155) MAU-210F/B Enhanced CCGs (ECCGs) for GBU-49 500 lb Enhanced Paveway II (EPII); one hundred fifty-five (155) MXU-650M/B for GBU-49 500 lb EPII; one thousand twenty (1,020) KMU-572 F/B Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) kits for GBU-38 500 lb; five hundred six (506) KMU-556 F/B JDAM kits for GBU-31 2000 lb; and one hundred thirty-eight (138) KMU-557 F/B JDAM kits for GBU-31 2000 lb. The following non-MDE items will also be included: practice bombs; bomb components; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, logistics, and technical support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total value of the new items is \$142 million. The estimated MDE value will increase by \$131 million. The estimated non-MDE value will increase by \$11 million to a revised \$91 million. The estimated total case value will increase by \$142 million to a revised \$462.5 million. MDE will constitute \$371.5 million of this total.

(iv) Significance: This notification is being provided because the additional MDE items were not enumerated in the original notification. The proposed sale will improve NATO's capability to respond to current and future ground threats. NATO will use the enhanced capability as a deterrent to regional threats and to increase interoperability within contingency operations.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of NATO partners that are a force for political stability and economic progress in the North Atlantic region.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology: The Sensitivity of Technology statement contained in the original notification applies to items reported here.

The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: July 10, 2025.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale

may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(A) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 0G-25. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 22-17 of June 22, 2022.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 0G-25

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(A), AECA)

(i) Prospective Purchaser: NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA) as Lead Nation for Belgium) Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 22-17; Date: June 22, 2022; Implementing Agency: Air Force.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description: On June 22, 2022, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 22-17 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of two hundred thirty-nine (239) GBU-39/B small diameter bombs, Increment I; two hundred four (204) FMU-152 fuzes; two hundred four (204) Mk 82 500 lb general purpose bombs; and fifty (50) BLU-109 2000 lb hard-target-penetrator bombs, that will be added to a previously implemented case. The original FMS case, valued at \$1.87 million, included forty (40) GBU-39/B small diameter bombs, Increment I. Therefore, this notification was for a total of two hundred seventy-nine (279) GBU-39/B small diameter bombs, Increment I; two hundred four (204) FMU-152 fuzes; two hundred four (204) Mk 82 500 lb general purpose bombs; and fifty (50) BLU-109 2000 lb hard-target-penetrator bombs. Also included were smoke signal cartridges; engineering and technical support and assistance; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The total estimated cost was \$22.7 million. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$21.8 million of this total.

This transmittal reports the inclusion of the following additional MDE items: fifty (50) GBU-39/B Small Diameter Bombs, Increment I (SDB-I); and one hundred sixty-four (164) BLU-109 2000 lb hard-target-penetrator bombs. The following non-MDE items will

also be included: GBU-39/B Tactical Training Rounds (TTR); cartridges, chaff, and flares; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total value of the new items is \$15.1 million. The estimated MDE value will increase by \$12.1 million. The estimated non-MDE value will increase by \$3.0 million to a revised \$3.9 million. The estimated total case value will increase by \$15.1 million to a revised \$37.8 million. MDE will constitute \$33.9 million of this total.

(iv) Significance: This notification is being provided because the additional MDE items were not enumerated in the original notification. The proposed sale will improve NATO's capability to meet current and future ground threats with precision. NATO will use the enhanced capability as a deterrent to regional threats, and to increase interoperability within contingency operations.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of NATO partners that are a force for political stability and economic progress in the North Atlantic region.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology: The GBU-39/B Tactical Training Round (TTR) is identical to a live tactical weapon, except that the live warhead is replaced with an inert fill. The TTR functions the same as a GBU-39/B. The TTR is suited for training missions.

The Sensitivity of Technology statement contained in the original notification applies to additional items reported here.

The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: July 10, 2025.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(A) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 01-25. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described

in the Section 36(b)(1)AECA certification 17-13 of April 27, 2017.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 01-25

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(A), AECA)

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of New Zealand.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 17-13, Date: April 27, 2017; Implementing Agency: Navy.

(iii) Description: On April 27, 2017, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 17-13, of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of four (4) P-8A Patrol Aircraft, which included: eight (8) Multifunctional Information Distribution System Joint Tactical Radio Systems (MIDS JTRS) (1 for each aircraft, 2 for the ground operations support center, and 2 spares); five (5) Guardian Laser Transmitter Assemblies (GLTA) for the AN/AAQ-24(V)N Large Aircraft Infrared Counter Measures (LAIRCM) system (1 for each aircraft, 1 spare); five (5) System Processors for AN/AAQ-24(V)N LAIRCM system (1 for each aircraft, 1 spare); thirty (30) AN/AAR-54 Missile Warning Sensors for the AN/AAQ-24(V)N LAIRCM system (6 for each aircraft, 6 spares); ten (10) LN-251 with Embedded Global Positioning Systems (GPS)/Inertial Navigation Systems (EGIs) (2 for each aircraft, 2 spares). The following non-MDE items were also included: Commercial engines; Tactical Open Mission Software (TOMS); Electro-Optical (EO) and Infrared (IR) MX-20HD; AN/AAQ-2(V)1 Acoustic System; AN/APY-10 Radar; ALQ-240 Electronic Support Measures; support equipment; operation support systems; maintenance trainer/classrooms; publications; software, engineering, and logistics technical assistance; foreign liaison officer support, contractor engineering technical services; repair and return; transportation; aircraft ferry; and other associated training, support equipment and services. The estimated total cost was \$1.46 billion. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$1.03 billion of this total.

This transmittal notifies the inclusion of the following additional MDE items: one (1) Guardian Laser Transmitter Assembly (GLTA) for AN/AAQ-24(V)N Large Aircraft Infrared Countermeasures (LAIRCM) system; and one (1) system processor replacement for AN/AAQ-24(V)N LAIRCM system. The following non-MDE items will also be included: AN/ALE-47 electronic countermeasures dispenser; AN/ALQ-213 electronic countermeasures tactical threat display; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost of the new items is \$2.28 million, but will not require an increase in the previously notified total case value. The estimated non-MDE value will remain \$0.43 billion. The estimated total case value will remain at \$1.46 billion. MDE will continue to constitute \$1.03 billion of this total.

(iv) Significance: The inclusion of this MDE represents an increase in capability over what was previously notified. The proposed articles and/or services will support New Zealand in maintaining its current force projection capability and enhances interoperability with U.S. forces well into the future.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by improving the security of a major ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in the Asia-Pacific region. The proposed sale

will improve New Zealand's capability to meet current and future threats by enhancing its current airlift capability.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology: The AN/ALE-47 Countermeasure Dispenser Set (CMDS) provides an integrated threat-adaptive, computer-controlled capability for dispensing chaff, flares, and active radio frequency expendables. The AN/ALE-47 system enhances aircraft survivability in sophisticated threat environments. The threats countered by the CMDS include radar-directed anti-aircraft artillery (AAA), radar command-guided missiles, radar homing guided missiles, and infrared (IR) guided missiles. The system is internally mounted and may be operated as a stand-alone system or may be integrated with other on-board electronic warfare (EW) and avionics systems. The AN/ALE-47 uses threat data received over the aircraft interfaces to assess the threat situation and determine a response. Expendable routines tailored to the immediate aircraft and threat environment may be dispensed.

The AN/ALQ-213 is the electronic warfare management system (EWMS) for the P-8A electronic warfare self-protection (EWSP) suite.

The Sensitivity of Technology Statement contained in the original notification applies to additional items reported here.

The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: July 17, 2025.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. James E. Risch,
Chairman Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-36, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Norway for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$2.6 billion. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-36

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Norway.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* \$1.1 billion.

Other \$1.5 billion.

Total \$2.6 billion.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Up to nine (9) HH-60W helicopters.

Twenty-two (22) T-700-GE-401 turboshaft engines (18 installed, 4 spares).

Twenty-one (21) Embedded Global Positioning System/Inertial Navigation Systems (18 installed, 3 spares).

Ten (10) AN/APR-52 radar warning receivers (9 installed, 1 spare).

Ten (10) AN/AAR-57 Common Missile Warning Systems (9 installed, 1 spare).

Non-Major Defense Equipment: The following non-MDE items will also be included: GAU-21 aircraft machine guns and other machine guns; IZLID 200P infrared lasers; AN/ALE-47 Airborne Countermeasures Dispenser Systems; Joint Mission Planning System with unique planning components and software; Computer Program Identification Numbers (CPINs); weapons and weapons support equipment; major and minor modifications and maintenance support; instruments and lab equipment; training aids, devices, and spare parts; consumables, accessories, and repair and return support; electronic warfare database support; classified and unclassified software delivery and support; classified and unclassified publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; aircraft ferry and transportation support; facilities and construction support; studies and surveys; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$2.6 billion.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a NATO Ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

The proposed sale will improve Norway's capability to meet current and future threats by increasing its airborne combat and special operations capabilities. Norway will use these aircraft to defend other NATO members and its allies. Norway will have no difficulty absorbing these articles and services into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation, located in Stratford, CT. At this time, the U.S. Government is not aware of any offset agreement proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Norway.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-36

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The HH-60W is a dual-piloted, twin-engine rotary-wing aircraft powered by General Electric T-700-GE-401 turboshaft engines. The HH-60W can fly a combat radius of at least 195 nautical miles without aerial refueling. The aircraft includes survivability enhancements which consists of cockpit and cabin armor, self-sealing fuel cells that do not suffer catastrophic damage from high-explosive incendiary rounds, crew and passenger crashworthy seating, two external mount gun systems with forward and side-firing crew-served weapons, the AN/AAR-57 Common Missile Warning System, the AN/ALE-47 Countermeasures Dispenser System, and an upturned exhaust system that reduces its infrared signature.

2. The Embedded Global Positioning System/Inertial Navigation System with Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM)—or M-Code receiver when available—and Precise Positioning Service (PPS) is a self-contained navigation system that provides the following: acceleration, velocity, position, attitude, platform azimuth, magnetic and true heading, altitude, body angular rates, time tags, and coordinated universal time (UTC) synchronized time. SAASM or M-Code enables the GPS receiver access to the encrypted P (Y or M) signal, providing protection against active spoofing attacks.

3. The AN/APR-52 radar warning receiver detects radar threats to the aircraft such as radar ground sites and radar-guided missiles. The receiver is a fully digital system that provides 360 degree coverage to automatically detect and identify threat types, bearing, and lethality.

4. The AN/AAR-57 Common Missile Warning System (CMWS) is the detection component of the suite of countermeasures designed to increase survivability of current generation combat and specialized special operations aircraft against the threat posed by infrared guided missiles.

5. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

6. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

7. A determination has been made that Norway can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is 4 necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

8. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Norway.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. GALLEG. Mr. President, I missed the following votes, but had I been present, I would have voted yes on rollcall vote No. 415, Motion to Invoke Cloture on Executive Calendar No. 108, Bradley Hansell, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSAGE OF THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 60th anniversary of the passage of an essential piece of legislation: the Older Americans Act. As the chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Aging and Senator from Florida, I am committed to honoring and supporting the more than 59 million older Americans who enrich our communities. Florida is blessed with a dynamic senior population. In my State and across the Nation, seniors thrive when given opportunities to be active members of their communities and receive adequate support.

This historic bill provided the supportive, community-based framework that has helped generations of seniors age with dignity and give back to their communities and families, all while living rich, vibrant lives. The Older Americans Act continues to impact more than 10 million older Americans a year by promoting social connection and contributing to programs aimed at supplying nutritional services, continued education, and transportation for our aging neighbors. It has improved the life expectancy, health outcomes, and quality of life for millions of seniors, and that is why I am proud to be leading the fight to reauthorize this important legislation alongside my good friend and colleague Mr. BILL

CASSIDY, Senator from Louisiana and chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

I will continue to fight for the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act to ensure it is available to provide this same life-affirming support for generations to come.

TRIBUTE TO TODD JACKSON

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate a fellow Hoosier, Mr. Todd Jackson, as he nears the end of his term as the 119th chairman of the Nation's largest insurance association, the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America, also known as the Big "I". Todd was elected to the Big "I" Executive Committee in 2018 and was installed as the association's chairman last September in Indianapolis.

A graduate of Indiana University, Todd is currently the owner and partner of McGowan Insurance Group in Indianapolis. Starting out at his family's agency in 1989, Todd has over three decades of experience in the insurance industry and has been a prominent volunteer leader with the Big "I" at the State and national level. He served on Big "I" Indiana's board of directors and executive committee before becoming State president in 2013. He also represented Indiana on the national Big "I" Board of Directors for 4 years, served on the trusted choice board and the finance committee, and was elected to the national executive committee in 2018.

During his term as Big "I" chairman, Todd has focused on enhancing operational efficiencies and streamlining resources to better serve independent agencies nationwide. He has traveled the country with that mission in mind, visiting with agents, brokers, State association staff, and other industry representatives in virtually every State. He has been a steady leader and strong advocate for independent agents and the communities and consumers they represent.

I would like to recognize Todd for his work with the Big "I" over the years and his commitment to his profession and his community. The State of Indiana is proud of Todd and wishes him and his wife Theresa well following his successful term as chairman of the Big "I".

TRIBUTE TO RICH MALONEY

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the work of Rich Maloney, head coach of Ball State University's baseball team, whose leadership and contributions to the sport have made a lasting impression on his players, the university, and the broader baseball community. This season, Coach Maloney reached a rare milestone, becoming the 10th active Division I head coach to reach 1,000 career wins.

Coach Maloney's tenure at Ball State began in 1996, and after a successful decade at the University of Michigan, he returned to Muncie in 2013. Over nearly three decades as a head coach, he has led teams to numerous conference titles, tournament championships, and NCAA regional appearances. With the Cardinals, he is the most accomplished coach in program history, having guided the team to multiple MAC West Division, regular-season, and tournament titles. Since his return, he has added two Coach of the Year honors and, in 2023, led Ball State to its first tournament title in more than 15 years.

Before beginning his coaching career, Coach Maloney was a standout player at Western Michigan University, where he was a two-time All-MAC selection, team MVP, and team captain. Drafted by the Atlanta Braves in the 13th round of the 1986 MLB Draft, he spent six seasons in professional baseball, reaching Double-A. After retiring as a player, he became an assistant under his college coach Fred Decker, an experience that helped shape the values and approach he would carry into his own head coaching career. That foundation, built on discipline, respect, and a love for the game, continues to guide his work at Ball State today.

Coach Maloney's 1,000th win is not just a measure of longevity, but proof of sustained excellence and the respect he has earned throughout college baseball. In an era of constant change in college athletics, he has been a steady presence, setting a lasting standard for what college coaching can and should represent.

On behalf of Hoosiers, I extend my congratulations to Coach Rich Maloney on reaching this significant achievement. I thank him for his years of service and leadership and for the lasting impact he has had on Ball State University and the world of college baseball.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO TROY GUGEL

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I congratulate Troy Gugel, who is retiring after a remarkable, 40-year career with Micron. Troy's ideas, talents, and experience have contributed to the success of this pioneering Idaho company and shaped the memory and storage technology sector.

Troy, who started with Micron on February 4, 1985, after graduating with a degree in electronics, was part of its transition from a local Boise corporation to an international, premier semiconductor producer. He started as an equipment repair technician working his way through a series of promotions before going back to school part-time to earn another degree in business management as he moved into more project management roles in research and development. He is concluding his

career as a principal engineer specializing in TPG IE Modeling.

As the company and Troy progressed, he worked under five Micron chief executive officers, starting with Joe Parkinson and ending with Sanjay Mehrotra. Interestingly, Troy went skydiving with Steve Appleton twice when Steve was developing an interest in flying and skydiving. Troy's career spanned the downturns as well as the years of company growth where economic forecasts exceeded expectations. He has been a member of the workforce that has seen the company grow from a computer memory and data storage producer to rise as a leader for producing the enhanced memory solutions for AI-driven technologies changing our world, homes, and lives today.

Throughout his career, Troy has handled important technical tasks, bettered himself through his continuing education, and directly contributed that added knowledge to his field. He also personally contributes to Idaho's leadership in innovation and our State's consistently high ranking in patents held per capita. Troy has a remarkable five U.S. patents related to photolithographic metrology method; unique photolithographic processing technique; immersion photolithographic defect reduction and novel process techniques.

I thank Troy for his enormous contributions of his time and ideas to discovery and development for Idaho and our country. I should also mention that Troy's wife Margaret Ballard is a long-time and greatly valued member of my staff. Realizing that staff service to our constituencies often carries over to family time over the years, I know Margaret joins me in thanking Troy for his steady support. Congratulations, Troy, on an outstanding career of contributions to an essential field of innovation. I wish Troy the best as he embarks on his retirement.●

RECOGNIZING GROOM CURRICULUM

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Groom Curriculum of Emmetsburg, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 2022, Sierra Elbert founded Groom Curriculum with the vision of teaching others the intricacies of pet grooming. From a young age, Sierra assisted her mother with dog grooming, naturally growing her skills and expertise and now serves as the president and founder of Groom Curriculum. As the first nationally collegiate approved dog grooming curriculum provider, the small business offers a 10-week continuing education workforce program specializing in dog grooming, where students earn a professional grooming

credential upon completion. Groom Curriculum currently works with 21 community college programs, workforce training organizations, and registered apprenticeship programs across the country.

Groom Curriculum ensures student success from all walks of life by removing barriers and guiding students from education to employment. With Groom Curriculum, students learn the skills needed to start a job or run their own dog grooming business. To ensure the curriculum prepares students for excellence and proficiency, the program upholds the educational standards established by the American Kennel Club.

Within 3 years, Sierra Elbert and her team, including Patricia Pierce, Shelby Mitchel, and Rachel Colant, have led the way for Groom Curriculum to be recognized and commended nationwide. Elbert was recently named the 2025 Deb Dalziel Woman Entrepreneur of the Year by the Iowa Small Business Development Center. Groom Curriculum currently holds a national accreditation from the National Council for Continuing Education and Training and is supported nationally by the World Pet Association.

Groom Curriculum further serves as a community provider by regularly hosting free webinars for dog groomers across the country to support continuing education and promote safe, professional grooming practices. Furthermore, the business has participated in high school career day events to introduce grooming as a skilled trade and has provided free tuition vouchers to select students to reduce financial barriers to training. The team at Groom Curriculum also donates their time to groom dogs in need of homes, further amplifying Groom Curriculum's positive impact within the community.

I want to congratulate Sierra and the entire Groom Curriculum team for their hard work and dedication to providing an exceptional service to families and businesses across Iowa. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success.●

REMEMBERING DR. JAIME REGALADO

• Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the life of Dr. Jaime Regalado—a beloved father, grandfather, U.S. Navy veteran, and former executive director of the Pat Brown Institute for Public Affairs at California State University, Los Angeles—Cal State LA.

Dr. James “Jaime” A. Regalado was born on April 2, 1945, in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles. The son of an educator who served in World War II, Jaime went on to follow in his father's footsteps, first serving in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam war and later returning home to become an educator, himself.

He earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees from Cal State LA

and his Ph.D. in political science from the University of California, Riverside.

As a professor, his career took him from his undergraduate alma mater to Cal Poly Pomona to Occidental College. In 1991, he began his tenure as executive director for the Edmund G. “Pat” Brown Institute of Public Affairs—PBI—a position he would hold for the next 20 years. Over the course of his time at PBI, Jaime became a trusted researcher, a vocal leader advocating for civic engagement, an expert analyst of Los Angeles and California politics, and a founding editor of California Politics & Policy as well as California Policy Issues Annual. It is in no small part because of Jaime's work that PBI became the powerhouse for political research and civic engagement it remains today.

Through friends, family, and loved ones, we will remember Jaime for his incredible intellect, his mentorship, his leadership, and of course, his sense of humor. And generations of leaders past and present will continue to celebrate him each year through PBI's newly created Dr. Jaime Regalado Public Service Award.

Angela and I send our love to Jaime's wife of 26 years, Rocio; his three sons James Jr., Jay, and Camilo; his eight grandchildren; and his siblings Ray and Olivia.●

TRIBUTE TO ARTURO VARGAS

• Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Arturo Vargas on a remarkable career spent in service to others as he steps down after more than 30 years as CEO of the National Association of Latino Elected Officials—NALEO—and the NALEO Educational Fund. As a CEO, a demographics expert, a mentor, and a friend to so many, Arturo has dedicated his career to growing civic participation and representation for Latinos in California and across our country.

Arturo Vargas was born on July 13, 1962, in El Paso, TX, to Jose Vargas Castillo and Antonietta Valverde Vargas. After meeting in Ciudad Chihuahua, Mexico, his parents moved to New Mexico and Texas before eventually settling down in Los Angeles in 1964, where Arturo and his siblings were raised. Arturo earned a bachelor's degree in history and Spanish and later a master's degree in education from Stanford University.

After graduation, Arturo set out on a career that took him from the National Council of La Raza to the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund—MALDEF—to chairing the 2020 Census Advisory Committee. During his time at MALDEF, Arturo contributed to a historic increase in Latino representation in California, working both for accurate enumeration of Latinos in the census and to grow the number of Latino elected officials.

In his three decades as CEO of NALEO, Arturo dedicated himself to the challenging work of building power

and representation for Latinos in America. During his tenure, he took what was already an important and impactful organization and turned it into a highly respected national platform not only for Latino elected officials, but for any political, corporate, or philanthropic leader wanting to speak to the political leadership of the Latino community.

Thanks to his work, Latinos across the country now see ourselves represented at nearly every level of government—from State and local government to the U.S. House of Representatives, U.S. Senate, and the Supreme Court. Our community and our country are more inclusive and better off because of the work of Arturo Vargas.

On a personal note, as a former president of NALEO myself, I have had the privilege of seeing Arturo's dedication up close. Whether it was calling on him for his unparalleled expertise—or even just to talk Dodgers baseball—I consider myself fortunate to call Arturo an ally and a friend.

As we look ahead to the 50th anniversary of NALEO and all the fights that lie ahead, I take comfort knowing that future generations of Latino leaders will have a roadmap for representation, leadership, and advocacy that Arturo carved out to follow.

I thank Arturo's husband, the Honorable Michael Fitzgerald; his siblings Jose, Jorge, Maria Antonieta, and Rogelio; and his entire family for sharing him with us for all these years.●

TRIBUTE TO EVAN FIRMAN

● Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I recognize Evan Firman, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all the hard work he has done on behalf of my office and the State of South Dakota. Mr. Firman is from Flandreau, SD. He is currently attending the University of South Dakota, where he studies economics and political science. Mr. Firman is a dedicated and diligent individual who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience. He has been a true asset to my office. I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Mr. Firman for all of the work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH GEBEL

● Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I recognize Joseph Gebel, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all the hard work he has done on behalf of my office and the State of South Dakota. Mr. Gebel is a graduate of Mitchell High School in Mitchell, SD. He is currently attending Augustana University, where he studies government studies, religion, and philosophy. Mr. Gebel is a dedicated and diligent individual who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience. He has been a true asset to my office. I extend my sincere thanks and

appreciation to Mr. Gebel for all of the work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO CLAIRE KOENECKE

● Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I recognize Claire Koenecke, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all the hard work she has done on behalf of my office and the State of South Dakota. Ms. Koenecke is a graduate of T.F. Riggs High School in Pierre, SD. She is currently attending South Dakota State University, where she studies English and political science. Ms. Koenecke is a dedicated and diligent individual who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience. She has been a true asset to my office. I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Ms. Koenecke for all of the work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO BELLA MAXWELL

● Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I recognize Bella Maxwell, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all the hard work she has done on behalf of my office and the State of South Dakota. Ms. Maxwell is a graduate of Madison High School in Madison, SD. She is currently attending Dakota State University, where she studies cyber operations. Ms. Maxwell is a dedicated and diligent individual who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience. She has been a true asset to my office. I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Ms. Maxwell for all of the work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and withdrawals which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:21 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 1582. An act to provide for the regulation of payment stablecoins, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 5:58 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 1582. An act to provide for the regulation of payment stablecoins, and for other purposes.

S. 1596. An act to rename the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge located in the State of Texas as the "Jocelyn Nungaray National Wildlife Refuge".

H.R. 1815. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to take certain actions in the case of a default on a home loan guaranteed by the Secretary, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the Acting President *pro tempore* (Mr. LANKFORD).

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following joint resolution was discharged from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and referred as indicated:

S. 350. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to select and implement landscape-scale forest restoration projects, to assist communities in increasing their resilience to wildfire, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

PRIVILEGED NOMINATION REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

On request by Senator PATTY MURRAY, under the authority of S. Res. 116, 112th Congress, the following nomination was referred to the committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Mary Riley, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Legislation and Congressional Affairs, Department of Education.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. BOOZMAN, from the Committee on Appropriations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 3944. An act making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 119-43).

By Mr. MORAN, from the Committee on Appropriations, without amendment:

S. 2354. An original bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 119-44).

By Mr. COTTON, from the Select Committee on Intelligence, without amendment:

S. 2342. An original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Intelligence Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. GRASSLEY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Edward L. Artau, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

Emil J. Bove III, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit.

Kyle Christopher Dudek, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

Anne-Leigh Gaylord Moe, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

Jordan Emery Pratt, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 2316. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to require electronic communication service providers and remote computing services to report to the Attorney General certain controlled substances violations; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 2317. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to address the responsibilities of the Administrator of General Services with respect to Federal advisory committees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER (for herself and Mr. BUDD):

S. 2318. A bill to amend the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act to require the periodic update to the strategic plan to guide the Manufacturing USA Program to align with the mandatory updates to the National Strategy for Advanced Manufacturing; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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

S. 2319. A bill to designate the Federal building located at 300 West Congress Street in Tucson, Arizona, as the "Raul M. Grijalva Federal Building"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MORENO (for himself and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 2320. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to promulgate regulations relating to the approval of foreign manufacturers of cylinders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. KIM, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. SLOTKIN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2321. A bill to make price gouging unlawful, to expand the ability of the Federal Trade Commission to seek permanent injunctions and equitable relief, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WARNOCK (for himself, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. KIM, Mr. BOOKER, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 2322. A bill to amend the Federal Housing Enterprises Safety and Soundness Act of 1992 to require that financial institutions, appraisal management companies, appraisers, and other valuation professionals are serving the housing market in a manner that is efficient and consistent for all mortgage loan applicants, borrowers, and communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. WARNOCK (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 2323. A bill to amend the Head Start Act to permit some teachers in Early Head Start programs to teach while earning a child development associate credential; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 2324. A bill to amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act to establish a private right of action for injuries caused by pesticides, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. LUJÁN (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BENNET, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 2325. A bill to direct the Secretary of Energy to fund projects to restore and modernize National Laboratories, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CRAMER (for himself and Mr. FETTERMAN):

S. 2326. A bill to ensure that United States currency is treated as legal tender to be accepted as payment for purchases of goods and services at brick-and-mortar businesses throughout the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. 2327. A bill to require a full audit of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal reserve banks by the Comptroller General of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Ms. ERNST):

S. 2328. A bill to authorize the use of veterans educational assistance for examinations and assessments to receive credit toward degrees awarded by institutions of higher learning, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. DAINES):

S. 2329. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect beneficiaries with limb loss and other orthopedic conditions by providing access to appropriate, safe, effective, patient-centered orthotic and prosthetic care, to reduce fraud, waste, and abuse with respect to orthotics and prosthetics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2330. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to carry out a grant program to support the recruitment and retention of paraprofessionals in public elementary schools, secondary schools, and preschool programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Mr. GALLEGOS):

S. 2331. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assist-

ance Act to include extreme temperature in the definition of a major disaster; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2332. A bill to require research with respect to fentanyl and xylazine test strips, to authorize the use of grant funds for such test strips, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WELCH:

S. 2333. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to permit supplementation of health records of deceased veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. TILLIS, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 2334. A bill to authorize the use of expeditionary solid waste disposal systems by the Department of Defense and to provide funding for solid waste disposal systems, with an offset, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 2335. A bill to require every employee to provide to their employees a retirement program with benefits equivalent to the Federal Employees Retirement System or to elect for their employees to participate in the Federal Employees Retirement System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 2336. A bill to ensure references to opioid overdose reversal agents in certain grant programs of the Department of Health and Human Services are not limited to naloxone; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 2337. A bill to establish a grant program to provide child care services for the minor children of law enforcement officers to accommodate the shift work and nontraditional work hours of such officers, and to enhance recruitment and retention of such officers; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. JUSTICE):

S. 2338. A bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to establish the Strengthening Local Food Security Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 2339. A bill to reauthorize the Young Women's Breast Health Education and Awareness Requires Learning Young Act of 2009; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2340. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop and implement a program and national strategic action plan to prepare and empower the health care sector to protect the health and well-being of our workers, our communities, and our planet in the face of the climate crisis, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 2341. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to impose requirements for substances generally recognized as

safe, to require the Commissioner of Food and Drugs to reassess the safety of chemicals added to food, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. 2342. An original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Intelligence Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes; from the Select Committee on Intelligence; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 2343. A bill to amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Fair Housing Act to prohibit disparate-impact claims; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. KING, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 2344. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve warnings about potential predatory practices regarding individuals acting as agents or attorneys in the preparation, presentation, or prosecution of veterans claims, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. LEE, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 2345. A bill to allow for expedited approval of generic prescription drugs and temporary importation of prescription drugs in the case of marginally competitive drug markets and drug shortages; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. KELLY):

S. 2346. A bill to require the Election Assistance Commission to develop voluntary guidelines for the administration of elections that address the use and risks of artificial intelligence technologies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. GALLEGUO):

S. 2347. A bill to prohibit discrimination in health care and require the provision of equitable health care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2348. A bill to amend the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act to authorize grants to strengthen relationships between health and wellness providers or systems (including for behavioral health) and community-based sexual assault programs to support survivors of sexual assault across the lifespan of the survivor, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself and Ms. HIROKO):

S. 2349. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to establish a catastrophic property loss reinsurance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. SCHATTZ, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. LUJÁN, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. HIROKO, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. BENNET, Ms. WARREN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. KIM, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WELCH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. KING, Mr. REED, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 2350. A bill to provide for the confidentiality of information submitted in requests

for deferred action under the deferred action for childhood arrivals program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 2351. A bill to supplement existing lease authorities available to the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to support research, education, and training, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. BRITT (for herself and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 2352. A bill to amend the Equal Credit Opportunity Act to modify the requirements associated with small business loan data collection, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 2353. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, to conduct a study, and submit to Congress a report, on the human health impacts of exposure to microplastics in food and water; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MORAN:

S. 2354. An original bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. SHEEHY, and Ms. ERNST):

S. 2355. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for hospital and insurer price transparency; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 2356. A bill to expand psychological mental and behavioral health services to Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP beneficiaries by permitting reimbursement of psychological services provided by certain supervised psychology trainees, and facilitating the reimbursement of those services; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 2357. A bill to reauthorize the Young Fishermen's Development Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. GALLEGUO:

S. Res. 325. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the Department of Justice should release appropriate, non-sensitive materials related to the investigation of Jeffrey Epstein to restore public trust, affirm institutional accountability, and prevent the politicization of justice; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CURTIS (for himself and Ms. ROSEN):

S. Res. 326. A resolution remembering the 33rd anniversary of the bombing of the Embassy of Israel in Buenos Aires on March 17, 1992, and the 31st anniversary of the bombing of the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association

building in Buenos Aires on July 18, 1994, and recommitting to efforts to uphold justice for victims of the attacks; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1064

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1064, a bill to preserve open competition and Federal Government neutrality towards the labor relations of Federal Government contractors on Federal and federally funded construction projects, and for other purposes.

S. 1289

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1289, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States and to support programs at the National September 11 Memorial and Museum at the World Trade Center.

S. 1330

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1330, a bill to advance research to achieve medical breakthroughs in brain tumor treatment and improve awareness and adequacy of specialized cancer and brain tumor care.

S. 1441

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) were added as cosponsors of S. 1441, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to award grants to nonprofit entities to assist such entities in carrying out programs to provide service dogs to eligible veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 1519

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSO BROOKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1519, a bill to designate a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness.

S. 1563

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1563, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to establish a grant program to help law enforcement agencies with civilian law enforcement tasks, and for other purposes.

S. 1594

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1594, a bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to prohibit certain activities involving prohibited primate species, and for other purposes.

S. 1725

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1725, a bill to amend the Animal Health Protection Act with respect to the importation of live dogs, and for other purposes.

S. 1879

At the request of Mr. OSSOFF, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSO BROOKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1879, a bill to amend chapter 131 of title 5, United States Code, to require Members of Congress and their spouses and dependent children to place certain assets into blind trusts, and for other purposes.

S. 2130

At the request of Mr. RICKETTS, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2130, a bill to make improvements to the AUKUS partnership, and for other purposes.

S. 2161

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2161, a bill to establish an Office of Public Engagement and Participation within the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and for other purposes.

S. 2211

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) 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. 2212

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2212, a bill to amend section 287 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to require all immigration enforcement officers to display visible identification during public-facing immigration enforcement actions and to promote transparency and accountability.

S. 2293

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2293, a bill to require the President to designate the Muslim Brotherhood as a foreign terrorist organization, to direct the Secretary of State to submit a report to Congress regarding such designation, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 18

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. CON. RES. 18, a concurrent resolution recognizing a health and safety emergency disproportionately affecting the fundamental rights of children due to the Trump administration's directives that unleash fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change, while suppressing climate change science.

S. RES. 32

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM) was added as a cosponsor of S. RES. 32, a resolution designating January 23, 2025, as "Maternal Health Awareness Day".

S. RES. 75

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK) were added as cosponsors of S. RES. 75, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that member countries of NATO must commit at least 2 percent of their national gross domestic product to national defense spending to hold leadership or benefit at the expense of those countries who meet their obligations.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. JUSTICE):

S. 2338. A bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to establish the Strengthening Local Food Security Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Strengthening Local Food Access Act with my colleague from West Virginia, Mr. Justice. Our bipartisan bill would create a grant program for State and Tribal governments to procure local foods for distribution to nearby hunger relief and school meal programs.

Local food systems that connect farmers and fishermen directly to the people they feed can be a real economic driver for communities. These local networks not only support the growth of local farmers and small businesses; they also ensure that food is readily available even when there is a breakdown in the broader food supply chain due natural disaster, transportation disruption, or disease. This bill would strengthen these local food systems by creating a market for producers to provide nutritious local food to children and those in need.

Indeed, the Strengthening Local Food Access Act would support local food systems by helping States and Tribes purchase food from producers within their geographic bounds or within 400 miles of the final delivery destination, for distribution to nearby feeding programs and for use in school meals.

This is a win-win-win. First, the bill supports local economic development by providing local producers with access to the hunger relief market. By establishing a new, reliable stream of orders for small local growers and harvesters, the bill will give these businesses the financial security to invest and further expand. Second, the bill strengthens our domestic agriculture supply chain by investing in local food

distribution, in turn helping build local businesses that support durable and resilient local food systems. Third, the Strengthening Local Food Access Act would help combat food insecurity and improve food access by providing fresh, nutritious, local food to underserved communities and school feeding programs.

I am pleased that the bill is supported by the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA), National Farmers Union, and the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition. And in Rhode Island, the bill is supported by the Rhode Island Community Food Bank, Farm Fresh Rhode Island, and the Rhode Island Food Policy Council. I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting this legislation and in working to include it in the farm bill.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. GALLEGOS):

S. 2347. A bill to prohibit discrimination in health care and require the provision of equitable health care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Equal Health Care for All Act, which appropriately frames healthcare discrimination as a civil rights issue.

Inequitable access to quality, affordable healthcare is the result of centuries of structural and systemic racism, all of which continues to result in poorer health outcomes in communities of color.

Black, Hispanic, and Indigenous individuals are disproportionately more likely than their White counterparts to suffer from a range of illnesses, from asthma, to heart disease, to prostate cancer.

Inequitable outcomes are not exclusive to racial trends, however. Women are both diagnosed with and die from lung cancer at a higher rate than men, even when they don't smoke. And while rates of lung cancer have dropped for men, they have risen for women.

The Equal Health Care for All Act seeks to address structural inequities by establishing a legal definition of "inequitable healthcare" and creating a formal process to enforce the standard.

The bill would also establish a grant program to assist hospitals and other providers in implementing reforms to ensure equitable care and would establish a permanent Federal Health Equity Commission to study and make recommendations on health equity issues.

I would like to thank my colleagues, Senators BOOKER and SCHIFF, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact the Equal Health Care for All Act as quickly as possible.

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

S. 2356. A bill to expand psychological mental and behavioral health services to Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP beneficiaries by permitting reimbursement of psychological services provided by certain supervised psychology trainees, and facilitating the reimbursement of those services; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 2356

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 “Accelerating the Development of Advanced Psychology Trainees Act” or the “ADAPT Act”.

SEC. 2. COVERAGE AND CODING FOR QUALIFIED

PSYCHOLOGIST SERVICES FURNISHED BY ADVANCED PSYCHOLOGY TRAINEES UNDER THE MEDICARE PROGRAM.

(a) COVERAGE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1861(ii) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(ii)) is amended—

(A) by inserting “(1)” after “(ii)”; and

(B) in paragraph (1), as added by subparagraph (A), by inserting “(or furnished by an advanced psychology trainee under the general supervision of a clinical psychologist (as so defined) and billed by the supervising psychologist)” after “(as defined by the Secretary)”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) In this subsection:

“(A) The term ‘advanced psychology trainee’ means—

“(i) a doctoral intern who is completing a required period of supervised experiential training through a program accredited by the American Psychological Association, not less than one year in duration, before being awarded a doctoral degree; or

“(ii) a postdoctoral resident who has obtained a doctoral degree in psychology, is seeking a license to practice psychology, and is engaged in a 1- or 2-year period of additional supervised experiential training to acquire the skills or hours required for licensure through a program accredited by the American Psychological Association or a member of the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers.

“(B) The term ‘general supervision’ means, with respect to a service, that the service is furnished under the overall direction and control of a clinical psychologist (as defined for purposes of paragraph (1)), but the supervising psychologist’s presence is not required during the furnishing of the service.”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply to services furnished on or after the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) DEVELOPMENT OF GC MODIFIER CODE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall develop a “GC” modifier code to identify and accurately bill for services furnished by an advanced psychology trainee pursuant to the amendments made by subsection (a).

SEC. 3. GUIDANCE TO STATES ON COVERAGE OF SERVICES PROVIDED BY ADVANCED PSYCHOLOGY TRAINEES UNDER MEDICAID AND CHIP.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health

and Human Services shall issue and disseminate guidance to States on strategies to overcome existing barriers to coverage of services furnished by advanced psychology trainees (as defined under section 1861(ii)(2) of the Social Security Act, as added by section 2(a), through the Medicaid program under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.) and the Children’s Health Insurance Program under title XXI of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1397aa et seq.)). Such guidance shall include technical assistance and best practices regarding each of the following:

(1) Recommended legal mechanisms for activating coverage of services furnished by advanced psychology trainees under such programs.

(2) Recommended billing codes and code modifiers for services furnished by advanced psychology trainees.

(3) Examples of States that have used waivers under the Medicaid program or Children’s Health Insurance Program to enable coverage of services furnished by advanced psychology trainees under such programs.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 325—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE SHOULD RELEASE APPROPRIATE, NON-SENSITIVE MATERIALS RELATED TO THE INVESTIGATION OF JEFFREY EPSTEIN TO RESTORE PUBLIC TRUST, AFFIRM INSTITUTIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY, AND PREVENT THE POLITICIZATION OF JUSTICE

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

S. RES. 325

Whereas the investigation into the sex-trafficking network operated by Jeffery Epstein (referred to in this preamble as the “Epstein investigation”) raised urgent questions about how a wealthy, well-connected individual was able to commit crimes against minors with impunity for years;

Whereas, in July 2019, Epstein was arrested on Federal sex-trafficking charges and died by suicide weeks later in Federal custody at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in New York, precluding a public trial and full airing of evidence;

Whereas, following the death of Epstein, many victims, advocates, and members of the public called for comprehensive transparency and accountability, including access to materials gathered during the Epstein investigation that could be released lawfully;

Whereas, in February 2025, Attorney General Pam Bondi stated on a television station broadcasted across the United States that a “client list” related to the network operated by Epstein was “sitting on [her] desk”;

Whereas Bondi, alongside the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Kash Patel and the Deputy Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Dan Bongino, repeatedly pledged to deliver full transparency, suggesting that key documents, including flight logs and black books, were being reviewed and prepared for public release;

Whereas, in 2023, Patel stated that Epstein’s “black book” was “under direct control of the Director of the FBI” and that Trump “should roll out the black book” on day one;

Whereas, in February 2025, Attorney General Pam Bondi distributed binders labeled “The Epstein Files: Phase 1” to a group of right-wing influencers during a White House visit, claiming they contained declassified materials from the Epstein investigation;

Whereas, in February 2025, Attorney General Pam Bondi publicly alleged that she was misled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation regarding the scope of the Epstein investigation files, stating in a letter to the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Kash Patel that a whistleblower had informed her that the New York Field Office for the Federal Bureau of Investigation was in possession of thousands of pages of additional documents that had not been disclosed despite repeated requests;

Whereas these statements were amplified by senior officials and widely disseminated across traditional and social media, creating a legitimate public expectation that the Department of Justice would release meaningful new disclosures;

Whereas, in July 2025, the Department of Justice issued an unsigned, 2-page memorandum stating there was no “client list”, no evidence of blackmail schemes involving public figures, and that further disclosure of materials was not “appropriate or warranted”;

Whereas the memo did not provide an explanation of how these determinations were reached, nor did it specify which documents had been reviewed or why materials earlier described as forthcoming were now being withheld;

Whereas this abrupt reversal, paired with a lack of accountability or clarification from leadership in the Department of Justice, has fueled further speculation, intensified misinformation, and contributed to a public perception that political considerations, not legal standards, are governing disclosure decisions;

Whereas victims of the abuse carried out by Epstein or related to his trafficking network, along with the broader public, deserve clarity on what happened, how evidence has been handled, and whether any institutional failures contributed to the delayed or incomplete pursuit of justice;

Whereas public trust in the Department of Justice depends on consistent, fact-based communications and a demonstrated commitment to accountability that transcends political pressure;

Whereas the disclosure of non-sensitive materials, such as timelines, investigatory summaries, indices of sealed filings, and previously released documents in structured formats, would serve the public interest while protecting the privacy and dignity of victims; and

Whereas the responsible release of information ensures that public institutions are transparent, credible, and accountable to the people they serve: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) prior to any other action related to the investigation of Jeffery Epstein (referred to in this resolving clause as the “Epstein investigation”), the Department of Justice should meet with the identified victims of Jeffery Epstein and their representatives to answer questions about the investigations and prosecutions related to the Epstein investigation and to provide the materials the Department of Justice intends to make public;

(2) the Department of Justice should publicly clarify the full scope of materials in its possession related to the Epstein investigation, including which materials have been reviewed and which remain under seal;

(3) the Department of Justice should release all appropriate records related to the

Epstein investigation, such as flight manifests, investigatory summaries, chain-of-custody documentation, and any material previously entered into the public record but not widely disseminated;

(4) any internal memos or legal analyses justifying the withholding of materials related to the Epstein investigation should be released, in redacted form where appropriate, to clarify the basis for the determinations of the Department of Justice and protect the identity of victims;

(5) the Department of Justice must correct prior misleading or inaccurate statements by senior officials of the Department of Justice and Federal Bureau of Investigation regarding the existence of certain records, timelines for review, and commitments to transparency, related to the Epstein investigation;

(6) public officials have a responsibility to communicate accurately and responsibly, particularly in matters involving victims of sex trafficking and public corruption, and failure to do so undermines faith in the justice system;

(7) the Senate reaffirms its support for full accountability regarding the Epstein investigation, including the identification of any co-conspirators, public or private, whose conduct was criminal, and calls upon the Department of Justice to explain what steps, if any, it has taken to pursue such co-conspirators;

(8) the Department of Justice should prioritize victim protection in any future disclosures, including by redacting personal information, withholding identifying images, and ensuring that materials cannot be used to re-traumatize victims or incite harassment; and

(9) the Senate recognizes that truth and transparency are essential to countering misinformation, preventing future abuse, and preserving the integrity of public institutions and the justice system.

SENATE RESOLUTION 326—REMEMBERING THE 33RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOMBING OF THE EMBASSY OF ISRAEL IN BUENOS AIRES ON MARCH 17, 1992, AND THE 31ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOMBING OF THE ARGENTINE-ISRAELI MUTUAL ASSOCIATION BUILDING IN BUENOS AIRES ON JULY 18, 1994, AND RECOMMITTING TO EFFORTS TO UPHOLD JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF THE ATTACKS

MR. CURTIS (for himself and Ms. ROSEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 326

Whereas, on March 17, 1992, a truck laden with explosives struck and detonated at the Embassy of Israel in Buenos Aires, Argentina, killing 29 people and wounding more than 200 others;

Whereas Argentina is home to the largest Jewish community in Latin America and the sixth largest in the world, outside Israel;

Whereas, in 1999, the Supreme Court of Argentina, after conducting an investigation, found that the Lebanese terrorist organization Hezbollah was responsible for the bombing, which claimed the lives of Israeli diplomats, their relatives, and numerous Argentine citizens and children;

Whereas 2 years after the bombing of the Embassy of Israel in Argentina, on July 18, 1994, a car bomb detonated at the Argentine Israelite Mutual Association (AMIA) Jewish

Community Center building in Buenos Aires, killing 85 people and wounding more than 300 others, rendering it the deadliest terrorist attack in Argentina's history;

Whereas, for 25 years, the investigation into the AMIA bombing has been stymied by international inaction, political interference, investigative misconduct, and allegations of cover-ups, including the removal of the Federal judge in charge of the case in 2005 for supposed "serious irregularities" in his handling of the case;

Whereas, in October 2006, Argentine prosecutors Alberto Nisman and Marcelo Martín Burgos formally accused the Government of Iran of directing Hezbollah to carry out the AMIA bombing;

Whereas the Argentine prosecutors charged Iranian nationals as suspects in the AMIA bombing, including—

(1) Ali Fallahijan, Iran's former intelligence minister;

(2) Mohsen Rabbani, Iran's former cultural attaché in Buenos Aires;

(3) Ahmad Reza Asghari, a former Iranian diplomat posted to Argentina;

(4) Ahmad Vahidi, Iran's former defense minister;

(5) Ali Akbar Velayati, Iran's former foreign minister;

(6) Mohsen Rezaee, former chief commander of the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps;

(7) Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, former President of Iran; and

(8) Hadi Soleimanpour, former Iranian ambassador to Argentina;

Whereas, in November 2007, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) published Red Notices on 5 of the Iranian nationals and Hezbollah operative Ibrahim Hussein Berro;

Whereas those with INTERPOL Red Notices have repeatedly traveled internationally with impunity on more than 20 occasions since 2007;

Whereas, in May 2013, Argentine prosecutor Alberto Nisman published a 500-page report accusing the Government of Iran of establishing terrorist networks throughout Latin America;

Whereas, in January 2015, Mr. Nisman released the results of an investigation alleging that then-President Fernandez de Kirchner and then-Foreign Minister Timerman conspired to cover up Iranian involvement in the 1994 AMIA bombing and that they had agreed to negotiate immunity for Iranian suspects and secure the removal of the INTERPOL Red Notices;

Whereas Mr. Nisman was scheduled to present his findings to a commission of the Argentine National Congress on January 19, 2015, but on January 18, 2015, was found dead as the result of a gunshot wound to his head in his apartment in Buenos Aires;

Whereas, to date, no one has been brought to justice for the 1992 bombing of the Israeli Embassy in Argentina, the 1994 bombing of the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, or the death of Argentine prosecutor Alberto Nisman;

Whereas the Third Federal Criminal and Correctional Court of Buenos Aires requested—

(1) on October 18, 2022, that Qatar detain Mohsen Rezaee; and

(2) on June 15, 2023, that Argentinian authorities and INTERPOL work together to apprehend Lebanese nationals Hussein Mounir Mouzannar, Ali Hussein Abdallah, Farouk Abdul Hay Omairi, and Abdallah Salman for the role of these individuals in the 1994 bombing of the AMIA Jewish Community Center;

Whereas, in April 2024, the highest criminal court of Argentina found that Iran was responsible for the AMIA attack and declared it a crime against humanity;

Whereas, in March 2025, Argentina passed Law No. 27.784, which allows trial in absentia, opening the door for prosecuting foreign suspects not present in the country;

Whereas, in April 2025, AMIA special prosecutor Sebastián Basso requested both national and international arrest warrants for Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei under the authority of Law No. 27.784; and

Whereas, on June 26, 2025, Federal Judge Daniel Rafecas ruled that a trial in absentia would be held for the 10 men accused of planning and ordering the terrorist attack on the AMIA; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reiterates its strongest condemnation of the 1992 attack on the Israeli Embassy in Argentina and the 1994 attack on the Argentine Israelite Mutual Association (AMIA) Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires;

(2) honors the victims of the 1992 bombing of the Israeli Embassy in Argentina and the 1994 AMIA bombing and expresses its sympathy to the relatives of the victims who are still waiting for justice;

(3) underscores the concern of the United States regarding the continuing, decades-long delay in resolving the 1992 and 1994 terrorist attacks in Argentina and urges the President of the United States to offer technical assistance to the Government of Argentina to support the ongoing investigations;

(4) urges the Government of Argentina and the international community to continue efforts to bring the perpetrators of the March 17, 1992, and July 18, 1994, terrorist attacks to justice, including by—

(A) enforcing the Red Notices issued by the International Criminal Police Organization; and

(B) extending such Red Notices prior to expiration;

(5) calls upon the Government of Argentina to conclude the investigation into the murder of Alberto Nisman so the responsible individuals are brought to justice;

(6) commends the Government of Argentina for designating Hezbollah and Hamas as terrorist organizations and urges other United States allies and partners in Latin America and the Caribbean to do the same;

(7) commends the Government of Argentina for adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition of antisemitism and encourages other partners and allies to do the same; and

(8) calls on the United States Government to continue to support efforts to hold Iran accountable for the AMIA attacks.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2900. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2901. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2902. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2903. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2904. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the

bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2905. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2906. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2907. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2908. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2909. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2910. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2911. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2912. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2913. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2914. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2915. Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Mr. CURTIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2916. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2917. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2918. Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. CRAMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2919. Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. SHEEHY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2920. Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2921. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2922. Mr. COONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2923. Mr. COONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2924. Mr. COONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2925. Mr. COONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2926. Ms. HASSAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the

bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2927. Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Ms. ERNST) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2928. Ms. HASSAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2929. Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. LANKFORD) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2930. Ms. HASSAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2931. Ms. HASSAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2932. Ms. HASSAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2933. Ms. HASSAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2934. Ms. HASSAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2935. Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. BOOZMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2936. Ms. HASSAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2937. Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Ms. HIRONO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2938. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2939. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2940. Mr. COONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2941. Mr. COONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2942. Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2943. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2944. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2945. Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2946. Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Ms. HIRONO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2947. Mr. LUJAN (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2948. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2949. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2950. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2951. Ms. ROSEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2952. Mr. WARNOCK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2953. Mr. WARNOCK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2954. Mr. WARNOCK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2955. Mr. WARNOCK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2956. Mr. WARNOCK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2900. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE RELIABILITY RESEARCH FOR DEFENSE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Defense of the Advanced Research Projects Agency shall, in collaboration with the heads of relevant Federal agencies—

(1) identify fundamental research work streams to enable more robust evaluations of artificial intelligence models before deployment, including methods to analyze model internals, detect hidden behaviors that could compromise mission effectiveness, and protect artificial intelligence systems from physical tampering and side-channel attacks; and

(2) initiate the review, research, and development of advanced techniques for assessment of reliability of artificial intelligence models, mechanistic interpretability of such models, and related hardware security.

(b) RESEARCH SHARING.—The Director shall share with the broader scientific community the findings of the Director with respect to the activities carried out under subsection (a) and the results of research conducted under such subsection whenever doing so does not compromise classified information or national security interests.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall submit to Congress a

report on the findings of the Director with respect to the activities carried out under subsection (a) and the results of research conducted under such subsection. Such report shall include recommendations for further related avenues of research.

SA 2901. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title XXVIII, add the following:

SEC. 2827. LIMITATION ON OPPOSITION TO CERTAIN LAND USE CHANGES THAT WOULD ALLOW ADDITIONAL HOUSING SUPPLY.

Prior to a Regional Environmental Coordinator or other official of the Department of Defense taking a position in opposition to land use changes that would allow additional housing supply in an area already zoned for residential use, such official shall obtain approval for such position from the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment and shall notify the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives.

SA 2902. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title III, insert the following:

SEC. 3. REPORT ON IMPACT TO ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES AT INSTALLATIONS OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE IN THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION AS A RESULT OF EXTREME WEATHER HAZARDS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report analyzing the potential risk exposure of water and energy utilities at installations of the Department of Defense in the Indo-Pacific region as a result of extreme weather events.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A categorized list of incidents or malfunctions that led to a major disruption of water or energy services as a result of extreme weather that impeded the utilities at an installation of the Department in the Indo-Pacific region from functioning properly.

(2) An assessment of installations of the Department in the Indo-Pacific region that the Secretary determines are at a unique risk for energy and water utility disruptions due to extreme weather events and any mitigating actions those installations took to reduce that risk.

(3) A list of administrative policies of the Department and statutes that the Secretary

determines are inhibiting the abilities of installation commanders to better prepare and develop resilience strategies to address vulnerability of water and energy utilities to extreme weather events.

(4) An assessment of how the design of water and energy utility infrastructure at future installations of the Department is being adjusted to account for extreme weather events.

SA 2903. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE COMPLIANCE WITH NAGPRA.

(a) **CLARIFICATION.**—Cultural items (as defined in section 2 of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001) relating to an Indian Boarding School that are located, buried, or otherwise found on property of the Department of Defense are subject to that Act (25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.).

(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Defense to assist claimants in carrying out the responsibilities of those claimants under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) \$2,000,000, to remain available until expended.

SA 2904. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . EXPANSION OF EXCEPTIONS TO RESTRICTION ON DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE IN CONNECTION WITH REALIGNMENT OF MARINE CORPS FORCES IN ASIA-PACIFIC REGION.

Section 2844(b)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328; 130 Stat. 2742) is amended by inserting “, including operations and maintenance relating to the curation of archeological and cultural artifacts” after “artifacts”.

SA 2905. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title II, add the following:

SEC. 228. HARDWARE-ENABLED GOVERNANCE MECHANISMS FOR EXPORT CONTROL ENFORCEMENT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the Act, the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, in coordination with the Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security, shall initiate the research and development of hardware-enabled governance mechanisms for advanced chips to ensure that such chips are not exported in violation of export controls imposed by the United States. Such mechanisms may include—

- (1) tamper-resistant chip location verification;
- (2) high-bandwidth communication bottlenecking;
- (3) on-chip metering and licensing; and
- (4) tamper-resistant or tamper-evident encasing.

(b) **BRIEFING REQUIRED.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering shall provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives to make recommendations for future steps to implement hardware-enabled governance mechanisms described in subsection (a).

SA 2906. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 12. REPORT ON BENEFITS OF FACT-BASED JOURNALISM IN INDO-PACIFIC REGION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report outlining the benefits, to United States defense and security objectives in the Indo-Pacific region, of editorially independent, fact-based journalism in the Indo-Pacific region, including throughout the Pacific Islands.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The report required by subsection (a) shall include an assessment of the following:

(1) The benefits to United States defense and security interests of an information environment in the Indo-Pacific region, including the Pacific Islands, that includes fact-based reporting on the malign activities of competitors and adversaries in the region.

(2) The risks to Department of Defense operations and activities of insufficient editorially independent news media in the Indo-Pacific region.

(c) **FORM.**—The report required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

SA 2907. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal

year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title III, add the following:

SEC. 334. REPORT ON RISKS FROM SURFACE AND SUBSURFACE HAZARDS IN THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION.

Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, shall submit to Congress a report that includes the following:

(1) An assessment of the risk from surface and subsurface explosive ordnance hazards, submerged maritime vessels, and related hazards, as determined by the Secretary of Defense, to operations, security cooperation, and other activities of the Department of Defense in the Indo-Pacific region, including—

(A) an assessment of the expected prevalence of unexploded hazards throughout such region in locations that the Secretary of Defense is expecting to begin major or minor construction projects during the one-year period beginning on the date of the report; and

(B) a review of threats to critical infrastructure in Pacific Island countries and territories that could be relevant to potential contingency operations of the Department, including airports, ports, bridges, and hospitals.

(2) An assessment of authorities to allow the Department to partner with the militaries or police forces of Pacific Island countries to conduct surface and subsurface explosive ordnance removal, including underwater ordnance.

(3) An assessment of the value a region-wide survey of unexploded ordnance in the Indo-Pacific region could provide for operations, security cooperation, and other activities of the Department that support the defense and security interests of the United States.

SA 2908. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title III, insert the following:

SEC. 3. WORKING GROUP ON MARINE BIO-SECURITY AT JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, HAWAII.

(a) IN GENERAL.—On and after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Navy shall participate in good faith with a working group on marine biosecurity at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii (in this section referred to as the “working group”).

(b) MEMBERS.—The members of the working group shall consist of representatives from the following:

(1) The United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(2) The United States Geological Survey.

(3) The Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources.

(4) The Hawaii Invasive Species Council.

(5) The University of Hawaii.

(6) The Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum.

(7) Williams College.

(8) Such additional entities as may prove necessary or expedient, as determined by the Secretary of the Navy.

(c) EXISTING OR NEW ENTITY.—The working group may be either a newly-constituted entity or an existing entity with substantially the same members.

(d) MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to facilitate cooperation among the members of the working group, the Secretary of the Navy shall seek to enter into a memorandum of agreement with the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources.

(2) ELEMENTS.—A memorandum of agreement entered into under paragraph (1) shall contain, at a minimum, the commitment of the Department of Defense—

(A) to work collaboratively and in good faith with all members of the working group;

(B) to the eradication of invasive corals discovered at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in 2020;

(C) to supporting the health of the coastal and marine ecosystem of Hawaii; and

(D) to creating a mechanism for an independent third party, approved by the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, to verify and, as warranted, oversee efforts by the Department of Defense to eradicate invasive corals from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

SA 2909. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 12. REPORT ON USE OF ADVANCED MARITIME DOMAIN AWARENESS TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS TO COMBAT ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED, AND UNREGULATED FISHING IN PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) many countries in the Pacific Islands region depend on commercial tuna fisheries as a critical component of their economies;

(2) the Government of the People’s Republic of China has used its licensed fishing fleet to exert greater influence in the Pacific Islands region, but at the same time, such licensed fishing fleet is also a major contributor to illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing (in this section referred to as “IUU fishing”) activities;

(3) the sustainability of the fisheries in the Pacific Islands region is threatened by IUU fishing, which depletes both commercially important fish stocks and nontargeted species that help maintain the integrity of the ocean ecosystem;

(4) IUU fishing puts pressure on protected species of marine mammals, sea turtles, and sea birds, which also jeopardizes the integrity of the ocean ecosystem;

(5) because IUU fishing goes unrecorded, the loss of biomass compromises scientists’ work to assess and model fishery stocks and advise managers on sustainable catch levels;

(6) beyond the damage to living marine resources, IUU fishing also contributes directly to illegal activity in the Pacific Islands region, such as food fraud, smuggling, and human trafficking;

(7) current approaches to IUU fishing enforcement rely on established methods, such as vessel monitoring systems, logbooks maintained by government fisheries enforcement authorities to record the catches landed by fishing vessels, and corroborating data on catches hand-collected by human observer programs;

(8) such established methods are imperfect because—

(A) vessels can turn off monitoring systems and unlicensed vessels do not use such systems; and

(B) observer coverage is thin and subject to human error and corruption;

(9) maritime domain awareness technology solutions for vessel monitoring have gained credibility in recent years and include systems such as observing instruments deployed on satellites, crewed and uncrewed air and surface systems, aircraft, and surface vessels, and electronic monitoring systems on fishing vessels;

(10) maritime domain awareness technologies hold the promise of significantly augmenting the current IUU fishing enforcement capacities; and

(11) maritime domain awareness technologies offer an avenue for addressing key United States national interests, including such interests relating to—

(A) increasing bilateral diplomatic ties with key allies and partners in the Pacific Islands region;

(B) countering illicit trafficking in arms, narcotics, and human beings associated with IUU fishing;

(C) advancing security, long-term growth, and development in the Pacific Islands region;

(D) supporting ocean conservation objectives;

(E) reducing food insecurity; and

(F) countering attempts by the Government of the People’s Republic of China to increase its influence in the Pacific Islands region.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Commandant of the Coast Guard, and the Secretary of State, shall submit to Congress a report assessing the use of advanced maritime domain awareness technology systems to combat IUU fishing in the Pacific Islands region.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) a review of the effectiveness of existing monitoring technologies, including electronic monitoring systems, to combat IUU fishing;

(B) recommendations for effectively integrating effective monitoring technologies into a Pacific Islands region-wide strategy for IUU fishing enforcement;

(C) an assessment and recommendations for the secure and reliable processing of data from such monitoring technologies, including the security and verification issues;

(D) the technical and financial capacity of countries of the Pacific Islands region to deploy and maintain large-scale use of maritime domain awareness technological systems for the purposes of combating IUU fishing and supporting fisheries resource management;

(E) a review of the technical and financial capacity of regional organizations and international structures to support countries in the Pacific Islands region in the deployment and maintenance of large-scale use of maritime domain awareness technology systems for the purpose of combating IUU fishing and supporting fisheries resource management;

(F) an evaluation of the utility of using foreign assistance, security assistance, and development assistance provided by the United States to countries in the Pacific Islands region to support the large-scale deployment and operations of maritime domain awareness systems to increase maritime security across such region; and

(G) an assessment of the role of large-scale deployment and operations of maritime domain awareness systems throughout the Pacific Islands region to supporting United States economic and national security interests in such region, including efforts related to countering IUU fishing, improving maritime security, and countering malign foreign influence.

SA 2910. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title XII, insert the following:

SEC. 12. REPORT ON ESTABLISHING A PACIFIC ISLANDS SECURITY DIALOGUE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report assessing the feasibility and advisability of establishing a United States-based public-private sponsored security dialogue (to be known as the “Pacific Islands Security Dialogue”) among the Pacific Islands for the purposes of jointly exploring and discussing issues affecting the economic, diplomatic, and national security of the Pacific Islands.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—The report required by subsection (a) shall, at a minimum, include the following:

(1) A review of the ability of the Department of State to participate in a public-private sponsored security dialogue.

(2) A survey of Pacific Island countries on their interest in engaging in such a dialogue and potential topics for discussion.

(3) An assessment of the potential locations for conducting a Pacific Islands Security Dialogue in the jurisdiction of the United States.

(4) Consideration of dates for conducting a Pacific Islands Security Dialogue that would maximize participation of representatives from the Pacific Islands.

(5) A review of the funding modalities available to the Department of State to help finance a Pacific Islands Security Dialogue, including grant-making authorities available to the Department of State.

(6) An assessment of any administrative, statutory, or other legal limitations that would prevent the establishment of a Pacific Islands Security Dialogue with participation and support of the Department of State as described in subsection (a).

(7) An analysis of how a Pacific Islands Security Dialogue could help to advance the Boe Declaration on Regional Security, including its emphasis on the changing environment as the greatest existential threat to the Pacific Islands.

(8) An evaluation of how a Pacific Islands Security Dialogue could help amplify the issues and work of existing regional structures and organizations dedicated to the security of the Pacific Islands region, such as the Pacific Island Forum and Pacific Environmental Security Forum.

(9) An analysis of how a Pacific Islands Security Dialogue would assist in the implementation of the Pacific Partnership Strategy of the United States and the National Security Strategy of the United States.

(c) INTERAGENCY CONSULTATION.—To the extent practicable, the Secretary of State may consult with the Secretary of Defense and, where appropriate, evaluate the lessons learned of the Regional Centers for Security Studies of the Department of Defense to assess the feasibility and advisability of establishing the Pacific Islands Security Dialogue.

SA 2911. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 12. INDO-PACIFIC MARITIME SECURITY INITIATIVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall cooperate to develop and carry out a program to strengthen maritime security partnerships in the Indo-Pacific region using assets of the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security.

(b) GOALS.—The goals of the program under paragraph (1) shall be, to the extent practicable—

(1) to enhance interoperability between—
(A) Coast Guard and Navy personnel; and
(B) the maritime forces of allied and partner countries in the Indo-Pacific region;

(2) to strengthen Coast Guard, and, as appropriate, Navy, participation in, and coordination with, organizations in the Indo-Pacific region dedicated to coordination and cooperation in support of fisheries policies, ocean conservation, maritime security, and related initiatives;

(3) to strengthen maritime domain awareness, enforcement of exclusive economic zones, marine environment protection, activities to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, and disaster preparedness and resilience;

(4) to mature logistics delivery among countries in the Indo-Pacific region to enhance the ability of the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security to supply remote areas after extreme weather events and other major natural disasters;

(5) to increase the presence of Coast Guard personnel and capabilities to support law enforcement, maritime protection, and capacity-building initiatives in the Indo-Pacific region; and

(6) to conduct research and development in, and, as practicable, deploy technologies or related capabilities to, countries in the Indo-Pacific region that will—

(A) improve maritime domain awareness and the ability to monitor fisheries and other marine resources; and

(B) strengthen disaster warning and response.

(c) STRATEGY.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall jointly submit to Congress a strategy that includes the following:

(1) A review of ongoing United States efforts to promote maritime security, environmental protection, and disaster resilience and preparedness in the Indo-Pacific region.

(2) An assessment of the feasibility and advisability of—

(A) routine ports of call by the Navy and the Coast Guard at ports in countries in the Indo-Pacific region;

(B) expanding shiprider agreements between the United States and countries in the Indo-Pacific region; and

(C) developing joint and multinational exercises focused on improving combined response and logistics delivery in support of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.

(3) An assessment of ways in which the presence of Coast Guard cutters and personnel in the Indo-Pacific region may be increased to support law enforcement, maritime security, disaster response, and related goals, which assessment shall include—

(A) a review of challenges related to the deployment of medium-range and long-range cutters, including personnel and logistical requirements;

(B) a review of budgetary constraints that would limit the deployment of additional Coast Guard cutters and resources to the Indo-Pacific region; and

(C) any other consideration the Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Commandant of the Coast Guard, considers appropriate.

SA 2912. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 12. REPORT ON INCREASED COAST GUARD PRESENCE AND OPERATIONS IN THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Commandant of the Coast Guard, the Coast Guard Commander for the Pacific Area, the Commander of the United States Indo-Pacific Command, and the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, shall submit to Congress a report outlining the benefits, with respect to United States defense and security objectives in the Indo-Pacific region, of increased Coast Guard operations in the Western Pacific region.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the risks—

(A) to United States defense and security interests posed by not fully using the range of Coast Guard maritime capabilities, vessels, exercises, and engagements in the Indo-Pacific region, given increased maritime activities, including partner engagement, by the People’s Republic of China;

(B) to Department of Defense operations posed by the United States Coast Guard not fully staffing and equipping Coast Guard operations in the Western Pacific region; and

(C) to United States strategic maritime interests in general, including to bilateral maritime partners of the United States, posed by not fully staffing and equipping Coast Guard operations in the Western Pacific region.

(2) An assessment of the opportunity costs of—

(A) using other service capabilities within the Department of Defense to address challenges and threats in the Indo-Pacific region

typically addressed by the Coast Guard, including fentanyl and other illicit drug trafficking; and

(B) not expanding Coast Guard presence and cooperation in Southeast Asia, South Asia, and the Pacific Islands, with a focus on advising, training, deployment, and capacity building.

(3) An assessment of the associated needs of the Department of Defense to fully achieve regional defense and security objectives if the Coast Guard were not to significantly expand its presence in the Indo-Pacific region.

SA 2913. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CONTAMINATED LANDS.

(a) **FINDING.**—Congress finds that there is a need to systematically advance the geostrategic, military-political, and economic interests of the United States in the Pacific Theater, particularly within the westernmost island State of the United States, which serves as the forward defense platform of the United States and requires a clear foundation for possible regional conflicts and current and future national security threats.

(b) **ASSISTANCE REQUIRED.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense (referred to in this subsection as the “Secretary”) shall provide assistance to the State of Hawaii for the cleanup of hazardous materials, munition debris, unsafe buildings or structures, lead-based paint or asbestos, abandoned equipment, and unexploded ordnance in the State.

(2) **PRIORITY.**—In providing assistance under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall prioritize cleanup on or near Hawaiian Home Lands (as defined in section 801 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4221)) and pre-1970 military sites.

SA 2914. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of part I of subtitle F of title V, add the following:

SEC. 5. REPORT ON MATERIALS, PROGRAMS, AND ACTIVITIES RESTRICTED AT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY SCHOOLS.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that the Department of Defense Education Activity may be engaging in censorship that could violate the rights of members of the Armed Forces and their families under the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

(b) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,

the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report enumerating the educational materials, programs, and activities affected by the memoranda issued by the Department of Defense Education Activity on February 5, 2025, restricting the use of materials by covered schools.

(2) **ELEMENTS.**—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A list of books restricted at a covered school as a result of the memoranda described in paragraph (1).

(B) A list of any curriculum materials or educational guidance that has been modified at a covered school as a result of those memoranda.

(C) A list of programs restricted at a covered school as a result of those memoranda.

(D) A list of activities restricted at a covered school as a result of those memoranda.

(E) A list of holidays or commemorative heritage activities restricted at covered school as a result of those memoranda.

(F) A description of a process by which administrators, teachers, parents, students, and other interested parties at a covered school can submit a complaint about restrictions imposed pursuant to those memoranda to the Director of the Department of Defense Education Activity, including an option for maintaining the anonymity of individuals submitting a complaint.

(3) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this subsection:

(A) **CONGRESSIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEES.**—The term “congressional defense committees” has the meaning given that term in section 101(a) of title 10, United States Code.

(B) **COVERED SCHOOL.**—The term “covered school” means a school operated—

(i) by the Department of Defense Education Activity; or

(ii) with support provided by the Non-Department of Defense Schools Program.

SA 2915. Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Mr. CURTIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. BANNING OF PRODUCTS CONTAINING A HIGH CONCENTRATION OF SODIUM NITRITE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Any consumer product containing a high concentration of sodium nitrite shall be considered to be a banned hazardous product under section 8 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2057).

(b) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to—

(1) prohibit any commercial or industrial purpose in which high concentration sodium nitrite is not customarily produced or distributed for sale to, or use or consumption by, or enjoyment of, a consumer; and

(2) apply to high concentration sodium nitrite that meets the definition of a “drug”, “device”, or “cosmetic” (as such terms are defined in sections 201(g), (h), and (i) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321(g), (h), and (i))), or “food” (as defined in section 201(f) of such Act (21 U.S.C. 321(f))), including poultry and poultry products (as such terms are defined in sections 4(e) and (f) of the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 453(e) and (f))), meat and

meat food products (as such terms are defined in section 1(j) of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601(j))), and eggs and egg products (as such terms are defined in section 4 of the Egg Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 1033)).

(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—For purposes of this section:

(1) **CONSUMER PRODUCT.**—The term “consumer product” has the meaning given that term under section 3(a)(5) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2052(a)(5)).

(2) **HIGH CONCENTRATION OF SODIUM NITRITE.**—The term “high concentration of sodium nitrite” means a concentration of 10 or more percent by weight of sodium nitrite.

(d) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—This section shall take effect 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 2916. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in subtitle C of title XV, insert the following:

SEC. 15. REPORT ON ENHANCED INTEGRATED AIR AND MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM IN GUAM.

(a) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than December 1, 2025, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the Enhanced Integrated Air and Missile Defense System in Guam.

(b) **CONTENTS.**—The report submitted pursuant to subsection (a) shall cover the following:

(1) The impact of the Enhanced Integrated Air and Missile Defense System on public infrastructure in Guam, along with a plan to assist with mitigating the resulting effects.

(2) The feasibility of any alternatives to the Enhanced Integrated Air and Missile Defense System in conjunction with the Guam environmental impact statement.

(3) The feasibility of establishing an Economic Adjustment Committee for Guam in accordance with Executive Order 12788 (10 U.S.C. 2391 note; relating to Defense Economic Adjustment Program).

SA 2917. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. REPORT ON IMPACTS OF SANCTIONS ON MILITARIES OF CERTAIN ADVERSARIES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury, shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report analyzing the impacts of sanctions imposed by the United States on the armed forces and proxy forces of the Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of how sanctions imposed by the United States have impacted the overall readiness of the armed forces of the Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran, including how those forces have had to reorganize to address readiness gaps as a result of the sanctions.

(2) An assessment of—

(A) the overall health of the domestic defense industrial bases in the Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran as a result of sanctions imposed by the United States since 2018;

(B) whether those defense industrial bases can keep up with the demands of the armed forces; and

(C) military technology areas that have been stunted or halted by the imposition of the sanctions.

(3) A description of—

(A) the impacts of sanctions imposed by the United States on the ability of proxy forces of the Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran to conduct extraterritorial operations; and

(B) alternative sources of support that those forces have had to incorporate as a result of the imposition of those sanctions.

(4) The assessment of the Department of Defense with respect to whether sanctions imposed by the United States have had a meaningful effect on deterring Russian or Iranian aggression.

SA 2918. Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. CRAMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. **REINSTATEMENT OF ENTITLEMENT TO POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT OR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 3319, the following:

“§ 3319A. Victims of sexual assault and domestic violence; authority to retain transferred education benefits

“(a) REINSTATEMENT OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary concerned may, subject to regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, reinstate terminated educational assistance payments that were transferred to a spouse or a dependent child under section 3319 of this title if the Secretary concerned determines that the proximate cause for the termination of payment is—

“(1) the administrative separation or conviction by a court martial, or by civilian, Tribal, or State court, of a covered individual for a dependent-abuse offense; and

“(2) the administrative separation or conviction resulted in a discharge characterization of the covered individual that does not meet the requirements of section 3311(c) of this title.

“(b) APPLICATION.—(1) A spouse or dependent child described in subsection (a) seeking reinstatement of terminated educational assistance payments for a termination described in such subsection shall apply for such reinstatement.

“(2) An application under paragraph (1) shall include sufficient information to substantiate that a spouse or dependent child was the victim of dependent-abuse that resulted in a discharge characterization that does not meet the requirements of section 3311(c) of this title.

“(3) The Secretary shall consult with veterans service organizations to ensure that the application process under this subsection is trauma-informed.

“(c) LIMITATION.—Reinstated payments shall not exceed any unused portion of the educational benefits that were transferred to a spouse or dependent child pursuant to section 3319 of this title that remain unobligated at the time of discharge of the covered member.

“(d) DETERMINATION BY THE SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The Secretary concerned may determine that the proximate cause of termination of education benefits is dependent-abuse, as specified in regulations prescribed in subsection (e), only if—

“(1) the record for the administrative separation establishes, by a preponderance of evidence presented, that the covered individual perpetrated a dependent-abuse offense; or

“(2) the covered individual is convicted of a dependent-abuse offense.

“(e) REVIEW OF DETERMINATIONS.—(1) The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall, in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, establish procedures by which a spouse or dependent child whose application for reinstatement of terminated educational assistance under subsection (b) is denied by the Secretary concerned may request the applicable Secretary review the application and denial.

“(2) Pursuant to a review by the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of Homeland Security under paragraph (1) of an application and denial, the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of Homeland Security, as the case may be, may overturn the denial if the Secretary determines such denial was made in error.

“(3) The Secretary receiving a request for a review of an application and denial pursuant to the procedures required by paragraph (1) shall review the application and denial and respond to the request not later than 30 days after receiving the request.

“(4) The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall, in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, develop and make available to the public guidance on how a spouse or dependent child may request a review pursuant to the procedures established under paragraph (1).

“(f) REGULATIONS.—(1) The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall prescribe regulations to carry out this section.

“(2) Regulations under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

“(A) The procedure for application of reinstatement of education benefits.

“(B) The criminal offenses, or categories of offenses, under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (chapter 47 of title 10), Federal criminal law, the criminal laws of the States and other jurisdictions of the United States, and the laws of other nations that are to be considered dependent-abuse offenses for the purposes of this section.

“(g) BAR TO DUPLICATION OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE BENEFITS.—An individual entitled to education assistance under this chapter who is also eligible for educational assistance under chapter 30, 31, 32, or 35 of this title, chapter 107, 1606, or 1607 or section 510 of title 10, may not receive assistance under two or more such program concurrently, but shall elect (in such form and manner as the

Secretary may prescribe) under which section to receive educational assistance.

“(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘covered individual’ means a member of the Armed Forces described in section 3311(b) of this title.

“(2) The term ‘dependent-abuse offense’ means conduct by a covered individual while a member of the Armed Forces on active duty for a period of more than 30 days that—

“(A) involves abuse of the spouse or a dependent child of the member; and

“(B) is a criminal offense specified in regulations prescribed under subsection (e).

“(3) The term ‘dependent child’ has the meaning given such term in section 1408(h) of title 10.

“(4) The term ‘spouse’ means a person who was the beneficiary of transferred educational assistance payments at the time of discharge of a covered individual, who—

“(A) was married to the covered individual; or

“(B) divorced such individual prior to discharge for, as determined by the Secretary concerned, reasons relating to a dependent abuse-offense that resulted in a discharge characterization that does not meet the requirements of section 3311(c) of this title.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 33 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3319 the following new item:

“Sec. 3319A. Victims of sexual assault and domestic violence; authority to retain transferred education benefits.”.

SA 2919. Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. SHEEHY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title X, insert the following:

SEC. 10. **PROGRAM OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO FURNISH TO CERTAIN VETERANS ITEMS USED FOR SECURE STORAGE OF FIREARMS.**

“(a) PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 1720M. Program to furnish to eligible individuals items intended to be used for the secure storage of firearms

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out a program to provide to an eligible individual, upon the request of the eligible individual—

“(1) a covered item or a redeemable voucher to aid in the distribution of a covered item; and

“(2) information relating to the benefits of, and options for, secure firearm storage.

“(b) DISTRIBUTION OF COVERED ITEMS.—In carrying out the program under subsection (a), the Secretary is authorized to work with organizations that have experience, expertise, and business knowledge regarding secure firearm storage and secure firearm storage devices.

“(c) PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall design and carry out a public education campaign to inform eligible individuals of the

availability of covered items under the program under subsection (a).

“(2) PARTNERSHIP.—In carrying out the public education campaign required under paragraph (1), the Secretary may partner with organizations that have experience with respect to secure firearm storage devices.

“(3) ASSURANCE ABOUT LAWFUL OWNERSHIP OF FIREARMS.—The Secretary shall include in the public education campaign required under paragraph (1) material that assures eligible individuals that their participation in the program under subsection (a) does not impact lawful ownership of firearms.

“(d) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than October 1, 2025, and not less frequently than annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that includes—

“(1) a description of the program under subsection (a) in a manner consistent with applicable law;

“(2) during the period covered by the report, the number of covered items distributed by the Veterans Health Administration and the number of covered items redeemed outside of the Veterans Health Administration under the program;

“(3) an assessment of efforts made to increase outreach and distribution of covered items under the program to eligible individuals who are not enrolled in the system of annual patient enrollment of the Department established and operated under section 1705 of this title;

“(4) an assessment of any obstacles to increasing outreach to eligible individuals who are enrolled in such system and those who are not enrolled in such system; and

“(5) an identification of additional steps that will be taken during the one-year period after the submission of the report to improve the processes through which eligible individuals receive a covered item under the program.

“(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘appropriate committees of Congress’ means—

“(A) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

“(B) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

“(2) The term ‘covered item’ means a lockbox that—

“(A) is used for the secure storage of a firearm and ammunition;

“(B) is designed, intended, and marketed to prevent unauthorized access to a firearm or ammunition;

“(C) may be unlocked only by means of a key, combination, or other similar means;

“(D) is in compliance with the standard of the American Society for Testing and Materials F2456-20, or any successor standard;

“(E) is manufactured in the United States; and

“(F) is not eligible or intended for commercial or individual resale.

“(3) The term ‘eligible individual’ means—

“(A) a veteran; or

“(B) an individual described in section 1720I(b) of this title.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1720L the following new item:

“1720M. Program to furnish to eligible individuals items intended to be used for the secure storage of firearms.”.

(b) EDUCATION AND TRAINING.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall—

(1) in consultation with representatives of organizations and agencies that are subject to a memorandum of understanding with the

Secretary on preventing veteran suicide and other such entities as the Secretary determines appropriate—

(A) develop an informational video on secure storage of firearms as a suicide prevention strategy; and

(B) publish such informational video on an internet website of the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

(2) publish information to inform individuals who participate in the program under section 1720M of title 38, United States Code (as added by subsection (a)(1)) that any lockbox furnished pursuant to such program is not eligible or intended for commercial or individual resale.

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act may be construed—

(1) to collect personally identifiable information of an individual who participates in the program under section 1720M of title 38, United States Code (as added by subsection (a)(1)) for the purposes of tracking firearm ownership;

(2) to require any such individual to register a firearm with the Department of Veterans Affairs, or any other Federal, State, Tribal, or local unit of government;

(3) to require mandatory firearm storage for any such individual;

(4) to prohibit any such individual from purchasing, owning, or possessing a firearm under section 922 of title 18, United States Code;

(5) to discourage the lawful ownership of firearms; or

(6) to create or maintain a list of individuals participating in such program.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to the appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2036 to carry out this section and the amendments made by this section.

SA 2920. Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title VI, add the following:

SEC. 614. ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF CERTAIN EXPIRING BONUS AND SPECIAL PAY AUTHORITIES.

(a) AUTHORITIES RELATING TO RESERVE FORCES.—Section 910(g) of title 37, United States Code, relating to income replacement payments for reserve component members experiencing extended and frequent mobilization for active duty service, is amended by striking “December 31, 2025” and inserting “December 31, 2026”.

(b) TITLE 10 AUTHORITIES RELATING TO HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS.—The following sections of title 10, United States Code, are amended by striking “December 31, 2025” and inserting “December 31, 2026”:

(1) Section 2130a(a)(1), relating to nurse officer candidate accession program.

(2) Section 16302(d), relating to repayment of education loans for certain health professionals who serve in the Selected Reserve.

(c) AUTHORITIES RELATING TO NUCLEAR OFFICERS.—Section 333(i) of title 37, United States Code, is amended by striking “December 31, 2025” and inserting “December 31, 2026”.

(d) AUTHORITIES RELATING TO TITLE 37 CONSOLIDATED SPECIAL PAY, INCENTIVE PAY, AND BONUS AUTHORITIES.—The following sections of title 37, United States Code, are amended by striking “December 31, 2025” and inserting “December 31, 2026”:

(1) Section 331(h), relating to general bonus authority for enlisted members.

(2) Section 332(g), relating to general bonus authority for officers.

(3) Section 334(i), relating to special aviation incentive pay and bonus authorities for officers.

(4) Section 335(k), relating to special bonus and incentive pay authorities for officers in health professions.

(5) Section 336(g), relating to contracting bonus for cadets and midshipmen enrolled in the Senior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps.

(6) Section 351(h), relating to hazardous duty pay.

(7) Section 352(g), relating to assignment pay or special duty pay.

(8) Section 353(i), relating to skill incentive pay or proficiency bonus.

(9) Section 355(h), relating to retention incentives for members qualified in critical military skills or assigned to high priority units.

(e) AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TEMPORARY INCREASE IN RATES OF BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR HOUSING.—Section 403(b) of title 37, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (7)(E), relating to an area covered by a major disaster declaration or containing an installation experiencing an influx of military personnel, by striking “December 31, 2025” and inserting “December 31, 2026”; and

(2) in paragraph (8)(C), relating to an area where actual housing costs differ from current rates by more than 20 percent, by striking “December 31, 2025” and inserting “December 31, 2026”.

SA 2921. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 12. REPORT ON COLLABORATION WITH NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION ALLIES AND PARTNERS ON DETERRENCE IN INDO-PACIFIC REGION.

Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report that includes—

(A) a description of efforts by the Secretary, together with North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies and partners, to deter an armed attack against the State of Hawaii and the United States Pacific territories of Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa;

(B) a description of capabilities of North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies and partners to engage in deterrence measures throughout the Indo-Pacific region, including—

(i) an assessment of defense assets available for deployment to and within the Indo-Pacific region; and

(ii) an assessment of joint defense strategies of the Department of Defense and North

Atlantic Treaty Organization allies and partners for deterrence in the Indo-Pacific region; and

(C) a description of engagements conducted by the Secretary with North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies and partners to reinforce United States policy regarding the defense of the State of Hawaii and the United States Pacific territories of Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa.

SA 2922. Mr. COONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. FINDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESOURCE EXPLORATION.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the United States should prioritize, to the greatest extent practicable, the onshoring of critical mineral processing.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ALLIED FOREIGN COUNTRY.—The term “allied foreign country” means a member country of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization or a country that has been designated as a major non-NATO ally under section 517 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321k).

(2) CRITICAL MINERAL.—The term “critical mineral” has the meaning given the term in section 7002(a) of the Energy Act of 2020 (30 U.S.C. 1606(a)).

(3) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

(4) PARTNER FOREIGN COUNTRY.—The term “partner foreign country” means a country that is a source of a critical mineral or rare earth element.

(5) RARE EARTH ELEMENT.—The term “rare earth element” means cerium, dysprosium, erbium, europium, gadolinium, holmium, lanthanum, lutetium, neodymium, praseodymium, promethium, samarium, scandium, terbium, thulium, ytterbium, or yttrium.

(6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Geological Survey.

(c) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH RESPECT TO THE MAPPING OF CRITICAL MINERALS AND RARE EARTH ELEMENTS.—

(1) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—The Secretary may enter into a memorandum of understanding with 1 or more heads of agencies of partner foreign countries with respect to scientific and technical cooperation in the mapping of critical minerals and rare earth elements.

(2) OBJECTIVES.—In negotiating a memorandum of understanding under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall seek to increase the security and resilience of international supply chains for critical minerals and rare earth elements by—

(A) committing to assisting the partner foreign country through cooperative activities described in paragraph (3) that help the partner foreign country map reserves of critical minerals and rare earth elements;

(B) ensuring that private companies headquartered in the United States or an allied foreign country are offered the right of

first refusal in the further development of critical minerals and rare earth elements in the partner foreign country;

(C) facilitating private-sector investment in the exploration and development of critical minerals and rare earth elements; and

(D) ensuring that mapping data created through the cooperative activities described in paragraph (3) is protected against unauthorized access by, or disclosure to, governmental or private entities based in countries that are not—

(i) a party to the memorandum of understanding; or

(ii) an allied foreign country.

(3) COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES.—The cooperative activities referred to in paragraph (2) include—

(A) acquisition, compilation, analysis, and interpretation of geologic, geophysical, geochemical, and spectroscopic remote sensing data;

(B) prospectivity mapping and mineral resource assessment;

(C) analysis of geoscience data, including developing derivative map products that can help more effectively evaluate the mineral resources of the partner foreign country;

(D) scientific collaboration to enhance the understanding and management of the natural resources of the partner foreign country to contribute to the sustainable development of the mineral resources sector of that partner foreign country;

(E) training and capacity building in each area described in subparagraphs (A) through (D);

(F) facilitation of education and specialized training in geoscience and mineral resource management at institutions of higher education;

(G) training in relevant international standards for relevant officials of the government and private companies of the partner foreign country; and

(H) cooperation among entities of the partner foreign country that are a party to the memorandum of understanding and entities in the United States, including Federal departments and agencies, institutions of higher education, research centers, and private companies.

(4) NOTIFICATION AND REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(A) DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this paragraph, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(i) the Committees on Energy and Natural Resources, Foreign Relations, and Appropriations of the Senate; and

(ii) the Committees on Natural Resources, Foreign Affairs, and Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(B) NOTIFICATION AND REPORT.—Not later than 30 days before the Secretary intends to enter into a memorandum of understanding under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(i) notify the appropriate committees of Congress; and

(ii) submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report detailing the implementing partners, scope of the memorandum of understanding, activities to be undertaken, estimated costs, and source of funding.

(5) CONCURRENCE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE.—The Secretary shall obtain the concurrence of the Secretary of State in—

(A) prioritizing and selecting partner foreign countries with which to enter into a memorandum of understanding under paragraph (1);

(B) negotiating a memorandum of understanding under paragraph (1);

(C) implementing a memorandum of understanding entered into under paragraph (1),

including through the use of funds made available to the Secretary of State; and

(D) carrying out paragraph (4).

(6) CONSULTATION WITH PRIVATE SECTOR.—The Secretary shall consult with relevant private sector actors, as the Secretary determines to be appropriate, in—

(A) prioritizing and selecting partner foreign countries with which to enter into a memorandum of understanding under paragraph (1); and

(B) assessing how a memorandum of understanding can best facilitate private sector interest in pursuing the further development of critical minerals and rare earth elements in accordance with the objectives described in paragraph (2).

(d) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section impedes or otherwise alters any authority of the Director of the United States Geological Survey provided by—

(1) the matter under the heading “GEOLOGICAL SURVEY” of the first section of the Act of March 3, 1879 (43 U.S.C. 31(a)); or

(2) the first section of Public Law 87-626 (43 U.S.C. 31(b)).

SA 2923. Mr. COONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title X, insert the following:

SEC. 10. AUTHORITY FOR USE OF VETERANS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENTS TO RECEIVE CREDIT TOWARD DEGREES AWARDED BY INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—An individual who is entitled to veterans educational assistance may use such assistance to cover the costs of covered examinations and assessments to receive credit toward degrees awarded by institutions of higher learning for approved programs of education.

(b) VETERANS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.—For purposes of this section, veterans educational assistance is educational assistance available to veterans and other eligible individuals under the provisions of law as follows:

(1) Chapters 30, 32, 33, 34, and 35 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) Any other provision of law providing educational assistance to a veteran, or to another individual in connection with the service of a veteran in the Armed Forces.

(c) LIMITATION ON AMOUNT USABLE.—The total amount of veterans educational assistance that may be used for the costs of a covered examination or assessment under subsection (a) may not exceed the lesser of—

(1) the amount charged for the examination or assessment by the entity administering the examination or assessment; or

(2) \$500.

(d) CHARGE AGAINST ENTITLEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The number of months (or fraction thereof) of entitlement charged an individual under the applicable provision of law specified in subsection (b) for use of veterans educational assistance for costs of covered examinations and assessments under this section shall be equal to the quotient obtained by dividing—

(A) the cost of the examination or assessment (as determined pursuant to subsection (c)); by

(B) the monthly rate of veterans educational assistance to which the individual is

entitled under such provision of law at the time of the examination or assessment.

(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—A charge against entitlement to educational assistance under a law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in order to receive assistance under this section shall not be construed to affect entitlement to educational assistance under a law administered by the Secretary of Defense, including entitlement to educational assistance under the Department of Defense Tuition Assistance Program.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “approved program of education” means a program of education approved for use of veterans educational assistance pursuant to chapter 35 or 36 of title 38, United States Code, or another applicable provision of law.

(2) The term “covered examinations and assessments” means the following:

(A) A DANATES Subject Standardized Test Program (DSST) examination.

(B) A College Level Examination Program (CLEP) examination.

(C) The National Career Readiness Certificate examination.

(D) Any other examination of a similar nature to an exam specified in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) specified by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for purposes of this section.

(E) An assessment by an institution of higher learning of a portfolio or written narrative by a student with supporting documentation that demonstrates prior military training or learning.

(3) The term “institution of higher learning” has the meaning given such term in section 3452(f) of title 38, United States Code.

SA 2924. Mr. COONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. INCREASING BARDA STRATEGIC INITIATIVES.

Section 319L(c)(4)(F) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d-7e(c)(4)(F)) is amended—

(1) in the second sentence, in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting “, manufacturing technologies, platforms,” after “countermeasures”; and

(2) by inserting after the first sentence the following: “Such strategic coordination may include collaborating with the network of Manufacturing USA institutes established under section 34 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act in biomanufacturing missions to develop, demonstrate, and deploy technologies and response capabilities to improve public health and medical preparedness.”

SA 2925. Mr. COONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XII, add the following:

Subtitle F—Defending International Security by Restricting Unacceptable Partnerships and Tactics

SEC. 1271. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Defending International Security by Restricting Unacceptable Partnerships and Tactics Act” or “DISRUPT Act”.

SEC. 1272. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The People’s Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea are each considered—

(A) a foreign adversary (as defined in section 825(d) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31; 137 Stat. 322; 46 U.S.C. 50309 note));

(B) a country of risk (as defined in section 6432(a) of the Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 (Public Law 118-159; 138 Stat. 2488; 42 U.S.C. 7144b note)) for purposes of assessing counterintelligence risks posed by certain visitors to National Laboratories;

(C) a foreign country of concern (as defined in section 10612(a) of the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (Public Law 117-167; 136 Stat. 1635; 42 U.S.C. 19221 note));

(D) a covered foreign country (as defined in section 164 of the Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 (Public Law 118-159; 138 Stat. 1818; 10 U.S.C. 4651 note prec.)) for purposes of a prohibition on operation, procurement, and contracting relating to foreign-made light detection and ranging technology; and

(E) a covered foreign country (as defined in section 1622 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117-81; 135 Stat. 2086; 10 U.S.C. 421 note prec.)) for purposes of a strategy and plan to implement certain defense intelligence reforms.

(2) According to the 2025 Intelligence Community Annual Threat Assessment, the United States faces an increasingly contested and dangerous global landscape as the four adversaries named in paragraph (1) deepen cooperation in a manner that—

(A) reinforces threats posed by each such adversary individually; and

(B) poses new challenges to the strength and power of the United States globally.

(3) Much of the cooperation referred to in paragraph (2) is occurring bilaterally, as the People’s Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea strengthen diplomatic, economic, and military ties in accordance with bilateral agreements, which include—

(A) the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance between China and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, signed at Beijing July 11, 1961;

(B) the Joint Statement on Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the People’s Republic of China, issued on March 27, 2021;

(C) the Joint Statement of the Russian Federation and the People’s Republic of China on International Relations Entering a New Era and Global Sustainable Development, issued on February 4, 2022;

(D) the Treaty on Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the Russian Federation and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, signed at Pyongyang June 18, 2024;

(E) the Iranian-Russian Treaty on Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, signed at Moscow January 17, 2025; and

(F) traditional relations of friendship and cooperation between the Islamic Republic of

Iran and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

(4) The most concerning forms of such cooperation with respect to the interests of the United States occur bilaterally in the realm of defense cooperation. Examples include the following:

(A) The transfer and sharing of weapons and munitions. Since 2022, the Islamic Republic of Iran has supplied the Russian Federation with drones and ballistic missiles, and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea has provided artillery ammunition and ballistic missiles. Likewise, the Russian Federation has agreed to provide the Islamic Republic of Iran with Su-35 fighter jets and air defense assistance.

(B) The transfer and sharing of dual-use technologies and capabilities. Dual-use goods supplied by the People’s Republic of China have enabled the Russian Federation to continue defense production in the face of wide-ranging sanctions and export controls intended to prevent the Russian Federation from accessing the necessary components to fuel its defense industry. In turn, reporting indicates that the Russian Federation has provided technical expertise on satellite technology to the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and is working closely with the People’s Republic of China on air defense and submarine technology.

(C) Joint military activities and exercises. The military forces of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea are actively participating in the Russian Federation’s invasion of Ukraine, and joint military exercises between the People’s Republic of China and the Russian Federation are expanding in scope, scale, and geographic reach, including in close proximity to territory of the United States.

(D) Coordination on disinformation and cyber operations, including coordinated messaging aimed at denigrating and isolating the United States internationally.

(5) Adversaries of the United States are also cooperating in a manner that may circumvent United States and multilateral economic tools. Examples include the following:

(A) The continued purchase by the People’s Republic of China of oil from the Islamic Republic of Iran despite sanctions imposed by the Treasury of the United States on oil from the Islamic Republic of Iran.

(B) The veto by the Russian Federation of, and abstention by the People’s Republic of China in a vote on, a United Nations Security Council resolution relating to monitoring United Nations Security Council-levied sanctions on the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

(6) Adversaries of the United States are cooperating multilaterally in international institutions such as the United Nations and through expanded multilateral groupings, such as the Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa group (commonly known as “BRICS”), to isolate and erode the influence of the United States.

(7) Such increased cooperation and alignment among the People’s Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, to an unprecedented extent, poses a significant threat to United States interests and national security.

(8) Such increasing alignment—

(A) allows each such adversary to modernize its military more quickly than previously anticipated;

(B) enables unforeseen breakthroughs in capabilities through the sharing among such adversaries of critical military technologies, which could erode the technological edge of the United States Armed Forces;

(C) presents increasing challenges to strategies of isolation or containment against

such individual adversaries, since the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea now provide critical lifelines to each other;

(D) threatens the effectiveness of United States economic tools, as such adversaries cooperate to evade United States sanctions and export controls and seek to establish alternative payment mechanisms that do not require transactions in United States dollars; and

(E) increases the chances of United States conflict or tensions with any one of such adversaries drawing in another, thereby posing a greater risk that the United States will have to contend with simultaneous threats from such adversaries in one or more theaters.

SEC. 1273. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to disrupt or frustrate the most dangerous aspects of cooperation between and among the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, including by using the threat of sanctions and export controls, bringing such cooperation to light, and sharing information with United States allies and partners who may—

(A) share the concerns and objectives of the United States; and
 (B) have influence over such adversaries;

(2) to constrain such grouping from expanding its footprint or capabilities across the world; and

(3) to prepare for the increasing likelihood that the United States could face simultaneous challenges or conflict with multiple such adversaries in multiple theaters, including by bolstering deterrence across all priority theaters.

SEC. 1274. TASK FORCES AND REPORTS.

(a) TASK FORCES ON ADVERSARY ALIGNMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Commerce, the Director of National Intelligence, and the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency shall each—

(A) establish a task force on adversary alignment; and

(B) designate a point of contact on adversary alignment, who shall serve as the head of the task force for the applicable department, office, or agency.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—Each task force established pursuant to paragraph (1) shall—

(A) comprise—

(i) subject matter experts covering each of—

(I) the People's Republic of China;

(II) the Russian Federation;

(III) the Islamic Republic of Iran; and

(IV) the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

(ii) representatives covering all core functions of the department, office, or agency of the Secretary or Director establishing the task force; and

(iii) a mix of analysts, operators, and senior management;

(B) ensure that the task force members have the requisite security clearances and access to critical compartmented information streams necessary to assess and understand the full scope of adversary cooperation, including how events in one theater might trigger actions in another; and

(C) not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, submit to the Secretary or Director who established the task force, and to the appropriate committees of Congress, a report—

(i) evaluating the impact of adversary alignment on the relevant operations carried out by the individual department, office, or agency of the task force; and

(ii) putting forth recommendations for such organizational changes as the task force considers necessary to ensure the department, office, or agency of the task force is well positioned to routinely evaluate and respond to the rapidly evolving nature of adversary cooperation and the attendant risks.

(3) QUARTERLY INTERAGENCY MEETING.—Not less frequently than quarterly, the heads of the task forces established under this section shall meet to discuss findings, problems, and next steps with respect to adversary alignment.

(b) REPORT ON NATURE, TRAJECTORY, AND RISKS OF BILATERAL COOPERATION BETWEEN, AND MULTILATERAL COOPERATION AMONG, ADVERSARIES OF THE UNITED STATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence, in coordination with the head of any Federal agency the Director considers appropriate, shall submit to the President, any Federal officer of Cabinet-level rank the Director considers appropriate, and the appropriate committees of Congress, a report on bilateral and multilateral cooperation among adversaries of the United States and the resulting risks of such cooperation.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A description of the current nature and extent of bilateral or multilateral cooperation among the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea across the diplomatic, information, military, and economic spheres, and an assessment of the advantages that accrue to each adversary from such cooperation.

(B) An assessment of the trajectory for cooperation among the adversaries described in subparagraph (A) during the 5-year period beginning on the date on which the report is submitted.

(C) An outline of the risks to the United States and allied diplomatic, military, intelligence, and economic operations, and broader security interests around the world, including the following:

(i) The risk of technology transfers dramatically increasing the military capabilities of adversaries of the United States and the impact on the relative balance of United States and allied capabilities as compared to that of the adversary.

(ii) The risk posed to the United States by efforts made by adversaries to establish alternate payment systems, in particular with respect to the dominance of the United States dollar and the effectiveness of United States sanctions and export control tools.

(iii) The risk that an adversary of the United States might assist or otherwise enable another adversary of the United States in the event that one or more adversaries become party to a conflict with the United States.

(iv) The risk that adversary cooperation poses a growing threat to United States intelligence collection efforts.

(D) An evaluation of the vulnerabilities and tension points within such adversary bilateral or multilateral relationships, and an assessment of the likely effect of efforts by the United States to separate adversaries.

(3) FORM.—The report submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be submitted in classified form.

(c) REPORT ON STRATEGIC APPROACH.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary

of the Treasury, the Secretary of Commerce, the Director of National Intelligence, and the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report outlining the strategic approach of the United States to adversary alignment and the necessary steps to disrupt, frustrate, constrain, and prepare for adversary cooperation during the two-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A detailed description of the methods and tools available to the United States to disrupt the most dangerous elements of adversary cooperation, including the growing connectivity between the defense industrial bases of each adversary.

(B) A timeline for using diplomatic engagement, intelligence diplomacy, security cooperation, and foreign assistance, as appropriate—

(i) to educate allies and partners about the increasing risk of adversary alignment;

(ii) to secure the support of allies and partners in combating adversary alignment; and

(iii) to assess and help address, as appropriate, the vulnerabilities and capability gaps of allies and partners to counter threats from adversary alignment.

(C) A plan for ensuring the integrity of United States methods of economic statecraft, including an assessment of the efficiency of the United States sanctions and export control enforcement apparatus and any accompanying resourcing requirements.

(D) A clear plan to bolster deterrence within the priority theaters of the Indo-Pacific region, Europe, and the Middle East by—

(i) increasing United States and allied munitions stockpiles, particularly such stockpiles that are most critical for supporting frontline partners such as Israel, Taiwan, and Ukraine in the event of aggression by a United States adversary;

(ii) facilitating collaborative efforts with allies for the co-production, co-maintenance, and co-sustainment of critical munitions and platforms required by the United States and allies and partners of the United States in the event of a future conflict with the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, or the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; and

(iii) more effectively using funding through the United States Foreign Military Financing program to support allied and partner domestic defense production that can contribute to deterrence in each such priority theater.

(E) A plan for digitizing and updating war-planning tools of the Department of Defense not later than 1 year after the date on which the report is submitted to ensure that United States war planners are better equipped to update and modify war plans in the face of rapidly evolving information on adversary cooperation.

(F) An assessment of the capability gaps and vulnerabilities the United States would face in deterring an adversary in the event that the United States is engaged in a conflict with another adversary, and a plan to work with allies and partners to address such gaps and vulnerabilities.

(3) FORM.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in classified form.

(d) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services, the Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, and the

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Financial Services, and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

SA 2926. Ms. HASSAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 2. INTEGRATED CROSS BORDER AERIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS PROGRAM.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “Cross Border Aerial Law Enforcement Operations Act”.

(b) **AUTHORIZATION.**—If authorized pursuant to a bilateral agreement between the United States Government and the Government of Canada, the Secretary of Homeland Security may establish an integrated cross border aerial law enforcement program (referred to in this section as the “Program”) along the international border between the United States and Canada, which should be modeled off the Framework Agreement on Integrated Cross-Border Maritime Law Enforcement Operations Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Canada, done at Detroit May 26, 2009.

(c) PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—

(1) **PARTICIPANTS.**—The Program may be staffed by approved law enforcement officers from—

(A) U.S. Customs and Border Protection;

(B) the United States Coast Guard;

(C) Homeland Security Investigations;

(D) any other Federal law enforcement agency, as appropriate, designated by the Secretary of Homeland Security; and

(E) appropriate law enforcement agencies of the Government of Canada.

(2) **SCOPE.**—The jurisdiction of the Program shall be limited to the territory located within 50 miles of either side of the international border between the United States and Canada unless—

(A) a situation within such territory requires an aircraft to leave from or return to an airport, heliport, or base of operations located outside such territory; or

(B) there are exigent circumstances relating to authorized Program activities, as defined in the underlying bilateral agreement, including an emergency on an aircraft or an emergency on the ground.

(3) **CIVIL RIGHTS.**—The Program shall ensure that the civil rights, civil liberties, and privacy of all individuals within the jurisdiction of the United States are guaranteed in accordance with Federal law.

(4) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) **BILATERAL AGREEMENT.**—Not later than 30 days after receiving a copy of a bilateral agreement described in subsection (b), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a signed copy of such agreement to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(B) **PROGRAM ELEMENTS AND SCOPE.**—Not later than 30 days after the implementation of the Program, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a written description of the elements and scope of the Program to the congressional committees listed under subparagraph (A).

(5) PRIVACY, CIVIL RIGHTS, AND CIVIL LIBERTIES TRAINING.—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Any agreement described in subsection (b) shall include specific provisions that—

(i) are intended to protect the privacy and civil liberties of United States citizens; and

(ii) ensure that cross border aerial law enforcement operations are conducted in a manner that—

(I) respects individual rights; and

(II) complies with applicable United States laws.

(B) **TRAINING.**—Any officer of the United States or of Canada, before participating in the Program, shall complete sufficient training to ensure they understand their responsibilities to protect the privacy, civil liberties, and civil rights of United States citizens.

(d) **COMMUNICATIONS.**—Each of the agencies referred to in subsection (c)(1) are authorized to establish necessary communication protocols for the safety of cross border aerial law enforcement operations.

(e) **FAILURE TO FINALIZE PROGRAM REPORT.**—If the Program is not established on or before the date that is 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a report to the congressional committees referred to in subsection (c)(4)(A) that includes—

(1) a description of any unresolved issues that are preventing the establishment of the Program;

(2) any actions that Congress could take to facilitate the establishment of such Program;

(3) any potential concerns relating to civil rights, civil liberties, or privacy that have impacted the establishment of the Program; and

(4) a recommendation regarding whether—

(A) the Secretary should continue trying to establish such Program; or

(B) such Program is not needed.

(f) **UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit an unclassified report, with a classified annex, if necessary, to the congressional committees referred to in subsection (c)(4)(A) that describes the use of unmanned aircraft systems (referred to in this section as “UAS”) along the northern international border of the United States, including—

(1) interagency coordination to mitigate incursions from unauthorized UAS;

(2) any jurisdictional issues that would prevent the mitigation of unauthorized UAS;

(3) the use of UAS by malign actors—

(A) to collect intelligence or surveil law enforcement operations;

(B) to move contraband, persons, or payloads across the international border; or

(C) to conduct espionage;

(4) an assessment of the feasibility for joint, cross-border law enforcement operations involving UAS or counter-unmanned aircraft systems; and

(5) the potential risks to civil rights, civil liberties, and privacy resulting from the Department of Homeland Security operating UAS and counter-unmanned aircraft systems along the northern border of the United States.

(g) **NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS.**—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated for the purpose of carrying out this section.

SA 2927. Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Ms. ERNST) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title X, add the following:

Subtitle H—Sentencing Enhancements for Certain Criminal Offenses Directed by or Coordinated With Foreign Governments

SEC. 1091. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Deterring External Threats and Ensuring Robust Responses to Egregious and Nefarious Criminal Endeavors Act” or the “DETERRENCE Act”.

SEC. 1092. KIDNAPPING.

Section 1201 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (i);

(2) by inserting after subsection (g) the following:

“(h) SENTENCE ENHANCEMENTS FOR OFFENSES DIRECTED BY OR COORDINATED WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The sentence of a person convicted of an offense under subsection (a) may be increased by up to 10 years if such offense was committed knowingly at the direction of or in coordination with a foreign government or an agent of a foreign government.

“(2) **CONSPIRACY.**—The sentence of a person convicted of conspiring to commit a violation of subsection (a) as part of a conspiracy under the elements specified in subsection (c) may be increased by up to 10 years if—

“(A) 1 or more of the persons involved in such conspiracy were knowingly acting in coordination with a foreign government or an agent of a foreign government; and

“(B) the person convicted of conspiring to commit a violation of subsection (a) knew that 1 or more of the persons involved in such conspiracy were knowingly acting in coordination with a foreign government or an agent of a foreign government.

“(3) **ATTEMPT.**—The sentence of a person convicted of an attempt to violate subsection (a) may be increased by up to 5 years if such attempt was knowingly at the direction of or in coordination with a foreign government or an agent of a foreign government.”;

(3) in subsection (i), as so designated, by inserting “DEFINITION.” before “As used in this section”.

SEC. 1093. USE OF INTERSTATE COMMERCE FACILITIES IN THE COMMISSION OF MURDER-FOR-HIRE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 1958 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c);

(2) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

“(b) SENTENCE ENHANCEMENTS FOR OFFENSES DIRECTED BY OR COORDINATED WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.—The sentence of a person convicted of an offense under subsection (a)—

“(1) may be increased by up to 5 years, if such offense was committed knowingly at the direction of or in coordination with a foreign government or an agent of a foreign government; and

“(2) may be increased by up to 10 years—

“(A) if such offense was committed knowingly at the direction of or in coordination

with a foreign government or an agent of a foreign government; and

“(B) personal injury results.”; and

(3) in subsection (c), as so redesignated, by inserting “DEFINITIONS.” before “As used in this section”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 2332b(g)(2) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking “section 1958(b)(2)” and inserting “section 1958”.

(2) Section 1010A(d) of the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. 960a(d)) is amended by striking “section 1958(b)(1)” and inserting “section 1958”.

SEC. 1094. INFLUENCING, IMPEDING, OR RETALIATING AGAINST A FEDERAL OFFICIAL BY THREATENING OR INJURING A FAMILY MEMBER.

Section 115(b) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5) The sentence of a person convicted of an offense under subsection (a), if such offense was committed knowingly at the direction of or in coordination with a foreign government or an agent of a foreign government—

“(A) may be increased by up to 5 years if the offense committed was an assault involving physical contact with the victim of that assault or the intent to commit another felony;

“(B) may be increased by up to 10 years if—

“(i) the offense committed was an assault resulting in bodily injury (including serious bodily injury (as that term is defined in section 1365 of this title));

“(ii) the offense involved any conduct that, if the conduct occurred in the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States, would violate section 2241 or 2242 of this title; or

“(iii) a dangerous weapon was used during and in relation to the offense; and

“(C) may be increased by up to 10 years if the offense committed was a murder, attempted murder, or conspiracy to murder.”.

SEC. 1095. STALKING.

Section 2261A of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “Whoever—” and inserting “(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), whoever—”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) ENHANCED PENALTIES FOR OFFENSES INVOLVING FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.—The sentence of a person convicted of an offense under paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (a), if such offense was committed knowingly at the direction of or in coordination with a foreign government or an agent of a foreign government—

“(1) may be increased by up to 5 years if—

“(A) serious bodily injury (including permanent disfigurement or life threatening bodily injury) to the victim results;

“(B) the offender uses a dangerous weapon during the offense; or

“(C) the victim of the offense is under the age of 18 years;

“(2) may be increased by up to 10 years if death of the victim results; and

“(3) may be increased by up to 30 months in any other case.”.

SEC. 1096. PROTECTION OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE UNITED STATES.

Section 1114 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

“(b) SENTENCE ENHANCEMENTS FOR OFFENSES DIRECTED BY OR COORDINATED WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.—The sentence of a person convicted of an offense under sub-

section (a) may be increased by up to 10 years if such offense was committed knowingly at the direction of or in coordination with a foreign government or an agent of a foreign government.”.

SEC. 1097. PRESIDENTIAL AND PRESIDENTIAL STAFF ASSASSINATION, KIDNAPPING, AND ASSAULT.

Section 1751 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (f) through (k) as subsections (g) through (i), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

“(f)(1) The sentence of a person convicted of an offense under subsection (a), (b), or (c) may be increased by up to 10 years if such offense was committed knowingly at the direction of or in coordination with a foreign government or an agent of a foreign government—

“(2) The sentence of a person convicted of conspiring to kill or kidnap any individual designated in subsection (a) as part of a conspiracy under the elements specified in subsection (d) may be increased by up to 10 years if—

“(A) 1 or more of the persons involved in such conspiracy were knowingly acting in coordination with a foreign government or an agent of a foreign government; and

“(B) the person convicted of conspiring to kill or kidnap an individual designated in subsection (a) knew that 1 or more of the persons involved in such conspiracy were knowingly acting in coordination with a foreign government or an agent of a foreign government.

“(3) The sentence of a person convicted of an offense under subsection (e) may be increased by up to 10 years if—

“(A) the victim was any person designated in subsection (a)(1); and

“(B) such offense was committed knowingly at the direction of or in coordination with a foreign government or an agent of a foreign government.

“(4) The sentence of a person convicted of an offense under subsection (e) may be increased by up to 10 years if—

“(A) the victim was any person designated in subsection (a)(2); and

“(B) such offense was committed knowingly at the direction of or in coordination with a foreign government or an agent of a foreign government.

“(5) The sentence of a person convicted of an offense under subsection (e) may be increased by up to 10 years if—

“(A)(i) the offense involved the use of a dangerous weapon; or

“(ii) personal injury resulted; and

“(B) such offense was committed knowingly at the direction of or in coordination with a foreign government or an agent of a foreign government.”.

SA 2928. Ms. HASSAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title XV, add the following:

SEC. 15. REPORT ON RISKS TO GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM AND ASSOCIATED POSITIONING, NAVIGATION, AND TIMING SERVICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on risks to the Global Positioning System and associated positioning, navigation, and timing services.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A description of risks posed by a lack of access to the Global Positioning System and associated positioning, navigation, and timing services during a potential conflict in which the United States is involved or in the case of an attack on a United States ally.

(2) A description of risks to United States allies from a disruption of access to the Global Positioning System and associated positioning, navigation, and timing services provided by the United States.

(3) An assessment of each of the following:

(A) The capabilities of competitor countries, including the People’s Republic of China, the Russian Federation, Iran, and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, to degrade or deny United States access to the Global Positioning System and associated positioning, navigation, and timing services during a potential conflict with the United States or in the case of an attack on a United States ally.

(B) Current Department of Defense efforts to develop or procure technology or systems to provide redundant global positioning and positioning, navigation, and timing capabilities, including space-based and terrestrial-based (including quantum sensing technology) efforts.

SEC. _____. ELIGIBILITY OF SPOUSES FOR SERVICES UNDER THE DISABLED VETERANS’ OUTREACH PROGRAM.

Section 4103A of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(C) The ability of the Resilient Global Positioning System (R-GPS) program of the Space Force to achieve, not later than 10 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, full capacity to provide Global Positioning System resilience to existing United States satellites.

(4) A framework for developing a full-scale terrestrial-based Global Positioning System redundancy system that could be operational not later than 15 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

(A) the Committee on Armed Services, the Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives.

(2) UNITED STATES ALLY.—The term “United States ally” means—

(A) a member country of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization;

(B) a major non-NATO ally (as defined in section 644(q) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2403(q)); and

(C) Taiwan.

SA 2930. Ms. HASSAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . NATIONAL SECURITY QUANTUM COORDINATION AND COMPETITION.

(a) OFFICE OF QUANTUM CAPABILITIES AND COMPETITION.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall establish or designate an office in the Department of Defense to serve as the lead for all quantum efforts of the Department relating to the following:

(A) Quantum technology research, including quantum sensing, quantum computing, and quantum communications.

(B) Quantum technology development, including quantum sensing, quantum computing, and quantum communications.

(C) Quantum technology application, including quantum sensing, quantum computing, and quantum communications.

(D) Quantum technology policy, including quantum sensing, quantum computing, and quantum communications.

(E) Such other quantum related efforts as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(2) DESIGNATION.—The office established or designated pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be known as the “Department of Defense Office of Quantum Capabilities and Competition” (in this section the “Office”).

(3) PRIMARY MISSION.—The primary mission of the Office shall be coordinating, leading, and directing quantum technology efforts of the Department in order—

(A) to advance Department research efforts in quantum technology;

(B) to develop quantum technology expertise that enables advancements in United States national security capabilities;

(C) to aggressively pursue a national competitive advantage in quantum technology, vis-à-vis other countries; and

(D) to develop quantum technologies that can be utilized for real-world application by the Department of Defense or other United States national security entities.

(b) COORDINATION WITH OTHER QUANTUM EFFORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, acting through the Office, regularly coordinate with the heads of other Federal departments and agencies that work on quantum science, quantum technology, or quantum research.

(2) QUANTUM COORDINATION OFFICE FOR NATIONAL SECURITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall establish within the Office a subcomponent to liaise with, share expertise with, and whenever feasible, coordinate and, if necessary, deconflict efforts with other relevant U.S. government entities pursuing efforts on quantum science, quantum technology, or quantum research.

(B) DESIGNATION.—The subcomponent established pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall be known as the “Quantum Coordination Office for National Security”.

(c) TRIENNIAL REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than once every three years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on national security quantum capabilities and competition.

(2) CONTENTS GENERALLY.—Each report submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall cover the following:

(A) The state of current quantum efforts within the Department of Defense, including specific sections on quantum sensing, quantum computing, and quantum communications.

(B) The state of current quantum efforts of adversarial and competitor countries, including specific sections on quantum sensing, quantum computing, and quantum communications.

(C) The state of current quantum efforts of any other countries with advanced capabilities in quantum technology and quantum science, including specific sections on quantum sensing, quantum computing, and quantum communications.

(D) A comparison of the capabilities of the United States and those of adversarial and competitor countries, as well as any other countries with advanced capabilities in quantum technology and quantum science.

(E) An assessment of capabilities of the United States compared to those of China, Russia, and Iran, combined with an assessment of how such countries (in addition to any other countries the Secretary considers relevant) may utilize quantum technology in a conflict against the United States or allies and partners of the United States, including via hybrid warfare.

(F) A realistic pathway forward, both short term (3 years) and long term (10 years and beyond), for the United States to compete with and outpace other countries in quantum technology and quantum science in regard to national security.

(3) CONTENTS OF INITIAL REPORT.—In addition to the matter covered by paragraph (2), the first report submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include an annex on quantum communication efforts that covers the following:

(A) The current state of United States national security quantum communications technology and capabilities.

(B) A comparison of the national security quantum communications technology and capabilities of the United States compared to that of China, Russia, Iran, and such other countries as the Secretary considers relevant.

(C) An immediate (2 years) and long-term (10 years and beyond) plan—

(i) to close any gaps that may exist between national security quantum communications technology and capabilities of the United States and those of China, Russia, Iran, and such other countries as the Secretary considers relevant; and

(ii) to outpace the quantum communications technology and capabilities for China, Russia, Iran, and such other countries as the Secretary considers relevant.

(4) FORM.—Each report submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be submitted in classified form.

(5) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services, the Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives.

(d) PROTECTION OF NATIONAL SECURITY.—The Secretary shall carry out this section in accordance with all applicable provisions of law and policies relating to classified information and national security.

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to require any action that is not consistent with a provision of law or policy that was in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 2931. Ms. HASSAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . NORTHERN BORDER THREAT ANALYSIS AND STRATEGY.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Northern Border Security Enhancement and Review Act”.

(b) NORTHERN BORDER THREAT ANALYSIS.—Section 3(a) of the Northern Border Security Review Act (Public Law 114-267) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “180 days after the date of enactment of this Act” and inserting “September 2, 2025, and every 3 years thereafter”;

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) as paragraphs (3), (4), and (5), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) an assessment of recent changes in the amount and demographics of apprehensions at the Northern Border, including an analysis of apprehension changes at the sector level.”

(c) NORTHERN BORDER STRATEGY UPDATES.—Section 3 of the Northern Border Security Review Act (Public Law 114-267) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(c) NORTHERN BORDER STRATEGY UPDATES.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall update the Department of Homeland Security’s Northern Border strategy not later than September 2, 2026, and every 5 years thereafter, and shall incorporate the results of the most recent threat analysis in each such update.”.

(d) CLASSIFIED BRIEFINGS.—Section 3 of the Northern Border Security Review Act, as amended by subsections (b) and (c), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) CLASSIFIED BRIEFINGS.—Not later than 30 days after the submission of each threat analysis pursuant to subsection (a), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide a classified briefing regarding such analysis to the appropriate congressional committees.”.

(e) IMPLEMENTATION OF CERTAIN GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, acting through the Executive Assistant Commissioner of Air and Marine Operations of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, shall develop performance measures to assess the effectiveness of Air and Marine Operations at securing the northern border between ports of entry in the air and maritime environments.

(f) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated for the purpose of carrying out this section or the amendments made by this section.

SA 2932. Ms. HASSAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. DUTY TO REPORT ACTS OF TERRORISM.

(a) SHORT TITLES.—This section may be cited as the “Reporting Efficiently to Proper Officials in Response to Terrorism Act of 2025” or the “REPORT Act”.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ACT OF TERRORISM.—The term “act of terrorism” has the meaning given such term in section 3077(1) of title 18, United States Code.

(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

(C) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives;

(E) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and

(F) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

(c) REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Whenever an act of terrorism occurs in the United States, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and, as appropriate, the head of the National Counterterrorism Center shall—

(A) submit to the appropriate congressional committees, by not later than 1 year after the completion of the investigation concerning such act by the primary Government agency conducting such investigation, an unclassified report (which may be accompanied by a classified annex) concerning such act of terrorism; and

(B) make the report required under subparagraph (A) available on a publicly accessible website.

(2) OTHER REPORTS.—Reports required under this subsection may be combined into a quarterly report submitted to Congress.

(3) AVAILABILITY.—Each unclassified report and classified annex described in paragraph (1)(A) shall be made available upon request by any Member of Congress.

(d) CONTENT OF REPORTS.—Each report submitted pursuant to subsection (c) shall—

(1) include a statement of the facts of each act of terrorism covered by the report, to the extent such facts are known at the time the report is submitted to the appropriate congressional committees;

(2) identify any gaps in homeland or national security that could be addressed to prevent similar future acts of terrorism; and

(3) include any recommendations for additional measures that could be taken to improve homeland or national security, including recommendations relating to potential changes in law enforcement practices or changes in law, with particular attention to changes that could help prevent future acts of terrorism.

(e) EXCEPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, or the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation determines any information described in subsection (d) that is required to be included in the report required under subsection (c) could jeopardize an ongoing investigation or prosecution, the Secretary, Attorney General, or Director, as the case may be—

(A) may withhold from reporting such information; and

(B) shall notify the appropriate congressional committees of such determination.

(2) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Withholding of information pursuant to a determination described in paragraph (1) shall not affect, in any manner, the responsibility of the appropriate Federal official to submit a report required under subsection (c) containing other information described in subsection (d) that is not subject to such determination.

(f) SUNSET.—This section shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(g) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to provide the National Counterterrorism Center with prosecutorial or investigatory authority.

SA 2933. Ms. HASSAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. SOUTHBOUND INSPECTIONS TO COMBAT CARTELS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Enhancing Southbound Inspections to Combat Cartels Act”.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives;

(E) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives; and

(F) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

(2) SOUTHERN BORDER.—The term “southern border” means the international land border between the United States and Mexico.

(c) ADDITIONAL INSPECTION EQUIPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE.—

(1) IMAGING SYSTEMS.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection is authorized—

(A) to purchase up to 50 additional non-intrusive imaging systems; and

(B) to procure additional associated supporting infrastructure.

(2) DEPLOYMENT.—The systems and infrastructure purchased or otherwise procured pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be deployed along the southern border for the primary purpose of inspecting any persons, conveyances, or modes of transportation traveling from the United States to Mexico.

(3) ALTERNATIVE EQUIPMENT.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection is authorized to procure additional infrastructure or alternative inspection equipment that the Commissioner deems necessary for the purpose of inspecting any persons, conveyances, or modes of transportation traveling from the United States to Mexico.

(4) SUNSET.—Paragraphs (1) and (3) shall cease to have force and effect beginning on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) ADDITIONAL HOMELAND SECURITY INVESTIGATIONS PERSONNEL FOR INVESTIGATIONS OF SOUTHBOUND SMUGGLING.—

(1) HSI SPECIAL AGENTS.—The Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement shall hire, train, and assign—

(A) not fewer than 100 new Homeland Security Investigations special agents to primarily assist with investigations involving the smuggling of currency and firearms from the United States to Mexico; and

(B) not fewer than 100 new Homeland Security Investigations special agents to assist with investigations involving the smuggling of contraband, human trafficking and smuggling (including that of children), drug smuggling, and unauthorized entry into the United States from Mexico.

(2) SUPPORT STAFF.—The Director is authorized to hire, train, and assign such additional support staff as may be necessary to support the functions carried out by the special agents hired pursuant to paragraph (1).

(e) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that—

(A) identifies the resources provided, including equipment, personnel, and infrastructure, and the annual budget to carry out outbound and inbound inspections, including, to the extent practicable, resources specifically used for inspections of any individuals and modes of transportation—

(i) from the United States to Mexico or to Canada; and

(ii) from Mexico or Canada into the United States.

(B) describes the operational cadence of all outbound and inbound inspections of individuals and conveyances traveling from the United States to Mexico or to Canada and from Mexico or Canada into the United States, described as a percentage of total encounters or as the total number of inspections conducted;

(C) describes any plans that would allow for the use of alternative inspection sites near a port of entry;

(D) includes an estimate of—

(i) the number of vehicles and conveyances that can be inspected with up to 50 additional non-intrusive imaging systems dedicated to southbound inspections; and

(ii) the number of vehicles and conveyances that can be inspected with up to 50 additional non-intrusive imaging systems that may be additionally dedicated to inbound inspections along the southwest border; and

(E) assesses the capability of inbound inspections by authorities of the Government of Mexico, in cooperation with United States law enforcement agencies, to detect and interdict the flow of illicit weapons and currency being smuggled—

(i) from the United States to Mexico; and

(ii) from Mexico into the United States.

(2) CLASSIFICATION.—The report submitted pursuant to paragraph (1), or any part of such report, may be classified or provided with other appropriate safeguards to prevent public dissemination.

(f) MINIMUM MANDATORY SOUTHBOUND INSPECTION REQUIREMENT.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than March 30, 2027, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure, to the extent practicable, that not fewer than 10 percent of all conveyances and other modes of transportation traveling from the United States to Mexico are inspected before leaving the United States.

(2) AUTHORIZED INSPECTION ACTIVITIES.—Inspections required under paragraph (1) may include non-intrusive imaging, physical inspections by officers or canine units, or other means authorized by the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(3) REPORT ON ADDITIONAL INSPECTIONS CAPABILITIES.—Not later than March 30, 2028, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that assesses the Department of Homeland Security's timeline and resource requirements for increasing inspection rates to 15 and 20 percent, respectively, of all conveyances and modes of transportation traveling from the United States to Mexico.

(g) CURRENCY AND FIREARMS SEIZURES QUARTERLY REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 90 days thereafter until the date that is 4 years after such date of enactment, the Commissioner for U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that describes the seizure of currency, firearms, and ammunition attempted to be trafficked out of the United States.

(2) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include, for the most recent 90-day period for which such information is available—

(A) the total number of currency seizures that occurred from outbound inspections at United States ports of entry;

(B) the total dollar amount associated with the currency seizures referred to in subparagraph (A);

(C) the total number of firearms seized from outbound inspections at United States ports of entry;

(D) the total number of ammunition rounds seized from outbound inspections at United States ports of entry; and

(E) the total number of incidents of fire-arm seizures and ammunition seizures that occurred at United States ports of entry.

SA 2934. Ms. HASSAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title X, insert the following:

SEC. 10. MONITORING BY UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE OF INDUSTRIAL SUBSIDIES PROVIDED BY GOVERNMENT OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

(a) MONITORING.—The United States Trade Representative, in coordination with the entities specified in subsection (b), shall regularly monitor—

(1) industrial subsidies provided by the Government of the People's Republic of China; and

(2) plans by the Government of the People's Republic of China to implement new industrial subsidies or expand existing industrial subsidies.

(b) ENTITIES SPECIFIED.—The entities specified in this subsection are the following:

(1) The Bureau of Economics and Business Affairs of the Department of State.

(2) The United States and Foreign Commercial Service of the Department of Commerce (established by section 2301 of the Export Enhancement Act of 1988 (15 U.S.C. 4721)).

(3) The International Trade Administration of the Department of Commerce (other than the United States and Foreign Commercial Service).

(4) The Foreign Agricultural Service of the Department of Agriculture.

(5) The Small Business Administration.

(6) Any other department or agency of the Federal Government, as determined by the President.

SEC. 10. REPORTING BY UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE ON RISKS POSED BY INDUSTRIAL SUBSIDIES PROVIDED BY GOVERNMENT OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

(a) REPORTING.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the United States Trade Representative, in coordination with the entities specified in subsection (b), shall submit to the Committee on Finance of the Senate and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives a report that—

(1) identifies current and expected industrial subsidies provided by the Government of the People's Republic of China that pose significant risk to—

(A) employment in the United States, including employment in strategically critical industries; and

(B) manufacturing in the United States, including production of strategically critical goods; and

(2) recommends legislative, administrative, or other actions that could mitigate the risks posed by industrial subsidies identified in paragraph (1).

(b) ENTITIES SPECIFIED.—The entities specified in this subsection are the following:

(1) The Bureau of Economics and Business Affairs of the Department of State.

(2) The United States Agency for International Development.

(3) The United States and Foreign Commercial Service of the Department of Com-

merce (established by section 2301 of the Export Enhancement Act of 1988 (15 U.S.C. 4721)).

(4) The Industry and Analysis unit and the Enforcement and Compliance unit of the International Trade Administration of the Department of Commerce.

(5) The Bureau of Industry and Security of the Department of Commerce.

(6) The Small Business Administration.

(7) The Department of Labor.

(8) The Department of Transportation.

(9) The Department of Energy.

(10) Any other department or agency of the Federal Government, as determined by the President.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.—The term “critical infrastructure” has the meaning given that term in the Critical Infrastructure Protection Act of 2001 (42 U.S.C. 5195c).

(2) KEY TECHNOLOGY FOCUS AREAS.—The term “key technology focus areas” means the key technology focus areas included in the list required under section 10387(a)(2) of the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 19107(a)(2)).

(3) STRATEGICALLY CRITICAL GOOD.—The term “strategically critical good” means any raw, in process, or manufactured material (including any mineral, metal, or advanced processed material), article, commodity, supply, product, or item of supply the absence of which would have a significant effect on—

(A) the national security or economic security of the United States; and

(B) critical infrastructure.

(4) STRATEGICALLY CRITICAL INDUSTRY.—The term “strategically critical industry” means an industry that is critical for the national security or economic security of the United States, considering key technology focus areas and critical infrastructure.

SA 2935. Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. BOOZMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. IMPLEMENTATION OF AND REPORT ON EFFORTS OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO IMPROVE HEALTH CARE APPOINTMENT SCHEDULING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a plan to improve the process for scheduling appointments for health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(b) ELEMENTS OF PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The plan required by subsection (a) shall include such actions, resources, technology, and process improvements as the Secretary determines necessary to ensure the Department delivers to patients and employees of the Department in a timely manner improved delivery of health care, access to health care, customer experience and service relating to the receipt of health care, and efficiency with respect to the delivery of health care.

(2) OBJECTIVES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ensure that the plan required by subsection (a) addresses the following objectives:

(i) To develop or continue the development of a scheduling system that enables both personnel and patients of the Department to view available appointments for care furnished by the Department, including primary care, mental health care, and all forms of specialty care.

(ii) To develop or continue the development of a self-service scheduling platform, available for use by all patients of the Department, which shall—

(I) enable such patients to view available appointments and, subject to the process described in clause (iii), fully schedule appointments for all care furnished by the Department;

(II) if a referral is required for an appointment, provide a method for the patient to request a referral and subsequently book an appointment if the referral is approved; and

(III) provide such patients with the ability to cancel or reschedule appointments.

(iii) To create a process through which all patients of the Department can telephonically speak with a scheduler who can assist the patient to determine appointment availability and can fully schedule appointments on behalf of the patient for all care furnished by the Department.

(iv) To carry out such other functions, oversight, metric development and tracking, change management, cross-Department coordination, and other related matters as the Secretary determines appropriate as it relates to scheduling tools, functions, and operations with respect to health care appointments furnished by the Department.

(B) EXPLANATION OF INABILITY TO IMPLEMENT CERTAIN OBJECTIVES, FEATURES, OR SERVICES.—If the Secretary determines that an objective under subparagraph (A), or any feature or service in connection with that objective, cannot be implemented or otherwise incorporated into a final product pursuant to the plan required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall include with the plan submitted under such subsection a report containing—

(i) an explanation as to why that objective, feature, or service cannot be implemented or incorporated, as the case may be; and

(ii) a plan for implementing the plan required by subsection (a) without that objective, feature, or service.

(C) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than two years after submitting to the appropriate committees of Congress the plan required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall fully implement the plan.

(D) COORDINATION WITH ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD MODERNIZATION PROGRAM.—In developing the plan required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall ensure that the elements and objectives of such plan set forth under subsection (b) are developed in consideration of the deployment schedule and capabilities of the Electronic Health Record Modernization Program of the Department to ensure a smooth transition to using the tools and features under such plan as relevant and appropriate.

(E) IMPLEMENTATION REPORTS.—Not later than each of one year and two years after the date on which the Secretary submits the plan required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the progress of the Secretary in implementing such plan, including—

(1) the costs incurred to implement the plan as of the date of the report;

(2) the expected costs to complete implementation of the plan (including costs for management and technology);

(3) the schedule for deployment of any capabilities developed pursuant to the plan; and

(4) the goals and metrics achieved, challenges, and lessons learned in implementing the plan.

(F) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the Secretary to include in the plan required by subsection (a) any technology or process that would preclude or impede the ability of a veteran to contact or schedule an appointment directly with a facility or provider through a non-online scheduling process, should the veteran choose to do so.

(G) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) FULLY SCHEDULE.—The term “fully schedule”, with respect to an appointment for health care, means that the appointment booking is completed, rather than simply requested.

SA 2936. Ms. HASSAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title XII, insert the following:

SEC. 12. PILOT PROGRAM ON USE OF BIG DATA ANALYTICS TO IDENTIFY VESSELS EVADING SANCTIONS AND EXPORT CONTROLS.

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, acting through the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, shall establish a pilot program at the National Targeting Center to assess the feasibility and advisability of using big data analytics to identify and predict instances in which disabling or manipulating the Automatic Identification System on a vessel is an indication that there is a high risk that the vessel is transporting goods in a manner that evades sanctions or export controls imposed by the United States.

(B) LAW ENFORCEMENT USE.—The Secretary, acting through the Commissioner, shall design the pilot program required by subsection (a) to provide actionable intelligence with respect to instances described in subsection (a) to—

(1) operational components of the Department of Homeland Security, including U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Coast Guard;

(2) other Federal law enforcement agencies; and

(3) such agencies of foreign countries that are partners of the United States as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(C) DATA ELEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In developing the pilot program required by subsection (a), the Secretary, acting through the Commissioner, shall consider the inclusion of the following data with respect to a vessel described in that subsection:

(A) The type of goods being transported on the vessel.

(B) The destination of the vessel.

(C) The ownership and nationality of the vessel, the shipper, and the importer.

(D) The ownership and nationality of vessels located in close proximity to the vessel

while the Automatic Identification System was disabled or being manipulated.

(E) The period of time for which the Automatic Identification System on the vessel was disabled or being manipulated.

(F) The frequency of issues with the Automatic Identification System on that vessel.

(2) DATA MODELS.—The pilot program required by subsection (a) may include multiple data models to account for different behavior patterns for different shippers and different types of goods.

(D) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—The Secretary, acting through the Commissioner, shall coordinate with the Secretary of Commerce and the Director of National Intelligence in developing and carrying out the pilot program required by subsection (a).

(E) TERMINATION.—The pilot program required by subsection (a) shall terminate on the date that is 4 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(F) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 4 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Director of National Intelligence, shall submit to Congress a report—

(1) assessing the usefulness of the pilot program required by subsection (a) in identifying and predicting instances described in that subsection;

(2) with respect to each instance in which a vessel was identified under the pilot program as posing a high risk of transporting goods in a manner that evades sanctions or export controls imposed by the United States and the vessel was successfully interdicted by the United States or a country that is a partner of the United States—

(A) specifying whether or not the vessel was confirmed to be evading such sanctions or export controls;

(B) if the vessel was confirmed to be evading such sanctions or export controls, specifying the penalty imposed; and

(C) if the vessel was not confirmed to be evading such sanctions or export controls, specifying whether a United States agency took action against the vessel based on reasonable suspicion;

(3) with respect to each instance in which a vessel was identified under the pilot program as posing a high risk of transporting goods in a manner that evades sanctions or export controls imposed by the United States and the vessel was not successfully interdicted by the United States or a country that is a partner of the United States, specifying whether the vessel traveled to—

(A) a country with respect to which the United States has imposed sanctions or export controls with respect to goods suspected of being transported on the vessel;

(B) a country not described in subparagraph (A) but that the Secretary of Homeland Security has identified as a country posing a high risk of transshipment of goods suspected of being transported on the vessel to a country described in subparagraph (A); or

(C) a country not described in subparagraph (A) or (B); and

(4) making recommendations with respect to whether big data analytics should be used to identify and predict instances described in subsection (a) in the future.

(G) NO ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS AUTHORIZED.—No additional amounts are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the pilot program required by subsection (a).

(H) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION ON COLLECTION OR ACQUISITION OF INFORMATION.—Nothing in this section authorizes any new collection or acquisition of information not otherwise authorized by existing law as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 2937. Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Ms. HIRONO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title III, add the following:

SEC. 334. REPORT ON JUSTIFICATION FOR THE CURRENT AND PROPOSED EXPANSION OF INERT BOMBING AND GUNFIRE TRAINING ON THE ISLAND OF KAULA, HAWAII.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Navy shall submit to the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report on the national security justification for the current and proposed expansion of inert bombing and gunfire training by the Navy, the Army, the Air Force, and the Marine Corps on the island of Kaula, Hawaii.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An identification of a national security justification for the proposed expansion of inert bombing and gunfire training on Kaula, Hawaii, that is not limited to scheduling needs of a unit and training site availability.

(2) An identification of the tangible impacts to readiness of units operating in the area of responsibility of the United States Indo-Pacific Command if Kaula is not available for training.

(3) An assessment by the Secretary of the Navy of whether there is an irreplaceable need for access to Kaula that cannot be fulfilled by an alternative site or alternative method of training.

(4) A consideration by the Secretary of the Navy to program specific funding for environmental remediation, including existing and future ordnance clean up.

SA 2938. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title XVI, insert the following:

SEC. _____. REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLICLY DISTRIBUTED CONTENT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) **AUTHENTIC CONTENT DISCLOSURES.**—The Secretary of Defense shall—

(1) ensure that any covered content that it distributes or displays to the United States public does not contain any false designation of origin, false or misleading description of fact, or false or misleading representation of fact, which—

(A) is likely to cause confusion, to cause mistake, or to deceive as to the affiliation, connection, or association of the covered content with another person, event, good, service, or activity; and

(B) in promotion, misrepresents the nature, characteristics, qualities, or origin of the covered content; and

(2) ensure that any covered artificial intelligence-generated content it distributes or displays to the United States public incorporates a clear and conspicuous disclosure that—

(A) identifies that the covered content includes artificial intelligence-generated content;

(B) meets accessibility standards for people with disabilities as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.); and

(C) is embedded in the covered content.

(b) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **COVERED ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE-GENERATED CONTENT.**—The term “covered artificial intelligence-generated content” means digital content that is created or substantially modified by a generative artificial intelligence system such that—

(A) the use of the system materially alters, adds, or removes the meaning or significance that a reasonable person would interpret from the content; and

(B) a reasonable person would believe that the content is not generated using a generative artificial intelligence system.

(2) **COVERED CONTENT.**—The term “covered content” means an image, video, or audio content, or any combination thereof, including covered artificial intelligence-generated content.

SA 2939. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title X, insert the following:

SEC. _____. PILOT PROGRAM FOR SOUND INSULATION REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT.

(a) **GOVERNMENT SHARE.**—Section 47109 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(i) **SPECIAL RULE FOR SOUND INSULATION REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT.**—With respect to a project to carry out sound insulation that is granted a waiver under section 47110(j), the allowable project cost for such project shall be calculated without consideration of any costs that were previously paid by the Government.”

(b) **SOUND INSULATION TREATMENT REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT PROJECTS.**—Section 47110 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(j) **PILOT PROGRAM FOR SOUND INSULATION REPAIR AND REPLACEMENTS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall establish a pilot program at up to 4 large hub public-use airports for local airport operators that have established a local program to fund secondary noise using non-aeronautical revenue that provides a one-time waiver of the requirement of subsection (b)(4) for a qualifying airport as applied to projects to carry out repair and replacement of sound insulation for a residential building for which the airport previously received Federal assistance or Federally authorized airport assistance under this subchapter if—

“(A) the Secretary determines that the additional assistance is justified due to the residence containing any sound insulation treatment or other type of sound proofing material previously installed under this sub-

chapter that is determined to be eligible pursuant to paragraph (2); and

“(B) the residence—

“(i) falls within the Day Night Level (DNL) of 65 to 75 decibel (dB) noise contours, according to the most recent noise exposure map (as such term is defined in section 150.7 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations) available as of the date of enactment of this subsection;

“(ii) fell within such noise contours at the time the initial sound insulation treatment was installed, but a qualified noise auditor has determined that—

“(I) such sound insulation treatment caused physical damage to the residence; or

“(II) the materials used for sound insulation treatment were of low quality and have deteriorated, broken, or otherwise no longer function as intended; and

“(iii) is shown through testing that current interior noise levels exceed DNL 45 dB, and the new insulation would have the ability to achieve a 5 dB noise reduction.

“(2) **ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION.**—To be eligible for a waiver under this subsection for repair or replacement of sound insulation treatment projects, an applicant shall—

“(A) ensure that the applicant and the property owner have made a good faith effort to exhaust any amounts available through warranties, insurance coverage, and legal remedies for the sound insulation treatment previously installed on the eligible residence;

“(B) verify the sound insulation treatment for which Federal assistance was previously provided was installed prior to the year 2002; and

“(C) demonstrate that a qualified noise auditor, based on an inspection of the residence, determined that—

“(i) the sound insulation treatment for which Federal assistance was previously provided has resulted in structural deterioration that was not caused by failure of the property owner to repair or adequately maintain the residential building or through the negligence of the applicant or the property owner; and

“(ii) the condition of the sound insulation treatment described in clause (i) is not attributed to actions taken by an owner or occupant of the residence.

“(3) **ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY FOR SURVEYS.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall consider a cost allowable under this subchapter for an airport to conduct periodic surveys of properties in which repair and replacement of sound insulation treatment was carried out as described in paragraph (1) and for which the airport previously received Federal assistance or Federally authorized airport assistance under this subchapter. The surveys shall be conducted only for those properties for which the airport has identified a property owner who is interested in having a survey be undertaken to assess the current effectiveness of the sound insulation treatment. Such surveys shall be carried out to identify any properties described in the preceding sentence that are eligible for funds under this subsection.”

SA 2940. Mr. COONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1248. STRATEGY TO RESPOND TO THE PRC'S GLOBAL BASING INTENTIONS.

(a) **SHORT TITLES.**—This section may be cited as the “Combating PRC Overseas and Unlawful Networked Threats through Enhanced Resilience Act of 2025” or the “COUNTER Act of 2025”.

(b) **FINDINGS.**—According to multiple sources, including the 2024 annual report to Congress, titled “Military and Security Developments Involving the People's Republic of China” and known informally as the “China Military Power Report”—

(1) the PRC is seeking to expand its overseas logistics and basing infrastructure to allow the PLA to project and sustain military power at greater distances;

(2) a global PLA logistics network could give the PRC increased capabilities to surveil or disrupt United States military operations;

(3) in August 2017, the PRC officially opened the first overseas PLA military base near the commercial port of Doraleh in Djibouti;

(4) in 2019, the PRC also attempted to acquire strategically important port infrastructure at Subic Bay in the Philippines, but was stopped by the Governments of the United States, the Philippines, and Japan, and by private investors;

(5) in April 2025, officials from the PRC and Cambodia officially inaugurated the China-Cambodia Ream Naval Base Joint Support and Training Center and celebrated the expansion of port facilities at Ream Naval Base, some of which appear to have been reserved for the use of PRC ships that have been continuously stationed at Ream Naval Base since December 2023; and

(6) in addition to the base in Djibouti and the PRC's access to the port at the Ream Naval Base in Cambodia, the PRC is likely pursuing access to additional military facilities to support naval, air, and ground forces projection in many countries.

(c) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—While the executive branch has undertaken case-by-case efforts to forestall the establishment of new PRC permanent military presence in several countries, it is the sense of Congress that future efforts to counter the PRC's global basing intentions must—

(1) proceed with the urgency required to address the strategic implications of the PRC's actions;

(2) reflect sufficient interagency coordination with respect to a problem that necessitates a whole-of-government approach;

(3) ensure that the United States Government maintains a proactive posture rather than a reactive posture in order to maximize strategic decision space;

(4) identify a comprehensive menu of actions that would be influential in shaping a partner's decision making regarding giving the PRC military access to its sovereign territory;

(5) appropriately prioritize the subject of the PRC's global basing intentions within the context of the overall United States strategic competition with the PRC;

(6) consider how the PRC uses commercial and scientific cooperation as a guise for establishing access for the PLA and other PRC security forces in foreign countries;

(7) factor in the potential contributions of key allies and partners to help respond to the PRC's pursuit of global basing, many of which—

(A) have historic ties and influence in many of the geographic areas the PRC is targeting for potential future bases; and

(B) rely on the same basic intelligence picture to form our baseline understanding of the PRC's global intentions;

(8) establish and ensure sufficient resourcing for enduring organizational structures and security and foreign assistance and cooperation efforts to effectively address the issue of PRC global basing intentions; and

(9) ensure that future force posture, freedom of movement, and other interests of the United States and our allies are not jeopardized by the continued expansion of PRC bases.

(d) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

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

(C) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(E) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

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

(G) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives; and

(H) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) **PLA.**—The term “PLA” means the People's Liberation Army of the PRC.

(3) **PRC.**—The term “PRC” means the People's Republic of China.

(4) **PRC GLOBAL BASING.**—The term “PRC global basing” means the establishment of physical locations outside the geographic boundaries of the PRC where the PRC maintains some element of the People's Liberation Army, PRC intelligence or security forces, or infrastructure designed to support the presence of PRC military, intelligence, or security forces, for the purposes of potential power projection.

(e) **ASSESSMENT OF EXECUTIVE BRANCH'S C-PRC GLOBAL BASING STRATEGY.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit an intelligence assessment, in classified form, if needed, to the appropriate congressional committees. The assessment shall analyze the risk posed by PRC global basing to the United States or to any United States allies with respect to their ability to project power, maintain freedom of movement, and protect other interests as a function of the PRC's current or potential locations identified pursuant to subsection (f)(2)(A).

(f) **STRATEGY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense and other appropriate senior Federal officials, shall submit a strategy to the appropriate congressional committees that contains the information described in paragraph (2).

(2) **CONTENTS.**—The strategy required under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) identify not fewer than 5 locations that pose the greatest potential risks, as identified in the assessment required under subsection (e), where the PRC maintains a physical presence, or is suspected to be seeking a physical presence, which could ultimately transition into a PRC global base;

(B) include a comprehensive listing of executive branch entities currently involved in addressing aspects of PRC global basing, including estimated programmatic and personal resource requirements on an agency-by-agency basis to effectively address the issue of PRC global basing intentions, and any relevant resource constraints;

(C) describe in detail all executive branch efforts to mitigate the impacts to the na-

tional interests of the United States and partner countries of the locations referred to in subparagraph (A) and prevent the PRC from establishing new global bases, including with resources described in subparagraph (B); and

(D) for each of the locations referred to in subparagraph (A), identify the actions by the United States or its allies that would be most effective in ensuring the respective foreign governments terminate plans for hosting a PRC base.

(g) **TASK FORCE.**—Not later than 90 days after submitting the strategy described in subsection (f), the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense and other appropriate senior Federal officials, shall establish an interagency task force—

(1) to implement such strategy to counter the PRC's efforts at the locations of chief concern; and

(2) to identify mitigation measures that would prevent the PRC from establishing new bases in locations beyond the locations of chief concern identified pursuant to subsection (f)(2)(A).

(h) **QUADRENNIAL REVIEWS AND REPORTS.**—Not later than 4 years after the submission of the strategy required under subsection (f), and not less frequently than once every 4 years thereafter, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, the Director of National Intelligence, and other appropriate senior Federal officials, shall—

(1) conduct a review of the Executive Branch's strategy and overall approach in response to the PRC global basing intentions; and

(2) submit the results of such review, including the information described in subsection (f)(2), to the appropriate congressional committees.

SA 2941. Mr. COONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

TITLE —DRIVING FOR OPPORTUNITY

SEC. 01. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Driving for Opportunity Act of 2025”.

SEC. 02. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Driving a vehicle is an essential aspect of the daily lives of most people in the United States.

(2) Driving is often required to access jobs and healthcare, take care of family, get groceries, and fulfill other basic responsibilities.

(3) In many small cities, towns, and rural areas that do not have public transportation and ridesharing alternatives, driving is often the only realistic means of transportation.

(4) In the United States, millions of Americans have had their driver's licenses suspended for unpaid court fines and fees.

(5) A person whose driver's license is suspended or revoked for unpaid fines and fees will often find it more difficult to earn a living and therefore pay the debt owed to the government.

(6) Drunk and dangerous driving are some of the leading causes of death and serious bodily injury in the United States, and promoting safety on the roads is a legitimate,

necessary, and core governmental function. Suspending a license for unsafe driving conduct presents different considerations than suspending a license for unpaid fines and fees. Suspending a license for unsafe driving is an appropriate tool to protect public safety. Policymakers also may consider alternatives to suspension of a license for unsafe driving such as ignition interlock device programs.

(7) According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, every year on average, over 34,000 people are killed and 2,400,000 more people are injured in motor vehicle crashes. Some of the major causes of these crashes include speeding, impaired driving, and distracted driving. Nearly half of passenger vehicle occupants killed in crashes are unrestrained. The societal harm caused by motor vehicle crashes has been valued at \$836,000,000,000 annually. The enactment of, enforcement of, and education regarding traffic laws are key to addressing unsafe behavior and promoting public safety.

(8) However, most driver's license suspensions are not based on the need to protect public safety.

(9) Between 2010 and 2017, all but 3 States increased the amount of fines and fees for civil and criminal violations.

(10) In the United States, 40 percent of all driver's license suspensions are issued for conduct that was unrelated to driving.

(11) One in three people in the United States are affected by fines and fees debt.

(12) Arresting and prosecuting individuals for driving on a suspended license consumes a significant amount of law enforcement and prosecutorial resources. Driving on a suspended license is one of the most common criminal charges in jurisdictions across the country.

(13) Seventy-five percent of those with suspended licenses report continuing to drive.

(14) It is more likely that those people are also driving without insurance due to the costs and restrictions associated with obtaining auto insurance on a suspended license, thereby placing a greater financial burden on other drivers when a driver with a suspended license causes an accident.

(15) The American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators has concluded the following: "Drivers who have been suspended for social non-conformance-related offenses are often trapped within the system. Some cannot afford to pay the original fines, and may lose their ability to legally get to and from work as a result of the suspension. Many make the decision to drive while suspended. The suspension results in increased financial obligations through new requirements such as reinstatement fees, court costs, and other penalties. While there is a clear societal interest in keeping those who are unfit to drive off the roads, broadly restricting licenses for violations unrelated to an individual's ability to drive safely may do more harm than good. This is especially true in areas of the country that lack alternative means of transportation. For those individuals, a valid driver's license can be a means to survive. Local communities, employers, and employees all experience negative consequences as a result of social non-conformity suspensions, including unemployment, lower wages, fewer employment opportunities and hiring choices, and increased insurance costs."

(16) A report by the Harvard Law School Criminal Justice Policy Program concluded the following: "The suspension of a driver's or professional license is one of the most pervasive poverty traps for poor people assessed a fine that they cannot afford to pay. The practice is widespread. Nearly 40 percent of license suspensions nationwide stem from unpaid fines, missed child support payments,

and drug offenses—not from unsafe or intoxicated driving or failing to obtain automotive insurance. Suspension of a driver's or professional licenses is hugely counterproductive; it punishes non-payment by taking away a person's means for making a living. License suspension programs are also expensive for States to run and they distract law enforcement efforts from priorities related to public safety. License suspensions may also be unconstitutional if the license was suspended before the judge determined the defendant had the ability to pay the criminal justice debt."

SEC. 03. GRANTS FOR DRIVER'S LICENSES REINSTATEMENT PROGRAMS.

Subpart 1 of part E of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10151 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 501(a) (34 U.S.C. 10152(a)), by adding at the end the following:

(3) GRANTS FOR DRIVER'S LICENSE REINSTATEMENT PROGRAMS.

"(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to grants made under paragraph (1), the Attorney General may make grants to States described in subparagraph (B) to cover costs incurred by the State to reinstate or renew driver's licenses or motor vehicle registrations previously suspended, revoked, or failed to be renewed for unpaid civil or criminal fines or fees.

"(B) STATES DESCRIBED.—A State described in this subparagraph is a State that—

"(i) does not have in effect any State or local law that permits—

"(I) the suspension or revocation of, or refusal to renew, a driver's license of an individual based on the individual's failure to pay a civil or criminal fine or fee; or

"(II) the refusal to renew the registration of a motor vehicle based on the owner's failure to pay a civil or criminal fine or fee; and

"(ii) during the 3-year period ending on the date on which the State applies for or receives a grant under this paragraph, has repealed a State or local law that permitted the suspension or revocation of, or refusal to renew, driver's licenses or the registration of a motor vehicle based on the failure to pay civil or criminal fines or fees.

"(C) CRITERIA.—The Attorney General shall award grants under this paragraph to States described in subparagraph (B) that submit a plan to reinstate or renew driver's licenses or motor vehicle registrations previously suspended, revoked, or failed to be renewed for unpaid civil or criminal fines or fees—

"(i) to maximize the number of individuals with suspended or revoked driver's licenses or motor vehicle registrations eligible to have driving privileges reinstated or regained;

"(ii) to provide assistance to individuals living in areas where public transportation options are limited; and

"(iii) to ease the burden on States where the State or local law described in subparagraph (B)(ii) was in effect during the 3-year period ending on the date on which a State applies for a grant under this paragraph in accordance with section 502.

"(D) AMOUNT.—Each grant awarded under this paragraph shall be not greater than 5 percent of the amount allocated to the State in accordance with the formula established under section 505.

"(E) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which a grant is made to a State under this paragraph, the State shall submit to the Attorney General a report that describes the actions of the State to carry out activities described in subparagraph (A), including with respect to—

"(i) the population served by the program;

"(ii) the number of driver's licenses and motor vehicle registrations reinstated or renewed under the program; and

"(iii) all costs to the State of the program, including how the grants under this paragraph were spent to defray such costs.

"(F) ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS.—Not later than 2 years after the date on which a grant is made to a State under this paragraph, the State shall submit to the Attorney General an analysis of the impact of the program on the collections of civil or criminal fines or fees."; and

(2) in section 508—

(A) by striking "There" and inserting "(a) IN GENERAL.—There"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(b) DRIVER'S LICENSE REINSTATEMENT PROGRAMS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 501(a)(3) \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028".

SEC. 04. GAO STUDY.

(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study of the implementation of the grant program in paragraph (3) of section 501(a) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10152(a)), as added by section 03(a) of this Act, that—

(1) includes what is known about the effect of repealing State laws, in selected States, that had permitted the suspension or revocation of, or refusal to renew, driver's licenses or the registration of a motor vehicle based on the failure to pay civil or criminal fines or fees, including such factors, to the extent information is available, as—

(A) the collection of fines and fees;

(B) the usage of law enforcement resources;

(C) economic mobility and unemployment;

(D) rates of enforcement of traffic safety laws through the tracking of number of summonses and violations issued (including those related to automated enforcement technologies);

(E) the use of suspensions for public safety-related reasons (including reckless driving, speeding, and driving under the influence);

(F) safety-critical traffic events (including in localities with automated enforcement programs);

(G) the rates of license suspensions and proportion of unlicensed drivers;

(H) racial and geographic disparities; and

(I) administrative costs (including costs associated with the collection of fines and fees and with the reinstatement of driver's licenses); and

(2) includes what is known about—

(A) existing alternatives to driver's license suspension as methods of enforcement and collection of unpaid fines and fees; and

(B) existing alternatives to traditional driver's license suspension for certain kinds of unsafe driving, including models that allow drivers to continue to drive legally while pursuing driver improvement opportunities.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the study required under subsection (a).

SA 2942. Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense

activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1210. UNITED STATES FOUNDATION FOR INTERNATIONAL FOOD SECURITY.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “United States Foundation for International Food Security Act of 2025”.

(b) **DEFINED TERM.**—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(2) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate;

(3) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(4) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(5) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives; and

(6) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(c) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—

(1) **FINDING.**—Congress finds that there has been established, in the District of Columbia, a private, nonprofit corporation, which is known as the United States Foundation for International Food Security (referred to in this section as the “Foundation”), which is not an agency or establishment of the United States Government.

(2) **SAVINGS PROVISION.**—Nothing in this section may be construed as—

(A) making the Foundation an agency or establishment of the United States Government; or

(B) making any member of the Board of Directors of the Foundation or any officer or employee of the Foundation an employee of the United States.

(3) **TRANSFERS OR CONSOLIDATION REQUIRE ACT OF CONGRESS.**—Neither the Foundation nor any of its functions, powers, or duties may be transferred to, or consolidated with, any department, agency, or entity of the Federal Government absent an Act of Congress to such effect.

(4) **TAX-EXEMPT STATUS.**—The Board shall take all necessary and appropriate steps to ensure that the Foundation is established as an organization described in subsection (c) of section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, which exempts the organization from taxation under subsection (a) of such section.

(d) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of the Foundation are—

(1) to accelerate enduring, primarily locally-led agriculture investments that foster food security and resilience in the crop, poultry, aquaculture, and livestock industries, that focus on building economically resilient food systems by investing in—

(A) financing for, distribution of, and training around key inputs required for increasing crop and animal productivity, distribution, and profits;

(B) infrastructure, such as irrigation, warehousing, storage, and food processing, to improve food production and market access through better product quality and the prevention of food loss;

(C) applied agricultural research; and

(D) economically viable technology deployment that reduces hunger and increases agriculture production or distribution methods;

(2) to prevent unnecessary or inefficient vetting processes, due diligence, project financing, or evaluation reviews by seeking out partnerships and contracting with existing government and nongovernmental entities that have proven track records;

(3) to deploy and scale technology and innovation to accelerate food security and agricultural-led economic growth that reduces global hunger and malnutrition;

(4) to coordinate with the United States Foundation for International Conservation;

(5) to advance the national security interests of the United States;

(6) to complement international and government investment and technical assistance mechanisms, such as those employed or managed by the United States International Development Finance Corporation, and United States Government food security programs, to jointly catalyze private and public sector engagement, spur agricultural-led economic growth, and strengthen local food and nutrition systems; and

(7) to ensure the effective use of United States taxpayer dollars and the prioritization of United States foreign policy interests.

(e) **GOVERNANCE OF THE FOUNDATION.**—

(1) **BOARD OF DIRECTORS.**—

(A) **GOVERNANCE.**—The Foundation shall be governed by a voting Board of Directors (referred to in this subsection as the “Board”) that—

(i) shall not exceed 15 members; and
(ii) may consult with a nonvoting Board of Advisors when making decisions related to the Foundation’s work.

(B) **QUALIFICATIONS.**—Individuals appointed to the Board shall include individuals who are knowledgeable and experienced in matters relating to—

(i) agricultural production, livestock, land management, or forestry;

(ii) agricultural economics, business development, technology deployment, market access, agribusinesses (including food companies), market access, supply chains, infrastructure, or commodities groups;

(iii) international finance and multilateral governance;

(iv) outcome-based and impact funding concepts, including the role of impact evaluations and data collection, to measure the progress of ventures, and innovative grantee or investee selection and funding structures;

(v) agricultural research and development; or

(vi) national security.

(C) **LIMITATION ON POLITICAL AFFILIATION.**—The Directors of the Board shall include members of both major political parties in a relatively equal number.

(D) **CHAIRPERSON.**—A quorum of the voting Directors of the Board shall elect a Chairperson, who shall serve in such position for a 4-year term.

(E) **VOTING.**—All voting Directors of the Board shall have equal voting rights.

(F) **TERMS; VACANCIES.**—

(i) **TERMS.**—The term of service of each Director may not exceed 5 years and is renewable for not more than 1 additional 5-year term.

(ii) **VACANCIES.**—Any vacancy in the membership of the appointed Directors of the Board—

(I) shall be filled in accordance with the bylaws of the Foundation;

(II) does not affect the power of the remaining appointed Directors to execute the duties of the Board; and

(III) shall be filled by an individual selected in accordance with the bylaws of the Board.

(G) **QUORUM.**—A majority of the current membership of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of Foundation business.

(H) **MEETINGS.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The Board shall meet not less frequently than twice per year.

(ii) **AUTHORITY.**—The Board shall maintain full control and decision making authority of the Foundation.

(iii) **REMOVAL.**—Any Director may be removed from the Board if—

(I) the Director is absent from 2 consecutive regularly scheduled meetings without reasonable cause; or

(II) the Board, by a majority vote of the other Board members, determines that such Director should be removed from the Board.

(I) **REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES.**—Directors of the Board shall serve without pay, but may be reimbursed for the actual and necessary traveling and subsistence expenses incurred by such members in the performance of their duties on behalf of the Foundation.

(J) **NOT FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.**—Appointment as a Director of the Board shall not constitute employment by, or the holding of an office of, the United States Government for purposes of any Federal law.

(K) **DUTIES.**—The Board shall—

(i) establish bylaws for the Foundation;

(ii) provide overall direction for the activities of the Foundation and establish priority activities;

(iii) carry out any other necessary activities of the Foundation;

(iv) hire and evaluate the performance of the Executive Director of the Foundation; and

(v) take steps to limit the Foundation’s administrative expenses to the extent practicable and in accordance with industry standards.

(L) **BYLAWS.**—The bylaws of the Foundation shall require the Board to establish—

(i) policies for the selection of Directors of the Board, Members of the Board of Advisors, and officers, employees, agents, and contractors of the Foundation;

(ii) policies, including ethical standards, for—

(I) the acceptance, solicitation, and disposition of donations and grants to the Foundation; and

(II) the use and disposition of the assets of the Foundation;

(iii) policies that subject all employees, fellows, trainees, and other agents of the Foundation (including all of the Directors of the Board and all of the Members of the Board of Advisors) to prevailing conflict of interest standards for the industry;

(iv) the specific duties of the Executive Director of the Foundation;

(v) policies for winding down the activities of the Foundation upon termination, including a plan—

(I) to return unobligated appropriations to the Department of the Treasury; and

(II) to donate unspent private and philanthropic contributions to projects that align with the goals and requirements described in this Act; and

(vi) specific policies and requirements governing project criteria, measurable outcomes, impact evaluations, and country eligibility requirements.

(2) **BOARD OF ADVISORS COMPOSITION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The nonvoting Board of Advisors may be composed of, at a minimum—

(i) members of the executive branch of the Federal Government from departments and agencies with expertise that would benefit the Foundation;

(ii) the Secretary of State, or the Secretary’s designee;

(iii) the Chief Executive Officer of the United States International Development Finance Corporation, or his or her designee; and

(iv) 2 deans or other designated faculty members of United States land-grant colleges or universities that have an international agriculture program.

(B) DUTIES.—The Board of Advisors shall provide advice and consultation to the Board in accordance with the bylaws of the Foundation.

(C) REMOVAL.—The Board of Directors may remove an Advisor from the Board of Advisors by majority vote.

(3) PROCEDURES.—

(A) INITIAL MEETING.—The Board shall hold its initial meeting not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(B) ORGANIZING PRINCIPLES: APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The Directors of the Board shall name an Executive Director of the Foundation not later than 120 days after the date of the initial meeting of the Board.

(4) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR; STAFF.—

(A) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The Board shall hire a qualified individual to serve, at the pleasure of the Board, as the Executive Director of the Foundation.

(B) FOUNDATION STAFF.—Officers and employees of the Foundation—

(i) may not be employees of, or hold any office in, the United States Government;

(ii) shall be appointed without regard to the provisions of—

(I) title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service; and

(II) chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title, relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates; and

(iii) shall receive a salary that is commensurate with the salaries of similar positions in similar foundations.

(5) LIMITATION; CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS.—

(A) POLITICAL PARTICIPATION.—The Foundation may not participate or intervene in any political activities on behalf of any candidate for public office in any country.

(B) FINANCIAL INTERESTS.—All Directors of the Board, Advisors, officers, and employees of the Foundation are subject to industry standard conflicts of interest protocols set forth in the Foundation bylaws.

(f) CORPORATE POWERS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE FOUNDATION.—

(1) GENERAL AUTHORITIES.—The Foundation—

(A) may conduct business throughout the States, territories, and possessions of the United States and in foreign countries;

(B) shall have its principal offices in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area; and

(C) shall continuously maintain a designated agent in Washington, D.C. who is authorized to accept notice or service of process on behalf of the Foundation.

(2) AUTHORITIES.—In addition to powers explicitly authorized under this Act, the Foundation, in order to carry out the purposes described in subsection (d), shall have the usual powers of a corporation headquartered in Washington, D.C., including the authority—

(A) to accept, receive, solicit, hold, administer, and use any gift, devise, or bequest, either absolutely or in trust, or real or personal property or any income derived from such gift or property, or other interest in such gift or property;

(B) to acquire by donation, gift, devise, purchase, or exchange any real or personal property or interest in such property;

(C) unless otherwise required by the instrument of transfer, to sell, donate, lease, invest, reinvest, retain, or otherwise dispose of any property or income derived from such property;

(D) to complain and defend itself in any court of competent jurisdiction (except that the Directors of the Board shall not be personally liable, except for gross negligence);

(E) to enter into legal arrangements with public agencies, private organizations, and persons and to make such payments as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of such contracts or arrangements; and

(F) to engage in funding activities, which may include structured or project financing, grants, equity (provided that returns flow back to the Foundation), and concessional lending, for eligible projects, in accordance with subsection (h).

(3) FEDERAL FUNDS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Foundation may—

(i) hold Federal funds made available, but not immediately disbursed; and

(ii) use any interest or other investment income earned on such Federal funds to carry out the purposes of the Foundation under this section.

(B) LIMITATION.—Investments by the Foundation made with Federal funds may only be made in—

(i) interest-bearing obligations of the United States; or

(ii) obligations guaranteed as to both principal and interest by the United States.

(4) LIMITATION OF PUBLIC LIABILITY.—The United States shall not be liable for any debts, defaults, acts, or omissions of the Foundation. The Federal Government shall be held harmless from any damages or awards ordered by a court against the Foundation.

(g) OUTCOME-BASED FUNDING, SAFEGUARDS, AND ACCOUNTABILITY.—

(1) OUTCOME-BASED FUNDING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Foundation shall establish a funding strategy that sets targets based on measurable outcomes to be improved in populations served through its investments, including—

(i) identifying and regularly reviewing any such outcomes that advance the purposes described in subsection (d), such as increased crop and animal productivity, increased profit to farmers, or decreased hunger rates; and

(ii) a portfolio, multi-year, approach to Foundation investments in which the failure of any specific program to achieve target outcomes is acceptable if the overall portfolio of projects meets target outcomes.

(B) FINANCING AND EVALUATION PROCESS.—The Foundation shall establish an efficient and streamlined financing and evaluation process that—

(i) prioritizes the achievement of defined outcomes;

(ii) assesses risk of corruption and employs a strategy to counter corruption;

(iii) prioritizes funding ventures with partners that are primarily locally-based or locally-run organizations, entities, and businesses that—

(I) achieve such outcomes; and

(II) demonstrate an ability to sustain the financed project; and

(iv) focuses venture evaluations on assessing such outcomes and minimizing unnecessary reporting on project activities.

(2) ACCOUNTABILITY.—

(A) IMPACT EVALUATIONS.—The achievement of venture outcomes shall be determined through impact evaluations that include a comparison group to determine any measured improvements that are attributable to the funded venture.

(B) METHODOLOGY ASSESSMENTS.—Foundation staff may assess the methodology used by grantees or investees that are already running impact evaluations to increase efficiency, and such evaluations may be accepted in place of additional evaluations.

(C) DEDICATED FUNDING.—Any grantee or investee that lacks impact evaluation capacity may receive dedicated funding to support in-house evaluations or to contract with independent, external evaluators.

(D) THIRD PARTY EVALUATIONS.—The Foundation may pay for third party evaluations of any grantee's project to verify the results derived from an in-house evaluation.

(3) SAFEGUARDS.—The Foundation shall develop, and incorporate into any agreement for support provided by the Foundation, appropriate safeguards, policies, and guidelines, consistent with internationally recognized best practices.

(4) INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM.—

The Foundation shall establish or contract for a transparent and independent accountability mechanism, consistent with best practices, which shall provide—

(A) a compliance review function that assesses whether Foundation-supported ventures adhere to the requirements developed pursuant to paragraph (1);

(B) a dispute resolution function for resolving and remedying concerns between venture implementers regarding the impacts of specific Foundation-supported ventures with respect to such standards; and

(C) an advisory function that reports to the Board regarding ventures, policies, and practices.

(h) VENTURES, FINANCING, AND GRANTS.—

(1) VENTURE FUNDING REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Foundation shall award funding, which may include project financing, credit risk insurance, grants, concessional lending, or credit, in accordance with this subsection, for eligible projects described in subparagraph (B) that—

(i) increase agricultural productivity and incomes; and

(ii) ensure food security is achieved and sustained, while supporting farmers moving beyond subsistence agriculture to growing higher value crops that can be sold for profit.

(B) ELIGIBLE VENTURES.—A venture qualifies as an eligible venture if the venture seeks—

(i) to have cost matching from sources other than the United States Government;

(ii) to incorporate a set of key independently verified outcomes, which shall be measured by rigorous impact evaluations, such as measuring attributable increases in agricultural yields, infrastructure, or any other eligible use;

(iii) to not substantially duplicate the work of other funders or institutions or displace current profit-making ventures;

(iv) to leverage existing infrastructure and community-led development to allow for the immediate launch of ventures;

(v) to advance the national security interests of the United States;

(vi) to demonstrate—

(I) the ability to financially and operationally maintain and build on the outcomes or mission of the venture after the Foundation funding has ended; or

(II) a plan to strengthen the capacity of, and transfer skills and technologic tools to, local enterprises, organizations, or institutions to manage projects and other funded entities after the Foundation funding has been expended; and

(vii) to consider projects that meet the highest needs of food insecure populations based on food security, agriculture, and malnutrition assessments.

(2) ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES FOR VENTURES.—Before entering into any venture agreement pursuant to this subsection, the Board shall—

(A) establish criteria to determine whether a country is eligible to receive funding for such a venture;

(B) identify ventures to receive support that—

(i) advance the national security priorities of the United States;

(ii) have demonstrated leadership to modernize the country's agricultural food systems, in partnership with the private sector; and

(iii) are committed—

(I) to making policy reforms to help transform, scale, and build enduring food systems; (II) to cofinancing and sustaining long-term projects implemented by the Foundation; and

(III) to collaborating with stakeholders—

(aa) to increase agricultural production and crop yields;

(bb) to scale resilient food systems; and

(cc) to improve food safety, processing, logistics, and supply chain processes for input and output markets.

(3) FUNDING AUTHORIZED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In order to maximize the impact of the funding authorized under this subsection, the Foundation should—

(i) coordinate with other international public and private donors or investors and local organizations active in food security to the extent possible; and

(ii) seek additional financial and non-financial contributions and commitments for its projects from host governments and other organizations.

(B) FUNDING CRITERIA.—Funding awarded pursuant to this subsection—

(i) shall be provided to ventures that demonstrate progress, during the funding period, in achieving clearly identified performance indicators and outcomes defined in the project agreement, which may include—

(I) increasing agricultural or food production through agriculture research and the competitive delivery of market-based financing, distribution and extension services, and supporting technology commercialization and adoption through such services;

(II) improving the nutritional status of intended beneficiaries by—

(aa) increasing the production, availability, and access of nutritious foods domestically;

(bb) promoting highly nutritious foods, diet diversification, and nutritional behaviors that improve maternal and child health; and

(cc) supporting the expansion of producer market opportunities;

(III) building resilient food systems to help mitigate against future food shocks among vulnerable populations and households; and

(IV) identifying additional revenue sources or financing mechanisms to meet the recurring costs of ventures by serving as a conduit between institutional investors and the agribusiness sector; and

(ii) may be terminated if the Board determines that the country receiving such funding—

(I) is not meeting applicable requirements under this section;

(II) is not making progress in achieving the key performance indicators described in the project agreement; or

(III) is not advancing United States national security priorities.

(i) PROHIBITION OF SUPPORT IN COUNTRIES THAT SUPPORT TERRORISM OR VIOLATE HUMAN RIGHTS AND OF SUPPORT FOR SANCTIONED PERSONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Foundation may not provide support for any government, or any entity owned or controlled by a government, if the Secretary of State determines that such government—

(A) has repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism, as determined under—

(i) section 1754(c)(1)(A)(i) of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4813(c)(1)(A)(i));

(ii) section 620A(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371(a));

(iii) section 40(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2780(d)); or

(iv) any other relevant provision of law;

(B) has repeatedly engaged with any organizations designated as foreign terrorist organizations by the Secretary in accordance with section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189); or

(C) has engaged in a consistent pattern of gross violations of human rights, as determined under section 116(a) or 502B(a)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151n(a) and 2304(a)(2)) or any other relevant provision of law.

(2) PROHIBITION OF SUPPORT FOR SANCTIONED PERSONS.—The Foundation may not engage in any dealing prohibited under United States sanctions laws or regulations, including dealings with persons on the list of specially designated persons and blocked persons maintained by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury, except to the extent otherwise authorized by the Secretary of State or the Secretary of the Treasury.

(3) WAIVER.—The President may waive the application of paragraphs (1) and (2) with respect to any government, or any entity owned or controlled by a government, by notifying the appropriate congressional committees of the intention to exercise such waiver not later than 45 days before the waiver is scheduled to take effect.

(j) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter by March 31st of any year during which the Foundation is operational, the Executive Director of the Foundation shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that—

(1) has been approved by the Board of Directors;

(2) contains the expectations of the year ahead; and

(3) describes—

(A) the goals of the Foundation for the upcoming year, including areas to increase operational efficiency and further advance United States policy objectives and national security;

(B) lessons learned and best practices developed through projects funded by the Foundation during the prior fiscal year;

(C) a project specific and a portfolio-level report describing—

(i) the progress achieved against key performance indicators and the outcomes described in subsection (g); and

(ii) how such progress will benefit the American taxpayer;

(D) an assessment of—

(i) whether the grant making and financing processes are effective and expeditious;

(ii) how any necessary additional efficiencies can be built into future project selection; and

(iii) whether project evaluations are successfully measuring outcomes;

(E) how the funding and selected projects authorized under this Act were publicized in the selected country to expand recognition for the United States; and

(F) an annual financial report from an independent auditor.

(k) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Using funds appropriated to the Department of State to carry out chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2346 et seq.), the Secretary of State is authorized to award an annual grant to the Foundation to enable the Foundation to carry out the purposes specified in subsection (d).

(2) COST MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—Amounts authorized to be appropriated pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be made available, on a cost matching basis, to the maximum extent

practicable, from sources other than the United States Government.

(3) CONSULTATION REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State and the Executive Director of the Foundation shall consult with the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives regarding the implementation of this Act and the proposed activities of the Foundation.

(4) PROHIBITION OF USE OF GRANTS FOR LOBBYING EXPENSES.—No grant funds provided by the Foundation pursuant to subsection (h) may be used for any activity intended to influence legislation pending before Congress.

SA 2943. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1265. STATEMENT OF POLICY WITH RESPECT TO DEFINITION OF TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION.

It is policy of the United States that the term “transnational repression” refers to a range of tactics deployed by a foreign government, or agents or proxies of a foreign government, to reach beyond their borders to intimidate, silence, harass, coerce, or harm individuals, such as political dissidents, activists, journalists, political opponents, religious and ethnic minority groups, international students, and members of diaspora and exile communities.

SA 2944. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XII, add the following:

Subtitle F—Taiwan Relations Reinforcement Act of 2025

SEC. 1271. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Taiwan Relations Reinforcement Act of 2025”.

SEC. 1272. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that the United States Government should continue strengthening cooperation with Taiwan under the framework of the Taiwan Relations Act (Public Law 96-8; 22 U.S.C. 3301 et seq.) and the Six Assurances with consideration of the ongoing military buildup in China and the imbalance in the security environment in the Taiwan Strait, including by—

(1) promoting dignity and respect for its Taiwan counterparts, who represent more than 23,000,000 citizens, by using the full range of the United States Government's diplomatic and financial tools to promote Taiwan's inclusion and meaningful participation in international organizations, as well as in bilateral and multilateral security

summits, military exercises, and economic dialogues and forums;

(2) urging Taiwan to increase its own investments in military capabilities that support implementation of its asymmetric defense strategy; and

(3) prioritizing the negotiation of a free-trade agreement with Taiwan that provides high levels of labor rights and environmental protection as soon as possible to deepen economic ties between the United States and Taiwan.

SEC. 1273. INTERAGENCY POLICY COORDINATION ON TAIWAN.

(a) **STATEMENT OF POLICY.**—It is the policy of the United States to create and execute a plan for enhancing its relationship with Taiwan by strengthening the robust partnership that meets the challenges of the 21st century while remaining faithful to United States principles and values in keeping with the Taiwan Relations Act and the Six Assurances.

(b) **INTERAGENCY TAIWAN POLICY TASK FORCE.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall review and consolidate existing interagency processes related to Taiwan (including formal National Security Council-led processes and other informal, ad-hoc interagency coordination processes) to create an interagency Taiwan Policy Task Force consisting of senior officials from the Office of the President, the National Security Council, the Department of State, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Treasury, the Department of Commerce, and the Office of the United States Trade Representative.

(c) **REPORT.**—The interagency Taiwan Policy Task Force established under subsection (b) shall contribute annually to existing congressionally mandated reports outlining policy and actions to be taken in the next year to enhance the United States partnership and relations with Taiwan, including reports required under the Taiwan Enhanced Resilience Act (subtitle A of title XII of Public Law 117-263), the Taiwan Allies International Protection and Enhancement Initiative (TAIPEI) Act (Public Law 116-135), and the Taiwan Travel Act (Public Law 115-135).

SEC. 1274. AMERICAN INSTITUTE IN TAIWAN.

(a) **APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR.**—The Director of the American Institute in Taiwan's Taipei office shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and effective upon enactment of this Act shall have the title of Representative.

(b) **VACANCY.**—A vacancy in the position of Director shall be filled within 60 days. If such position remains unfilled for more than 60 days, the Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, in consultation with the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, shall immediately appoint a senior Foreign Service Officer to serve as acting Director until a new Director is appointed and confirmed for such position pursuant to subsection (a).

SEC. 1275. PARTICIPATION OF TAIWAN IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) **STATEMENT OF POLICY.**—It is the policy of the United States to promote Taiwan's inclusion and meaningful participation in meetings held by international organizations.

(b) **SUPPORT FOR MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION.**—The Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations and other relevant United States officials should actively support Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organizations, including membership where applicable.

(c) **REPORT.**—Beginning not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this

Act, the Secretary of State shall annually incorporate reporting on China's efforts to block Taiwan's meaningful participation and inclusion at the United Nations and other international bodies, and recommend appropriate responses to be taken by the United States, as part of existing congressionally mandated reports, including reports required under the Taiwan Enhanced Resilience Act (subtitle A of title XII of Public Law 117-263), the Taiwan Allies International Protection and Enhancement Initiative (TAIPEI) Act (Public Law 116-135), and the Taiwan Travel Act (Public Law 115-135).

SEC. 1276. INVITATION OF TAIWAN COUNTERPARTS TO HIGH-LEVEL BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL FORUMS AND EXERCISES.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to invite Taiwan counterparts to participate in high-level bilateral and multilateral summits, military exercises, and economic dialogues and forums on issues of mutual concern;

(2) that the United States Government and Taiwan counterparts should resume meetings under either the United States-Taiwan Trade and Investment Framework Agreement, the United States-Taiwan Initiative on 21st Century Trade, or other appropriate mechanisms to reach a bilateral free trade agreement;

(3) that the United States Government should invite Taiwan to participate in bilateral and multilateral military training exercises; and

(4) that the United States Government and Taiwan counterparts should engage in a regular and routine strategic bilateral dialogue on arms sales in accordance with Foreign Military Sales mechanisms, and the United States Government should support export licenses for direct commercial sales supporting Taiwan's indigenous defensive capabilities.

SEC. 1277. PROHIBITIONS AGAINST UNDERMINING UNITED STATES POLICY REGARDING TAIWAN.

(a) **FINDING.**—Congress finds that the efforts by the Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the Chinese Communist Party to compel private United States businesses, corporations, and non-governmental entities to use PRC-mandated language to describe the relationship between Taiwan and China are an intolerable attempt to enforce political censorship globally and should be considered an attack on the fundamental underpinnings of all democratic and free societies, including the constitutionally protected right to freedom of speech.

(b) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that the President, in coordination with United States businesses and non-governmental entities and in consultation with Congress, should develop and implement a strategy for interacting with the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party and affiliated entities, the aim of which is—

(1) to counter PRC sharp power operations, which threaten free speech, academic freedom, and the normal operations of United States businesses and nongovernmental entities; and

(2) to counter PRC efforts to censor the way the world refers to issues deemed sensitive to the Government of the People's Republic of China and Chinese Communist Party leaders, including issues related to Taiwan, Tibet, the Tiananmen Square Massacre, and the mass internment of Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims, among many other issues.

(c) **PROHIBITION ON RECOGNITION OF PRC CLAIMS TO SOVEREIGNTY OVER TAIWAN.**—

(1) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(A) issues related to the sovereignty of Taiwan are for the people of Taiwan to decide through the democratic process they have established;

(B) the dispute between the People's Republic of China and Taiwan must be resolved peacefully and with the assent of the people of Taiwan;

(C) the primary obstacle to peaceful resolution is the authoritarian nature of the PRC political system under one-party rule of the Chinese Communist Party, which is fundamentally incompatible with Taiwan's democracy; and

(D) any attempt to coerce the people of Taiwan to accept a political arrangement that would subject them to direct or indirect rule by the PRC, including a "one country, two systems" framework, would constitute a grave challenge to United States security interests in the region.

(2) **STATEMENT OF POLICY.**—It is the policy of the United States to oppose any attempt by the PRC authorities to unilaterally impose a timetable or deadline for unification on Taiwan.

(3) **PROHIBITION ON RECOGNITION OF PRC CLAIMS WITHOUT ASSENT OF PEOPLE OF TAIWAN.**—No department or agency of the United States Government should formally or informally recognize PRC claims to sovereignty over Taiwan without the assent of the people of Taiwan, as expressed directly through the democratic process.

(4) **TREATMENT OF TAIWAN GOVERNMENT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Department of State and other United States Government agencies should treat the democratically elected Government of Taiwan as the legitimate representative of the people of Taiwan. Notwithstanding the continued supporting role of the American Institute in Taiwan in carrying out United States foreign policy and protecting United States interests in Taiwan, the United States Government should not place any restrictions on the ability of officials of the Department of State and other United States Government agencies from interacting directly and routinely with counterparts in the Taiwan government.

(B) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as entailing restoration of diplomatic relations with the Republic of China, which were terminated on January 1, 1979, or altering the United States Government's position on Taiwan's international status.

(d) **STRATEGY TO PROTECT UNITED STATES BUSINESSES AND NGOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES FROM COERCION.**—

(1) **INITIAL REPORT.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall submit an unclassified report, with a classified annex if necessary, to protect United States businesses and nongovernmental entities from sharp power operations, including coercion and threats that lead to censorship or self-censorship, or which compel compliance with political or foreign policy positions of the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party. The strategy shall include the following elements:

(A) Information on efforts by the Government of the People's Republic of China to censor the websites of United States airlines, hotels, and other businesses regarding the relationship between Taiwan and the People's Republic of China.

(B) Information on efforts by the Government of the People's Republic of China to target United States nongovernmental entities through sharp power operations intended to weaken support for Taiwan.

(C) Information on United States Government efforts to counter the threats posed by Chinese state-sponsored propaganda and disinformation, including information on best practices, current successes, and existing barriers to responding to this threat.

(D) Details of any actions undertaken to create a code of conduct pursuant to subsection (b) and a timetable for implementation.

(2) SUBSEQUENT REPORTING.—Beginning not later than one year after submission of the report required under paragraph (1), the Secretary of State shall include the elements required in such report as part of existing congressionally mandated reports, including reports required under the Taiwan Enhanced Resilience Act (subtitle A of title XII of Public Law 117-263), the Taiwan Allies International Protection and Enhancement Initiative (TAIPEI) Act (Public Law 116-135), and the Taiwan Travel Act (Public Law 115-135).

SEC. 1278. REPORT AND STRATEGY TO SUPPORT TAIWAN'S RESPONSE TO SHARP POWER OPERATIONS.

(a) FINDING.—Taiwan is at the forefront in responding to sharp power operations supported by the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall—

(1) submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on existing United States efforts supporting the Taiwan government's efforts in countering the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party's sharp power operations; and

(2) submit to the appropriate congressional committees a strategy developed in coordination with the heads of relevant Federal agencies and international partners to identify, and provide targeted assistance to address, remaining vulnerabilities in the Taiwan government's efforts to counter the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party's sharp power operations.

(c) REPORT ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (b)(1) shall describe the response of the United States to People's Republic of China propaganda and malign foreign influence campaigns and cyber-intrusions targeting Taiwan, including the following elements:

(1) A description of assistance in building the capacity of the Taiwan officials, media entities, and private-sector entities to document and expose propaganda and malign foreign influence supported by the Government of the People's Republic of China, the Chinese Communist Party, or affiliated entities.

(2) A description of assistance to the Taiwan government's efforts to develop a whole-of-government strategy to respond to sharp power operations, including election interference.

(3) A description of exchanges and other technical assistance the United States has collaborated with Taiwan on to strengthen Taiwan's legal system's ability to respond to sharp power operations.

(4) An assessment of the extent to which the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party have attempted to influence local political parties, financial institutions, media organizations, and other entities, and the degree to which these efforts could be considered successful.

(5) An assessment of the extent to which like-minded governments have collaborated with the Taiwan government on ways to address sharp power operations supported by

the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party.

SEC. 1279. REPORT ON DETERRENCE IN THE TAIWAN STRAIT.

(a) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a joint report that assesses the military posture of Taiwan and the United States as it specifically pertains to the deterrence of military conflict and conflict readiness in the Taiwan Strait. In light of the changing military balance in the Taiwan Strait, the report should include analysis of whether current Taiwan and United States policies sufficiently deter efforts to determine the future of Taiwan by other than peaceful means.

(b) SUBSEQUENT REPORTING.—Beginning not later than one year after submission of the report required under subsection (a), the Secretary of State shall include the elements required in such report as part of existing congressionally mandated reports, including reports required under the Taiwan Enhanced Resilience Act (subtitle A of title XII of Public Law 117-263), the Taiwan Allies International Protection and Enhancement Initiative (TAIPEI) Act (Public Law 116-135), and the Taiwan Travel Act (Public Law 115-135).

SEC. 1280. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) SHARP POWER.—The term “sharp power” means the coordinated and often concealed application of disinformation, media manipulation, economic coercion, cyber-intrusions, targeted investments, and academic censorship that is intended—

(A) to corrupt political and nongovernmental institutions and interfere in democratic elections and encourage self-censorship of views at odds with those of the Government of the People's Republic of China or the Chinese Communist Party; or

(B) to foster attitudes, behavior, decisions, or outcomes in Taiwan and elsewhere that support the interests of the Government of the People's Republic of China or the Chinese Communist Party.

SA 2945. Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. COMBATING ILLICIT XYLAZINE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In this title, the term “xylazine” has the meaning given the term in paragraph (60) of section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act, as added by paragraph (2) of this subsection.

(2) CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT.—Section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(60) The term ‘xylazine’ means the substance xylazine, including its salts, isomers,

and salts of isomers whenever the existence of such salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible.”.

(b) ADDING XYLAZINE TO SCHEDULE III.—Schedule III of section 202(c) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 812) is amended by adding at the end the following: “(f) Unless specifically excepted or unless listed in another schedule, any material, compound, mixture, or preparation which contains any quantity of xylazine.”.

(c) AMENDMENTS.—

(1) AMENDMENT.—Section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802) is amended by striking paragraph (27) and inserting the following:

“(27)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the term ‘ultimate user’ means a person who has lawfully obtained, and who possesses, a controlled substance for the use by the person or for the use of a member of the household of the person or for an animal owned by the person or by a member of the household of the person.

“(B)(i) In the case of xylazine, other than for a drug product approved under subsection (b) or (j) of section 505 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355), the term ‘ultimate user’ means a person—

“(I) to whom xylazine was dispensed by—

“(aa) a veterinarian registered under this Act; or

“(bb) a pharmacy registered under this Act pursuant to a prescription of a veterinarian registered under this Act; and

“(II) who possesses xylazine for—

“(aa) an animal owned by the person or by a member of the household of the person;

“(bb) an animal under the care of the person;

“(cc) use in government animal-control programs authorized under applicable Federal, State, Tribal, or local law; or

“(dd) use in wildlife programs authorized under applicable Federal, State, Tribal, or local law.

“(ii) In this subparagraph, the term ‘person’ includes—

“(I) a government agency or business where animals are located; and

“(II) an employee or agent of an agency or business acting within the scope of their employment or agency.”.

(2) FACILITIES.—An entity that manufactures xylazine, as of the date of enactment of this Act, shall not be required to make capital expenditures necessary to install the security standard required of schedule III of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 801 et seq.) for the purposes of manufacturing xylazine.

(3) LABELING.—The requirements related to labeling, packaging, and distribution logistics of a controlled substance in schedule III of section 202(c) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 812(c)) shall not take effect for xylazine until the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

(4) PRACTITIONER REGISTRATION.—The requirements related to practitioner registration, inventory, and recordkeeping of a controlled substance in schedule III of section 202(c) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 812(c)) shall not take effect for xylazine until the date that is 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act. A practitioner that has applied for registration during the 60-day period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act may continue their lawful activities until such application is approved or denied.

(5) MANUFACTURER TRANSITION.—The Food and Drug Administration and the Drug Enforcement Administration shall facilitate and expedite the relevant manufacturer submissions or applications required by the placement of xylazine on schedule III of section 202(c) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 812(c)).

(6) CLARIFICATION.—Nothing in this title, or the amendments made by this title, shall be construed to require the registration of an ultimate user of xylazine under the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 801 et seq.) in order to possess xylazine in accordance with subparagraph (B) of section 102(27) of that Act (21 U.S.C. 802(27)), as added by paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(d) ARCOS TRACKING.—Section 307(i) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 827(i)) is amended—

- (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—
 - (A) by inserting “or xylazine” after “gamma hydroxybutyric acid”;
 - (B) by inserting “or 512” after “section 505”; and

(C) by inserting “respectively,” after “the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.”; and

(2) in paragraph (6), by inserting “or xylazine” after “gamma hydroxybutyric acid”.

(e) SENTENCING COMMISSION.—Pursuant to its authority under section 994(p) of title 28, United States Code, the United States Sentencing Commission shall review and, if appropriate, amend its sentencing guidelines, policy statements, and official commentary applicable to persons convicted of an offense under section 401 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 841) or section 1010 of the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. 960) to provide appropriate penalties for offenses involving xylazine that are consistent with the amendments made by this title. In carrying out this subsection, the Commission should consider the common forms of xylazine as well as its use alongside other scheduled substances.

(f) REPORT TO CONGRESS ON XYLAZINE.—

(1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Attorney General, acting through the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration and in coordination with the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, shall submit to Congress a report on the prevalence of illicit use of xylazine in the United States and the impacts of such use, including—

- (A) where the drug is being diverted;
- (B) where the drug is originating; and
- (C) whether any analogues to xylazine, or related or derivative substances, exist and present a substantial risk of abuse.

(2) ADDITIONAL REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Attorney General, acting through the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration and in coordination with the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, shall submit to Congress a report updating Congress on the prevalence and proliferation of xylazine trafficking and misuse in the United States.

SA 2946. Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Ms. HIRONO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title III, insert the following:

SEC. 3. **RED HILL HEALTH REGISTRY.**

(a) **REGISTRY FOR IMPACTED INDIVIDUALS OF THE RED HILL INCIDENT.**—

(1) **ESTABLISHMENT OF REGISTRY.**—The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the

Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall establish within the Department of Defense or through an award of a grant or contract, as the Secretary determines appropriate, a Red Hill Incident exposure registry to collect data on health implications of petroleum-contaminated water for impacted individuals and potentially impacted individuals on a voluntary basis.

(2) **REPORT.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees and publish on the website of the Department of Defense a report on—

(A) the number of impacted individuals and potentially impacted individuals enrolled in the registry established under paragraph (1);

(B) measures and frequency of follow-up to collect data and specimens related to exposure, health, and developmental milestones, as appropriate; and

(C) a summary of data and analyses on exposure, health, and developmental milestones for impacted individuals.

(3) **CONTRACTS.**—The Secretary of Defense may contract with independent research institutes or consultants, nonprofit or public entities, laboratories, or medical schools, as the Secretary considers appropriate, that are not part of the Federal Government to assist with the registry established under paragraph (1).

(4) **CONSULTATION.**—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary of Defense shall consult with non-Federal experts, including individuals with certification in epidemiology, toxicology, mental health, pediatrics, and environmental health, and members of the impacted community.

(b) **USE OF EXISTING FUNDS.**—The Secretary of Defense shall carry out activities under this section using amounts previously appropriated for the Defense Health Agency for such activities.

(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **IMPACTED INDIVIDUAL.**—The term “impacted individual” means an individual who, at the time of the Red Hill Incident, lived or worked in a building or residence served by the community water system at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Oahu, Hawaii.

(2) **POTENTIALLY IMPACTED INDIVIDUAL.**—The term “potentially impacted individual” means an individual who, after the Red Hill Incident, lived or worked in a building or residence served by the community water system at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Oahu, Hawaii, including an individual who is not a beneficiary of the military health system.

(3) **RED HILL INCIDENT.**—The term “Red Hill Incident” means the release of fuel from the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, Oahu, Hawaii, into the sole-source basal aquifer located 100 feet below the facility, contaminating the community water system at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on November 20, 2021.

SA 2947. Mr. LUJÁN (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. REFORESTATION OF LAND DESTROYED BY THE HERMIT'S PEAK/CALF CANYON FIRE.

Section 104(d)(4) of the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire Assistance Act (division G of Public Law 117-180; 136 Stat. 2172) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(D) **REFORESTATION.**—Notwithstanding paragraph (1)(B), a claim that is paid for injury under this Act may include damages resulting from the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire for otherwise uncompensated resource losses for costs of reasonable efforts, as determined by the Administrator, incurred by the State of New Mexico not later than December 31, 2030, to design, construct, and operate a center for the purpose of researching, developing, and generating native seedlings to successfully regenerate forests destroyed by the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire with native species.”

SA 2948. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in subtitle F of title X, insert the following:

SEC. 10. **REAUTHORIZATION OF LONG ISLAND SOUND PROGRAMS.**

(a) **LONG ISLAND SOUND GRANTS.**—Section 119(h) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1269(h)) is amended by striking “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2025 through 2029”.

(b) **LONG ISLAND SOUND STEWARDSHIP GRANTS.**—Section 11(a) of the Long Island Sound Stewardship Act of 2006 (33 U.S.C. 1269 note; Public Law 109-359) is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2025 through 2029”.

(c) **TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.**—Section 119(g) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1269(g)) is amended by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (3).

SA 2949. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1248. REPORT ON PACIFIC ISLANDS EMBASSY STAFFING.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State and the Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources shall—

(1) submit a report to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives that describes plans for addressing staffing needs at United States embassies in Pacific Island countries; and

(2) provide a briefing to the congressional committees listed in paragraph (1), which shall include—

(A) a discussion of the contents of the report submitted pursuant to paragraph (1); and

(B) nonfinancial incentives for Foreign Service officers serving at United States embassies in Pacific Island countries, including opportunities such as Mission-specific training.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) steps to implement the findings of the Foreign Service officer allowances study required under section 5302 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-81) to provide incentives for Foreign Service officers to serve in Pacific Island countries, including—

(A) hardship and danger pay;

(B) the opportunity to provide one-grade stretches before stretch season and allow bidding on Pacific Island country posts on the early assignment cycle;

(C) eligibility to receive student loan repayments;

(D) incentive pay to extend tours at Pacific Island country posts;

(E) additional recreation entitlements;

(F) priority consideration for onward assignments;

(G) opportunities to serve repeated tours in the same region to develop expertise while aiding career advancement; and

(H) consideration of United States embassies in Pacific Island countries for Special Incentive Post (SIP) designation eligibility;

(2) the status of the virtual schooling pilot program undertaken by the Office of Overseas Schools and other programs to support the dependents and spouses of diplomats stationed at Pacific Island country posts;

(3) current administrative requirements, including reporting requirements, required for embassies in Pacific Island countries and proposals for how to lower the administrative burden on small embassies; and

(4) any additional measures and financial and nonfinancial incentives to encourage Foreign Service officers to seek assignments to, and remain at, hardship posts in countries where addressing growing and malign foreign government influence is especially critical to United States interests, especially at new posts in remote locations, such as the United States embassies in the Kingdom of Tonga, the Solomon Islands, and the Republic of Vanuatu.

SA 2950. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1265. REPORT ANALYZING THE FEASIBILITY OF ATTACHING CONSULAR OFFICERS TO COAST GUARD AND NAVY MISSIONS IN PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) Pacific Island countries, particularly the Freely Associated States, include close United States partners that are spread across highly strategic waters that are critical to the national security interests of the United States;

(2) it is in the national security interests of the United States to maintain and strengthen relations with the governments and citizens of Pacific Island countries; and

(3) many citizens of Pacific Island countries face difficulties in accessing United States consular services due to—

(A) the remote locations of the islands comprising such countries, only a few of which host United States embassies; and

(B) infrequent flights to islands with United States embassies, which makes applying for a United States visa and other consular procedures difficult, expensive, and time consuming.

(b) DEFINED TERM.—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(2) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

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

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

(5) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(6) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives;

(7) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives; and

(8) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

(c) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard, the Commander of United States Indo-Pacific Command, and the Chief of Naval Operations, shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress that analyzes the feasibility of attaching Department of State consular officers to Coast Guard and Navy missions in Pacific Island countries.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) an assessment of—

(i) the current demand for consular services from citizens of Pacific Island countries;

(ii) the challenges such citizens face in obtaining consular services;

(B) an assessment of the approximate time and resources citizens of Pacific Island countries that do not host United States embassies would save by having their United States visas adjudicated or receiving other consular services through the initiative described in paragraph (1);

(C) an assessment of the cost that would be incurred by the Department of State, the United States Coast Guard, the United States Indo-Pacific Command, and the United States Navy through the implementation of such initiative, including potential alternative cost-effective options and recommendations for providing efficient consular services to Pacific Island countries;

(D) an assessment of the frequency and duration of United States Coast Guard and United States Navy deployments to Pacific Island countries, including—

(i) deployment frequency measured against the desired number of visits;

(ii) the amount of time typically spent in port for such visits; and

(iii) disruption to planned Coast Guard and Navy missions in order to visit locations needing consular assistance; and

(E) an evaluation of the logistical issues needing to be addressed to implement the initiative, including—

(i) analyzing spacing requirements to host Department of State personnel and equipment aboard Coast Guard and Navy vessels;

(ii) analyzing the information technology and connectivity requirements to conduct consular affairs activities;

(iii) the feasibility of printing visas aboard Coast Guard and Navy vessels or alternatives to such printing, including remote printing and mailing of passports with visas;

(iv) maintaining the physical security of consular officers and relevant adjudication equipment, including computer systems and visa foils, during such missions;

(v) the impacts to Coast Guard and Navy vessels' operations and security; and

(vi) the estimated time consular officers would spend on board Coast Guard and Navy vessels between visits to Pacific Island countries.

SA 2951. Ms. ROSEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title X, insert the following:

SEC. 10. TREATMENT AS RADIATION-RISK ACTIVITIES BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

Section 1112(c)(3) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B) by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(vii) At any time on or after January 27, 1951, onsite participation in any aspect of the development, construction, operation, or maintenance of a military installation (as defined in section 2801 of title 10) at a covered location at the Nevada Test and Training Range.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) The term ‘covered location at the Nevada Test and Training Range’ means a location at the Nevada Test and Training Range, Nevada, where there was a potential of toxic exposure.”.

SEC. 10. PRESUMPTIONS OF TOXIC EXPOSURE BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

Section 1119(c) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as subparagraphs (B) and (C), respectively; and

(B) by inserting before subsection (B), as so redesignated, the following:

“(A) on or after January 27, 1951, performed active military, naval, air, or space service while assigned to a duty station in, including airspace above, a covered location at the Nevada Test and Training Range, Nevada;”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) The term ‘covered location at the Nevada Test and Training Range’ means a location at the Nevada Test and Training Range, Nevada, where there was a potential of toxic exposure.”.

SEC. 10. PRESUMPTION OF SERVICE CONNECTION BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

Section 1120(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (15) as paragraph (16); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (14) the following new paragraph:

“(15) Only in the case of a covered veteran described in section 1119(c)(1)(A), lipomas and tumor related conditions.”.

SA 2952. Mr. WARNOCK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title XXVIII, add the following:

SEC. 2827. IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPTROLLER GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO CRITICAL MILITARY HOUSING SUPPLY AND AFFORDABILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall implement each recommendation of the Comptroller General of the United States contained in the report dated October 30, 2024, and entitled, “Military Housing: DOD Should Address Critical Supply and Affordability Challenges for Service Members” (GAO-25-106208), as those recommendations are modified under subsection (b).

(b) RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE IMPLEMENTED.—In carrying out the requirements under subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense shall implement the recommendations specified under such subsection as follows:

(1) The Secretary shall—

(A) perform a structured analysis to develop a comprehensive list of housing areas in which members of the Armed Forces and their families may face the most critical challenges in finding and affording private sector housing in the community;

(B) in conducting the analysis under subparagraph (A), consider the unique characteristics of a location, such as vacation rental areas; and

(C) regularly update the list required under subparagraph (A) not less frequently than once every two years.

(2) The Secretary shall obtain and use feedback on the financial and quality-of-life effects of limited supply or unaffordable housing on members of the Armed Forces, through the status of forces survey and other service or installation-specific feedback mechanisms.

(3) The Secretary shall, in coordination with the Secretary of each military department—

(A) develop a plan for how the Department of Defense can respond to and address the financial and quality-of-life effects in housing areas identified under paragraph (1); and

(B) in developing the plan under subparagraph (A), examine strategies for increasing housing supply or providing alternative compensation to offset the effects of limited supply or unaffordable housing in housing areas identified under paragraph (1).

(4) The Secretary shall clarify, through the issuance of guidance to the military departments, the role of the Office of the Secretary of Defense in oversight of the Housing Requirements and Market Analysis process of the military departments to ensure that—

(A) the military departments conduct such process in a timely manner; and

(B) the Secretary submits to Congress any plans or other matters relating to such process for each fiscal year as required by existing law.

(5) The Secretary shall ensure that the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, In-

stallations, and Environment provides updated guidance to the military departments on how installations of the Department of Defense should coordinate with local communities, including by clearly defining the roles and responsibilities of commanders and military housing offices of such installations in addressing housing needs.

(c) NON-IMPLEMENTATION REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—If the Secretary of Defense elects not to implement a recommendation specified under subsection (a), as modified under subsection (b), the Secretary shall, not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report that includes a justification for such election.

SA 2953. Mr. WARNOCK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title XXVIII, add the following:

SEC. 2827. MODIFICATION OF SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT ON PRIVATIZED MILITARY HOUSING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c) of section 2884 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(15) An overview of the housing data being used by the Department and the housing data being sought from management companies.

“(16) An assessment of how the Secretary of each military department is using such housing data to inform the on-base housing decisions for such military department.

“(17) An explanation of the limitations of any customer satisfaction data collected (including with respect to the availability of survey data), the process for determining resident satisfaction, and reasons for missing data.

“(18) To the maximum extent practicable, a breakdown of the information under this paragraph by installation and military housing project.”.

(b) PUBLIC REPORTING.—Such subsection is further amended—

(1) in paragraph (14), by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (D) as clauses (i) through (iv), respectively;

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (18) as subparagraphs (A) through (R), respectively;

(3) in subparagraph (E), as redesignated by paragraph (2), by striking “paragraphs (1) through (4)” and inserting “subparagraphs (A) through (D)”;

(4) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), as so redesignated, by striking “The Secretary” and inserting “(1) The Secretary”; and

(5) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) Not later than 30 days after submitting a report under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Defense shall publish the report on a publicly available website of the Department of Defense.”.

(c) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—The heading for such subsection is amended by striking “ANNUAL” and inserting “SEMI-ANNUAL”.

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (d)(1) of such section is amended by striking “paragraphs (1) through (14) of subsection

(c)” and inserting “subparagraphs (A) through (R) of subsection (c)(1)”.

SA 2954. Mr. WARNOCK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title XXVIII, add the following:

SEC. 2827. RADON TESTING OF MILITARY HOUSING OWNED OR CONTROLLED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report identifying the installations of the Department of Defense that have military housing owned or controlled by the Federal Government that should be monitored for levels of radon at or above the action level established by the Environmental Protection Agency, including those installations evaluated in the report dated April 30, 2020, and entitled, “Evaluation of the DoD’s Management of Health and Safety Hazards in Government-Owned and Government-Controlled Military Family Housing” (DODIG-2020-082).

(b) TESTING PROCEDURES AND STANDARDS.—The Secretary of each military department shall establish procedures at installations identified under subsection (a) under the jurisdiction of the Secretary concerned for testing for radon at military housing owned or controlled by the Federal Government at such installations that are consistent with current national consensus standards and are in compliance with applicable Federal regulations in order to ensure radon levels at such housing are below recommended levels established by the Environmental Protection Agency, whether through—

(1) regular testing (a minimum of one time every five years for all housing, and a minimum of one time every two years for housing that is above recommended radon levels established by the Environmental Protection Agency until radon levels are reduced to or below such levels) of such housing; or

(2) the installation of monitoring equipment in such housing.

(c) NOTIFICATION REGARDING NEED FOR MITIGATION.—If, as a result of testing conducted pursuant to procedures established under subsection (b), a unit of military housing owned or controlled by the Federal Government requires radon mitigation to ensure radon levels are below recommended levels established by the Environmental Protection Agency, the head of the installation providing the housing unit shall submit to the Secretary of the military department concerned, not later than seven days after the determination of the need for radon mitigation, the mitigation plan for the housing unit.

SA 2955. Mr. WARNOCK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title VI, add the following:

SEC. 629. PILOT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE COUPONS TO JUNIOR ENLISTED MEMBERS TO PURCHASE FOOD AT COMMISSARIES.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) members of the Armed Forces and their families deserve access to affordable and healthy food options, including during their duty day;

(2) there has been increased awareness about the challenges members and their families face in accessing affordable and healthy food options;

(3) those challenges have been especially acute for unaccompanied junior enlisted members who live in government-provided quarters on military installations; and

(4) the Department of Defense should explore a variety of proposals for expanding the accessibility of healthy and affordable food options to members, especially members who live in unaccompanied housing on military installations.

(b) **PILOT PROGRAM.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense may conduct a pilot program to assess the efficacy of providing junior enlisted members of the Armed Forces a monthly coupon for use in procuring food at commissaries.

(2) **SELECTION OF INSTALLATIONS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may conduct the pilot program authorized by paragraph (1) at 2 military installations.

(B) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—In selecting installations for the pilot program authorized by paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consider installations with—

(i) large numbers of enlisted members who live in unaccompanied housing;

(ii) the largest ratios of enlisted members to commissioned officers;

(iii) unaccompanied housing that provides access to functioning kitchens that residents may use to prepare meals;

(iv) commissaries that are experimenting with or expanding their selection of nutritious and minimally processed ready-made and easy-to-make food options;

(v) low rates of attendance at dining facilities;

(vi) low customer satisfaction ratings for dining facilities, including installations with complaints about dining facilities submitted through the Interactive Customer Evaluation system of the Department of Defense; and

(vii) commissaries located within easily accessible distances from unaccompanied housing.

(3) **COUPONS.**—

(A) **AMOUNT.**—The Secretary may determine the amount of the coupons to be provided under the pilot program authorized by paragraph (1).

(B) **USE.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—A coupon provided under the pilot program authorized by paragraph (1) may be used only to purchase food at commissaries.

(ii) **EXCLUSIONS.**—A coupon provided under the pilot program authorized by paragraph (1) may not be used—

(I) to purchase alcoholic beverages or tobacco; or

(II) to pay any deposit fee in excess of the amount of the State fee reimbursement (if any) required to purchase any food or food product contained in a returnable bottle or can, without regard to whether the fee is included in the shelf price posted for the food or food product.

(C) **SUPPLEMENT TO OTHER FOOD ASSISTANCE.**—A coupon provided to a member under the pilot program authorized by paragraph (1) shall be supplement and not supplant—

(i) the basic allowance for subsistence under section 402 of title 37, United States Code; and

(ii) any program to provide meals or rations in kind for which the member is eligible.

(4) **DURATION OF PILOT PROGRAM.**—The pilot program authorized by paragraph (1) shall terminate not later than one year after the pilot program commences.

(5) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the termination under paragraph (4) of the pilot program authorized by paragraph (1), the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report detailing the results of the pilot program.

(B) **ELEMENTS.**—The report required by subparagraph (A) shall include an assessment of the following:

(i) The use of coupons by members who received coupons under the pilot program.

(ii) The satisfaction of and feedback from such members relating to the coupons.

(iii) The impact of providing the coupons on—

(I) the rates at which such members used commissaries; and

(II) the rates at which such members used dining facilities on their installations.

(iv) Historical rates of use of dining facilities on installations and historical customer satisfaction metrics for such facilities, including the number of complaints with respect to such facilities submitted through the Interactive Customer Evaluation system of the Department of Defense.

(v) The efficacy of the pilot program in—

(I) reducing food insecurity rates among junior enlisted members;

(II) increasing the availability of nutritious food options for such members at commissaries; and

(III) increasing the availability of nutritious food options for such members generally, including such members living in unaccompanied housing.

(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **COUPON.**—The term “coupon” means a voucher or monetary benefit for a member of the Armed Forces that may be used only at a commissary for the purchase of food.

(2) **FOOD.**—The term “food” means any food or food product intended for home consumption, including a ready-made food item.

SA 2956. Mr. WARNOCK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

For fiscal year 2026, there is authorized to be appropriated \$1,300,000,000 for the purpose of fully funding the basic allowance for housing for members of the uniformed services under section 403 of title 37, United States Code.

NOTICES OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEEDING

I, Senator ALEX PADILLA, intend to object to proceeding to the nomination of Lt. Gen. Thomas M. Carden Jr. for appointment as Vice Chief of the National Guard Bureau and for appointment to the grade indicated in the Reserve of the Army under title 10,

U.S.C., sections 601 and 10505, dated July 17, 2025.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I have three requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 17, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Indian Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 17, 2025, at 2:45 p.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 17, 2025, at 9:15 a.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

NOTICE: REGISTRATION OF MASS MAILINGS

The filing date for the 2025 second quarter Mass Mailing report is Friday, July 25, 2025. An electronic option is available on Webster that will allow forms to be submitted via a fillable PDF document. If your office did no mass mailings during this period, please submit a form that states “none.”

Mass mailing registrations or negative reports can be submitted electronically at http://webster.senate.gov/secretary/mass_mailing_form.htm or e-mailed to OPR_MassMailings@sec.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact the Senate Office of Public Records at (202) 224-0322.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the majority leader and the senior Senator from Oklahoma be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions from July 17 through July 21.

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

ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL ACT

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I want to compliment my friend and colleague from Oklahoma. The One Big Beautiful Bill does have a lot of really

good stuff in it. I think, to be perfectly blunt, my State probably has more good stuff in it than anyone. So I am doing what Senator LANKFORD is doing, primarily back home in Alaska: really trying to inform my constituents on what is in this bill because it is a really good bill.

Boy oh boy, there is a lot of misinformation out there. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle are spreading the falsehoods, maybe because they are a little jealous that they can't legislate as well as we do. But that is for another day.

TRIBUTE TO MARY BINKLEY

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, what I really want to do is do something that I think is probably the best highlight of Thursday speeches in the Senate—I think the pages all certainly agree; they are all nodding—for the people watching across America. It is the “Alaskan of the Week.”

This is a great tradition. I have been doing it for many, many years. I try to get down here on the Senate floor on Thursday, wrapping up—not every week but a lot of weeks. And I like to talk about an Alaskan who is doing something really important for our State, community, maybe the country, maybe the world, and then talk a little bit about what is going on back home. So I am going to do that.

But we also had another neat tradition today here in the Senate: our Thursday lunch group in the Senate on the Republican side. One Senator hosts lunch for his or her colleagues and talks a little bit about their home State. Today was my opportunity to host.

I am not bragging, but I do think when Senator MURKOWSKI and I—and by the way, Senator COLLINS, with Maine lobster—but when Senator MURKOWSKI and I host, we have good attendance because we have great seafood: fresh halibut, fresh salmon. We did that. I did that again today. It was great. The whole room was decorated with Alaskan perfect peonies. We have great peonies in Alaska too—holy cow.

So this a perfect time for the “Alaskan of the Week.”

First, I want to give a little snapshot of what is going on back home, what life is like in Alaska right now. The midnight Sun is out. A few weeks ago, I was in Fairbanks, the home of Mary Binkley, who is our Alaskan of the Week—we are going to talk a lot about Mary—and we had our famous Midnight Sun Baseball Game. Thousands of baseball fans across the world, literally, come to see this game, which started in 1906. Some minors, some military guys came together for a baseball game in 1906. It is going strong more than 100 years later.

This year, the Fairbanks Goldpanners played the Glacier Pilots, an Anchorage baseball team that is part of the Alaska Baseball Summer League. Now, this is one of the premier

collegiate summer baseball leagues in the country. It is something a lot of people don't know about. I was talking a little bit about it at our lunch today.

Great college players come to Alaska to play baseball under the midnight Sun, and so many of them have gone on to do great things. So many of them have not only gone on to the majors; so many of them have gone on to the Baseball Hall of Fame and have been some of America's greatest players. Think about it. All these guys came up to Alaska to play summer baseball: Mark McGwire, Barry Bonds, Tom Seaver, Dave Winfield, Randy Johnson, Andy Messersmith. This is hall-of-fame baseball. And we get that in Alaska. It is really a great league. So if you are a baseball fan, make sure you come up to Fairbanks for next year's game.

We were also in Fairbanks a couple of weeks ago, and I had the opportunity to run the Midnight Sun Run 10K. It is a great run—again, people from all over the world. We had 4,000 runners this year. I do it every year. I am definitely getting slower, but it is one fun 10K. It is great. So come on up if you are a racer. You will love that one too.

So while you are in Fairbanks, if you come up for a game or the 10K, make sure you get out on Fairbanks' beautiful rivers, the lifeblood of the community. When you do so, on a sunny summer day on the Chena River or the Tanana, chances are you will spot a vintage-style sternwheel paddleboat belonging to Riverboat Discovery gliding along the channel, carrying passengers through one of the most scenic river routes in Alaska—really, in the world.

If you are one of those lucky passengers, there is a good chance you will catch sight of a familiar figure waving from the shore, and that is 99-year-old Mary Binkley, cofounder of Riverboat Discovery and our Alaskan of the Week.

So let's dive into the Alaska institution that is Riverboat Discovery. This year, we will celebrate—the Binkley family will celebrate—the 75th anniversary of this incredible institution. Now, it is made up of three iconic paddleboats: *Discovery I*, *Discovery II*, and *Discovery III*. Riverboat Discovery shows off the best of Alaska's interior landscape, including a bush plane demonstration, a visit to a recreated Athabascan Native village, and learning about traditional subsistence lifestyles.

For tourists, it is a 3-hour snapshot of Alaskan history. For locals, it is a beloved institution and a summer job for many young Fairbanksans, including my sister-in-law Janine, who many, many years ago worked for Riverboat Discovery.

While Riverboat Discovery preserves the history of the interior, the Binkley family, who has owned and operated Riverboat Discovery for 75 years, has its own great history of Alaskan grit and innovation and hospitality and generosity. The center of that history

and that great family, the Binkleys, is Mary Binkley, our Alaskan of the Week.

She was born in Vernonia, OR, in 1926—the youngest of six children. You know that is a tough time in our country's history. Mary's story began in hardship. Her mother passed away soon after her birth. Her father, a logger, couldn't raise the children alone. Her siblings were scattered, but they were bonded for life.

Her brothers, who went on to become fishermen off the coast of rugged Kodiak, AK—rugged but beautiful Kodiak, AK—wanted something for their baby sister Mary. They scraped together a college scholarship fund, determined that Mary would be the first in the family to attend college. Isn't that great—brothers taking care of the little sister?

So Mary, from Oregon, journeyed north to the University of Alaska Fairbanks, where she had a cousin who was a professor there. It was at UAF, as we call it, in Alaska, that she met a young, handsome riverboat captain named Jim Binkley, a third-generation steamboater from Wrangell, AK.

They married back in Mary's home State of Oregon in 1946 but quickly returned to Fairbanks that same year. With nothing more than a \$4,000 loan and a dream, Jim and Mary purchased their first vessel, the *Godspeed*, and began a river cruise business that would become synonymous with Fairbanks tourism and the interior Alaska river culture.

Mary greeted every guest personally, often serving as a tour guide, a deckhand, and a hospitality manager all in one. To her, they weren't just tourists; they were her guests. She worked alongside her husband Jim, the captain. And the popularity in Alaska—in America—of this riverboat cruise on one of Fairbanks' great rivers grew and kept growing.

By 1955, the *Godspeed* could no longer keep up with the demand, so Jim built the *Discovery I* in his backyard with Mary by his side. Jim called her his “lifeline and anchor.” Mary did it all: first mate, deckhand, ticket taker, mother of four kids—who, by the way, have grown up to be pillars of the Alaska community in so many ways. I could do whole speeches on the Binkley kids.

Later, she was a grandmother while watching three generations of Binkleys get involved in this great family business. And they have expanded into other things really important to Alaska. Taking tickets with Mary remains a rite of passage for Binkley grandchildren to this day.

As the tour company expanded, Mary remained its heart—greeting travelers on the riverbanks, hiring Alaska Native guides to share their knowledge and traditions of Native Athabascan life during Chena Village visits, and helping to craft that Alaskan hospitality that guests feel to this day.

“My grandma has the ability to make meaningful connections with

perfect strangers,” her granddaughter Kai recently said. “She treats them less like tourists and more like family.” That is Mary. Everybody who meets her thinks she is incredible.

So this fleet, the Binkley fleet, would grow and continue to grow to *Discovery II*, launched in 1971, which was a converted freighter; then *Discovery III*, in 1987, a grand, 900-passenger vessel, launched fittingly on the Fourth of July in Fairbanks. That day, as the boat pulled away from the dock, generations of Binkleys waved from the deck. Waving from the shore was Mary, and she still is waving from that same Fairbanks riverbank at 99 years young.

So what began in 1950 as a modest river tour on a converted missionary boat has grown into the cornerstone of Fairbanks’ tourism economy, and Mary has been at the center of it all—welcoming guests, sharing the experience, and setting a tone of genuine hospitality that endures to this day. At 99 years young, Mary is still part of the fabric of the business, waving from the riverbank as *Discovery III* rounds the river bend.

This weekend, the Binkley family will gather together to celebrate 75 years of operation but, more importantly, 75 years of a family legacy with Mary at the front and center. More than 500 family members and friends and guests from across America and from across Alaska will join Mary at Steamboat Landing this Saturday for a nighttime cruise on the *Discovery III*, which will be a fitting celebration for this incredible woman and incredible family behind an Alaskan institution.

So congratulations, Riverboat Discovery, to 75 years. And to Mary: Congratulations on one of the most prestigious awards you can ever receive: the Alaskan of the Week from the U.S. Senate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

NATIONAL ANTI-COUNTERFEITING AND CONSUMER EDUCATION AND AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. SULLIVAN. 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. 314.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. Res. 314) recognizing the importance of trademarks in the economy and the role of trademarks in protecting consumer safety, by designating the month of July as “National Anti-Counterfeiting and Consumer Education and Awareness Month”.

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

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed

to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 314) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of July 8, 2025, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar No. 280 and 281, with the exception of Col. Henry R. Jeffress, III, and Col. George H. Sebren, Jr.; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. Jeremy S. Bergin
Col. Charles D. Cooley
Col. Lauren Courchaine
Col. Kevin M. Crofton
Col. Laura S. DeJong
Col. Daniel C. Diehl
Col. David A. Fazenbaker
Col. Ryan J. Garlow
Col. Kevin M. Jamieson
Col. Terrence M. Joyce
Col. Stacy A. Kihara
Col. Patrick R. Launey
Col. James C. McFarland
Col. Kenneth C. McGhee
Col. Angela F. Ochoa
Col. Amanda L. Okeson
Col. William L. Ottati
Col. Todd E. Randolph
Col. Matthew R. Reilman
Col. Ryan E. Richardson
Col. Nathan L. Rusin
Col. Anthony L. Smith
Col. Kristoffer R. Smith
Col. Joseph C. Turnham
Col. Scott P. Weyermuller
Col. Joshua P. Williams
Col. Constance H. Young

IN THE SPACE FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Space Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be general

Gen. Michael A. Gutelein

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

DISCHARGE AND REFERRAL—S. 350

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of S. 350, a bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to select and implement landscape-scale forest restoration projects, to assist communities in increasing their resilience to wildfire, and for other purposes, and be referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

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

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JULY 21, 2025

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m. on Monday, July 21; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; finally, that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture motion with respect to Executive Calendar No. 171 ripen at 5:30 p.m. on Monday.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, JULY 21, 2025, AT 3 P.M.

Mr. SULLIVAN. 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 6:18 p.m., adjourned until Monday, July 21, 2025, at 3 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. MICHAEL J. BORGSCHELDE

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

VICE ADM. YVETTE M. DAVIDS

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate July 17, 2025:

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. JEREMY S. BERGIN
COL. CHARLES D. COOLEY
COL. LAUREN COURCHAINE
COL. KEVIN M. CROFTON
COL. LAURA S. DEJONG
COL. DANIEL C. DIEHL
COL. DAVID A. FAZENBAKER
COL. RYAN J. GARLOW
COL. KEVIN M. JAMIESON
COL. TERRENCE M. JOYCE
COL. STACY A. KIHARA
COL. PATRICK R. LAUNAY
COL. JAMES C. MCFARLAND
COL. KENNETH C. MCGHEE
COL. ANGELA F. OCHOA
COL. AMANDA L. OKESON

COL. WILLIAM L. OTTATI
COL. TODD E. RANDOLPH
COL. MATTHEW R. REILMAN
COL. RYAN E. RICHARDSON
COL. NATHAN L. RUSIN
COL. ANTHONY L. SMITH
COL. KRISTOFFER R. SMITH
COL. JOSEPH C. TURNHAM
COL. SCOTT P. WEYERMULLER
COL. JOSHUA P. WILLIAMS
COL. CONSTANCE H. YOUNG

IN THE SPACE FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

GEN. MICHAEL A. GUETLEIN

WITHDRAWALS

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on July 17, 2025 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nominations:

DAVID RADER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE, VICE GRANT T. HARRIS, RESIGNED, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON FEBRUARY 11, 2025.

KAREN EVANS, OF WEST VIRGINIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, VICE CLAIRE M. GRADY, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON MARCH 24, 2025.

RYAN COTE, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY), VICE KURT D. DELBENE, RESIGNED, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JUNE 30, 2025.