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No. 129

## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 29, 2025, at 5 p.m.

## Senate

MONDAY, JULY 28, 2025

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

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, we turn to You this afternoon aware of our insufficiency. Keep us from forgetting that human efforts and ingenuity are powerless without You. You alone, O Lord, deserve honor and praise, for power, glory, and victory belong to You.

Lord, infuse our lawmakers with Your might, be for them as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land. Give them such wisdom that their work will enable America to stand with freedom's lamp aloft. As our Senators tackle today's task, make them conscious of their great heritage of liberty and justice for all. May no weapon that is formed be able to defeat this land we love.

We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of Samuel Brown, of Nevada, to be Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Memorial Affairs.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

### MEDICAID

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, Congress, 3 weeks ago, passed the One Big Beautiful Bill, and in that bill was a modest, cost-sharing requirement for able-bodied Medicaid expansion of adults that were making more than 100 percent of poverty.

The cost-sharing requirements would not apply to primary, prenatal, pediatric, mental, substance abuse disorder, emergency room care, or care provided by community health centers, certified behavioral health clinics, or rural health clinics.

Now, under the One Big Beautiful Bill, this cost sharing that is required for able-bodied Medicaid adults can't exceed \$35 per visit, and there is an annual maximum limit of no more than 5 percent of an individual's income.

Well, you might ask: Why cost sharing? Having a modest cost sharing ensures consumers have skin in the game and thus, in turn, be responsible healthcare consumers.

Adults in Medicare earning between 100 and 133 percent of poverty are most likely to gain health insurance through the Federal marketplace or through an employer, where cost sharing is common. Despite fearmongering about cost-share requirements, establishing modest cost-sharing requirements in Medicaid is not anything brandnew. It has been around for quite a while.

So let me give you a little bit of history. The Obama administration approved a half dozen Medicaid waivers, including my home State of Iowa, to establish modest cost sharing for able-bodied Medicaid adults.

Congress, in addition, has enabled cost sharing before. Obama made that move. In the 2005 Deficit Reduction Act, which included my Family Opportunity Act, we expanded State flexibility in Medicaid to let States establish cost sharing up to 10 percent of the cost of services for those making over the poverty limit.

The law also lets hospitals impose cost sharing for nonemergency services provided in the emergency department. The cost-sharing policies had support from the Governors of both parties, from a National Governors Association working group. At a 2005 Finance Committee hearing that I chaired, Governors said modest Medicaid sharing "[utilizes] market forces and personal responsibility to improve health care delivery."

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



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Another example is in the 1990s, Congress enabled cost sharing in the Children's Health Insurance Program. To this day, States are allowed and do impose cost sharing in that program. Even socialist proposals like Medicare for All have also included cost sharing.

So I want to make very clear: This is nothing new. Modest cost sharing is a commonsense policy for those benefitting from a government program and who have the means to pay for it.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I know that August is approaching, but we still have some serious work to do here in Washington. We need to make further progress on appropriations, and we have a number of President Trump's nominations to get through.

Despite a historic level of obstruction from Democrats, Senate Republicans have been maintaining a brisk pace on confirming President Trump's nominees. We have confirmed 107 civilian nominees, nearly doubling the pace in President Trump's first administration at this point. And we have done it with good, old-fashioned hard work.

Thanks in substantial part to our commitment to getting President Trump's team in place, the Senate has taken 437 votes so far this year, which is more than in any Congress at this point in the last 35-plus years.

In fact, we have taken more votes in 2025 already, in less than 7 months, than the Senate has taken in a full 12 months for 32 of the past 36 years.

So we have kept up a very intense pace. But there are a number of nominees still waiting for confirmation, and we are going to get through a lot more of them soon.

And so we can do this the easy way or the hard way, and that is really up to Senate Democrats.

As I said, we have confirmed President Trump's civilian nominees at nearly double the pace of his first administration so far through a lot of hours spent here in the Senate, but we would have a lot more nominees confirmed at this point if Democrats hadn't decided to drag out every nomination.

Democrats have not allowed a single civilian Trump nominee to pass by unanimous consent or voice vote, even when Democrats have ultimately ended up supporting the nomination in significant numbers. I refer to this as a historic level of obstruction, and I mean it.

President Trump is the only President on record—the only President on

record—to not have a single one of his civilian nominees confirmed by unanimous consent or voice vote at this point in his Presidency—the only President on record.

Now, just to offer a point of comparison here, by this point in his Presidency, President Biden had 44 civilian nominees confirmed by voice vote. President Trump hasn't had 1—44 for Biden, 0 for President Trump. So when I say this is a historic level of obstruction from Democrats, I mean it. That is not a Republican talking point; it is just a fact.

Democrats haven't offered a shred of courtesy to President Trump, to the voters who elected him, or to the people who have stepped up to serve our country in his administration.

So the ball is in Democrats' court. They can continue to drag out the process on even the most uncontroversial nominees and we can spend a lot more hours with each other in the Senate Chamber or they can rein in their reflexive, anti-Trump sentiment and allow some of his rank-and-file nominees to proceed by unanimous consent or voice vote, just as Republicans did when the roles were reversed.

I would remind my colleagues about the dangerous and ugly precedent they are setting here, but the choice is theirs. But whether it is the slow way or the fast way, we are getting President Trump's nominees confirmed.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, while Senate Republicans have been focused on pushing partisan politics that would crush middle-class Americans all to pay for tax cuts for billionaires, while House Republicans are ignoring their responsibility to fund the government by leaving town early for the Epstein recess, and while the Trump administration continues to push policies that are sending costs up, chaos up, corruption up, Senate Democrats and House Democrats—myself, Leader JEFFRIES, and both of our caucuses—are fighting to build a new vision for America. I am working closely with Leader JEFFRIES, alongside Senator KLOBUCHAR and Congresswoman DINGELL, on a united vision.

The American people are fed up with the costs, chaos, and corruption of the Trump administration and the aiding and abetting Republicans have done at his behest.

Republican policies have sent the price of groceries, housing utility bills, essential goods, and more skyrocketing.

They have gutted healthcare and essential services for working families, like Medicare and Medicaid. They have spiked healthcare premiums and put hospitals around the country in crisis mode. Many are talking about closing, and a few have already closed, leaving people without the healthcare they need—all for tax cuts for billionaires.

They have unleashed rampant levels of corruption and warped our democracy, empowering the wealthy and well-connected to profit off the backs of working families. Donald Trump seems to be at the top of the list in using his government position to make personal profit.

But Senate and House Democrats are fighting back. Democrats are fighting to lower the high costs of living, which have become far too expensive for American families.

We are fighting to strengthen our communities, make our streets safer, and protect essential services that millions of people rely on every single day.

Instead of further breaking our healthcare system—ripping healthcare away from millions—we think the healthcare system should be easier, not harder, for Americans to access and navigate and to afford. We are also fighting to fix our broken healthcare system to make sure that people who need the care can get it and be able to afford it.

We are fighting to rid our government of the scourge of corruption. There is so much corruption and self-dealing and rich people—billionaires—getting richer in terms of how they operate and what the government passes and doesn't pass. We are fighting to rid our government of that scourge. It has run rampant—the scourge of corruption has run rampant—under Donald Trump and Republicans. It is one of the most corrupt administrations in American history.

The bottom line is this: Senate and House Democrats are united in creating an America that works better for everyone, not just the wealthy, not just the well-connected, and we will use every tool at our disposal in the appropriations process and beyond to fight back against the disastrous Donald Trump and Republican agenda.

EUROPEAN UNION TRADE DEAL

Now, Mr. President, on the trade deal, over the weekend, Donald Trump announced a new trade "deal" with the European Union. It will result in a \$90 billion-per-year tax hike on American families. When you raise tariffs, the American families pay for it, a \$90 billion tax on American families in this tariff deal with the European Union.

Donald Trump is, as usual, trying to hype up, exaggerate, and lie—Donald Trump almost always lies—about his accomplishments, and this is no exception. In Trump's frenzy to divert attention away from the Epstein scandal, Trump is, once again, totally making things up.

And what does the American consumer get out of this tax hike? A 15-

percent increase on everyday goods. This deal is a 15-percent Trump tax on American consumers, plain and simple.

Trump would have you believe it is the “biggest deal ever”—those are his words—dangling \$250 billion in new energy purchases and more in new investments. There is just one hiccup. It is fake. Even today’s Wall Street Journal has pierced this miasma of distortion. Even if the EU purchased every dollar of American exports of crude oil and liquefied natural gas, it wouldn’t come close to meeting these promises—something Europe understands. Europe has admitted that this “agreement” isn’t legally binding and that they have no control over whether these investments even happen.

If this sounds familiar, it is because we have already seen this show before—in the major agreement that Trump announced with Japan last week, where he claimed Japan had promised \$550 billion in new investment, but now we know the real amount is only as much as 2 percent of the promised amount.

Again, he just fakes it; he makes it up. I know he is in a frenzy about the Epstein scandal, but that doesn’t give him the excuse to just make things up. That is what happens. A day later, after the dust settles, it is clear that so much of what he has said about these tariff deals, whether it is with Japan or Europe, is just not true.

In the meantime, American consumers now pay higher tariffs on goods from Japan and Europe. Donald Trump wants people to breathe a sigh of relief that his tariff isn’t 30 percent but now is only 15 percent. But the American people aren’t going to be fooled when their prices go up. Donald Trump was so desperate—so desperate—to get a trade deal done after falling short of his promise of 90 deals in 90 days, which is another hyped-up claim, that he sold out American families just to try and claim a win. It is not a win—not for him and not for the American people.

It means more money out of people’s pockets for everyday items like groceries, medicine, electronics, cars, and more. When you go to the grocery store, it could be 15 percent more expensive. When you buy a car, it will be 15 percent more expensive.

It also means a tighter strain for small businesses across America who are already struggling to keep their doors open due to high costs.

Donald Trump can claim all he wants that this is the “biggest deal ever made,” but American families and small businesses—the ones footing the bill—know much better.

This new “deal” with the EU is nothing more than a massive tax hike for families and small businesses, signed in desperation, paid for by the American people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BRITT). The Senator from Texas.

#### NEW WORLD SCREWORM

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, it won’t surprise anybody that the State of Texas has long been the leading State in the cattle industry, supplying the Nation with steaks, hamburgers, and other protein products that grace many of our dinner tables every night.

Texas ranks first in the Nation in cattle production, coming in at 12 million head a year, representing nearly 15 percent of the total production in the United States and generating more than \$1 billion in revenue.

Unfortunately, this essential food supply and corresponding food price are under threat from the outbreak of a particularly pernicious parasite called the New World screwworm. The New World screwworm lays its eggs in the wombs of warmblooded animals, particularly livestock. The larvae then burrow into the opening, creating infections that, left untreated, can cause animals to die within a week.

With no known vaccinations to prevent infections, outbreaks in cattle herds require labor-intensive daily inspections of livestock to make sure they have not been infested.

Since 2023, there have been outbreaks of this deadly insect in Panama, Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, and Costa Rica, a country that ended up declaring the New World screwworm a national emergency in 2024.

Last November, the fly made its way back to Mexico. This, of course, has raised concerns among Texas cattle ranchers that it may soon come across the border and lead to an outbreak in our State.

Earlier this month, the threat became even more acute as a case of New World screwworm was reported less than 400 miles south of the United States-Mexico border.

An outbreak of the New World screwworm in the State of Texas is estimated to cost U.S. livestock producers approximately \$1 billion and cost the general economy \$3.7 billion due to lost production of meat and milk, as well as livestock death, veterinary costs, labor costs, and more.

This would be absolutely devastating to places like Texas but also to the entire country. Knowing I was coming to the floor to speak about this, I asked my staff to look at what other States might be implicated, and it is virtually every State in the Nation, including the great State of Alabama that produces an estimated 1.2 million head of cattle on an annual basis.

Thankfully, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has snapped into action. Secretary Rollins is currently working with our international partners on an ambitious plan to slow the spread of this terrible parasite.

In May, Secretary Rollins closed U.S. ports to Mexican cattle, bison, and horses to prevent an additional spread. And while these ports were initially scheduled to begin reopening as early as this month, additional cases have delayed that timeline.

But, of course, halting our imports will increase costs for all consumers; and while it is an important part of stopping this parasite, it is not a permanent solution.

For that, we can look to history as our guide. The last time North America faced a similar outbreak of the screwworm was back in the 1960s.

During that contagion, we were able to eradicate these deadly infestations, countering the spread by producing sterile male flies. The sterile male flies mate with the female flies who can only mate once during their lifetime; so, by releasing large numbers of these sterile male flies, the population growth of this parasite can be stopped in its tracks.

This approach worked in the 1960s, and I am hopeful that it will work again in this decade.

As we speak, there is only one sterile fly plant in North America, located in Panama. This plant is operated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and by COPEG, or the Panama-U.S. Commission for the Eradication and Prevention of Screwworm Infestation in Livestock, which was established in 1998.

As the New World screwworm continues traveling north, we need another plan to prevent population spread. A sterile fly plant will cost as much as \$300 million according to some estimates, and that is certainly not just pocket change. But it pales in comparison with the cost of not doing anything to eradicate this terrible threat.

The economic impact of the devastation that continued spread would cause my State is estimated to be as high as \$10 billion, and this would not be limited to Texas, as I said. It would include other cattle-producing States, including Kansas, Nebraska, California, and New Mexico, who, along with Texas, are the primary cattle-producing regions in the country.

Recently, the U.S. and Mexican Governments have partnered to invest in renovating the existing fruit fly-producing facility in Mexico, aiming to further the long-term goal of eradication.

In addition, USDA is building a sterile fly dispersal facility in Hidalgo, TX, in the Rio Grande Valley.

To build on top of these efforts, I will be offering an amendment during the appropriations process on the floor to ensure that the United States is prepared to combat the threat of this parasite.

I am grateful to Secretary Rollins for her leadership. As a Texan, perhaps she understands this threat better than most, and I am confident in her strong and decisive leadership toward eradicating this parasite and that it will reap rewards.

But it is not going to happen by itself. We are going to have to, unfortunately, not only authorize the production of this sterile fly capability—which we have done in the One Big Beautiful Bill—we are actually going

to have to appropriate money to help get this started.

I look forward to continuing to work with her and all of my colleagues to ensure that Texas cattle ranchers and our country's food supply are kept safe from this pesky parasite.

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

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

The majority leader.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Madam 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. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 182.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Thomas Gaiser, of Ohio, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

#### 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 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. 182, Thomas Gaiser, of Ohio, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

John Thune, Eric Schmitt, John R. Curtis, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Bill Cassidy, Jon Husted, Steve Daines, Marsha Blackburn, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Ron Johnson, John Barrasso, Tim Sheehy, Roger F. Wicker, Mike Rounds, Bernie Moreno, Pete Ricketts, James C. Justice.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Madam 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. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 95.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Joseph Kent, of Washington, to be Director of the National Counterterrorism Center, Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

#### 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 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. 95, Joseph Kent, of Washington, to be Director of the National Counterterrorism Center, Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

John Thune, Dan Sullivan, John Barrasso, Mike Rounds, Todd Young, Cynthia M. Lummis, Tom Cotton, James Lankford, Bernie Moreno, John R. Curtis, Ted Budd, Mike Crapo, Katie Boyd Britt, Jim Banks, Markwayne Mullin, Jon Husted, Steve Daines.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Madam 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. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 113.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Tyler Clarkson, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of Agriculture.

#### 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 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. 113, Tyler Clarkson, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of Agriculture.

John Thune, Markwayne Mullin, Ted Budd, Tom Cotton, Mike Crapo, James E. Risch, Joni Ernst, Rick Scott of Florida, Mike Rounds, Bernie Moreno, Kevin Cramer, Roger Marshall, Tommy Tuberville, Jim Banks, John Boozman, John Barrasso, John Hoeven.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Madam 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. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 172.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Gadyaces Serralta, of Florida, to be Director of the United States Marshals Service.

#### 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 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. 172, Gadyaces Serralta, of Florida, to be Director of the United States Marshals Service.

John Thune, Markwayne Mullin, Ted Budd, Tom Cotton, Mike Crapo, James E. Risch, Joni Ernst, Rick Scott of Florida, Mike Rounds, Bernie Moreno, Kevin Cramer, Roger Marshall, Tommy Tuberville, Jim Banks, John Boozman, John Barrasso, John Hoeven.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Madam 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. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 282.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Matthew Kozma, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, Department of Homeland Security.

#### 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 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. 282, Matthew Kozma, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, Department of Homeland Security.

John Thune, Markwayne Mullin, Ted Budd, Tom Cotton, Mike Crapo, James E. Risch, Joni Ernst, Rick Scott of Florida, Mike Rounds, Bernie Moreno, Kevin Cramer, Roger Marshall, Tommy Tuberville, Jim Banks, John Boozman, John Barrasso, John Hoeven.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume Executive Calendar No. 273.

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

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that if any nominations are confirmed during today's session of the Senate, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Wright and Matthews nominations be waived.

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

Mr. THUNE. 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.

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

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

#### NOMINATION OF DAVID WRIGHT

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, I rise today in support of David Wright's nomination to serve as a member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Right now, we stand at a critical juncture to ensure that our Nation has the ability to provide reliable and affordable power for our constituents, our onshore American manufacturing, and also to win the AI race. Nuclear energy

is absolutely central to achieving these goals.

Fifty years ago, Congress established the NRC to recognize the foundational principle of having a credible, independent nuclear safety regulator. Since then, the NRC has seen major periods of change, from responding to our most significant nuclear accident to preparing for a nuclear renaissance that did not fully materialize.

Through this time, the NRC has evolved on how it functions, but far too frequently, these functions have been inefficient, time-consuming, expensive, and have not allowed our nuclear innovators and the American people to fully realize the benefits of nuclear power.

That is why, last year, Congress passed the ADVANCE Act with overwhelming, bipartisan support to make the NRC's functions more efficient, predictable, and affordable. That was my bill.

Now the Commission must ambitiously implement this legislation. Additionally, President Trump has tasked the NRC with implementing his Executive order to further reduce the licensing timelines and shed unnecessary regulations.

This is a challenge that the Commission must meet, and we expect the NRC to deliver. Achieving this will require experienced and highly qualified Commissioners who are empowered to lead the Agency through a period of high expectations. Well, David Wright meets that mark.

Chairman Wright was first confirmed as an NRC commissioner in 2018, reconfirmed by the Senate for a full 5-year term in 2020, and has served as President Trump's Chairman through the end of that term in June when his term expired.

Throughout his 7 years on the Commission, Chairman Wright has demonstrated his vision to make the NRC a modern, risk-informed regulator. He supported policies that streamlined requirements to advance novel technologies that will help clean up contaminated, abandoned uranium sites as well as policies that create the groundwork for fusion energy.

He led this effort to extend the duration of certain licenses to provide long-term regulatory certainty, and Chairman Wright has instilled accountability with the NRC staff by directing the Agency to focus on issues most important for nuclear safety.

In January, as required by the ADVANCE Act, the Commission updated its mission statement for the first time in a generation. Chairman Wright worked with his colleagues to revise the mission statement which reads:

The NRC protects public health and safety and advances the nation's common defense and security by enabling the safe and secure use and deployment of civilian nuclear energy technologies and radioactive materials through efficient and reliable licensing, oversight, and regulation for the benefit of society and the environment.

I support this revised mission statement as it aligns with what Congress

intended by passing the ADVANCE Act. It is now time for the Commission to put this new mission statement into action as the law requires—and Congress and President Trump expects—to the benefit of our Nation.

David Wright will help make this mission a reality, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in voting for his reconfirmation to the NRC.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

#### GAZA

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I think many watching the Senate from afar and even those of us privileged to serve in this body see us as simply talking past one another on a far too regular basis. So I want to start today remembering some wise words from my friend and former Senate colleague the Republican Senator from Nebraska and later Secretary of Defense, Chuck Hagel.

Chuck was an internationalist and knew the dangers, personalities, and difficult tradeoffs when dealing with overseas challenges. Several years ago, he said quite wisely:

Powerful nations must be the adults in world affairs. Anything less will result in disastrous, useless, preventable global conflict.

I couldn't agree with Senator Hagel more, and I want our Israeli allies to think carefully about his words when it comes to the horror of Gaza.

Quite simply, the humanitarian conditions in Gaza are appalling, unconscionable, and cruel. Last week, more than 100 NGOs—including Mercy Corps, Doctors Without Borders, Save the Children, and Oxfam—warned of mass starvation spreading across Gaza. Following Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu's nearly 3-month blockade of humanitarian assistance, three-quarters of the population in Gaza is facing emergency or catastrophic levels of hunger. The tiniest of babies cannot even access formula and risk heart-breaking death.

Yes, Hamas started this conflict with a heinous attack on Israel. Yes, Hamas is still unconscionably holding hostages. And yes, Hamas cynically uses civilians as human shields and brutally represses brave Gazans who are protesting for an end of this despicable rule. But, as I have repeatedly appealed to Israel, learn from our mistakes in the United States after September 11, after the attack on our country and the loss of 3,000 innocent Americans. Be careful of decisions made in the fog of rage, pain, and loss. Recognize there is no solely military solution to defeating a terrorist group.

In fact, last September, the Israeli Defense Forces assessed that Hamas had been largely defeated militarily and that today, Hamas is effectively, in the words of the Israeli military, a guerrilla terror group.

Israel should have been planning how to restore order and thinking about a day-after plan in Gaza long ago when

Hamas's military capabilities had largely been destroyed. Several noted Israeli leaders tried, including Defense Minister Yoav Gallant and Director of the Israeli Security Agency Ronen Bar—both of whom were fired by Netanyahu.

Let me be clear. Continuing this war with no discernible end is not in Israel's national security interest, and a lack of a viable plan and the humanitarian fiasco have been glaring mistakes—getting worse by the day.

Last week, Senators REED, SHAHEEN, WARNER, COONS, SCHATZ, and I called for a drastic change of course in Gaza, including an end to the fighting, return of the hostages, a dramatic increase in humanitarian aid, and a viable path toward a two-state solution that brings in regional powers to help manage and rebuild Gaza.

You cannot watch these scenes on television of these children emaciated because of their starvation and other children begging with pans for just a little bit of food to survive and believe this is the right course of action. It has to end. The humanitarian aid has to start immediately. It is within Israel's capabilities to do that. There is no excuse if they don't.

There was some welcome news this weekend about reopened aid corridors, but the larger urgent steps just can't wait any longer. I know the dilemma. I believe I know the dilemma that Israel faces with the attacks on October 7 on Israelis. I saw the videotape. Hamas was outrageous in their conduct in this invasion of Israel. But it has reached a point now where Israel has to show some leadership.

I don't know what Prime Minister Netanyahu is waiting for, but if he witnessed what we do in the United States from organizations across the world begging us to do something, to join them in stopping this humanitarian disaster, perhaps his heart will soften somewhat. We have to, in the United States, show real leadership.

I yield the floor.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of David Wright, of South Carolina, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the term of five years expiring June 30, 2030. (Reappointment).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

#### NOMINATION OF DAVID WRIGHT

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I am here to speak to the nomination of David Wright to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and to express my opposition. Not only will I be casting my vote against the nomination of Mr. Wright, but I truly urge all of my colleagues, Republican and Democrat alike, to do the same, at least until things settle down at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

At his hearing, I had intended to vote for Mr. Wright and to support a speedy confirmation through the Senate. But things started going haywire at the NRC. Mr. Wright has the qualifications to serve on that Agency and assured us that he wanted to bring expertise, competence, and independence to the Agency—or I should say, protect the expertise, competence, and independence of that Agency.

The background here is that Congress created the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to be an independent Agency to regulate nuclear facilities and materials. And when Congress did that, we deliberately separated it from the Department of Energy, and we have protected, for years, that as an important firewall.

Well, where are we now? The DOGE boys and the Department of Energy are infiltrating the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, compromising its integrity, its competence, and its mission. If you support expanding America's nuclear energy, this situation should alarm you. Even now, right now as I speak here, conditions aren't getting better at the NRC. After we pointed this out, they are still deteriorating.

While Mr. Wright committed to Congress that he would promote NRC's full authority and retain qualified staff and fulfill the Agency's commitment to the safe use of nuclear energy, that is not what we are seeing. What we are seeing is a DOGE-DOE detailee who has entered the top ranks over at the Agency without any Nuclear Regulatory Commission supervision. He is just planted over there, reporting to who knows who but, presumably, the Energy Secretary who is supposed to be on the other side of that firewall.

This DOGE-DOE detailee has been up to some bad business over there. He has been pushing out the Agency's top experts. Expertise in nuclear science and nuclear safety is a pretty precious commodity. People who worked there for years—for decades—are being shoved out. He has been pursuing reductions in force when, at this moment, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission needs more staff and help than ever.

And he has been pulling tricks like sidelining the general counsel over there to put her out of the equation—she, who must be approved by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission—and slip in a DOGE- and Department of Energy-driven, so-called chief counsel who the NRC hasn't approved and doesn't have to approve.

So the way we set it up was the Commission would pick its counsel, would have to approve it. And that person is being sidelined—the woman is being sidelined—so this other character can come in a slightly different role that doesn't require the approval of the Commission and just elbow her out. This guy is a fossil fuel lawyer. He doesn't know anything about nuclear energy except that it competes with fossil fuel. There is no good reason for that shift and a lot of bad reasons.

So my suspicions are up. All of this interference is threatening the NRC's independence and credibility at a time when the NRC's independence and credibility matters so much as we try to meet our unprecedented new demand for nuclear power.

I say this as a longtime champion of nuclear reform. I have been the top Democrat—the lead Democrat—on all of the nuclear reform bills that we have passed. It started with the Innovation Act with Senator CRAPO. We went on to the Innovation and Modernization Act with Senator BARRASSO and, most recently, the ADVANCE Act with Senator CAPITO.

I have put a fair amount of my credibility on the line because I believe that there is a new renaissance possible with nuclear power because of the small modular reactors and the safety components that can be done when you are building the same thing repeatedly and can test and test for safety; and the next-gen nuclear power that can be far safer than the older stuff and, if done right, could even burn through the nuclear waste stockpile, for which we have no other use, to provide a value power, clean power out of what is now a liability—nuclear waste.

We really do have a huge opportunity in this industry. The industry is responding. People are hiring. People are going back to school. This is really happening, and I want to it happen. I want it to succeed.

So it is really dumb for the Trump administration to be recklessly interfering with the NRC right now. It ought to be as offensive to Senator CAPITO, Senator CRAPO, Senator BARRASSO as it is to me. Supporting America's nuclear industry has been a bipartisan project, and it is working. The NRC has moved. It has changed. These new projects are moving forward, the small modulars and the next gen. Things are happening over there.

It is not like they have fouled it up and now deserve to be taken over by DOGE characters—who don't know anything about nuclear power—and by the Department of Energy. We are busting a thing that is working by doing this, and it doesn't seem to be a sensible plan other than the Department of Energy would like something else to run, even though they are supposed to be a firewall, and the DOGE people want stuff to wreck. But the DOE wanting something to run and DOGE wanting something to wreck is not a justification.

So to send a signal, I will be voting against Mr. Wright. And if—if, if—we could get a few votes to actually stop this nomination—not for long; just long enough to send a signal to the Department of Energy: Hands off the NRC; you are not supposed to cross that firewall, and the NRC itself: Hey, wake up; stand up and get those DOGE folks out of your shop, and to the nuclear industry, a burgeoning industry right now: Hey, defend the regulator upon whose credibility you depend,

then I think we could make some real progress.

So this is not just an angry shout against an incompetent nominee. I have done that. This is trying to protect an important Agency because it is essential to accomplishing a key bipartisan goal to renew America's nuclear industry safely and productively.

With that, I yield the floor.

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 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. 273, David Wright, of South Carolina, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the term of five years expiring June 30, 2030. (Reappointment)

John Thune, David McCormick, Tom Cotton, Thom Tillis, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Mike Rounds, Steve Daines, Eric Schmitt, Roger Marshall, Ron Johnson, Kevin Cramer, Jim Banks, Dan Sullivan, Pete Ricketts, Rick Scott of Florida, Ted Budd, Jim Justice.

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 David Wright, of South Carolina, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the term of five years expiring June 30, 2030 (Reappointment), shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 438 Ex.]

YEAS—51

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

NAYS—45

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

NOT VOTING—4

Cassidy	Warren	Welch
Murkowski		

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHMITT). On this vote, the yeas are 51, and the nays are 45. The motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

TELECOM CYBERSECURITY TRANSPARENCY ACT

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, for several years now, I have urged the release of an unclassified report by independent cybersecurity experts that is titled "U.S. Telecommunications Insecurity 2022."

Congress and the American people deserve to be able to read this report. And I may be the only Senator who has read this report. This report contains shocking details—let me repeat that—shocking details about national security threats to our country's phone system that require immediate action.

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency permitted my staff to read the report at their office, and this was done in 2023. However, they have marked this unclassified report "For Official Use Only" and have refused to provide copies of the report to Congress or to make it public in response to Freedom of Information Act requests.

So I asked then-Director Easterly to release the report. When she didn't act on my request, I wrote to President Biden—that was in February of 2024—urging him to address the serious national security threat posed by foreign governments exploiting U.S. phone carriers' weak cybersecurity. The Biden administration took no action.

CISA's top telecommunications security expert was so concerned, he actually filed a whistleblower report with the Federal Communications Commission. He cited his access to nonpublic reports and other "very concerning information," and told the Federal Communications Commission that "there have been numerous incidents of successful, unauthorized attempts to access the network user location data of communications service providers operating in the USA."

He added that foreign surveillance went beyond location tracking and included "the monitoring of voice and text messages" and "the delivery of spyware to targeted devices."

CISA's multiyear coverup of the phone companies' negligent cybersecurity enabled foreign hackers to perpetrate one of the most serious cases of espionage—ever—against our wonderful country. Had this report been made public when it was first written in 2022, Congress would have had ample time to demand mandatory cybersecurity standards for phone companies in time to prevent the Salt Typhoon hacks.

CISA and the Federal Bureau of Investigation have confirmed that the Chinese Government hacked multiple phone companies and accessed vast troves of sensitive call records. They even co-opted the system designed for law enforcement to conduct wiretaps and accessed phone calls of politicians and other high-value targets.

Vice President VANCE said his communications and President Trump's were compromised in this hack. The press reported that then-Leader SCHUMER was also targeted. This espionage incident was the direct result—the direct result—of phone carriers' failure to follow cybersecurity best practices, such as installing security updates and using multifactor authentication.

I know the Presiding Officer is very interested in this technology area as well. This is Cybersecurity 101—101—and yet Federal Agencies failed to hold these companies accountable.

As far as I am aware, and I touched on this, I may be the only one in the Senate to have read this report. But the contents of the report directly impact Congress, both regarding the security of the Senate's communications and issues that have been the subject of prior Congressional oversight. When Chinese Government hackers broke into the major phone networks last year, their targets included several Senators.

The report also directly discusses issues that have been the subject of oversight by Senators. In 2021, I wrote to the Federal Communications Commission, with several of our colleagues, raising concerns about foreign companies remotely administering rural U.S. telecommunications carriers.

Our group said:

We are also concerned by media reports suggesting that managed service providers may be partnering with for-profit surveillance companies, creating the possibility that these companies could provide their authoritarian clients with trusted access to U.S. telecommunications networks.

I am going to close with this. None of these security vulnerabilities have been addressed—that is the bottom line—either by government or the private sector. The Federal Government still does not even require U.S. phone companies to meet minimum cybersecurity standards. So, in my judgment, we are sitting here now recognizing that it is too late to prevent the Salt Typhoon hack, but there sure is an urgency to prevent the next horrendous incident.

So that is why, as if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII,

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 2480.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2480) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to publicly release, in full, the unclassified report titled "U.S. Telecommunications Insecurity 2022", and for other purposes.

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

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

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

The bill (S. 2480) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2480

*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 "Telecom Cybersecurity Transparency Act".

#### SEC. 2. FULL RELEASE OF UNCLASSIFIED REPORT.

Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall publicly release, in full, the unclassified report titled "U.S. Telecommunications Insecurity 2022" that was prepared for the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency under a contract through the Science and Technology Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security.

### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

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

#### VOTE ON WRIGHT NOMINATION

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I know of no further debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Wright nomination?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGRO), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 39, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 439 Ex.]

YEAS—50

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

NAYS—39

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

NOT VOTING—11

Cassidy	Murkowski	Warnock
Duckworth	Reed	Warren
Gallego	Sanders	Welch
Gillibrand	Tillis	

The nomination was confirmed.

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

### 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. 110, Earl Matthews, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of Defense.

John Thune, Pete Ricketts, John Barrasso, Tim Sheehy, Bernie Moreno, Steve Daines, Eric Schmitt, Roger Marshall, Tommy Tuberville, John Hoeven, Marsha Blackburn, Bill Cassidy, John R. Curtis, Jim Justice, Thom Tillis, Katie Boyd Britt, Markwayne Mullin.

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 Earl Matthews, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of Defense, 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 Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGRO) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 440 Ex.]

YEAS—50

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

NAYS—45

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

NOT VOTING—5

Cassidy	Murkowski	Welch
Gallego	Tillis	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 45, and the motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Earl Matthews, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of Defense.

### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session and be in a period of

morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

#### TRIBUTE TO DOUG MIYAMOTO

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, at the 113th Wyoming State Fair, Senator LUMMIS and I will have the pleasure of introducing Doug Miyamoto as a 2025 inductee to the Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame.

Doug Miyamoto is a Wyoming native through and through. He is a graduate from the University of Wyoming, having earned a bachelor's degree in range management and a master's degree in rangeland ecology.

Doug has long been an iconic leader for Wyoming agriculture. Early in his career, Miyamoto worked as a research assistant in rangeland ecology at the University of Wyoming. He then went to the Wyoming State Engineer's Office as a water rights analyst.

He later went on to serve as the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service liaison to the Western Governor's Association and the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts.

Miyamoto then served as the deputy director of the Wyoming Department of Agriculture and was the head of the Wyoming Livestock Board. In 2015 he became the director of the Wyoming Department of Agriculture where he has served ever since.

Leading the Wyoming Department of Agriculture, Doug has overseen a wide array of programs including natural resource and policy management, food safety inspections, technical services inspections, and an analytical services laboratory in Laramie, WY.

In 2023, Doug was selected to serve as the president of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, putting him on the national stage as a leader for the agriculture industry.

Doug has long been a strong voice, a selfless advocate, and a loyal friend to our agriculture producers in Wyoming. He has testified before Congress on numerous issues including public safety, exportation of agriculture products, invasive species management, habitat management for important species such as greater sage-grouse, and a pilot program leveraging program dollars for use on Federal lands.

Doug's dedication and service to Wyoming's agriculture industry makes him an outstanding choice for the Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame. It is a great honor to participate in Doug's induction. I congratulate Doug Miyamoto as a 2025 inductee into the Wyoming Hall of Fame.

#### TRIBUTE TO GRACILYNN WARD

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Gracilynn

Ward for her hard work as an intern in my office in Cheyenne, WY. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Gracilynn is a native of Dubois. She earned her associate degree in social sciences at Central Wyoming College. She is a senior at the University of Wyoming, where she studies political science and energy resource management. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Gracilynn for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her journey.

#### 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. 24-93, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Egypt for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$4.67 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. 24-93

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 Egypt.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:  
Major Defense Equipment\* \$3.84 billion.

Other \$0.83 billion.

Total \$4.67 billion.

Funding Source: Foreign Military Financing.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: The Government of Egypt has requested to buy the National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System (NASAMS), that includes:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Four (4) AN/MPQ-64F1 Sentinel radar systems with associated support equipment.

One hundred (100) Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM)-Extended Range (ER).

One hundred (100) Air Intercept Missile (AIM)-120C-8 AMRAAMS.

Two (2) AIM-120C-8 AMRAAM guidance sections (spares).

One (1) AMRAAM control section (spare).

Six hundred (600) AIM-9X Sidewinder Block II tactical missiles.

One hundred fifty (150) AIM-9X Sidewinder Captive Air Training Missiles (CATMs).

Sixty-two (62) AIM-9X Sidewinder Block II tactical guidance units (GUs).

Twenty (20) AIM-9X Sidewinder CATM GUs.

Non-Major Defense Equipment: The following non-MDE items will also be included: fire distribution centers (FDC); canister launcher systems; electro-optical/infrared systems; Tactical Control Center systems; NASAMS classroom trainer; communication node systems; IPS 250X High Assurance Internet Protocol Encryptions (HAIPE); Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) Model 5800 or TPX-61; KIV-77 IFF crypto appliqué to provide Mode 5 and Mode S capability; AN/PSN-13 Defense Advanced Global Positioning System Receivers (DAGRs) with Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM); AN/PYQ-10 Simple Key Loaders (SKLs), code loaders, and cable sets; AMRAAM-ER Extended Load Trainers (ELTs); missile containers; weapon system support and test equipment; spare and repair parts, consumables, accessories, and repair and return support; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (EG-B-VQJ).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(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: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: July 24, 2025.

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

#### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Egypt—National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System

The Government of Egypt has requested to buy the National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System (NASAMS), that includes: four (4) AN/MPQ-64F1 Sentinel radar systems with associated support equipment; one hundred (100) Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM)-Extended Range (ER); one hundred (100) Air Intercept Missile (AIM)-120C-8 AMRAAMS; two (2) AIM-120C-8 AMRAAM guidance sections (spares); one (1) AMRAAM control section (spare); six hundred (600) AIM-9X Sidewinder Block II tactical missiles; one hundred fifty (150) AIM-9X Sidewinder Captive Air Training Missiles (CATMs); sixty-two (62) AIM-9X Sidewinder Block II tactical guidance units (GUs); and

twenty (20) AIM-9X Sidewinder CATM GUs. The following non-MDE items will also be included: fire distribution centers (FDC); canister launcher systems; electrooptical/infrared systems; Tactical Control Center systems; NASAMS classroom trainer; communication node systems; IPS 250X High Assurance Internet Protocol Encryptions (HAIPE); Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) Model 5800 or TPX-61; KIV-77 IFF crypto appliqué; AN/PSN-13 Defense Advanced Global Positioning System Receivers (DAGRs) with Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM); AN/PYQ-10 Simple Key Loaders (SKLs), code loaders, and cable sets; AMRAAM-ER Extended Load Trainers (ELTs); missile containers; weapon system support and test equipment; spare and repair parts, consumables, accessories, and repair and return support; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; 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 \$4.67 billion.

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.

The proposed sale will improve Egypt's capability to meet current and future threats by improving its ability to detect various air threats. Egypt will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

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

The prime contractor will be RTX Corporation, located in Andover, MA. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require approximately twenty-six U.S. Government and thirty-four contractor representatives to travel to Egypt for an extended period for equipment de-processing/fielding, system checkout, training, and technical and logistics support.

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

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-93

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 National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System (NASAMS) medium range air defense system (MRADS) is a system of systems (SOS) consisting of the Sentinel radar, the Fire Distribution Center (FDC), the Advanced Intercept Missile (AIM)-120 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM), the AIM-120 AMRAAM Extended Range missile, and the AIM-9X missile. NASAMS can be deployed to engage fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft, cruise missiles, and unmanned aerial systems (UAS). NASAMS is not a Program of Record (POR) for the U.S. Department of Defense, but the SOS architecture does consist of several PORs: the U.S. Army's AN/MPQ-64 Sentinel radar, the U.S. Air Force's AIM-120 AMRAAM missile, and the U.S. Navy's AIM-9X missile. NASAMS is comprised of both U.S. and Norwegian-manufactured components. Norwegian components will be procured by the RTX Corporation. Norwegian involvement will be managed by RTX using export authorizations received from the U.S. Department of State.

2. The NASAMS fire unit (FU) consists of one fire distribution center (FDC), one AN/

MPQ-64F1 surveillance, acquisition, and tracking radar, three truck-mounted canister launchers, and one high mobility launcher.

3. The FDC is the command & control entity and major operator interface in NASAMS. It provides all command-and-control functionality necessary to effectively conduct air defense missions, both in a stand-alone (autonomous) configuration and in a netted configuration integrated to other units. The FDC interfaces and controls the MPQ-64F1 Sentinel radar, the electro-optical/infrared (EO/IR) sensor, and the canister launchers. The FDC also interfaces (via voice and data) to the national command and control structure.

4. The AN/MPQ-64F1 Sentinel radar is the organic mobile air defense acquisition and tracking sensor for the United States Army. Sentinel provides persistent air surveillance and fire control quality data through command and control systems to defeat UAS, cruise missiles, and fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft threats.

5. The canister launcher transports, aims, and fires the U.S. Air Force AMRAAM, AMRAAM-ER, and the U.S. Navy AIM-9X Sidewinder missiles. Under the remote control of the FDC, the launcher permits rapid launching of one or more missiles against single or multiple targets and can support six engagements simultaneously. The launcher provides 360-degree, all weather, and day and night missile launch capability.

6. The EO/IR sensor system offers a full day and night capability and includes an advanced high-performance television camera, a third generation infrared camera, and an eye-safe laser rangefinder. This system is remotely operated from the FDC after emplacement, and is utilized for raid assessment, kill assessment, verification of jammers, cueing of target data to the AN/MPQ-64F1 radar for priority detection, and general surveillance. The EO/IR system is mounted on a 4x4 truck.

7. The AIM-120C-8 AMRAAM is a supersonic, air-launched, aerial intercept guided missile featuring digital technology and micro-miniature solid-state electronics. AMRAAM capabilities include look-down/shoot-down, multiple launches against multiple targets, resistance to electronic countermeasures, and interception of high- and low-flying and maneuvering targets. State-of-the-art technology is used in the missile to provide it with beyond-visual-range capability. Although designed as an air-to-air missile, the AMRAAM can also be employed in a surface-launch mode when integrated on systems such as NASAMS.

8. The AIM-120C-8 AMRAAM-Extended Range (ER) has the same capability as the AMRAAM, but with a larger rocket motor and control section to allow it to travel further.

9. The AIM-9X Sidewinder Block II and Block II+ missiles represent a substantial increase in missile acquisition and kinematics performance over the AIM-9M and replace the AIM-9X Block I configuration. The missiles include a high off-boresight seeker, enhanced countermeasure rejection capability, low drag/high angle of attack airframe, and the ability to integrate the Helmet Mounted Cueing System. The most current AIM-9X Block II/II+ Operational Flight Software developed for all international partner countries, which is authorized for export by U.S. Government export policy, provides fifth-generation infrared capabilities such as lock-on-after-launch, weapons data link, and surface-launch. No software source code or algorithms will be released.

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

11. 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 weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

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

13. All defense articles and/or services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Egypt.

#### 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. 25-0Z. 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 19-30 of July 26, 2019.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,  
Director.

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-0Z

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

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of India.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 19-30; Date: July 26, 2019; Implementing Agency: Air Force.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description: On July 26, 2019, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 19-30 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of C-17 follow-on support, including spares and repair parts; support

equipment; personnel training and training equipment; publications and technical documentation; support and test equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistical support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost was \$670 million. There was no Major Defense Equipment (MDE) associated with this sale.

On April 2, 2024, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 24-0C of the addition of the following non-MDE items: follow-on support equipment, including aircraft components, parts, and accessories; precision measurement equipment laboratory calibration; and additional sustainment support, as previously notified. The estimated total value of added non-MDE articles and services was \$130 million. The estimated total case value was increased from \$670 million to \$800 million. There was no MDE associated with this sale.

This transmittal notifies the addition of the following non-MDE items: follow-on sustainment support of the Indian Air Force's C-17 aircraft fleet; major and minor modifications; cartridges, chaffs, and flares; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost of the new items is \$1.10 billion. The estimated total case value will increase by \$1.10 billion to a revised \$1.90 billion. There is no MDE associated with this potential sale.

(iv) Significance: The proposed sale will improve India's capability to meet current and future threats by supporting maintenance and operation of its C-17 aircraft fleet.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to strengthen the U.S.-India strategic relationship and to improve the security of a major defense partner which continues to be an important force for political stability, peace, and economic progress in the Indo-Pacific and South Asia regions.

(vi) Date Report Delivered to Congress: July 25, 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. 25-54, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Ukraine for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$150 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. 25-54

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 Ukraine.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:  
Major Defense Equipment\* \$0 million.  
Other \$150 million.  
Total \$150 million.

Funding Source: Foreign Military Financing.

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

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-Major Defense Equipment: Equipment and services for the refurbishment of M109 self-propelled howitzers; technical assistance; training; publications; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (UP-B-UDA).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(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 24, 2025.

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

#### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Ukraine—M109 Self-Propelled Howitzer Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul Capability

The Government of Ukraine has requested to buy equipment and services for the refurbishment of M109 self-propelled howitzers, technical assistance, training, publications, and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$150 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the ability of Ukraine to provide for its own defense.

The proposed sale will improve Ukraine's ability to meet current and future threats by further equipping it to conduct self-defense and regional security missions. Ukraine has an urgent need to strengthen local sustainment capabilities to maintain high operational rates for United States provided vehicles and weapon systems. An improved maintenance, repair, and overhaul capability will directly contribute to battlefield effectiveness through a more resilient and rapid repair cycle that will increase overall operational rates with reduced logistics and financial burdens. Ukraine 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 contractors will be BAE Systems, Daimler Truck North America, and Allison Transmission Inc., with all work occurring in Europe. At this time, the U.S. Gov-

ernment 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 Ukraine.

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)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-57, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Ukraine for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$180 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. 25-57

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 Ukraine.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:  
Major Defense Equipment\* \$0.  
Other \$180 million.  
Total \$180 million.

Funding Source: Foreign Military Financing.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: The Government of Ukraine has requested to buy equipment and services to support the training, sustainment, and refurbishment measures of existing U.S.-origin air defense systems.

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-MDE: The following non-MDE items will be included: major modifications and

maintenance support; spare parts, consumables and accessories, and repair and return support; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (UP-D-QAC).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: KA-D-QAB; KA-D-QAC; KA-D-QAF.

(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 24, 2025.

\*As defined in Section 47(4) of the Arms Export Control Act.

#### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

##### Ukraine—Air Defense Sustainment

The Government of Ukraine has requested to buy equipment and services to support the training, sustainment, and refurbishment measures of existing U.S.-origin air defense systems. The following non-MDE items will be included: major modifications and maintenance support; spare parts, consumables and accessories, and repair and return support; personnel training and training equipment; 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 \$180 million.

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

The proposed sale will improve Ukraine's ability to meet current and future threats by further equipping it to conduct self-defense and regional security missions with a more robust air defense capability. Ukraine 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 contractors will be Sierra Nevada Corporation, located in Sparks, NV; V2X, Inc., located in McLean, VA; Radionix, located in Kyiv, Ukraine; and Systems Electronic Export, located in Kyiv, Ukraine. 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 Ukraine.

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

#### U.S. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE LEGAL OPINION

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a letter containing the legal opinion of the Government Accountability Office, no. B-337234, titled "U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management-Applicability of the Congressional Review Act to 2022 National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Integrated Activity Plan Record of Decision," dated July 24, 2025.

The letter provides notification that the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Integrated Activity Plan Record of Decision is a rule subject to the Congressional Review Act, 5 U.S.C. Sec. 801 et seq.

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

#### DECISION

Matter of: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management—Applicability of the Congressional Review Act to 2022 National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Integrated Activity Plan Record of Decision.

File: B-337234.

Date: July 24, 2025.

#### DIGEST

On April 25, 2022, the U.S. Department of the Interior (Interior), Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issued a record of decision titled, *National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Integrated Activity Plan Record of Decision* (2022 ROD or ROD). The ROD adopts a new integrated activity plan for BLM's future management of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, an approximately 23-million-acre area on Alaska's North Slope.

The Congressional Review Act (CRA) requires that before a rule can take effect, an agency must submit the rule to both the House of Representatives and the Senate, as well as the Comptroller General. CRA adopts the definition of "rule" under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) but excludes certain categories of rules from coverage. We conclude that the 2022 ROD is a rule for purposes of CRA because it meets the APA definition of a rule, and no CRA exception applies. Therefore, the ROD is a rule subject to CRA's submission requirements.

#### DECISION

On April 25, 2022, the U.S. Department of the Interior (Interior), Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issued a record of decision titled, *National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Integrated Activity Plan Record of Decision* (2022 ROD or ROD). We received a request for a decision as to whether the ROD is a rule for purposes of the Congressional Review Act (CRA). As discussed below, we conclude that the ROD is a rule subject to CRA's submission requirements.

Our practice when rendering decisions is to contact the relevant agencies to obtain factual information and their legal views on the subject of the request. Accordingly, we reached out to Interior on March 18, 2025, and received Interior's response on May 20, 2025.

#### BACKGROUND

##### 2022 ROD

The 2022 ROD documents the Secretary of the Interior's (Secretary) decision to adopt a new integrated activity plan for BLM's future management of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A). The NPR-A is an approximately 23-million-acre area on Alaska's North Slope. The ROD replaced a 2020 Record of Decision, and the adopted plan provides for management of the NPR-A consistent with the plan approved in a 2013 Record of Decision with some modifications and clarifications.

BLM is responsible for managing the NPR-A under the authority and direction of the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976, as amended (NPRPA) and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended (FLPMA). The NPRPA requires the Secretary to "conduct an expeditious program of competitive leasing of oil and gas in

the' NPR-A. The NPRPA further provides that the Secretary "shall assume all responsibilities" for "any activities related to the protection of environmental, fish and wildlife, and historical or scenic values" and authorizes the Secretary to "promulgate such rules and regulations as he deems necessary and appropriate for the protection of such values within the" NPR-A. The statute also authorizes the Secretary to designate lands "containing any significant subsistence, recreational, fish and wildlife, or historical or scenic value" and requires that exploration in these areas "shall be conducted in a manner which will assure the maximum protection of such surface values to the extent consistent with the" statute's requirements for exploration activities. BLM refers to these lands as "Special Areas." Under the FLPMA, the Secretary is authorized to regulate "the use, occupancy, and development of . . . public lands" and "take any action necessary to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of th[ose] lands."

To implement these requirements, BLM prepares integrated activity plans for the NPR-A to provide consistent management guidance.

The 2022 ROD states that BLM decided to adopt a new plan following its determination that the 2020 Record of Decision was inconsistent with the policy direction set forth in Executive Order No. 13990, *Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis*, issued on January 20, 2021. The ROD states that the adopted plan better serves the policy set forth in Executive Order No. 13990 than the plan adopted by the 2020 Record of Decision "by providing greater protections to environmental values and subsistence uses in the NPR-A while still allowing for oil and gas exploration and development consistent with BLM's management responsibilities under the NPRPA."

The ROD further states that it was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA implementing regulations in effect prior to September 14, 2020. BLM determined that the environmental impact statement (2020 EIS) and associated evaluations used for the 2020 Record of Decision remained adequate under NEPA and other relevant statutes, and no additional analysis was necessary for BLM to select a different alternative from the range analyzed in the 2020 EIS.

The ROD adopted the "no action" alternative examined in the 2020 EIS, thereby implementing the plan approved in the 2013 Record of Decision, with certain clarifications and modifications. The plan adopted by the ROD will remain in place unless and until BLM determines that new circumstances require a different approach.

Under the ROD, approximately 11.3 million acres, or 52 percent, of the NPR-A's subsurface estate are available for oil and gas leasing, while the remaining approximately 11 million acres, or 48 percent, are closed to oil and gas leasing. In addition, the ROD makes lands available for oil and gas infrastructure, including pipelines and other infrastructure necessary for owners of any offshore leases in certain areas to bring oil and gas across the NPR-A to the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System, while also generally prohibiting new infrastructure on approximately 8.3 million acres. The ROD states that the areas closed to oil and gas leasing and new infrastructure include areas critical to certain bird and caribou populations. Compared to the 2020 Record of Decision, the ROD reduces the area available for oil and gas leasing and the allowable area for new infrastructure, as the 2020 Record of Decision

made approximately 18.6 million acres, or 82 percent, of the NPR-A's subsurface estate available for oil and gas leasing and prohibited new infrastructure on approximately 4.3 million acres.

The ROD adopts other management approaches that differ from the 2020 Record of Decision. For example, the ROD alters the Special Areas designated under the NPRPA. The ROD also establishes performance-based required operating procedures and lease stipulations that apply to oil and gas leasing and development and, in some cases, non-oil and gas activities within the NPR-A. A number of these procedures and stipulations differ from those in the 2020 Record of Decision.

According to the ROD, additional site-specific analysis will occur when BLM receives an application to approve an action on the ground, and this will be done through subsequent NEPA reviews and analysis that BLM will conduct before issuing permits or approving any ground-disturbing activity. For example, the ROD states that BLM will make decisions on applications for new infrastructure following a multi-agency NEPA review.

#### *Recent Actions Regarding the NPR-A*

Following issuance of the 2022 ROD, BLM published a final rule in the *Federal Register* on May 7, 2024, to revise the framework for designating and assuring maximum protection of the Special Areas' significant resource values and to protect and enhance access for subsistence activities throughout the NPR-A. The rule also revised BLM regulations to incorporate certain aspects of the 2022 ROD, such as the Special Area designations and leasing and infrastructure allocations adopted in the ROD.

On January 20, 2025, the President issued Executive Order No. 14153, *Unleashing Alaska's Extraordinary Resource Potential*, which, in part, directed the Secretary to "place a temporary moratorium on all activities and privileges granted" pursuant to the 2022 ROD in order to review the ROD, reinstate the 2020 Record of Decision, and rescind the 2024 NPR-A Final Rule. On February 3, 2025, the Secretary issued an order that, among other things, directed the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management to submit an action plan describing the necessary and appropriate steps to execute the relevant portions of Executive Order No. 14153.

On March 20, 2025, the Secretary announced actions to implement these orders, including making up to 82 percent of the NPR-A available to oil and gas leasing. In its May 20, 2025, response to us, Interior stated that the 2022 ROD was still in effect, but BLM had initiated a process to evaluate whether the 2020 EIS was sufficient to support the issuance of a new Record of Decision that would substantially align with the 2020 Record of Decision. On June 3, 2025, BLM published a notice of proposed rulemaking proposing to rescind the 2024 NPR-A Final Rule. On June 17, 2025, BLM released for comment a draft Environmental Assessment as part of its efforts to issue a new NPR-A integrated activity plan that aligns with the 2020 Record of Decision.

#### *Congressional Review Act (CRA)*

CRA, enacted in 1996 to strengthen congressional oversight of agency rulemaking, requires federal agencies to submit a report on each new rule to both houses of Congress and the Comptroller General for review before the rule can take effect. The report must contain a copy of the rule, "a concise general statement relating to the rule," and the rule's proposed effective date. CRA allows Congress to review and disapprove rules issued by federal agencies for a period of 60 days using special procedures. If a resolution of disapproval is enacted, then the new rule has no force or effect.

CRA adopts the definition of "rule" under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), which states that a rule is "the whole or a part of an agency statement of general or particular applicability and future effect designed to implement, interpret, or prescribe law or policy or describing the organization, procedure, or practice requirements of an agency." However, CRA excludes three categories of APA rules from coverage: (1) rules of particular applicability; (2) rules relating to agency management or personnel; and (3) rules of agency organization, procedure, or practice that do not substantially affect the rights or obligations of non-agency parties.

BLM did not submit a CRA report to Congress or the Comptroller General on the 2022 ROD. In its response to us, Interior provided additional information about the ROD but did not state a position as to whether it is a rule under CRA. However, BLM submitted a CRA report on the 2024 NPR-A Final Rule, which incorporates certain aspects of the ROD, to the Comptroller General in April 2024 and to Congress in May 2024.

#### DISCUSSION

To determine whether the 2022 ROD is a rule subject to review under CRA, we first address whether it meets the APA definition of a rule. As explained below, we conclude that it does. We then consider whether the ROD falls within any CRA exceptions. We conclude that it does not. Therefore, the ROD is a rule subject to review under CRA.

#### *The 2022 ROD is a Rule Under APA*

Applying APA's definition of "rule," the 2022 ROD meets all of the required elements. First, the ROD is an agency statement as it was issued by BLM, a federal agency.

Second, the ROD is of future effect. An agency action of future effect is one "concerned with policy considerations for the future rather than the evaluation of past or present conduct." The ROD adopts a plan "for future management of the NPR-A," and the adopted plan will remain in place unless and until BLM determines that new circumstances require a different approach.

Finally, the ROD prescribes and implements law and policy and describes agency procedure and practice requirements. An agency statement implements, interprets, or prescribes law or policy when the action creates new regulations, changes regulatory requirements or official policy, or alters how the agency will exercise its discretion, among other things. The 2022 ROD prescribes policies for future uses of the covered area, the NPR-A, and includes restrictions on certain uses, like oil and gas exploration and development activities, in particular areas.

Our conclusion here is consistent with our previous decisions finding that similar land use programs and resource management plans implement, interpret, or prescribe law or policy. For instance, in B-238859, Oct. 23, 2017, we found that an amendment to the Forest Service's Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan (Tongass Amendment) implemented law by establishing new criteria for the sale of timber to non-agency parties. We explained that with the Tongass Amendment, the Forest Service set forth its policy for timber sales and thus implemented its statutory responsibility under the National Forest Management Act.

Similarly, in B-329065, Nov. 15, 2017, we examined four BLM resource management plans covering areas in Alaska. We concluded that the plans implemented, interpreted, or prescribed law or policy because the plans "prescribe[d] policies for future use of the areas . . . cover[ed], such as where mining or off-highway vehicles are permitted," and, for two of the areas, "identif[ie]d Areas of Critical Environmental Concern," where special management atten-

tion was needed to protect certain resources. We further noted that the plans "implement[ed] the provisions of FLPMA and other applicable statutory and regulatory provisions."

The same can be said of the 2022 ROD here. The ROD reduces the area available for oil and gas leasing and new infrastructure in the NPR-A compared to the 2020 Record of Decision. And just as the plans in B-329065 designated certain locations as "Areas of Critical Environmental Concern," the ROD likewise alters the areas of the NPR-A designated for special protections, the Special Areas. The ROD also adopts performance-based required operating procedures and lease stipulations that apply to future activities and which, in certain respects, differ from the provisions adopted in the 2020 Record of Decision. Finally, the ROD implements FLPMA, as well as other applicable statutory and regulatory provisions, including NPRPA, NEPA, and the implementing regulations for those statutes.

An agency statement describes agency organization, procedure, or practice requirements when the statement discusses the internal operations of an agency, including statements that govern the conduct of agency proceedings. The ROD describes various practices and procedures related to the permitting process, including how and when BLM will include stipulations in leases or impose required operating procedures, as well as the availability of waivers, exceptions, and modifications to those stipulations and procedures.

Having satisfied all the required elements, the 2022 ROD meets the APA definition of a rule.

#### *CRA Exceptions*

We must next determine whether any of CRA's three exceptions apply. CRA provides for three types of rules that are not subject to its requirements: (1) rules of particular applicability; (2) rules relating to agency management or personnel; and (3) rules of agency organization, procedure, or practice that do not substantially affect the rights or obligations of non-agency parties.

#### *(1) Rule of Particular Applicability*

Consistent with our previous decisions, the 2022 ROD is a rule of general applicability, rather than particular applicability. Such rules are addressed to specific, identified persons or entities and address actions those persons or entities may or may not take, taking into account facts and circumstances specific to those persons or entities.

In determining whether a rule is one of general or particular applicability, we have noted that a rule need not apply to the population as a whole to be considered a rule of general applicability; rather, all that is required is that the rule has general applicability within its intended range, regardless of the magnitude of the range. In particular, we have determined that a rule is one of general applicability even if the rule is limited to a specific geographic area, so long as the rule does not apply to specific, identified persons or entities. For example, in B-329065, Nov. 15, 2017, we concluded that the BLM plans at issue were not rules of particular applicability because they applied to "all natural resource management activities, all projects approved to take place, and all persons or entities that engage in uses permitted by those projects."

Although the ROD is focused on a specific geographic area, namely the NPR-A, the ROD, like the plans at issue in B-329065, is not addressed to specific, identified persons or entities. Instead, the ROD applies to all persons or entities engaged in covered actions in the NPR-A, including oil and gas exploration and development. Therefore, the ROD is a rule of general applicability.

*(2) Rule of Agency Management or Personnel*

The 2022 ROD is not a rule of agency management or personnel. This exception applies to rules relating to “purely internal agency matters.” These include rules related to controlling, directing, or supervising internal management issues, as well as rules related to personnel issues like communications between employees and managers, leave, or benefits. For example, we concluded that the BLM plans at issue in B-329065, Nov. 15, 2017, did not meet this exception because they were concerned with management of uses of the relevant areas by the public rather than with management of BLM itself or its personnel.

The 2022 ROD does not involve internal agency management or personnel matters. Rather, the ROD adopts a new integrated activity plan for BLM’s future management of the NPR-A. This plan governs activities by non-agency parties in the area, including oil and gas exploration and development. Therefore, the ROD does not meet CRA’s second exception.

*(3) Rule of Agency Organization, Procedure, or Practice that Does Not Substantially Affect Non-Agency Parties*

Lastly, the 2022 ROD is not a rule of agency organization, procedure, or practice that does not substantially affect the rights or obligations of non-agency parties.

We have previously explained that this exception was modeled on the APA exception to notice-and-comment rulemaking requirements for “rules of agency organization, procedure, or practice.” The purpose of the APA exception is to ensure “that agencies retain latitude in organizing their internal operations,” so long as such rules do not have a substantial impact on non-agency parties.

Following this interpretation in the CRA context, we have only applied CRA’s third exception to rules that primarily focus on the internal operations of an agency. For instance, in B-329926, Sept. 10, 2018, we found that updates to a Social Security Administration (SSA) hearing manual governing SSA adjudicators’ use of information from the internet qualified as a rule of agency organization, procedure, or practice. There, the manual outlined procedures for SSA employees to follow in processing and adjudicating benefits claims. Because the manual was directed to and binding only on SSA officials without imposing new burdens on claimants, we concluded that the manual met CRA’s third exception.

In contrast, rules that are directed at and primarily concerned with the behavior of non-agency parties do not fall within this category. Thus, in B-274505, Sept. 16, 1996, we declined to apply CRA’s third exception to a Forest Service memorandum on the Emergency Salvage Timber Sale Program, because it was not limited to the Forest Service’s methods of operations. Instead, the memorandum established the standards by which program determinations would be made, thus directly affecting the area for and number of timber sales that would result in contracts. In essence the memorandum went beyond how the Forest Service organized its internal operations. Similarly, in B-238859, Oct. 23, 2017, we declined to apply CRA’s third exception to the Tongass Amendment, because it was directed at land and resource use by non-agency parties.

As discussed above, the 2022 ROD adopts a new integrated activity plan that governs activities by non-agency parties in the NPR-A, including oil and gas exploration and development. In particular, the ROD reduces the area available for oil and gas leasing and new infrastructure compared to the 2020 Record of Decision. The ROD also establishes performance-based required operating proce-

dures and lease stipulations for activities carried out by non-agency parties, a number of which differ from those in the 2020 Record of Decision. Although the ROD also describes various BLM practices and procedures related to the permitting process, the ROD is directed at and primarily concerned with the behavior and activities of non-agency parties in the NPR-A rather than the agency’s methods of operation. Therefore, the ROD does not qualify as a rule of agency organization procedure, or practice.

In addition, the ROD substantially affects the rights or obligations of non-agency parties. We have previously determined that agency plans establishing the uses and activities that non-agency parties may engage in on public lands substantially affect the rights or obligations of those parties. For example, in B-275178, July 3, 1997, we concluded that a Forest Service Land and Resource Management Plan substantially affected non-agency parties because it described the uses and activities that non-agency parties could conduct in specific areas, the minimum standards for accomplishing the activities, and guidelines on how to meet the standards. We concluded that the plan had such effects notwithstanding that there would be a second stage of decision-making involving site-specific determinations.

Like the plan at issue in B-275178, the 2022 ROD describes uses and activities non-agency parties may conduct in specific areas of the NPR-A. The ROD reduces the area available for oil and gas leasing and new infrastructure and states that these changes “will likely result in less leasing over time.” The ROD also makes changes to the “stipulations that apply to all future leases issued under” the plan adopted by the ROD as well as to the required operating procedures that “BLM will impose on applicants during the permitting process.” Accordingly, even though the ROD indicates that further BLM action will be necessary to enter into leases or permit activities, the ROD governs those future decisions. Therefore, the ROD substantially affects the rights or obligations of non-agency parties.

## CONCLUSION

The 2022 ROD is a rule for purposes of CRA because it meets the definition of a rule under APA and no CRA exception applies. Therefore, the ROD is subject to CRA’s requirement that it be submitted to Congress and the Comptroller General before it can take effect.

EDDA EMMANUELLI PEREZ,  
*General Counsel.*

## VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. President, I missed the following votes, but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall Vote No. 426, confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 91, Arielle Roth, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.

I missed the following votes, but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall Vote No. 437, motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 292, Emil J. Bove III of Pennsylvania, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit.

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

## RECOGNIZING LOUISIANA FIRST RESPONDERS

● Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I want to thank the 12 Louisiana firefighters who recently left their homes and families to provide critical support for people in Texas after devastating flooding earlier this month.

I am deeply grateful for their bravery, selflessness, and strength.

The loss of life and property—which we in Louisiana have experienced—is a tragedy that spreads beyond State borders.

But so does our commitment to help. Samuel, Turner, Gordon, Steven, Roy, Christopher, Justin, Colby, David, Austin, Chris, and Craig represent the best of our State and remind us that, in times of crisis, we are stronger when we come together.

Thanks to all of you for your courage and sacrifice. You make Louisiana proud.●

## RECOGNIZING SWEETS BY KEKE

● 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 Sweets by Keke of New Hampton, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In January 2021, mother-daughter duo, Jenny and Kenzie Bouillon, started Sweets by Keke in their garage with the vision of selling homemade baked goods to their community. By October, Sweets by Keke expanded to a location on East Main Street in New Hampton, IA, where the bakery still operates today. The name, Sweets by Keke, is inspired by Kenzie, who helps run the family business with her mom Jenny, her dad Randy, and siblings Chelsie and Carver. When the business was just taking off, Kenzie was a high school student and took classes towards her associate’s degree from Northeast Iowa Community College. In May of 2021, Kenzie graduated with both her high school and college diplomas, highlighting her hard-working character that has led to the business’ success.

The sweets are made from special Bouillon family recipes. Two fan favorites are their cheesecakes and sugar cookies. Cheesecakes are a specialty product made by Kenzie, who creates and rotates new flavors weekly, including raspberry swirl, sea salt caramel, key lime, and more. The bakery produces a wide variety of products, including homemade mini cakes, apple cinnamon snickerdoodles, and custom sugar cookies. Sweets by Keke also offers lunch specials. The business has become the go-to spot for the Chickasaw County community for baked goods for holidays, weddings, and events.

Sweets by Keke not only serves quality baked goods but also gives back to their community. Jenny and her family are consistently contributing to local fire departments, schools, and more. Every spring, the family works with local schools through the National Honor Society to provide prizes and sweet treats for their annual proms. Sweets by Keke also donates and provides baked goods year-round for local events supporting army veterans, a cause that is very near and dear to the family. Sweets by Keke is also a member of the New Hampton Chamber of Commerce.

Through their sweet offerings and dedication to the community, Sweets by Keke has become a standout business in New Hampton, IA. This year, Sweets by Keke looks forward to celebrating its fourth anniversary in Iowa. I want to congratulate Jenny and Kenzie Bouillion and the entire Bouillion family for their hard work and dedication to providing exceptional services to families across Iowa and beyond. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success.●

#### TRIBUTE TO JUAN REYES

● Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. President, one of my favorite annual events in Wyoming is the Wyoming State Fair, held each year in Douglas. The Wyoming State Fair is a big deal in my State and always one heck of a good time. It represents the culmination of the various county fairs and brings together folks from all over Wyoming to see the best of agriculture in our State, eat some delicious food, and celebrate some hometown pride. As a rancher myself, I love nothing more than spending a day viewing some prize-winning livestock and witnessing the future generation of agriculture in Wyoming truly shine.

At the heart of the State fair is what I believe to be its marquee event: the induction of new members to the Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame. This year, it is my distinct honor and privilege to welcome Juan Reyes of Wheatland, WY, into this prestigious group. I am so pleased by his selection as there are few who deserve this honor more.

Juan's journey to Wyoming is nothing short of remarkable and inspiring. It began in a place that could hardly be more different from Wheatland or Tie Siding, WY—Covadonga, Cuba. There, Juan and his family faced a heart-breaking decision that no family should ever have to make: sending their young children away to a foreign land while their home and way of life were threatened by Fidel Castro's regime.

As an 11-year-old boy, with a little more than the clothes on their back, Juan and his sisters were sent to Florida as a part of Operation Peter Pan, where they spent the next 8 months living in a refugee camp along with other orphans who also made the journey. From there, Juan and his sisters

were taken to Colfax, in Washington State, where they were able to live with a family who had a wheat farm and a few cattle. There, Juan was able to receive some good exposure to working on the farm by helping the family out, and eventually, his parents from Cuba were able to come to Colfax and work on the farm as well.

After a short stint in college in Washington, Juan visited Laramie, WY, and, like many before him, decided that he found where he wanted and needed to be. He ultimately transferred to the University of Wyoming, and it was probably one of the best decisions he has ever made, because it was there where he would meet his wife and where he would lay the foundation for his ranching operation.

Juan's first foray into ranching was not easy to say the least. He and his wife became partners with John Milor who owned a ranch in Tie Siding, WY, and Juan was set to manage the operations. While Juan and his wife had experience with cattle, they did not have experience with cattle during the brutal winters and at the altitude which can top 8,000 feet, which is pretty close to a mile and a half and, needless to say, is considerably different from Washington State or Cuba for that matter. This elevation proved especially challenging as many of the cows became susceptible to pulmonary artery pressure, which ultimately took the lives of many cows and caused significant financial hardship for his family. Not to be discouraged, Juan decided to look for solutions to his problem. After some research, he was able to find a unique breed of cow called Amerifax, which had characteristics that helped them withstand the climate and elevation.

Juan and his family decided they wanted to find another location where they could raise more cattle and have a less challenging winter and chose to purchase 483 acres in Wheatland, WY, not too far from Tie Siding and just up the road from Cheyenne. There, his family was able to find immense success and has grown to a 7,000 head feedlot and 1,000 head of cattle. His success over the years had allowed him the luxury of purchasing the MR Angus Ranch, where he worked with John Milnor in Tie Siding.

A lot of folks would probably consider these accomplishments to be worthy of the hall of fame, but Juan did not stop here. Juan has made countless contributions to agriculture in Wyoming through not only his expertise, but through his membership on numerous boards and organizations. These include the Albany County Stockgrowers, the Wheatland Irrigation District's Board of Commissioners, the University of Wyoming Ag College Advisory Committee, the Wyoming Stock Growers Association, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and the American Angus Association, where he at one point served as the president.

One of Juan's unique and impressive passions is his ability to train border collie dogs for the ranch life. In Wyoming and across our Nation, border collies play an important role in keeping livestock on task and together, and Juan has built up a national reputation as one of the best when it comes to training them. His success with the border collies led him to be a founding member and president of the National Cattle Dog Association and to serve as a member of the American Border Collie Association.

Juan is currently living what many would consider the American dream. He has done so much for Wyoming, and I really can't emphasize enough how happy I am for him to be inducted this year into the Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame. Juan will be joining the likes of a select few who have done so much for agriculture in our State. His legacy is something to behold and appreciate. I tip my hat to him.●

#### REMEMBERING LLOYD WAYNE COPPEDGE

● Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life of a truly exceptional man, Mr. Lloyd Wayne Coppedge of Myrtle Beach, SC, who passed away on July 19 at the age of 80, surrounded by his beloved family and friends.

Born in Abilene, TX, Lloyd was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend. After earning a degree in accounting from Texas Tech, he pursued a successful business career marked by both heart and integrity.

In 1988, Lloyd purchased Wolverine Brass in Myrtle Beach, where he not only led the company to success but also created a workplace culture built on compassion and respect. He knew every employee and their family members by name and treated them as if they were his own family.

His entrepreneurial spirit also had a significant impact on the restaurant industry, where, as a partner in Divine Dining, he helped grow a beloved local institution while continuing to uplift those around him through his generosity and leadership. This year, Lloyd turned 80 and continued to work daily in the restaurant business until weeks before his passing.

Lloyd's most significant legacy, however, lies in the lives he touched. From his wife Judi and daughters Tracie and Allison, to his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, as well as the many friends and "adopted" family members whose lives were better because of him.

Lloyd Coppedge led with kindness, gave without hesitation, and inspired by example. He was the kind of friend you could count on, a quiet guardian angel in the lives of many. May we all strive to carry his spirit forward with grace, compassion, and unwavering integrity in the way we treat others.●

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER  
COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1373. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH Helicopters; Amendment 39-23071" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2025-1116) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1374. A communication from the Legal Advisor, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishing the Digital Opportunity Data Collection; Modernizing the FCC Form 477 Data Program" (FCC 25-34) (WC Docket No. 11-10) (WC Docket No. 19-195) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1375. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to Cable Television Rate Regulations, Implementation of Sections of the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992: Rate Regulation, Adoption of Uniform Accounting System for the Provision of Regulated Cable Service, Report and Order" (FCC 25-33) (MB Docket No. 02-144) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1376. A communication from the Branch Chief of Coastal and Marine Resources, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Marine Mammals; Incidental Take of Polar Bears During Specified Activities; North Slope, Alaska" (RIN1018-BI09) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1377. A communication from the Attorney Adviser, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Administrative Updates to the Railroad Communications Regulations" (RIN2130-AD16) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1378. A communication from the Attorney Adviser, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Administrative Updates to the Rear End Marking Device—Passenger, Commuter and Freight Trains Regulations" (RIN2130-AD17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1379. A communication from the Attorney Adviser, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Administrative Updates to the Use of Locomotive Horns at Public Highway-Rail Grade Crossings Regulations" (RIN2130-AD19) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1380. A communication from the Attorney Adviser, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Administrative Updates to the Safety Glazing Standards Regulations" (RIN2130-AD20) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1381. A communication from the Attorney Adviser, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Administrative Updates to the Reflectorization of Rail Freight Rolling Stock Regulations" (RIN2130-AD21) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1382. A communication from the Attorney Adviser, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Administrative Updates to the Railroad Accidents/Incidents: Reports Classification, and Investigations Regulations" (RIN2130-AD23) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1383. A communication from the Attorney Adviser, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Administrative Updates to the Occupational Safety and Health in the Locomotive Cab Regulations" (RIN2130-AD25) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1384. A communication from the Attorney Adviser, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Administrative Updates to the Passenger Train Employee Hours of Service; Recordkeeping and Reporting; Sleeping Quarters Regulations" (RIN2130-AD26) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1385. A communication from the Attorney Adviser, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Administrative Updates to the Federal Railroad Administration's Rules of Practice" (RIN2130-AD06) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1386. A communication from the Attorney Adviser, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Administrative Updates to the Federal Railroad Administration's State Safety Participation Regulations" (RIN2130-AD07) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1387. A communication from the Attorney Adviser, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Administrative Updates to the Federal Railroad Administration's Track Safety Standards" (RIN2130-AD08) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1388. A communication from the Attorney Adviser, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Administrative Updates to the

Federal Railroad Administration's Railroad Workplace Safety Standards" (RIN2130-AD09) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1389. A communication from the Attorney Adviser, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Administrative Updates to the Federal Railroad Administration's Railroad Freight Car Safety Standards" (RIN2130-AD10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1390. A communication from the Attorney Adviser, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Administrative Updates to the Federal Railroad Administration's Special Notice and Emergency Order Procedures: Railroad Track, Locomotive, and Equipment" (RIN2130-AD12) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1391. A communication from the Attorney Adviser, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Administrative Updates to the Federal Railroad Administration's Railroad Operating Practices Regulations" (RIN2130-AD13) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1392. A communication from the Attorney Adviser, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Administrative Updates to the Federal Railroad Administration's Control of Alcohol & Drug Use Regulations" (RIN2130-AD15) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CRUZ, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 580. A bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to provide training and guidance relating to human rights abuses, including such abuses perpetrated against the Uyghur population by the Government of the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 119-48).

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

S. 1038. A bill to direct the Attorney General to include a data field in the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System to indicate whether the last known location of a missing person was confirmed or was suspected to have been on Federal land, and for other purposes.

By Mr. GRASSLEY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment:

S. 1098. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to enhance the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Grant Program, and for other purposes.

From the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment:

S. 1528. A bill to amend the National Child Protection Act of 1993 to ensure that businesses and organizations that work with vulnerable populations are able to request background checks for their contractors who

work with those populations, as well as for individuals that the businesses or organizations license or certify to provide care for those populations.

### EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. BOOZMAN for the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

\*Michael Boren, of Idaho, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment.

\*Richard Fordyce, of Missouri, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Farm Production and Conservation.

By Mr. GRASSLEY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Kurt Alme, of Montana, to be United States Attorney for the District of Montana, for the term of four years.

Nicholas Chase, of North Dakota, to be United States Attorney for the District of North Dakota for the term of four years.

Lesley Murphy, of Nebraska, to be United States Attorney for the District of Nebraska for the term of four years.

Daniel Rosen, of Florida, to be United States Attorney for the District of Minnesota for the term of four years.

Erik Siebert, of Virginia, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia for the term of four years.

Kurt Wall, of Louisiana, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana for the term of four years.

Jeanine Pirro, of New York, to be United States Attorney for the District of Columbia for the term of four years.

\*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

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

### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. LUJÁN, and Mr. SCHIFF):

S. 2468. A bill to amend section 249 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to render available to certain long-term residents of the United States the benefit under that section; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 2469. A bill to establish collective bargaining rights for college athletes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MURPHY:

S. 2470. A bill to establish name, image, and likeness rights for college athletes at institutions of higher education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. LUMMIS:

S. 2471. A bill require government-sponsored enterprises to consider digital assets in

a mortgage loan risk assessment; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 2472. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to request modifications relating to certain permits issued under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. GALLEG0 (for himself and Mr. MORENO):

S. 2473. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for pay equality and the more accurate computation of retirement benefits for certain firefighters employed by the Federal Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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

S. 2474. A bill to require the Secretary of Labor to appoint an Advocate for Employee Ownership within the Employee Ownership Initiative, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 2475. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide rebates to individuals using tariff proceeds; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 2476. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to prohibit the exclusion of individuals from service on a Federal jury on account of disability; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 2477. A bill to end the use of solitary confinement and other forms of restrictive housing in all Federal agencies and entities with which Federal agencies contract; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 2478. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to carry out a grant program to support efforts to provide fare-free transit service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 2479. A bill to amend the charter of the Reserve Organization of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 2480. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to publicly release, in full, the unclassified report titled "U.S. Telecommunications Insecurity 2022", and for other purposes; considered and passed.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 2481. A bill to ensure that teachers are paid a livable and competitive salary throughout their career, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HEINRICH:

S. 2482. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to reduce the distance required for the Secretary of Defense to reimburse travel expenses relating to specialty care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER (for herself, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MERKLEY, and Ms. ALSOBROOKS):

S. 2483. A bill to provide that members of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices may not be terminated except for cause and to require the immediate reinstatement of the members of such advisory committee; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HAGERTY:

S. 2484. A bill to establish an Inspector General of the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2485. A bill to amend section 455(m) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 in order to allow adjunct faculty members to qualify for public service loan forgiveness; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. BUDD, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. RISCH, Mr. DAINES, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 2486. A bill to prohibit the Administrator of the Small Business Administration from directly making loans under the 7(a) loan program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. KIM (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BOOKER, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 2487. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal collectively to the Buffalo Soldier regiments, authorized by Congress in 1866 to serve in the United States Armed Forces, in recognition of their superior, dedicated, and vital service to the United States; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 2488. A bill to promote transparency and accountability in covered digital labor platform work, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mr. BANKS):

S. 2489. A bill to conduct a review of Federal Housing Administration construction financing programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S.J. Res. 70. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed export of certain defense articles to Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. CURTIS):

S. Res. 339. A resolution condemning Nicolas Maduro and the Venezuelan regime's continued human rights abuses, political repression, and dismantling of democratic institutions, and recognizing the resilience of the Venezuelan democratic opposition under the leadership of Maria Corina Machado and Edmundo Gonzalez; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 94

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 94, a bill to award 3 Congressional Gold Medals to the members of the 1980 United States Olympic Men's Ice Hockey Team, in recognition of their extraordinary achievement at the XIII Olympic Winter Games where, being comprised of amateur collegiate players, they defeated the dominant Soviet ice hockey team in the historic "Miracle on Ice", revitalizing morale in the United States at the height of the Cold War, inspiring generations, and transforming the sport of ice hockey in the United States.

S. 108

At the request of Mr. SCHMITT, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 108, a bill to make members of the Chinese Communist Party and their family members ineligible for F or J visas, and for other purposes.

S. 237

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) were added as cosponsors of S. 237, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide public safety officer benefits for exposure-related cancers, and for other purposes.

S. 284

At the request of Ms. LUMMIS, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 284, a bill to reauthorize the Congressional Award Act.

S. 334

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. HUSTED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 334, a bill to permanently enact certain appropriations Act restrictions on the use of funds for abortions and involuntary sterilizations, and for other purposes.

S. 410

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 410, a bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to improve benefits and services for surviving spouses, and for other purposes.

S. 419

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 419, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to reauthorize grants to support law enforcement officers and families, and for other purposes.

S. 554

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) were added as cosponsors of S. 554, a bill to enhance bilateral defense cooperation between the United States and Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 556

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 556, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to persons engaged in logistical transactions and sanctions evasion relating to oil, gas, liquefied natural gas, and related petrochemical products from the Islamic Republic of Iran, and for other purposes.

S. 558

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 558, a bill to provide for the consideration of a definition of antisemitism set forth by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance for the enforcement of Federal antidiscrimination laws concerning education programs or activities, and for other purposes.

S. 645

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

S. 691

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 691, a bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to improve the administration of antidumping and countervailing duty laws, and for other purposes.

S. 752

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 752, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to streamline enrollment under the Medicaid program of certain providers across State lines.

S. 817

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 817, a bill to provide for the imposition of sanctions with respect to forced organ harvesting within the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes.

S. 836

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 836, a bill to amend the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 to

strengthen protections relating to the online collection, use, and disclosure of personal information of children and teens, and for other purposes.

S. 943

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 943, a bill to establish a manufactured housing community improvement grant program, and for other purposes.

S. 948

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 948, a bill to reauthorize the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, and for other purposes.

S. 1010

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1010, a bill to prohibit the use of funds for universities that provide support to the People's Liberation Army, and for other purposes.

S. 1038

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1038, a bill to direct the Attorney General to include a data field in the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System to indicate whether the last known location of a missing person was confirmed or was suspected to have been on Federal land, and for other purposes.

S. 1098

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1098, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to enhance the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Grant Program, and for other purposes.

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1098, supra.

S. 1232

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM) were added as cosponsors of S. 1232, a bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to issue an occupational safety and health standard that requires covered employers within the health care and social service industries to develop and implement a comprehensive workplace violence prevention plan, and for other purposes.

S. 1383

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

S. 1627

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1627, a bill to require

Presidential appointment and Senate confirmation of the Inspector General of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection.

S. 1643

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1643, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect patient access to ground ambulance services under the Medicare program.

S. 1726

At the request of Mr. TUBERVILLE, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1726, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify that the Department of Veterans Affairs definition of "medical services" includes medically necessary automobile adaptations, and for other purposes.

S. 1806

At the request of Mr. RICKETTS, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1806, a bill to terminate unused authorities of the Securities and Exchange Commission that were established pursuant to the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

S. 1809

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

S. 1832

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1832, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to ensure College for All.

S. 1838

At the request of Mr. HICKENLOOPER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1838, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a program of research, training, and investigation related to Down syndrome, and for other purposes.

S. 1985

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Delaware (Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1985, a bill to improve aviation safety, and for other purposes.

S. 2010

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2010, a bill to require online service providers to disclose their acceptable use policies, provide users with written notice before

the termination of a user's account, and publish an annual report detailing actions taken to enforce their acceptable use policies, and for other purposes.

S. 2188

At the request of Mr. SCHIFF, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2188, a bill to require the publication of data sets regarding firearm trace data.

S. 2237

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2237, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend acute hospital care at home waiver flexibilities, and to require an additional study and report on such flexibilities.

S. 2282

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2282, a bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to reauthorize the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network, and for other purposes.

S. 2293

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) 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. 2302

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2302, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish certain duties for pharmacies to ensure provision of Food and Drug Administration-approved contraception and medication related to contraception, and for other purposes.

S. 2308

At the request of Mr. BANKS, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2308, a bill to amend the Federal Land Recreation Enhancement Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to collect a surcharge from international visitors to units of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

S. 2309

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2309, a bill to direct a physician or nurse practitioner employed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to certify the death of a veteran not later than 48 hours after such physician or nurse practitioner learns of such death, and for other purposes.

S. 2322

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr.

WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 2398

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK) were added as cosponsors of S. 2398, a bill to reauthorize the Kay Hagan Tick Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2402

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2402, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a first-time homebuyer credit, and for other purposes.

S. 2408

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2408, a bill to require health insurance plans to provide coverage for fertility treatment, and for other purposes.

S. 2414

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2414, a bill to update the definition of manufactured home, and for other purposes.

S. 2419

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2419, a bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to clarify the authority of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection with respect to persons regulated by a State insurance regulator, and for other purposes.

S. 2423

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2423, a bill to require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into a memorandum of understanding relating to housing projects, and for other purposes.

S. 2428

At the request of Ms. LUMMIS, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2428, a bill to amend chapter 1511 of title 36, United States Code, to impose certain requirements on the National Education Association, and for other purposes.

S. 2439

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2439, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the distribution of additional residency positions, and for other purposes.

S. 2451

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2451, a bill to ensure that paraprofessionals and education support staff are paid a living wage.

S. 2461

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2461, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Small Business Act to expand the availability of employee stock ownership plans in S corporations, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 337

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 337, a resolution recognizing the 250th anniversary of the postal service of the United States.

AMENDMENT NO. 3033

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) and the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3033 intended to be proposed to 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.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. LUJÁN, and Mr. SCHIFF):

S. 2468. A bill to amend section 249 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to render available to certain long-term residents of the United States the

benefit under that section; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Renewing Immigration Provisions of the Immigration Act of 1929 Act.

This legislation would permit individuals who have lived in the United States continuously for at least 7 years to file for lawful permanent residence here.

The Renewing Immigration Provisions of the Immigration Act of 1929 Act will provide long-term residents of the United States a path to lawful permanent residence.

Specifically, this bill would amend the existing registry mechanism in the Immigration and Nationality Act by opening the application to register permanent or adjust status to long-term residents who have lived in the United States for at least 7 years at the time of filing.

This bill would also allow long-term residents who have been in the United States for at least 7 years, waiting patiently for a visa number to become available, to immediately file an application to register permanent or adjust status.

This legislation has the added benefit of creating a much needed pathway to permanent residency for Dreamers and forcibly displaced individuals, such as TPS holders, who have been stuck in legal limbo for years.

By making the eligibility cutoff rolling, this bill would also preempt the need for Congress to repeatedly update the registry's cutoff date to a specific year of entry into the U.S.

There is strong precedent for Congress to advance the registry date, which it has done on a bipartisan basis four times since it first codified the registry in 1929. In 1958, Congress opened the registry mechanism to long-term residents of the United States who had entered the country improperly, overstayed visa, or otherwise violated the terms of a temporary period of entry. Congress clearly intended the registry to allow undocumented immigrants to adjust to lawful permanent resident status.

Currently, the eligibility cutoff date for the registry is January 1, 1972, more than 50 years ago. Just a handful of immigrants can currently satisfy this cutoff entry date requirement, rendering the 1972 entry cutoff all but meaningless. From 2015 to 2019, only 305 individuals adjusted their status based on the registry, compared to the 58,914 individuals who did so between 1985 and 1989. If this legislation passed today, long-time, hard-working immigrants who are critical to our communities and economy would become eligible to apply for permanent residency through registry.

Today, about 11 million undocumented immigrants live in the United States. It would significantly hurt the U.S. economy to remove those people, who are essential to our workforce and fill critical gaps across industries. The

overwhelming majority of these undocumented immigrants have established roots in the United States and are law-abiding community members. They work essential jobs, pay taxes, and even serve in our military. Leaving them without a path to permanent residency relegates them to second-class status and denies them the opportunity to fulfill the American dream.

It is imperative that we create a path to permanent residence status for immigrants who lack certainty about their futures. This uncertainty is especially salient now as the Trump administration conducts indiscriminate arrests of immigrants who have no criminal records whatsoever, who have U.S. citizen family members, and who are workers in critical industries driving our economy. There is no strategic benefit to removing people that have been living and working in this country for 7-plus years. We can invest in our local communities and make our economy stronger with legislation like this.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2485. A bill to amend section 455(m) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 in order to allow adjunct faculty members to qualify for public service loan forgiveness; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DURBIN. 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. 2485

*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 "Adjunct Faculty Loan Fairness Act of 2025".

#### SEC. 2. LOAN FORGIVENESS FOR ADJUNCT FACULTY.

Section 455(m)(3)(B)(ii) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(m)(3)(B)(ii)) is amended—

(1) by striking "teaching as" and inserting the following: "teaching—

"(I) as";

(2) by striking " , foreign language faculty, and part-time faculty at community colleges, as determined by the Secretary." and inserting "and foreign language faculty), as determined by the Secretary; or"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(II) at an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101(a)), a postsecondary vocational institution (as defined in section 102(c)), or a Tribal College or University (as defined in section 316(b)), in non-tenured track employment as an adjunct or contingent faculty, teacher, or lecturer who—

"(aa) teaches—

"(AA) not less than 9 credit hours per semester, 6 credit hours per trimester, or 18 credit hours per calendar year; or

"(BB) not less than a total of 30 hours per week, as determined by multiplying each credit or contact hour taught per week by 3.35 (or a larger number, if determined appropriate by the Secretary); and

"(bb) is not employed on a full-time basis by any other employer."

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 339—CON-  
DEMNING NICOLAS MADURO AND  
THE VENEZUELAN REGIME'S  
CONTINUED HUMAN RIGHTS  
ABUSES, POLITICAL REPRES-  
SION, AND DISMANTLING OF  
DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS, AND  
RECOGNIZING THE RESILIENCE  
OF THE VENEZUELAN DEMO-  
CRATIC OPPOSITION UNDER THE  
LEADERSHIP OF MARIA CORINA  
MACHADO AND EDMUNDO GON-  
ZALEZ

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. KAINÉ, and Mr. CURTIS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 339

Whereas, since coming into power in 2013, President of Venezuela Nicolás Maduro has continued the unraveling of democratic institutions, the suppression of political dissent, and the perpetration of extensive human rights abuses, including alleged crimes against humanity for which he is being investigated by the International Criminal Court;

Whereas the Maduro regime has repeatedly failed to uphold its commitment to the people of Venezuela to hold free and fair elections, including by violating the terms of the electoral roadmap agreement reached with the Venezuelan democratic opposition in October 2023 in Bridgetown, Barbados;

Whereas the Maduro regime unjustly barred opposition candidate Maria Corina Machado from participating in the presidential election in Venezuela in July 2024 despite more than 2,000,000 Venezuelans supporting her in the democratic opposition-organized primary;

Whereas, despite the Maduro regime forcing the democratic opposition to participate in an electoral environment of restricted freedoms for political actors, civil society, and the media that did not meet international standards of electoral integrity, independently released vote tallies overwhelmingly indicate that opposition candidate Edmundo González was the legitimate victor of the July 2024 presidential election;

Whereas the Maduro regime's failure to release legitimate vote tallies and allow an independent, transparent electoral audit of the July 2024 presidential election further undermined the democratic will of the Venezuelan people, rendering the inauguration of Nicolás Maduro on January 10, 2025, illegitimate;

Whereas, in the immediate aftermath of the July 2024 presidential election, the Maduro regime escalated its suppression of dissent against civil society and democratic opposition groups in Venezuela, including by—

(1) cracking down on peaceful protesters, with at least 25 killed and more than 2,000 detained;

(2) launching “Bolivarian Fury,” a plan falsely alleged to be preventing a coup that involved the vandalization of the offices of media outlets, civil society groups, and opposition officials and the detainment of at least 48 individuals;

(3) launching “Operation Knock Knock,” a systematic effort to intimidate political opponents and chill speech critical of the election results using random inspections, security checkpoints, and paramilitary threats;

(4) issuing arrest warrants for opposition officials, including Edmundo González and

Maria Corina Machado, and forcing many other opposition figures into hiding for fear of imprisonment; and

(5) enacting a repressive anti-NGO law, significantly reducing civil society's ability to operate independently in Venezuela by requiring approval by the regime for operations and funding of nongovernmental organizations;

Whereas the families of those detained in the wake of the July 2024 presidential election were not notified of the arrests and were unable to contact or find their relatives, qualifying such imprisonments as forced disappearances, and at least 62 of the individuals arrested following the election remain unaccounted for, while an estimated 896 political prisoners remain behind bars as of April 2025;

Whereas human rights groups have documented frequent instances of beatings, food deprivation, and a lack of medical care in prisons in Venezuela, with at least four individuals detained following the July 2024 presidential election dying while in custody;

Whereas the Maduro regime continues to arbitrarily arrest and wrongfully detain citizens of the United States and foreign nationals;

Whereas, in the year following the July 2024 presidential election, repression of opposition figures has continued, resulting in opposition candidate Edmundo González being forced to flee the country, the arbitrary arrest of Edmundo's son-in-law Rafael Tudares, and other opposition members seeking refuge at the Argentine Embassy in Caracas until a successful extraction operation in May 2025;

Whereas, in the run-up to legislative and gubernatorial elections on May 25, 2025, the Maduro regime further delegitimized the electoral process by banning opposition leaders from running, barring international observers from monitoring the election, and eliminating the QR code system that enabled independent confirmation of voting results;

Whereas, in the days prior to the May elections, the Maduro regime further escalated its repression, arresting 70 opposition leaders and civil activists, including opposition leader Juan Pablo Guanipa; and

Whereas, despite political repression, state-perpetrated violence, and democratic backsliding, the people of Venezuela, led by a strong coalition of opposition leaders with Maria Corina Machado at the head, remain determined to see their nation escape from the iron authoritarian grip of Nicolás Maduro: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the steadfast leadership of democratic opposition leader Maria Corina Machado, whose courage in the face of Nicolás Maduro's assault on dissent and democratic norms allows citizens of Venezuela to hope for a democratic future;

(2) urges the Maduro regime to release all illegitimately held political prisoners and foreign nationals, including opposition leader Juan Pablo Guanipa and all wrongfully detained Americans; and

(3) calls on the administration of President Trump to remain committed to advancing a peaceful, democratic transition of power in Venezuela to end the country's ongoing humanitarian, political, and economic crises.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND  
PROPOSED

SA 3039. Mr. KAINÉ (for himself and Mr. WARNER) 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 3040. Mr. HAWLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3944, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3041. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3042. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3043. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2977 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3044. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2976 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3045. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3038 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3046. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3038 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3047. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3048. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3049. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3050. 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.

SA 3051. 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 3052. Mr. PADILLA submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3944, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3053. Mr. PADILLA submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3054. Mr. PADILLA submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3055. Mr. PADILLA submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3056. Mr. PADILLA submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3057. Mr. PADILLA submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3058. Mr. PADILLA submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3059. Mr. PADILLA submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3060. Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. KIM, and Mr. DAINES) 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.

SA 3061. Mr. KING submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3944, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3062. Ms. BALDWIN 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.

SA 3063. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3064. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3065. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3066. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3067. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3068. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3069. Mr. MURPHY 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 3039.** Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. WARNER) 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. \_\_\_\_ DRINKING WATER WELL REPLACEMENT FOR CHINCOTEAGUE, VIRGINIA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration may enter into an agreement, as appropriate, with the Town of Chincoteague, Virginia, for a period of up to five years, for reimbursement of the Town of Chincoteague's costs directly associated with—

(1) the development of a plan for removal of drinking water wells currently situated on property administered by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; and

(2) the establishment of alternative drinking water wells on property under the administrative control, through lease, ownership, or easement, of the Town of Chincoteague.

(b) ELEMENTS.—An agreement under subsection (a) shall include, to the extent practicable—

(1) a provision for the removal and relocation of the three remaining wells described in that subsection;

(2) a description of the location of the site to which such wells will be relocated or are planned to be relocated; and

(3) a current estimated cost of such relocation, including for the purchase, lease, or use of additional property, engineering, design, permitting, and construction.

(c) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, in coordination with the heads or other appropriate representatives of relevant entities, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress any agreement entered into under subsection (a).

(d) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

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

(2) the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives.

**SA 3040.** Mr. HAWLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3944, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title I, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_ None of the amounts made available under this title under the heading “MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY” may be obligated if the status of the General Leonard Wood Army Community Hospital in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, is downgraded or the resources, personnel, or scope of care associated with that hospital are reduced.

**SA 3041.** Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3944, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 163, line 24, strike “programs.” and insert “programs; and, \$36,879,000 shall be made available for the Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Program.”.

**SA 3042.** Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3944, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title II, insert the following:

#### SEC. 2 \_\_\_\_ REPORT ON THE USE OF THIRD-PARTY CONTRACTORS TO CONDUCT MEDICAL DISABILITY EXAMINATIONS OF VETERANS FOR PURPOSES OF OBTAINING DISABILITY COMPENSATION.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the use of third-party contractors to conduct medical disability examinations of veterans for purposes of obtaining disability compensation.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report submitted pursuant to subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) The number of contractors used in each State to conduct disability compensation examinations.

(2) Contract performance and quality measures.

(3) The average miles a veteran is required to travel to attend a contract medical disability examination, disaggregated by State.

(4) The average wait time for an individual to receive an examination.

(5) A description of the process at the Department for handling complaints of veterans about their experience with a contracted medical disability examiner.

**SA 3043.** Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2977 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3944, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike division C.

**SA 3044.** Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2976 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3944, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike division C.

**SA 3045.** Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3038 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to

the bill H.R. 3944, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 2, after line 19, add the following:  
**SEC. 4. ACROSS THE BOARD 2 PERCENT REDUCTION.**

For each division of this Act, each amount made available under such division is reduced, on a pro rata basis, by the amount necessary to reduce the amount made available under such division, but for this section, by 2 percent.

**SA 3046.** Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3038 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3944, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 2, after line 19, add the following:  
**SEC. 4. REDUCTION IN SPENDING TO BE 2 PERCENT LESS THAN FISCAL YEAR 2025.**

The amounts made available under this Act are reduced, on a pro rata basis—

(1) for division A, by the amount necessary to reduce the amount made available under such division to be 2 percent less than the amount made available under section 1101(a)(10) of the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4; 139 Stat. 9);

(2) for division B, by the amount necessary to reduce the amount made available under such division to be 2 percent less than the amount made available under section 1101(a)(1) of the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4; 139 Stat. 9); and

(3) for division C, by the amount necessary to reduce the amount made available under such division to be 2 percent less than the amount made available under section 1101(a)(2) of the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4; 139 Stat. 9).

**SA 3047.** Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3944, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title II, add the following:

**SEC. 2. REPORT ON DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS REPROGRAMMING OR REALLOCATION OF FUNDS.**

Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress a report that details all reprogramming or reallocations of funds within the Department of Veterans Affairs since January 20, 2025, including—

(1) the amount and account from which funds were reprogrammed or reallocated;

(2) the amount and account to which funds were reprogrammed or reallocated; and

(3) the office within the Department that approved the reprogramming or reallocation.

**SA 3048.** Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by

her to the bill H.R. 3944, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title II, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_.** Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress a report describing—

(1) clinical trials facilitated by or funded by the Department of Veterans Affairs that have been cancelled, suspended, or disrupted since January 20, 2025;

(2) the number of veterans estimated to participate in or enrolled in each trial cancelled, suspended, or disrupted since January 20, 2025;

(3) clinical trials cancelled, suspended, or disrupted since January 20, 2025, due to researchers participating in the deferred resignation program or voluntary early retirement authority program of the Department or being terminated;

(4) staff terminated or suspended due to the cancellation, suspension, or disruption of a clinical trial since January 20, 2025; and

(5) costs incurred by the Department due to the cancellation, suspension, or disruption of a clinical trial since January 20, 2025, including costs associated with the restarting of suspended or disrupted trials.

**SA 3049.** Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3944, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title II, add the following:

**SEC. 2. REPORT ON COST OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS RETURN TO IN-OFFICE WORK POLICY.**

Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress a report that details—

(1) the costs incurred by the Department of Veterans Affairs to carry out the Department's return to in-office work policy, including past and projected costs associated with obtaining additional office space and modifications to existing space, provision of relocation incentives, and transit subsidies and reimbursements;

(2) the number of staff commuting two or more hours each way to comply with the Department's return to in-office work policy; and

(3) the number of staff working in Federal facilities not owned or leased by the Department as a result of the Department's return to in-office work policy.

**SA 3050.** 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 B of title VII, add the following:

**SEC. 718. REIMBURSEMENT FOR TRAVEL EXPENSES RELATING TO SPECIALTY CARE FOR CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND DEPENDENTS.**

Section 1074i of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “In any case” and inserting “Except as provided in subsection (b), in any case”; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking the heading and inserting “SPECIAL RULES FOR CERTAIN MEMBERS AND DEPENDENTS.—”; and

(B) by striking “The Secretary of Defense” and inserting “(1) The Secretary of Defense”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) With respect to members of the armed forces on active duty and their dependents, the Secretary shall administer subsection (a) by substituting ‘50 miles’ for ‘100 miles.’”.

**SA 3051.** 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 D of title XXVIII, add the following:

**SEC. 2850. HISTORICAL MARKERS AT HOLLOMAN AIR FORCE BASE AND WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE COMMEMORATING EFFECTS OF RADIATION EXPOSURE.**

(a) HISTORICAL MARKERS REQUIRED.—

(1) HOLLOMAN AIR FORCE BASE.—The Secretary of the Air Force shall place a historical marker in a publicly accessible location at the Holloman Air Force Base to commemorate the effects of radiation exposure on communities in New Mexico as a result of the Manhattan Project and the nuclear test conducted at the Trinity Site.

(2) WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE.—The Secretary of the Army shall place a historical marker in a publicly accessible location at the White Sands Missile Range to commemorate the effects of radiation exposure on communities in New Mexico as a result of the Manhattan Project and the nuclear test conducted at the Trinity Site.

(3) INFORMATION REQUIRED.—The historical markers required by paragraphs (1) and (2) shall include the following:

(A) An unclassified description of the history of the Manhattan Project and its purpose, including a description of the nuclear test conducted at the Trinity Site.

(B) A description of how the classified nature of the Manhattan Project and the nuclear test conducted at the Trinity Site led to the unknowing exposure of individuals in communities located downwind from such testing to radiological byproducts and how such communities have experienced the associated consequences of such byproducts.

(4) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) MANHATTAN PROJECT.—The term “Manhattan Project” means the Federal military program to develop an atomic bomb that ended on December 31, 1946.

(B) TRINITY SITE.—The term “Trinity Site” means the location in the Jornada del Muerto desert near Alamogordo, New Mexico, where a nuclear weapon was detonated on July 16, 1945.

(b) BRIEFING REQUIRED.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force and the Secretary of the Army shall jointly provide

to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a briefing on the implementation of the requirements of subsection (a).

**SA 3052.** Mr. PADILLA submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3944, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title II, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or any other Act making appropriations available for the Department of Veterans Affairs shall be used to deny or otherwise prohibit access to care to any veteran based on their immigration status.

**SA 3053.** Mr. PADILLA submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3944, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title II, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_.** Not less frequently than monthly, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publicly publish average wait times for care under the Veterans Community Care Program under section 1703 of title 38, United States Code, for primary care, outpatient mental health care, inpatient mental health care, and inpatient substance use disorder care.

**SA 3054.** Mr. PADILLA submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3944, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_.** **RECOMMENDATIONS TO STREAMLINE INCOME VERIFICATION PROCESS UNDER HUD-VASH PROGRAM.**

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Commissioner of Social Security, and such other heads of relevant entities as the Secretary of Veterans Affairs considers relevant shall submit to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report that includes recommendations to streamline the annual income verification process for veterans participating in the HUD-VASH program to reduce the burden on veterans.

**SA 3055.** Mr. PADILLA submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3944, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_.** **REPORT ON CASE MANAGEMENT FOR HUD-VASH PROGRAM PROVIDED BY PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITIES.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in coordination with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, shall submit to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report on the implementation of guidelines that allow public housing authorities to provide temporary, transitional case management in place of the Department of Veterans Affairs in areas where HUD-VASH vouchers are available and allocated but underutilized due to a lack of referrals from the Department.

(b) **RECOMMENDATIONS.**—The report required by subsection (a) shall include recommendations to improve the temporary case management process for eligible veterans in order to prevent the underutilization of HUD-VASH vouchers.

**SA 3056.** Mr. PADILLA submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3944, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_.** **SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS REPORT ON STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF CERTAIN RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES.**

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and not less frequently than once each quarter thereafter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide a quarterly report to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a quarterly report on the status of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Comptroller General of the United States in Government Accountability Office report GAO-25-107182 (June 2, 2025).

**SA 3057.** Mr. PADILLA submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3944, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_.** **EFFORTS TO IMPROVE HUD-VASH PROGRAM AND REPORT.**

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in coordination with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, shall—

(1) conduct additional boot camps for improving the HUD-VASH program;

(2) continue to provide targeted technical assistance based on action plans and learning from the HUD-VASH boot camps; and

(3) submit to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representa-

tives a report on the extent to which communities have deployed alternative methods to expand HUD-VASH case management capacity.

**SA 3058.** Mr. PADILLA submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3944, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title I, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or any other Act making appropriations available for the Department of Defense for military construction purposes may be used to construct, renovate, or expand any facility for the purposes of detention of migrants by the Department of Defense or to facilitate detention of migrants by the Department of Homeland Security, including by housing personnel of the Department of Homeland Security.

**SA 3059.** Mr. PADILLA submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3944, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title II, insert the following:

**SEC. 2 \_\_\_\_.** **PROHIBITION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR REDUCING STAFFING, LIMITING HOURS OF OPERATION, DECREASING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES, CURBING ACCESS, OR REDUCING CAPACITY OF CERTAIN HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS.**

None of the funds appropriated by this title shall be obligated or expended to reduce staffing, limit hours of operation, decrease training opportunities, curb access to relevant information technology systems, or otherwise reduce the capacity of the offices and programs funded under the amounts made available for mental health and suicide prevention outreach programs described in section 250.

**SA 3060.** Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. KIM, and Mr. DAINES) 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. \_\_\_\_.** **CREDIT MONITORING.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 605A(k) (15 U.S.C. 1681c-1(k))—

(A) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this subsection:

“(A) **ARMED FORCES.**—The term ‘armed forces’ has the meaning given the term in section 101(a) of title 10, United States Code.

“(B) ARMED FORCES MEMBER CONSUMER.—The term ‘armed forces member consumer’ means a consumer who, regardless of duty status, is a member of the armed forces.”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “active duty military consumer” and inserting “armed forces member consumer”; and

(2) in section 625(b)(1)(K) (15 U.S.C. 1681t(b)(1)(K)), by striking “active duty military consumers” and inserting “armed forces member consumers”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

**SA 3061.** Mr. KING submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3944, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title II, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. Of the amounts appropriated by this title to the Department of Veterans Affairs, \$4,000,000 shall be used to carry out the Governor’s Challenge program of the Department for cooperative agreements with States to establish suicide mortality review committees.

**SA 3062.** Ms. BALDWIN 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 H of title V, add the following:

**SEC. 586. ELIGIBILITY OF VETERANS OF OPERATION END SWEEP FOR VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL.**

The Secretary of the military department concerned may, upon the application of an individual who is a veteran who participated in Operation End Sweep, award that individual the Vietnam Service Medal.

**SA 3063.** Mr. MURPHY 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 \_\_\_\_\_. QUARTERLY REPORT ON MENTALLY INCAPACITATED AND MENTALLY INCOMPETENT VETERANS AND DEATH BY FIREARM SUICIDE.**

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and not less frequently than once every quarter thereafter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives a quarterly report that sets forth—

(1) the number of persons who, in any case arising out of the administration by the Secretary of laws and benefits under such title 38, United States Code, have been deemed within the previous 90 days to be mentally incapacitated, mentally incompetent, or to be experiencing an extended loss of consciousness, who were not subject to an order or finding of a judge, magistrate, or other judicial authority of competent jurisdiction that such person is a danger to himself or herself or others; and

(2) of the persons described in paragraph (1), the number who died by firearm suicide.

**SA 3064.** Mr. MURPHY 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. \_\_\_\_\_. INCREASE IN TRANSFER AND MANUFACTURING TAXES FOR FIREARMS REGULATED UNDER THE NATIONAL FIREARMS ACT.**

(a) TRANSFER TAX.—Subsection (a) of section 5811 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended by section 70436(a) of Public Law 119–21, is amended to read as follows:

“(a) RATE.—There shall be levied, collected, and paid on firearms transferred a tax at the rate of \$4,709 for each firearm transferred.”

(b) MAKING TAX.—Section 5821(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended by section 70436(b) of Public Law 119–21, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$200” and inserting “\$4,709”, and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “\$0” and inserting “\$55”.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 4182(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended by section 70436(c) of Public Law 119–21, is amended by striking the second sentence.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to calendar quarters beginning more than 90 days after the date of the enactment of Public Law 119–21.

**SA 3065.** Mr. MURPHY 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 H of title V, add the following:

**SEC. 586. PROHIBITION ON EXPANSION OF ARMY DETACHMENT 201 USE OF DIRECT COMMISSIONING BILLETS.**

The Secretary of the Army may not expand the use of allocated reserve billets for direct commissioning officers supporting Army Detachment 201 beyond those filled as of July 15, 2025, until the Secretary certifies to the congressional defense committees, and provides supporting documentation, on—

(1) the process for identifying, vetting and recruiting candidates into the direct commissioning programs;

(2) the proposed charter for such detachment, including scope of tasks, how operational tasking will be made, proposed deliverables, and measures of performance and effectiveness for both individuals and for the Detachment as a unit;

(3) the specific intended impacts and goals of the Detachment in advancing technological adoption, military innovation, or other areas of focus for the Army and the Department of Defense;

(4) the timeline for direct commissioned officers to complete all minimum training, including all required training necessary prior to being determined to be fully position qualified;

(5) processes for notifying the congressional defense committees when participants in the Individual Mobilization Augmentee (IMA) program are mobilized for periods beyond their 14-day minimum service obligation;

(6) safeguards and oversight mechanisms in place to ensure the preservation of the military chain of command, avoidance of loss of human control, and maintenance of safety procedures, amid the Detachment’s efforts to incorporate artificial intelligence and advanced technologies into weapons systems and operations across the Army and the Department of Defense;

(7) processes for ensuring the Detachment’s officers fully comply with Department of Defense standards of conduct and ethical requirements, including taking all necessary steps to prevent any conflicts of interest from inappropriately influencing Army and Department operations and decisionmaking towards the financial interests of officers, their families, or business associates; and

(8) processes to ensure officers recuse themselves from business dealings with the Department of Defense for which their simultaneous military service and private employment are likely to create unavoidable conflicts of interest.

**SA 3066.** Mr. MURPHY 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 XV, insert the following:

**SEC. 15 \_\_\_\_\_. LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR SPACE-BASED INTERCEPTOR DEVELOPMENT.**

(a) LIMITATION.—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2026 for space-based interceptor development may be obligated or expended to carry out any space-based interceptor development until the Secretary of Defense submits to the congressional defense committees the report described in subsection (b).

(b) REPORT.—The report described in this subsection is a report that—

(1) outlines the specific elements, goals, procurement and research and development plans, and comprehensive cost estimates for the architecture of the Golden Dome missile defense system;

(2) provides an analysis of the technical feasibility of a comprehensive missile defense shield to protect the entire United States homeland;

(3) sets forth the expected impact of the Golden Dome missile defense system for the United States Government budget, national

debt, and national fiscal health over the short- and long-term; and

(4) details the recusal requirements, contracting safeguards, and oversight and accountability mechanisms in place to ensure the program's rapid rollout does not allow for conflicts of interest, corrupt business dealings, or biased decisionmaking processes.

**SA 3067.** Mr. MURPHY 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. PROHIBITION ON TRANSFER OF EXECUTIVE AIRLIFT AIRCRAFT OF FOREIGN ORIGIN TO NONGOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES.**

No executive airlift aircraft of foreign origin may be transferred to a nongovernmental entity until the aircraft has served as an executive airlift aircraft for at least its entire service life.

**SA 3068.** Mr. MURPHY 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. 16. COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES REVIEW OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE GOVERNANCE PROCESSES FOR ADOPTION OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TOOLS.**

(a) REVIEW.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review of the Department of Defense policies and governance relating to adoption of artificial intelligence tools for military needs.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The review conducted under subsection (a) shall include the following matters:

(1) An analysis of Department organizational structure for overseeing, tracking, and responding to risks and opportunities arising from military uses of artificial intelligence, including—

(A) the responsibilities, functions, authorities, and actions of the Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Office and other relevant Department offices in the incorporation, implementation, and oversight of artificial intelligence;

(B) Department processes for development of lessons learned, adoption of best practices, and information sharing with other government agencies, industry, academia, and allies and partners;

(C) the development of metrics, policy guardrails, oversight mechanisms, and risk mitigation procedures for Department use of artificial intelligence tools;

(D) steps to ensure all Department engagement with artificial intelligence companies and industry leaders incorporate appropriate recusal requirements, safeguards, and oversight mechanisms to prevent conflicts of in-

terest, corrupt business dealings, and biased decisionmaking processes; and

(E) processes in place to ensure new contracting mechanisms for artificial intelligence provide for appropriate safeguards, transparency requirements, and oversight mechanisms to prevent conflicts of interest and to limit Department exposure to artificial intelligence industry-related risks.

(2) A full description and assessment of current Department of Defense policies and practices relating to current and potential military and civilian applications of artificial intelligence.

(3) Recommendations for improvements to standards, processes, procedures, and policy relating to the use of artificial intelligence in improving Department civilian and military operations, reducing associated risks, and increasing reliability, effectiveness, safety, and oversight of Department activities.

(c) SUBMISSION OF REPORT.—Not later than July 1, 2026, the Comptroller General shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the findings of the Comptroller General with respect to the review conducted pursuant to subsection (a).

**SA 3069.** Mr. MURPHY 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. SERVICES AND USE OF FUNDS FOR, AND LEASING OF, THE NATIONAL COAST GUARD MUSEUM.**

Section 316 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1) by striking “The Secretary” and inserting “Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary”; and

(B) in paragraph (2) by striking “on the engineering and design of a Museum.” and inserting “on—”

“(A) the design of the Museum; and

“(B) engineering, construction administration, and quality assurance services for the Museum.”;

(2) in subsection (e), by amending paragraph (2)(A) to read as follows:

“(2)(A) for the purpose of conducting Coast Guard operations, lease from the Association—

“(i) the Museum; and

“(ii) any property owned by the Association that is adjacent to the railroad tracks that are adjacent to the property on which the Museum is located; and”;

(3) by amending subsection (g) to read as follows:

“(g) SERVICES.—With respect to the services related to the construction, maintenance, and operation of the Museum, the Commandant may, from nonprofit entities including the Association,—

“(1) solicit and accept services; and

“(2) enter into contracts or memoranda of agreement to acquire such services.”.

**AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I have one request for a committee to meet during today's session of the Senate. It has

the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

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

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, July 28, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., to conduct a business meeting.

**PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR**

Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that privileges of the floor be granted to my following interns and fellows for today: Abriana Ballesteros, Hayden Darst, Mina Hicks, Jackson James, Jargo James, Isaac Navarrete, Connor Swenson, Ethan Tacheene, and Colter Thomas.

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

**ORDERS FOR TUESDAY JULY 29, 2025**

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until Tuesday, July 29; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of Executive Calendar No. 110, Earl Matthews, postcloture; further, notwithstanding rule XXII, at 11:30 a.m., the Senate vote on confirmation of the Matthews nomination, and if cloture has been invoked on Calendar No. 94, William Kimmitt, the Senate recess until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings; further, at 2:15 p.m., all postcloture time be expired and the Senate vote on confirmation of the Kimmitt nomination, and if confirmed, the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on Calendar No. 274, Susan Monarez; finally, if any nominations are confirmed during Tuesday's session of the Senate, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, there will be two votes at 11:30 a.m., two votes at 2:15 p.m., and more votes expected throughout the afternoon and evening.

**ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW**

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the

*July 28, 2025*

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

**S4783**

Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

CONFIRMATION

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:08 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, July 29, 2025, at 10 a.m.

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate July 28, 2025:

DAVID WRIGHT, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2030.