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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.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.

O God, we pray many prayers for many reasons, and we thank You for hearing us. Today we ask You to give our Senators a spirit of wisdom that will save them from despair and provide them with a straight path on which to walk without stumbling. Set a seal upon their lips so that no thoughtless words shall stain or harm others. May they meet today's tasks with courage and kindness, showing that they are truly Your children.

Lord, empower them to see clearly solutions they couldn't discover without Your help, as You remind them that all things are possible to those who believe in You. Inspire them to commit to You the challenges and decisions they will face, believing that You will enable them to serve with excellence.

We pray in Your marvelous 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. MULLIN). 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 legislative clerk read the nomination of Brian Nesvik, of Wyoming, to be Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

VETERAN FLAGPOLE INITIATIVE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I have often said that our veterans have sacrificed so much for our Nation, so it is our responsibility to take care of them when they come home. We owe a debt of gratitude to these brave Americans.

I have been proud to work alongside my colleagues in the Senate to strengthen mental health resources, increase access to healthcare, and ensure that the Department of Veterans Affairs is managing Federal resources effectively to serve our veterans well.

While I work in Congress on behalf of our Nation of veterans, many organizations work daily to support this selfless group of people. There is one Iowa organization that I would like to highlight. It is called the Veteran Flagpole Initiative. The Veteran Flagpole Initiative started with a group of passionate Iowans who would install flagpoles for veterans at no cost to the veteran.

The group started their work to provide veterans with a permanent, visual reminder of their appreciation—our constituents' appreciation for the veterans' service and sacrifice. The goal is to ensure at least one veteran in all of Iowa's 99 counties has a flagpole by 2028, and I am sure that their goal is to go well beyond that.

Their work continues at a time when the flag and what it stands for is continually under attack, both here and abroad. It serves then as a reminder that change begins at home, and one individual in America can make a difference—some of them making big differences, maybe some making smaller differences.

And we don't know the end result of the Veteran Flagpole Initiative, but they are trying to make a big difference. Looking after those around us provides a valuable lesson because you never know what someone else may be facing, and the very small acts—as well as big acts—of service may turn out to have monumental impact. So thank you to the Veteran Flagpole Initiative and the many other organizations and individuals that support our veterans daily.

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. 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.

TARIFFS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, this morning, we got some more troublesome news about the economy under Donald Trump. Today, we learned the economy added only 73,000 jobs last month, far below expectations.

But that wasn't the worst of it. We also learned the economy actually added less than 20,000 jobs, each in May and June, the 2 months following Donald Trump's Liberation Day. That is more than 250,000 fewer jobs than originally thought. Let me say that again. We learned this morning that the economy actually added over a quarter million fewer jobs than originally thought. We also learned that unemployment has gone up.

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

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It is disturbing to say, but the chickens are coming home to roost on Donald Trump's destructive trade war and the American people are paying the price.

You sow chaos, Donald Trump, you reap chaos.

And that is what the President is finding out this morning. A quarter million fewer jobs is a significant revision and a flashing red light. Donald Trump's chaotic tariffs are already bleeding our economy of good-paying jobs. In fact, aside from the pandemic, this job revision is the largest since 1979. In other words, the revision saying we lost jobs is more than any since 1979 except for the period of COVID. That is what tariff whiplash looks like.

Businesses—small, large, medium—always need stability. But businesses are waving around their arms in the dark without a clue of what Donald Trump is going to do next. And we now have clear evidence that it is stunting hiring and growth. If Donald Trump's tariffs have created this much trouble just 4 months after Liberation Day, imagine the trouble Americans will have 8 months after Liberation Day, a year after Liberation Day, when the effects of tariffs go further and more deeply into the economy.

Remember, this jobs report comes a day after we learned inflation accelerated over the last month, and it comes 2 days after we learned growth slowed down in the first half of this year and that business investment is down—down—3 percent.

But what is Donald Trump doing about all this? As bad as his previous trade policies have been, today he is doubling down on his awful trade policies. Last night, he imposed a slew of tariffs on 68 countries around the world, including some of our most important trading partners.

Again, if the effects of Liberation Day have been this bad just in 4 months, imagine the pain and harm Americans will feel 8 months, 12 months from now with these new tariffs just imposed yesterday.

Well, if this is what Liberation Day was supposed to look like, then God help us. Hiring is down; prices are ticking up; families are paying more than $2,400 a year because of these tariffs—$2,400 is a lot of money, even to families way into the middle class.

Businesses have no clue of what Donald Trump is doing next. Worse, we still don't have any idea what Donald Trump is actually agreeing to with partners like Japan, the European Union, and South Korea.

Typical of this administration, this President mistells the truth. He lies more than any other President we have seen. He just makes it up as he goes along and then changes, retracts—we know all about those cartoons, that he never did cartoons. That happens over and over again. And somehow too many of the American people forgive him for baldly lying.

Look at these trade breakthroughs. Look at the pattern. Donald Trump hails the agreement as a major breakthrough, announces huge amounts of money coming into the United States. Then the next day, the people he has made the deals with, the countries he made the deals with retract. They say that didn't happen. He just makes it up.

But Donald Trump, you pay the price for making it up because businesses don't know what you are doing and so they cut back. Business investment was down 3 percent in the last quarter. Before Donald Trump was President—let's not forget, he is trying to sell a 15-percent tariff as a great thing. Before Donald Trump was President, these countries had tariffs in the 1 percent to 2 percent range. Now it is 15 percent.

Do you know what that is? That is a price hike on American families. Asking Americans to bear the brunt of 15-percent tariffs is no sane person's definition of victory.

Instead of cutting off five of your fingers, we are only cutting off three. Don't you want to congratulate us? That is the kind of thing Donald Trump says.

We have no clue what America is actually getting in return. In fact, we don't even know what these deals are because Trump lies about them. There is a pattern here. As I said, there is a pattern. One day, Donald Trump comes out bragging that his so-called deals are somehow major victories. But the next day, reality sets in, and it is abundantly clear when you look at the details, he lied, exaggerated, hyped what was in the deals. One day, he said Japan is going to invest $500 billion in the United States. You know what Japan says the next day? It is, at most, 2 percent of that $500 billion—2 percent.

How does this guy get away with it?

But he doesn't get away with it because the chaos he creates, the mistrust he creates hurts businesses and hurts the country.

So we want to know—the administration refuses to be transparent, refuses to provide the details, and that is very bad for the American people and for the economy. So, today, my colleagues and I are urging transparency from the administration. We are writing Secretary Bessent, Secretary Lutnick, and Ambassador Greer to immediately come clean with answers to a number of important questions about Donald Trump's trade deal.

First of all, how are any of these deals going to be actually verified and enforced? How do we know these investments Donald Trump has bragged about are going to take place because it seems the countries who are making the deals have a different story than what Trump tells? Second, what system or mechanism exists to track any of this information? What industries will see the benefit? What kind of investments are we talking about? Have they thought these things through or does this pop up in Donald Trump's head, and it then comes out of his mouth?

Finally—especially crucially—how do we know that these investments, even if they happen, are going to benefit the public and not just benefit the businesses and industries owned by Donald Trump and his friends?

We have seen over and over again that what they do in the White House doesn't benefit the American people but benefits the people who work in the White House, their cronies, and Donald Trump, himself, who is gaining millions and millions of dollars from his Presidency by taking advantage of the laws they passed. No other President would do it. Ronald Reagan would turn over in his grave if he saw what Trump was doing to benefit himself as President. It causes Americans to just lose faith in democracy.

It has been 4 months since Donald Trump's so-called Liberation Day. By now, we have enough evidence to show these chaotic tariffs are inflicting real damage to the economy. We would be foolish to think doubling down is somehow going to make it better, but that is what Trump did yesterday.

Donald Trump needs to reverse course because the only deal he has actually struck is a raw deal for American families. The only deal Donald Trump has struck is a raw deal for American families, consumers, and businesses. Today's jobs report is the latest warning sign that this tariff chaos must end.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Mr. President, on the Smithsonian Institution and impeachment, we all know that Donald Trump loves to rewrite and erase parts of history he doesn't like.

Yesterday, though, we saw a shameful new low. Yesterday, we learned that Donald Trump quietly forced the Smithsonian to remove him from the impeachment exhibit at the American History Museum. You can't make this up. This is a man rewriting history or thinks he can rewrite history. He can't, but he thinks he can. He is censoring the American History Museum.

It is Orwellian—downright Orwellian—and it is something you would see in an authoritarian regime. It is something the head of North Korea would do, not America. Quite frankly, it is sad; it is pathetic; but it is beyond that. Donald Trump is so egotistical, so angry that he is the only President in American history to have been impeached twice that he wants to try and change the past, change the truth, and trade history for propaganda.

But Donald Trump, you can't change history. You can't avoid the truth. History will haunt you. You are the only President to be impeached twice. You can run, but you cannot hide from the judgment of history.

Here is my message to the President: No matter what exhibits you try to distort, the American people will never forget that you were impeached, not once but twice.

The American people want Donald Trump to focus on lowering their costs, not rewriting history about his impeachments; not building an extravagant ballroom at the White House, raising $200 million from his cronies for it—who knows what they get in return; not covering up the Epstein scandal. But, as always, Donald Trump's priorities are way off from what the American people need and want.

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

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

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

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

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

NOMINATIONS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to shine a spotlight on what the Democrats are doing in terms of unprecedented obstruction—obstruction to the Senate nominating process.

The nomination process has been ground to a halt as a result of the Democrats. Today, like every other day this Congress, Senate Republicans will burn hours of floor time on votes that for every other President of the United States would have taken only seconds until now.

President Trump is the only President in modern history not to have a single nominee confirmed by voice vote or unanimous consent—not a single one. Even the most routine nominations are being filibustered. Positions that usually just fly through the Senate by voice vote or unanimous consent are now being treated and taken as political hostages.

This isn't normal. This is petty partisan politics at its worst. And it is petty.

Let me tell you the facts that the Senate Democrats don't want the American people to hear. George Herbert Walker Bush, President of the United States, 98 percent of his nominees were confirmed by a voice vote or unanimous consent. Bill Clinton, President of the United States, 98 percent of his nominees were confirmed by voice vote or unanimous consent. George W. Bush, President of the United States, 90 percent of his nominations were confirmed by voice vote or unanimous consent. President Barack Obama, 90 percent of his nominees were confirmed by voice vote or unanimous consent. Then President Trump took office in his first term and Democrats' obstruction began. The numbers dropped from 90 percent under President Obama to 65 percent under President Trump in that first term. Remember, today it is zero. It was 65 percent in his first term. Even Joe Biden, a President the Republicans strongly opposed, had 57 percent of his nominations confirmed by voice vote or unanimous consent.

Republicans did not sabotage each and every Biden Ambassador and every Biden Under Secretary simply out of spite. No. Over half were confirmed by unanimous consent. Today, Democrats are obstructing simply for the sake of obstruction. Senate Democrats continue to stonewall the Senate nomination process and to slow-walk every single one of President Trump's nominees.

So I have a copy of today's list. Here we are. I have the Executive Calendar for Friday, August 1, 2025, with totally routine nominees for positions who sailed through the Senate for every other President. Yet Senate Democrats have demanded cloture votes for every single one.

I would ask a single Democrat in this Chamber, without mentioning President Trump's name, tell me why, on the schedule today, the legal advisor for Advocacy for the Small Business Administration is somehow controversial.

Last night, right here, when we were doing cloture votes, a Democrat came in. One of the Republican Senators, after that Democrat voted no, said: Who did we vote on?

The Democrat Senator said: I don't know.

Well, what is wrong with him?

I don't know.

What is the position?

I don't know.

Well, you just voted no on him. Why was that?

Oh.

He was nominated by President Trump. That was the only reason that that nominee got a negative vote from the Democrat.

That is what is happening. That is what we are seeing here, and that is what the Democrats continue to do. Why should this nominee be held up in filibuster? The Democrats can't tell you why. They have no idea why, other than that the nomination was made by President Trump. This isn't about the qualifications of the nominees. This isn't about questioning their resumes or their past histories. This is just resisting President Trump.

Automatic Democrat obstruction doesn't make our communities safer. It doesn't make our country stronger. It doesn't make families and small businesses more prosperous. It just wastes time and weakens America.

Well, despite the Democrats' wall of obstruction, Senate Republicans are continuing to press forward. We have, so far, confirmed 120 nominees since President Trump's second term began. We are doing it one at a time, 1 day at a time, 1 vote at a time, 1 nominee at a time. The good news is we have confirmed twice as many positions and nominees in President Trump's second term compared to his first term.

Let's be clear: Republicans are not backing down. We are going to continue to confirm President Trump's nominees the easy way if we can, the hard way if we must. The American people elected President Trump and the Senate Republicans to get America back on track. After 4 years of high prices and open borders under the Democrats, they expect this President to have his team in place, and that is what the Senate Republicans will continue to do.

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

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the Senator from Wyoming was just on the floor and spoke about the schedule of business here in the U.S. Senate, particularly the question of nominations. Senator BARRASSO is my friend. We disagree on a lot of political things, but we respect one another, and I certainly respect him.

There is an important chapter that he just left out of recounting the history of the nominations process in the Senate. I call it the JD VANCE chapter.

Listen to this: When Donald Trump was in his first term, he nominated over 90 U.S. attorneys. Every one of them passed with a voice vote, with the possible exception of one in Massachusetts. Every one of these passed with a voice vote. In other words, we didn't require any rollcalls. We filled these vacancies for U.S. attorneys.

Then came Joe Biden. Under the Biden Presidency, a decision was made by one Senator, JD VANCE of the State of Ohio. He came along and said: I no longer will allow you—it is my right as a Senator to stop it. I will no longer allow you to have a nominee for U.S. attorney go through without a rollcall.

That sounds like a very minor request, but with potentially over 90 of these rollcalls, we found ourselves backed up in a situation where we couldn't approve any U.S. attorneys. We didn't have the time on the calendar to do it because of the JD VANCE requirement.

I came to this floor—this very spot—eight times, pleading with then-Senator JD VANCE: Please, don't do this. We have comity and understanding on U.S. attorneys. We did under Trump in his first term, and we certainly did in the early stages of Biden, but now you are requiring rollcall votes on each of the U.S. attorneys, and it is going to create an obstacle to progress on the floor of the Senate. Eight times I came to the floor, asking unanimous consent for Senator VANCE to withdraw this demand. He refused each time.

Then he went off to run for Vice President, and while he was gone, running for Vice President, I came to the

floor again and asked the Republicans who were remaining in the Senate Chamber to allow me unanimous consent that nominees for U.S. attorneys will not go through this rollcall process. Unfortunately, a number of nowsitting U.S. Senators on the Republican side came to the floor and objected. They wanted to keep the VANCE rule in place. I warned them that the obstacles they were creating under President Biden that were unprecedented and had not been seen under President Trump in his first term would come back to haunt all of us, and now they have.

This requires us to sit down at some point and have an understanding moving forward not just on nominees and whether there are rollcalls on the floor but on fundamental and basic questions as to whether or not a minority position, for example, on an important Agency or council is going to be respected.

What the Trump administration has done, for example, in many places on commissions and in Agencies is to eliminate the Democrats—to fire them from their jobs—and leave vacancies unfilled. Then the Republicans come to us and say: Well, we have Republican nominees for the spots, the Republican spots.

And we say: What about the Democratic nominees?

They say: We are not going to allow you to call any of those.

There has got to be some understanding and comity, and we think that grown-ups should be able to resolve this issue, but the representation of what our problem is this morning did not include those two elements and many others. I hope we can resolve this in a favorable way for the benefit of the American people, but there is a history behind it. Fundamentally, we are in the minority now on the Democratic side, and we don't believe that the rules that the Republicans insist on should be to their benefit only; they should benefit both political parties. Unfortunately, we are in a position where that is not happening.

ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL ACT

Mr. President, on a separate issue, with the recess looming, my Republican colleagues are itching to get out of Washington and return to their home States. Why are they so eager? I will tell you. They have some explaining to do. That is why they want to get home. As soon as they get out of Washington, they plan to fan out across the country and try to explain the so-called Big Beautiful Bill of President Trump.

Until then, Senate Republicans are taking to the Senate floor to say good things about this bad bill. This includes the junior Senator from Louisiana, who several times came to the Senate floor claiming that Medicaid spending was not cut in the Big Beautiful Bill.

Sorry. That is false. Let me remind folks this Trump budget bill reduces spending on healthcare programs by $1 trillion. Louisiana is expected to lose $27 billion in Federal Medicaid funding over the next decades alone. It removes 10 million Americans from insurance coverage and threatens hospitals and nursing homes, and he waved away the millions of Americans who will lose their healthcare coverage, writing it off as simply going after double dippers, which has been explained at length by the Senator from Louisiana as people who are ineligible in the first place for receiving medical coverage.

The Senator held up a press release from CMS, the Federal Medicaid Agency, with a splashy, deceiving headline, claiming that 2.8 million Americans are signed up for Medicaid in two different States. Well, if fraud on that scale does exist, then I want to join the effort to put an end to it. Unfortunately, the statement is not accurate. That is not what is happening. The CMS press release provided zero evidence of that claim about massive scale fraud. It is like the President's statement after the State of the Union Address that people 120 years old were drawing Social Security. Not true.

He claimed that stopping duplicated enrollment has the ''potential to save taxpayers approximately $14 billion annually.'' That is a large number. How did they arrive at that conclusion with no report, no findings, and no data underpinning its sensational headline? That was the point. The supposed smoking gun that the junior Senator from Louisiana touted but failed to mention was that, if someone is enrolled in both States, it can be explained in some of the basics, like they moved or that their name was found on two Federal health programs. Fraud? Maybe. They could have lost their job and no longer could pay health premiums, so they enrolled in Medicaid. That is not fraud. Even CMS had the caveat of the word ''potential'' when talking about whether people were actually receiving benefits from two different programs. CMS used ''potential'' again when talking about the cost to taxpayers.

It fits the Republican narrative to tell half the story. It is an effort to cover their tracks when it comes to retroactivity to justify the massive devastation that was caused by the Big Beautiful Bill.

What the junior Senator from Louisiana wants you to believe is that the only way to root out waste, fraud, and abuse in Medicaid is by passing the single largest healthcare cut in American history. I think he is just wrong. My colleague ignored a warning from the Louisiana Hospital Association and the Louisiana Rural Hospital Coalition, which wrote that cuts in the Big Beautiful Bill will be ''historic in their devastation'' and ''force consolidation of services, staffing reductions, and closures.'' That is the reality in Louisiana of the Big Beautiful Bill.

His fears were echoed in the trip I took last weekend to southern Illinois, to Springfield. Doctors and nurses there warned that Medicaid cuts will force rural-based providers to scale back services and push patients into overcrowded emergency rooms, straining the entire system.

I heard the same story at Roseland Community Hospital in Chicago, which relies on Medicaid for 63 percent of their patients. A hospital that has served its community for 100 years is facing what the CEO said was a ''game over'' situation.

To the junior Senator from Louisiana who believes this budget bill is merely stopping cheaters from enrolling in Medicaid, he can sing that tune to 33 rural hospitals in his home State which are now at risk of closing. That is what this awful bill does.

You might be wondering: What are we going to do with the $1 trillion in healthcare cut money? It is going to go to tax cuts for billionaires. Goodness gracious. Give Elon Musk a $250,000 tax cut, and I am sorry to say he won't even notice it. That is the reality. But these hospitals, particularly rural hospitals, will notice it, and many of them will be forced to close. The same thing will be true for nursing homes, which provide valuable, lifesaving services to senior citizens. They face cutbacks because of the Big Beautiful Bill, and families are going to have to sacrifice as a result.

While in Ohio, Vice President VANCE said: ''If that Big, Beautiful Bill hadn't passed, you all would have gotten a tax increase to the tune of thousands of dollars,'' and ''we happen to believe that you all work very hard for your money. You ought to keep it.''

A great sentiment, but it is not true. The truth is that working families will see more of their hard-earned money gone for higher personal healthcare costs. Hang on tight. The cost of health insurance premiums and the cost of healthcare itself is going to continue to increase, at the expense of American families. We estimate they will lose $2,400 a year.

What is the tax break that comes out of the Big Beautiful Bill? If you are making $35,000 or less in annual income, $13 a month—$13 a month versus $2,400 a year. Do the math. Working families will be the losers in that respect.

Coupled with the costs of losing healthcare coverage, grocery benefits, and higher prices on clothing, prescriptions, and groceries due to tariffs, that translates into huge losses for working families.

The Vice President says you ''ought to keep'' your hard-earned money, but the Republican bill only gives crumbs to working Americans. So while millionaires, billionaires, and big corporations rake in the dough, working families are left with scraps. And Donald Trump, JD VANCE, and congressional Republicans are hoping you don't notice.

I also want to take a moment to discuss the energy provisions in this bill.

In 2022, the Inflation Reduction Act unleashed billions of dollars in investments in solar and clean energy projects, creating hundreds of thousands of jobs with it—primarily in red districts. But that didn't matter to congressional Republicans who voted to dismantle the law's tax credits for wind, solar, and electric cars.

More than $22 billion worth of clean energy projects have now been canceled this year, and with those cancellations, hundreds of thousands of jobs will be lost and energy bills will shoot up. But upon the bill's passage, Interior Secretary Doug Burgum said:

The One Big Beautiful Bill . . . will restore energy independence and make life more affordable for American families.

That is false: the bill kneecaps wind and solar energy—the fastest-growing sources of clean, cheap power. And our working families will pay the price—literally.

Illinois residents will see their electric bills rise as much as $400 annually, thanks to this bill. So much for those tax breaks.

So while this administration and their lackeys preach the supposed benefits of this bill, Democrats will be there to push back and remind the public what this bill really does. And we Democrats will remind these reeling communities who allowed this to happen: Donald Trump, JD VANCE, and Republicans in Congress.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 90, Brian Nesvik, of Wyoming, to be Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

John Thune, Tommy Tuberville, Bernie Moreno, Tim Sheehy, John Barrasso, John R. Curtis, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Mike Rounds, Katie Boyd Britt, Roger Marshall, Pete Ricketts, John Boozman, David McCormick, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Rick Scott of Florida, Eric Schmitt, Lindsey Graham.

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 Brian Nesvik, of Wyoming, to be Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 55, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 468 Ex.]

YEAS—55

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

NAYS—41

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

NOT VOTING—4

Cassidy	Welch
Gallego	Duckworth

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 55, the nays are 41, and the motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Casey Mulligan, of Illinois, to be Chief Counsel for Advocacy, Small Business Administration.

VOTE ON MULLIGAN NOMINATION

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

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. 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 bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 469 Ex.]

YEAS—52

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

NAYS—44

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

NOT VOTING—4

Cassidy	Welch
Gallego	Duckworth

The nomination was confirmed.

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

The majority leader.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that at 2:15 today, the Senate vote on confirmation of the Nesvik nomination and that following disposition of the nomination, the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Rinaldi nomination.

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

The Senator from Missouri.

SOLEMNLY MARKING THE ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP, CONDEMNING THE MULTIPLE ATTEMPTS AGAINST THE PRESIDENT'S LIFE, CONDEMNING THOSE WHO INCITE VIOLENCE AGAINST POLITICAL OFFICIALS, AND HONORING THE VICTIMS OF THE SHOOTING

Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, a little over a year ago, the unthinkable happened: A former President of the United States was shot on American soil. A patriotic father was killed in cold blood, and two others were left critically injured. This all happened at a peaceful campaign rally in the heart of Pennsylvania.

For the first time in 40 years, a new generation of Americans now carries

the memory of a President under fire. President Trump came within a millisecond and a millimeter of losing his life that day.

Our Nation has a painful history with political violence and has mourned Presidents and watched great leaders cut down in their prime. Political violence is never the answer. We resolve our disputes in this country through elections and through free speech.

So today, I am calling for this unanimous consent of a resolution to unequivocally condemn political violence of any kind and honor the victims of these terrible acts.

One year ago at Butler, we lost a great American, Corey Comperatore, a man who, in the blink of an eye, instinctively shielded his family from gunfire, sacrificing his life in an extraordinary act of courage. We also honor David Dutch and James Copenhaver, who survived critical injuries in the same brutal attack.

These men that day came in peace to participate in the civic life of our Republic, never imagining that they would leave either losing their life or fighting for their lives.

All acts of political violence must be met with swift condemnation from all elected officials, Republican or Democrat.

This resolution further honors other law enforcement officers, first responders, medical personnel, and Secret Service agents who answered the call of duty when it mattered the most. They ran towards danger when America was under attack. These brave men and women served their fellow Americans regardless of their party affiliation or race, sex, or nationality.

It shouldn't be difficult to find bipartisan support to stand against political violence. The assassination attempt of former-President and now-President Trump is not a partisan matter. Standing against violence should never be partisan.

So today, we are saying something very simple but important—that we unequivocally stand against political violence in all forms. I urge my colleagues to stand with me today and pass this resolution.

Mr. President, as if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 363, which is at the desk.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 363) solemnly marking the one-year anniversary of the attempted assassination of President Donald J. Trump, condemning the multiple attempts against the President's life, condemning those who incite violence against political officials, and honoring the victims of the shooting.

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 363) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

HEMP

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the original intent of the 2018 farm bill's Federal hemp legislation and the need to restore it.

Earlier this year, a report from the University of Kentucky found that cannabis-related poisonings among Kentuckians under 18 rose by 43 percent between 2023 and 2024. As you can see here, emergency room visits are rising steadily as well: ''Cannabis-Related Emergency Department Visits Climb in Kentucky, Especially Among [Young People].''

Calls to poison control centers in Kentucky regarding cannabis have doubled in the last 5 years, and more than 40 percent—listen to this—have been about children under 12.

Children all over the Commonwealth, from Laurel County to Jefferson County, are facing serious health and safety concerns due to THC poisoning from hemp-derived products, and so are children all across the country. It is not just a Kentucky problem.

How did we get here? Let's go back to the beginning.

Back in 2014, I lead the effort to secure pilot programs for industrial hemp, and I led the effort to legalize the crop in 2018. This industry has seen tremendous growth, especially in Kentucky. Hemp is used in food, clothing, paper, plastic, and many of our consumer products. Its versatility gave farmers hope for a new and profitable cash crop.

Unfortunately, some companies looking to make a quick buck have been exploiting a loophole in the 2018 farm bill by taking legal amounts of THC from hemp and turning it into intoxicating substances. They take these synthetic chemicals and use them as ingredients in appealing snack and candylike products and distribute them in familiar packaging.

Here, it gives you an example of how these hemp-related, THC-related factors are packaged in candy that looks very much like candy being consumed by kids all over the country. This is, by definition, a real problem.

Children love candy. They can recognize well-known brands of candy before they can even read. As you can see from the chart that we were just talking about, the packaging on these snacks is nearly identical to Oreos, Doritos, or Skittles. Little do kids know that these products are laced with intoxicating synthetic chemicals. Young children are consuming these snacks thinking they are candy, not poison.

On top of that, these products are easily accessible and can be purchased at convenience stores. Some of them are even more intoxicating than actually smoking marijuana. Let me repeat that. Products more potent than marijuana can be bought off the shelf of a gas station.

Look, for years, I have called on the FDA to regulate these products. They have not taken the initiative to do so, which has certainly been an ongoing disappointment.

That is why we are here today. The language I recently attempted to secure in the Agriculture appropriations bill would have kept these products out of the hands of children while preserving the hemp industry for farmers.

For the sake of those misguided by my opponents on this issue, let me clarify a few things: You will hear from some that this language would have meant the total destruction of the hemp industry. Well, obviously, that is wrong. Under my language, industrial hemp, and CBD would have remained legal, period. Period.

Some predicted there would be widespread economic downturn to farmers should this language become law. Wrong again.

Hemp makes up less than one-hundredth of 1 percent of all farmed acres in the United States. I want the number to grow and to grow a lot. That is why I secured the legalization of hemp production back in the first place.

As long as I have been a Senator from Kentucky, I have supported our farmers. I am proud to have served on the Agriculture Committee my entire career in the Senate because of its importance to Kentucky. From the tobacco buyout program to tax relief for the sale of farmland, I have made sure our farmers have the tools they need to be successful in volatile markets. My language would not have changed that.

This language would have remained in the appropriations package had one Senator not derailed the process. You know, it is one thing to call yourself an advocate for hemp farmers, but if you didn't support the 2014 pilot program and you didn't support the 2018 farm bill that legalized hemp production and you would have blocked a major step forward on this appropriations package if it had included my language to close the bad-actor loophole, then what does being an advocate actually mean?

This package funds a significant portion of the Federal revenue, from Agencies that provide critical resources to our farmers to law enforcement, military, and our veterans, just to name a few.

We need the appropriations process to function. Congress needs to do its job and fund the government. And I, for

one, do not intend to be an obstacle. So in order to move the package forward, I allowed my language to be stripped from the bill. But my effort to rule out bad actors, protect our children, support farmers, and reaffirm our original legislative intent will continue.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. MOODY). The Senator from Florida.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 1627

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Madam President, I rise today to talk about an issue of great national importance that affects every family in America.

We know the Federal Reserve has been wildly unaccountable for years under Jay Powell's leadership. Beyond his failed monetary policies leading to destroyed markets and misallocated capital, Powell has also overseen regulatory failures and numerous reports of unethical practices among its own members, all of which were overlooked and enabled by the Fed Board's handpicked inspector general.

This malpractice and lack of transparency and accountability have seriously undermined confidence in our financial system. We can work to address this and start repairing the broken trust of the American people today by passing my bill, which is simple: Establish an independent, Senate-confirmed inspector general at the Federal Reserve. Every other government Agency has one. Surely the government's largest Agency should have one. It is just common sense to establish a Senate-confirmed inspector general at the Fed.

This inspector general would finally be independent of the Fed Board, who are the very people they are tasked with investigating in order to bring accountability to the Fed on behalf of the American people.

This must happen now. In recent years, we have seen hundreds of allegations of voting members of the Federal Reserve engaging in shady and unethical investment trades while in possession of insider information about the Fed. We have seen the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank and others.

We have seen a complete mismanagement of the Fed's policies while a culture of corruption has arrived at the Fed, and we are seeing billions of taxpayer dollars being spent to renovate the Federal Reserve headquarters in Washington, DC, all while the Fed is operating at a loss.

You might wonder, as I do, why no one gets fired or is held accountable and why no changes have been made. It is because Jay Powell is Chair, and the Federal Reserve's inspector general is appointed by and reports to—guess who—Jay Powell and the Fed Board, period.

It is a clear conflict of interest constructed with a perverse pay structure that enables issues to go unchecked and covered up for too long at the expense of the American people. The American people want to know their central bank is doing the right thing. The Fed makes decisions that impact their lives each and every day. For families like mine, growing up without much, the Fed's choices can decide if they can afford their mortgage or put food on the table. Families across our Nation deserve a Federal Reserve that they trust is working in their best interest.

I would like to thank Senate Banking Committee Ranking Member ELIZABETH WARREN, Senator LUMMIS, and Senator MORENO for working with me on this important bill. I would now like to yield to my colleague Senator MORENO to say a few words about the legislation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Ohio.

Mr. MORENO. I rise to draw some sunlight and daylight with what is actually going on at the Fed. There is a lot of commentary that you hear in the news and social media, sometimes in a world here of hyperpartisanship, the facts get lost. So I just want to support and emphasize how important the legislation is that Senator SCOTT is proposing.

Back about 8 years ago, the Federal Reserve Board of Governors decided to renovate four buildings—four buildings that they have in Washington, DC.

They came up with what I think is a very, very high budget, $2.1 billion to renovate—not to build new—but $2.1 billion to renovate four buildings. Huge number; big, big number. Now back 7 or 8 years ago, the Federal Reserve was bringing in hundreds of billions of dollars in profits, as they have for decades. So you think, well, maybe this is a needed expenditure. I don't probably think that if we had some hindsight we wouldn't have embarked on that path, but they did.

One of the four buildings is on New York Avenue. They call it the NYA building. They decided to take that out of consideration. So now you have three buildings; the budget would have been somewhere around $1.6 billion.

They completed the Martin building about 3 or 4 years ago for about 25 percent over budget for the original estimate back in 2017, and here is where we are landing: The Eccles and 1951 building, the ones you see when you drive down Pennsylvania Avenue, the iconic picture of the Fed building, that total renovation should have cost about $1.6 billion. It is now together—all three buildings—it is now approaching $3.1 to $3.2 billion. The cost overrun is more than the entire cost to build CityCenter. Think about that for a second, on a renovation. The Chairman of the Federal Reserve—clearly one of two things is happening—either he is absolutely not paying attention to this project, or he is completely inept in managing it. Either way, what we need desperately is exactly what my colleague from Florida is suggesting—an independent body that would go in and say: What the heck is going on here?

Because I don't know about the Presiding Officer, but you go around Florida or I go around Ohio or when my colleague goes around Michigan, it is a little hard to explain why an organization like the Federal Reserve, which is losing hundreds of billions of dollars, is spending billions to renovate a building when their actions are costing them personally thousands and thousands of dollars on their car loans, their home loans, their credit card, their business loans.

There needs to be transparency. We need an independent Fed, we do; it is a proud history here in America. That is what has made our financial system strong.

But sometimes, even in the best institutions, you end up with incompetent leaders. And that is the case with Jerome Powell. And that is why we need an independent investigator to go in there and take a look at what is actually going on.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. I yield to the Senator from Wyoming Senator LUMMIS.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Ms. LUMMIS. Madam President, I rise to support commonsense legislation that will bring transparency and accountability to the Federal Reserve Board and Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Currently, the inspector general of the Fed is appointed by the Fed Chair. This is highly unusual, and it means that the inspector general has no independence from the management of the Fed and is susceptible to influence. This is an unacceptable arrangement. I think we all agree that inspectors general cannot do their jobs without independence.

Democrats who are objecting to this commonsense legislation today have made inspector general independence a priority for years, and rightfully so, until today. Think about that. Democrats are saying they are OK with being complicit in the mismanagement of the Fed that we are seeing today. We are witnessing unprecedented mismanagement of the Fed.

The Fed overrun—and it was just discussed by my colleague from Ohio—it has overrun its budget for its building renovation by at least $700 million, and Chair Powell appointed the inspector general who is now tasked with examining this fiasco. Do we expect the Fed's inspector general to do anything other than immunize the Fed Chair from further scrutiny and say everything is on the up and up?

I won't have any confidence in the Fed's IG and its findings until that person has statutory independence from the Fed Chair. The Federal Reserve has grown too powerful, too insulated, too comfortable, and they are operating in the shadows. And this is the minimum we can do to start getting this independent Agency some scrutiny. They don't even respond to FOIA requests.

You can't get an answer. That place is Whac-A-Mole. If you try to talk to the Fed Chair about something, they will put it on the Vice Chair for banking supervision who will put it on the presidents of the Federal Reserve banks who put it back on the White House who put it back on bank supervision who put it on the lawyer for bank supervision. This place is a ping-pong ball when it comes to trying to get an answer to a question. It has become a giant black hole of unaccountability. It is time for change.

This is a commonsense change that my colleague from Florida is proposing. It is the right approach. I am proud to partner with Senator SCOTT to move this legislation forward, and we will keep trying.

Thank you to the gentleman from Florida for his tireless advocacy for common sense.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Well, first off, it is clear we need changes at the Federal Reserve to bring accountability the American people deserve. I have several bills to address the failures of the Fed and bring accountability on behalf of the American people, and today I ask my colleagues to support my commonsense bipartisan bill with my colleagues Senator WARREN, Senator MORENO, Senator LUMMIS to establish a truly independent inspector general at the Federal Reserve, and I know my colleague from Michigan believes in the same thing.

We have to have accountability. This bill is a great first step to fix the failures and restore trust in the Federal Reserve and it sure works on behalf of the American people. I encourage all my colleagues to support it.

I ask unanimous consent as if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, the Banking Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 1627, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration. I further ask 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. PETERS. Reserving the right to object.

I rise today to oppose S. 1627, a bill to require Presidential appointment and Senate confirmation of the inspector general and the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection.

This bill, certainly on its surface, may look like good government, but in reality, it would give President Trump more partisan, political control over the independent Federal Reserve.

I fully support independence for our inspectors general. I worked with Senator GRASSLEY to pass bipartisan legislation that was signed into law that strengthened the independence by requiring the President to provide an explanation to Congress before firing an IG to ensure that these watchdogs cannot be removed for political reasons.

Well, President Trump violated the law 18 times in his first week in office. That is a lot of lawbreaking in a short period of time. And after the President fired the IGs with stellar track records of protecting taxpayer dollars and detecting waste, fraud, and abuse, basically, he then nominated partisan operatives to take their place.

So let's take a look at some of the nominees he put in place. Trump's nominee for labor IG is a former Republican Congressman and the subject of multiple past investigations for ethical misconduct. The nominee to be IG for Health and Human Services is a former Republican official who was forced to resign due to unethical conduct.

The nominee to be IG of the VA, the intelligence community, and the USDA have all served as political appointees in the very Agencies that they are now asked to be independent from. A very difficult task.

These nominees are basically an insult—an insult—to the very concept of independent oversight.

We need an independent inspector general conducting oversight of the Fed and the President's actions to gut the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. What we don't need—we don't need another partisan IG nominee who is more interested in pleasing Donald Trump than in holding him accountable. President Trump has done enough to damage independent oversight, and it must stop here.

I would be glad to work with my friend, the senior Senator from Florida. We have talked about this. I look forward to working with him on meaningful, truly impartial, and effective oversight that would truly result in a more independent watchdog.

But passing this bill now would give President Trump more of what he wants while actively undermining the very mechanisms of independent accountability—if that is what we want, this is not the measure. And I look forward to working with the senior Senator from Florida to make that happen in the future.

But because of that, I must object now.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. First off, I want to thank my colleague for his interest in making sure we have an independent inspector general. I don't think there is a disagreement on that. It is how do we get them on point and the process of getting them confirmed.

So I actually look forward to working with my colleague. Hopefully, we get this done quickly. I mean, there is so many issues—as we all agree—at the Federal Reserve, and we have got to get somebody independent in there. And so we have to come up with the right process where it is not perceived to be political.

So I know my colleagues from Ohio and from Wyoming would like to say something.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. MORENO. Will my colleague from Michigan yield to a couple of questions?

Mr. PETERS. I have to go.

Mr. MORENO. Got to go? OK. Well, here are the questions I was going to ask. He mentioned in his comments what is obvious, the President nominated somebody to be an inspector general. And then the Senate, 100 Members of the Senate confirm that person, thus ensuring the independence.

So if you don't like that particular nominee, you are able to come right here, go to the floor, and vote no.

But this idea that this inspector general would somehow be a partisan person by definition is wrong because what you are doing is you are giving the President the ability to make a nomination and then the Senate the unique constitutional power to confirm that nominee.

That is the way we have done it forever. We did it for President Trump. The prior Congresses did it for Biden and every other President before. So this idea that all of a sudden, this is now something new is totally nonsense.

And here, look, part of the problem that we have today is that the Democrats are making historical efforts to absolutely stop President Trump from basic operational duties.

We have never had a Congress—as you know, Madam President—that has not allowed nominees to go forward with unanimous consent. So here we are, on August 1, having to go through vote after vote.

I was going to ask my colleague if he knew whom he even voted no for, and the answer is they don't even know whom they are voting no for. They just come and vote no because that is what they do. And that type of just total blocking for the total partisanship is not what the American people want.

If you have a legitimate concern with the nominee, there is a process to do that. But just to universally filibuster every single nominee is not the way for us to move forward. The voters expect more.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Ms. LUMMIS. Madam President, I want to echo the remarks that were just made by my colleague from Ohio and add a couple of things. Not only do we as a Senate have an opportunity to prevent a nominee from being confirmed into office by our own vote and our own scrutiny and our own vetting of nominees, but we have the opportunity, in this case, to turn an Agency that was created for independence that has now become independently disassociated with the very people it is designed to help govern and help rein

them in with a Senate-confirmed inspector general.

Now, we have proposed other ideas that have not been accepted yet, but that should be considered, if my colleagues on the other side of the aisle won't accept this one.

One of the reasons I like the Senator from Florida's idea here is because it is such a strategic, narrow way to try to get some independent eyes at the Fed. Other ways that I had considered, and that we could still consider if this idea is unacceptable, is to make the Feds subject to FOIA. We could confirm all 12 of the regional presidents of the Federal Reserve Banks so we have a say in who they are and any number of other provisions that give the people of this country some oversight over that entity, the Federal Reserve, that has become so independent that it thumbs its nose at working for and with the American people.

Look what happened in the way banks were supervised in the last 4 years. Choke Point 2.0 brought about a government-caused failure of two banks. Those banks were not insolvent. The Federal Reserve and the FDIC pushed them into insolvency because they didn't like their customers. That was it. They didn't like it that banks were providing banking services to digital asset companies, to Melania Trump, to the children of the now-President. They targeted those people. They debanked those people. Government did that by threatening the financial institutions that had them as customers, saying that the safety and soundness of the institution was going to be subject to scrutiny if they continued to bank digital asset businesses, the Trump family, and others.

That was government targeting—targeting—Americans. That was our government turned against our people for no good reason, and there is no way to get scrutiny of the Fed because they don't have an independent IG. They are not subject to the Freedom of Information Act. We don't have sufficient oversight of them. We have got to get oversight over the Fed.

And I want to applaud my colleague from Florida for taking the initial step that every other Agency is subject to: an independent inspector general.

So I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who are objecting to this measured, commonsense matter, for heaven's sake, come up with a solution because the Fed is an unaccountable, run-amok place that is not responsive to the American people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. TILLIS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the quorum call with respect to the Rinaldi nomination.

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

VOTE ON NESVIK NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Nesvik nomination?

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, 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 Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY).

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

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 470 Ex.]

YEAS—54

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

NAYS—43

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

NOT VOTING—3

Cassidy	Gallego	Welch

The nomination was confirmed.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 192, Luigi Rinaldi, of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Oriental Republic of Uruguay.

John Thune, Tommy Tuberville, Bernie Moreno, Tim Sheehy, John Barrasso, John R. Curtis, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Mike Rounds, Katie Boyd Britt, Roger Marshall, Pete Ricketts, John Boozman, David McCormick, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Rick Scott of Florida, Eric Schmitt, Lindsey Graham.

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 Luigi Rinaldi, of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY).

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 471 Ex.]

YEAS—52

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

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	Luján	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—3

Cassidy	Gallego	Welch

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MCCORMICK). On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 45. The motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Luigi Rinaldi, of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Oriental Republic of Uruguay.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, what is a very bad leader? What does a bad leader do when they get bad news? Shoot the messenger. That is just what happened with the head of the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Today, we got some of the worst labor numbers that we have gotten in a long time. The economy added only a paltry 73,000 jobs last month. But that wasn't the worst of it. We learned the economy actually added less than 20,000 jobs each in May and June following 2 months of Donald Trump's ''Liberation Day.'' That is 250,000 fewer jobs than we thought.

So, of course, that is very bad news for the economy, but what does Donald Trump do? Instead of trying to fix the economy, he shoots the messenger. The woman he fired, the head of the Bureau of Labor Statistics passed, this Senate 88 to 8. Vice President VANCE voted for her. And now, fire her.

Well, Donald Trump, firing her isn't going to relieve the chaos that you have created with your ramshackle tariff regime. Shooting the messenger isn't going to make the jobs that we are losing in healthcare and clean energy because of your so-called Big Beautiful Bill come back. None of this will change. The American people will still suffer in exactly the same way that they did an hour ago before you fired the head of the BLS.

You know, Donald Trump sometimes admires dictators. He admires them. Well, he sometimes acts just like them. It is classic Donald Trump: When he gets the news he doesn't like, he shoots the messenger.

Now, there is a word for this when the Soviet Union does it, when the dictators of the Russians did it. They called it ''pripiski.'' It meant ''Fire the messenger. Don't change your policies.''

As long as Donald Trump keeps firing messengers who bring him truth—he hates truth when he doesn't agree with it—as long as he does that, this economy will not improve, inflation and costs to the American people will not go away, and new jobs will not return to this country. He ought to start governing like a leader, not like someone who imitates authoritarian leaders.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

REMEMBERING LLOYD WAYNE COPPEDGE

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about two important topics. One is the loss of a remarkable South Carolinian. Mr. Lloyd Wayne Coppedge of Myrtle Beach went to be with the Lord on July 19 at the young, spry age of 80. Lloyd Coppedge was a great American, a great friend of mine. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and a dedicated friend.

He had a business career marked by both heart and integrity. Lloyd purchased Wolverine Brass in Myrtle Beach, where he not only led the company to success but also created a work culture built on compassion and respect.

His legacy lies in the lives he has touched, whose lives are better because of him. Lloyd was a giant of a man, and he will be missed by me and thousands and thousands of South Carolinians.

ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL

Mr. President, I also wanted to talk about the success of the One Big Beautiful Bill. We are nearly at the 1-month mark, and the benefits to South Carolinians and Americans are remarkable.

Let me just talk first for a few minutes about the success of historic firsts in the bill. The Trump accounts for every child is fantastic, but I wanted to spend a minute or two on the success of the tax credits for school choice embedded in that One Big Beautiful Bill.

I will tell you, as a kid growing up in poverty, I went to four elementary schools by the fourth grade, so I know firsthand the importance of making sure that every single child in South Carolina and I dare say every single child in America deserves a quality education. I don't care whether that is at a private school, public school, home school, charter school—I want every child to have a choice in education.

I believe the old motto is correct: When a parent has a choice, their child has the best chance at success in this Nation because education is the closest thing to magic in America.

We can also celebrate the continuation of opportunity zones made permanent in that Big Beautiful Bill. I will say, without any question, in 2017, in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, we passed, for the first time, my opportunity zone legislation. And as a result, over the last nearly 10 years—less than 10 years—we have seen over $90 billion invested in high-poverty communities across our Nation. At home in South Carolina, we have 135 designated areas. And in those areas, we have seen over 18,000 jobs created, almost 4,000 housing units since its inception, and all of that nationwide with less than a 5-percent gentrification.

We also wanted to target education in a different way, making sure that we would allow coaches and athletic staff to claim out-of-pocket, job-related expenses on their taxes just like we do for classroom teachers. So many American educators, too many coaches have to reach into their own pockets to make sure their students and their athletes have what it takes, not only on the field but in the classrooms and even at home.

There are benefits in the Big Beautiful Bill for every single South Carolinian. Whether it is job creation, lower taxes, or stronger communities, the One Big Beautiful Bill brings home so many resources for thousands of South Carolinians.

I think about the campaign promises on the trail. Those same promises are producing for hard-working, middle-class Americans. I think about my good friend who has a professional career waiting as a waitress. Jackie States is her name. She benefits tremendously from lowering taxes on tips. This is a campaign promise that President Trump made on the trail, and we delivered for the American people by reducing—nearly eliminating—tax on tips for so many people in the service industry.

I was walking through the airport, and officers of the law—thank God for the law enforcement officers across this country who dedicate their lives to keeping all of us safe. But I will never forget the comments made just a week or so ago by a few officers who are now more excited than ever to work overtime because President Trump has made it easier to keep more of their overtime wages in their pockets and not in Uncle Sam's coffers. This is good news for public safety, and it is great news for law enforcement families.

Our President Trump went a step further when he said he wanted to reduce the taxes on our senior citizens living every day, some of them, paycheck to paycheck. So what did our President do? He lowered taxes on Social Security, making it easier for our senior citizens on fixed incomes to make those very difficult ends meet. This is a big win for our seniors.

I could also go on about the expanding tax credits for beauty salons and barber shops, the legislation that I wrote that helps more than a million small businesses—many of them minority businesses and rural businesses that desperately needed the assistance.

I could go on about the importance of President Trump's work on securing our border, finishing the border wall with the extra resources, or talk about stopping the flow of fentanyl coming through our southern border or ports of entry.

I could spend some time being thankful that we have Border Patrol agents that will be better resourced with better tools, restoring law and order in our Nation because of that One Big Beautiful Bill.

I could also talk about how our military is better equipped with the tools of the future—not the 21st century but the 22nd century—how, through the funding of the Golden Dome or improving the quality of life for our men and women in uniform by having more resources deployed to make sure that our military remains the finest fighting force on the planet or how we modernized our military or ''drill, baby, drill,'' the ability to find more resources in the energy sector.

As energy production goes up, prices come down, not just prices at the pump but prices at the grocery store. Whatever it takes to bring to the American

people by energy, those prices go down, affordability goes up.

I can go on and on and on about the One Big Beautiful Bill, but time does not allow me to continue. I will just close with this: I am thankful that we live in a country where our elected officials that run for office can be held responsible and accountable for the promises they make. We, the American people, can see the promises they keep.

And this American, I will concede, this American, I will say, is very happy that that One Big Beautiful Bill helps working-class Americans, helps women working and earning tips, helps men in barber shops. I can just tell you, this is one happy American because of the benefits coming out of that One Big Beautiful Bill. And I hope more Americans hear about the details of that fabulous piece of legislation that you worked so hard on and that I worked so hard on because the American people can celebrate 4 more years of commonsense, higher wages, lower taxes, and lower prices.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 3944

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am about to propound a unanimous consent request that will allow this body to proceed with three appropriations bills that were approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee with overwhelming bipartisan support.

I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, and at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader, the Senate resume consideration of Calendar No. 121, H.R. 3944, and the committee-reported substitute amendment be withdrawn; that during the consideration of H.R. 3944, the Collins substitute amendment, No. 3411, which is the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill and the Agriculture appropriations bill, be considered an Appropriations Committee amendment for purposes of rule XVI, with no other rule XVI points of order waived by this agreement; that H.R. 3944, as engrossed by the House of Representatives on June 25, 2025, and H.R. 4121, as reported by the House Appropriations Committee on June 25, 2025, serve as the basis for defense of germaneness under rule XVI for any floor amendments and that it be in order for floor amendments to amend the substitute in more than one place; that the following managers' package of amendments be considered and agreed to en bloc to No. 3411: The Paul amendment No. 3070, Shaheen-Grassley No. 3430, Smith No. 3025, Hirono No. 3409, Rounds No. 3081, Rounds No. 3082, Budd-Shaheen No. 3416, Hawley No. 3080, Rosen-Cortez Masto No. 3208, Cornyn No. 3073, Hirono No. 3110, Shaheen No. 3431, Klobuchar No. 3418, Crapo-Rosen No. 3163, Blumenthal No. 3433, Booker-Tuberville No. 3200, Moran No. 3190, Crapo-Merkley No. 3220; and that upon adoption of the managers' package, the only amendments in order be the following amendments, if offered, to No. 3411; that at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader, the Senate vote in relation to these amendments: No. 1, Merkley amendment No. 3114, Blumenthal No. 3432, Murphy No. 3447, Van Hollen No. 3115, Duckworth No. 3466, Tuberville No. 3413, Kennedy No. 3414, Kennedy No. 3415, Scott No. 3113, Johnson No. 3428; further, upon disposition of the amendments listed above, the Senate vote on adoption of the substitute amendment No. 3411, as amended, with a 60-affirmative vote threshold required for adoption; that the bill as amended, if amended, be read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the bill, as amended, if amended, with a 60-vote affirmative threshold required for passage; finally, notwithstanding passage of H.R. 3944, as amended, if amended, it be in order to consider amendment No. 3412, this is the Legislative Branch appropriations text; the Senate vote on adoption of amendment No. 3412, and if adopted, H.R. 3944 be further amended and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that, where applicable, the amendments be called up as modified to reflect that they are drafted to the substitute amendment No. 3411.

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

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that there be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to each vote in relation to H.R. 3944.

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

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I just want to thank our colleagues on both sides of the aisle. It has taken a great deal of work, good faith, and negotiation to get to this point.

I particularly want to thank the vice chair of the Appropriations Committee, Senator MURRAY, for her leadership in this area. I want to thank all of these subcommittee leaders on both sides of the aisle and the members of the subcommittee for really doing an exceptional job in drafting the bills that I hope we will pass and send on to the House for negotiation in conference.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I am so glad that we are moving on our first appropriations package of fiscal year 2026. It is a package of bipartisan funding bills that invest in our communities and reject damaging cuts from Trump and House Republicans.

I want to acknowledge the chair, my partner, Senator from Maine, who has worked really hard to get these bills to this point. And I appreciate the tremendous amount of effort she and the subcommittee chairs have put into this, as well as our ranking members.

If you think like I do that we cannot have another slush fund CR that gives away more power to Trump; and if you think like I do that we need to reject a budget that was so plainly written by political appointees who do not care or know what our States need, instead make the investments we all know are best for the people we represent, then let me be clear: Bills like this are the best chance we have to get the best outcome for folks back home.

In this package, we fully fund the WIC program and reject Trump's efforts to eliminate international food aid programs, rural housing support, and food boxes that feed hundreds of thousands of seniors. We reject Trump's call to cut FDA funding by hundreds of millions and slash ag research funding for universities across the country. And we make investments to support our servicemembers and their families and to keep our promises to veterans—funding VA healthcare, fighting for veteran homelessness, and more.

Crucially, we don't just have investments in this bill, but also new provisions to hold this and any administration accountable to deliver for our veterans—requiring VA maintains staffing levels to meet their own goals so we can stop the damage being caused by Trump's mass firing of our VA workers; requiring briefings and information so Congress—all of us—can actually get answers on how Trump's new discriminatory policies are affecting our veterans; and withholding some funding until Congress knows these programs are actually working, like for the Electronic Health Record program, where some research will be held until VA certifies new systems are safe and are effective for our veterans.

In addition to this package, we will vote on a Leg Branch bill that rejects Trump's efforts to gut the Government Accountability Office; invests in the Congressional Budget Office and the Congressional Research Service to keep government accountable to laws and facts; and in security for the Capitol and for our Members, something I know everyone here is concerned about.

We have written these bills under challenging circumstances. Russ Vought is illegally hiding the apportionments data we all need to have to do our jobs. And we all recognize he has been illegally blocking funding we all passed for our communities, at least until the courts step in or public pressure forces his hand.

If you are as mad as I am about an unelected bureaucrat like Russ Vought trying to overrule Congress and our constitutional role, you should support these bills.

This is—this is—how we exercise the power of the purse and make sure the voices of our constituents are heard

when it comes to Federal spending. We know his true motivations; it is pretty transparent. He wants Congress to be more partisan—he has said so—and less powerful. They want to gut programs left and right without giving us any say whatsoever.

So I believe we have to reject that path and assert our authority and fight for our communities. We will do that today by passing this bipartisan funding package and pushing ahead with the other bipartisan bills we have in the pipeline as well.

The bills we are moving today show bipartisan work is possible. And the cuts we were able to reject and investments we were able to secure show this to all of us: This is worthwhile.

I hope all of my colleagues join with me in voting for these bills and work with me to keep this progress going.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, notwithstanding Rule 232, I ask unanimous consent that upon disposition of Calendar No. 121, H.R. 3944, as amended, if amended, the Senate vote on confirmation of the Rinaldi nomination, and following disposition of the nomination, the Senate execute the order in relation to the Woll and Kent nominations.

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

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity, also, to thank Leader THUNE for his willingness to bring these appropriations bills before the full Senate. I also thank our Democratic counterparts for working with us to come up with this rather complex time agreement. But it is one that will allow different voices to be heard on both sides of the aisle.

I am very pleased that the Senate is proceeding to consideration of these appropriations bills. Congress has responsibility—a constitutional responsibility—under article I for the power of the purse. We are executing that responsibility by proceeding to these bills. These bills all mean a great deal to each of us.

I want to give my colleagues just some idea of the amount of input that these subcommittees on the Appropriations Committee have received from our colleagues. To give you an example, on the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs bill, we have had, literally, thousands of requests of support, of suggestions from our colleagues from more than 87 of our colleagues. That is very typical. In fact, this past week, when we reported the Defense appropriations committee bill, I think we reached a record high of 95 Senators weighing in with their suggestions, their requests for funding, their suggestions for programmatic changes or support. Those 95 Senators requested and submitted more than 14,000 different letters or inquiries or suggestions for us.

My point is that a great deal of input has gone into the drafting of these bills. That is the way the process should work.

We have had a thorough committee process, with hearings and input from noncommittee members. We have marked up these bills at the subcommittee and full committee levels, and that is what we like to see.

I am very proud of the fact that Maine, the State of Maine, which I am so proud to represent, has one of the highest percentages of veterans in the entire Nation. That is why the funding that is provided by this bill has a special meaning to me, because I know that my State has more than done its part, and I want to ensure that our veterans have access to the benefits and the healthcare they have earned.

My own father was a World War II veteran who was wounded twice in the Battle of the Bulge, earning two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star. It was wonderful to go to the 80th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge and to actually talk to a veteran who had been in the same division as my father. It was deeply moving.

When you read about the bravery of those in that historic battle, which was a turning point in World War II, you can't help but be filled with a sense of awe and gratitude to those who have sacrificed so much for our Nation.

I know that the Presiding Officer has also done his part for our country, and I am grateful that he is presiding today as we take on the Military Construction and Veterans' Administration bill.

We also will be taking up the Agriculture appropriations bill—again, a very important bill for the State of Maine. I grew up in Northern Maine, where potatoes are the major crop, along with broccoli. Maine is also known for its great, wild blueberries. The University of Maine is known for its agricultural research program, and there is funding for that in this bill.

In short, those two bills, plus the bill for the legislative branch, are the ones we will consider today, and I hope at some point we can return to the Commerce-Justice-Science bill—another very important bill that passed easily from our committee.

I would note that the Agriculture appropriations bill was reported by our committee unanimously. Every one of the bills was passed with great bipartisan support.

So I just wanted to give that general background.

We will shortly begin processing the amendments, and there will be very little time for both sides to speak, but I am hopeful that we can make the kind of progress we want to see and use the August time—I am not going to call it a recess or a work period—to talk with our House counterparts, to do some conferencing and get these bills signed into law before the start of the fiscal year on October 1. That is the way the system should work.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, we will soon be voting on bipartisan appropriations bills. These represent the spending strategy that has been worked out between Democrats and Republicans on the committee.

When I came here as an intern some 49 years ago, Senator Hatfield was very engaged on the Appropriations Committee, and he was later chair. I really enjoyed interning for him and hearing how appropriators really considered themselves as, well, first appropriators before they were Democrats or Republicans and how important it was to forge a vision going forward that addressed the needs in every geographic area of the country, in both rural and urban areas, and to bring in the collective voices of everyone together that would help take the country forward.

When Senator Hatfield was ill and not far from passing from this planet, in the last conversation I had with him, he expressed his concern about the committee losing that sense of bipartisan collaboration, and he mentioned specifically—and he was a Republican—working with PATTY MURRAY and with a Democrat, Daniel Inouye, as some of his fondest memories.

Thus, when I ran for reelection, it didn't seem very likely I would win, but I said: If I run, can I be in the first group in my class to be appointed to the spending committee, to the Appropriations Committee? Because I know how important a voice on this committee has been for Oregon as to what we need to be done on water systems, both clean water presentation and septic or sewer systems; how important it is on transportation and to tackle many of the needs that we have throughout our forests, both our national forests and our BLM lands—so many concerns that are addressed. The leadership on the Democratic side said yes.

Then, miraculously—it was an easy promise to make because I wasn't likely to win, but you never know what is going to happen, and I ended up here in the Senate. I was appointed to this committee, and I am very pleased to be on this committee.

But I am concerned now that a huge threat exists to further degrade this bipartisan cooperation, and that is that we have this process called rescissions—a fancy term—and it exists from the 1974 bill, the Budget and Impoundment Control Act. It says that a President can send a request to Congress to undo the bipartisan work that was done here by the spending committee, by the Appropriations Committee. That has never been used in this fashion until this year.

Now, it isn't that there haven't been rescissions—rescissions mean repealing former funding decisions—but they have been done by the Appropriations Committee.

So what has been forged together—Democrats and Republicans together, with every geographic area of the country represented—in that bipartisan

fashion has for the first time been undone in a partisan fashion.

Now we are hearing that Mr. Vought at the OMB, the Office of Management and Budget, is planning to send a rescissions package to us maybe in the middle of August. Why is this important, and why is this a problem and a challenge? It is because he has expounded on a theory that he calls a pocket rescission, and that is, if the fiscal year ends on September 30, which it does, and if he sends it within the last 45 days, he believes that he can thereby, even if we were to meet in September and reject the rescission—that even then, he would be able to use a 45-day pause that is in that 1974 law to not spend the funds that we had directed.

So what does that look like? That looks like a law was passed to spend the funds, but with no change in the law, the President's team stalls until the end of the year, sends in a rescission, and then stalls to the very end of the year and never spends the money. In other words, what was passed into law never happens.

This is a direct attack on the power of the purse, which in the Constitution is allocated to Congress. In that sense, we on the Appropriations Committee are carrying that responsibility, that constitutional responsibility of the power of the purse.

In facing this in the past, the Supreme Court has weighed in twice. The first time was in 1996. Actually, the first time was in 1975. Excuse me. In 1975, the Supreme Court weighed in on the fact that a couple of years earlier, in 1973, President Nixon had frozen, or impounded, funds and not done what Congress had set in a law that had been passed in both Chambers and had been signed by the President.

The Supreme Court said: Hell no. You can't do that. Mr. President, you cannot do that. No President can do that. You have to follow the law. You cannot take the power of the purse.

Then, in 1996, Congress said: Hey, we want to give the President line-item veto.

They passed a law to do so.

The Supreme Court weighed in again and said: Hell no. You have the responsibility under the Constitution of the power of the purse.

So now we are facing the situation in which Mr. Vought is saying: The law is just a suggestion. It is just a ceiling. We can spend less if we want to. We can spend more by transferring funds from one place to the other. The law is just a suggestion.

Well, no, Mr. Vought, it is not just a suggestion, and the President is not a King.

But by doing what he is planning to do with this late rescission, he is basically trying to find a way to, well, run out the tape—''run out the clock'' I guess is the right term—run out the clock and alter the power of the purse.

So I am asking for us to stand together, Democrats and Republicans, and defend our constitutional, bipartisan responsibility and should there be a rescission that comes in in August, for us to come in the first thing in September and vote against it and therefore say no in both Chambers of Congress, thereby sending that message, because that would provide a foundation for us to challenge the strategy Mr. Vought is putting together.

In addition, today, I am asking us to join together, Democrats and Republicans, to say that nothing that is passed by us in the fiscal year 2026 spending bills—nothing that is in those bills will be subject to the 1974 rescission. So this would not be retroactive. It could not at this moment, in this bill, be able to address a possible rescission of funds from 2023 or 2024 or 2025. But we can certainly insulate the funds in 2026 from this partisan attack by the President, this unconstitutional attack by the President.

The first amendment to be up when we convene at 4:15—about 3 minutes from now—will be this amendment to say: Together, Democrats and Republicans, let's defend our constitutional responsibilities, and let's say that nothing we pass in the fiscal year 2026 bill will be subject to that strategy by Mr. Vought and President Trump.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, in a moment, we will begin votes on an appropriations package that includes the fiscal year 2026 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and the Agriculture, FDA, and Rural Development appropriations bills. We will also have the opportunity to consider the fiscal year 2026 Legislative Branch appropriations.

These bills were approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee in overwhelmingly bipartisan votes.

I gave a longer floor speech last week on the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs funding bill, so I will focus my comments now on the Agriculture-FDA and Legislative Branch appropriations.

The Ag-FDA bill was approved unanimously by the Senate Appropriations Committee earlier this month. It is a carefully crafted bill that supports our farmers and rural communities; the safety of our food supply; critical Federal nutrition programs like the WIC Program; and medical research and advancements.

The bill invests in agricultural research that is vital to our farmers as they work to improve the quality, safety, and affordability of our food supply. The dollars invested in these programs, like the potato and blueberry research lines that are so important to my home State of Maine, have yielded significant improvements to the industries they support.

The bill also invests in research facilities across the country, like the University of Maine Forest Health Lab, to ensure that we can continue to lead in agricultural innovation.

This legislation also supports the administration's request in the areas of food safety and rural housing, and it provides much needed investments in animal and plant health programs to protect our agricultural and natural resources.

It also maintains support for our rural areas to ensure that communities in Maine, and, indeed, across the country, have accesses to the resources they need to continue to thrive in these challenging times.

Turning now to the fiscal year 2026 Legislative Branch bill. This legislation provides funding for Congress and the offices and agencies that support our work.

It provides an increase for the Capitol Police to help them meet the expanding mission requirements to keep Members safe and Members' staff and visitors to the Capitol Complex safe. The number of threats against Members of Congress has, unfortunately, increased significantly over the past few years. This bill reflects a bipartisan commitment to address these security concerns.

Again, I want to thank the vice chair; Senators BOOZMAN and OSSOFF, the chair and ranking members of the MILCON-VA Subcommittee; Senators HOEVEN and SHAHEEN, the chair and ranking member of the Agriculture Subcommittee; and Senators MULLIN and HEINRICH, the chair and ranking member of the Legislative Branch Subcommittee, for their hard work and dedication.

Finally, let me note that these are fiscally responsible bipartisan bills, and I urge my colleagues to support them.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to execute the order with respect to Calendar No. 121, H.R. 3944.

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

Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session and resume consideration of H.R. 3944, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A 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.

AMENDMENT WITHDRAWN

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the committee-reported substitute is withdrawn.

AMENDMENT NO. 3411

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.)

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I call up my amendment No. 3411 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Maine [Ms. COLLINS] proposes an amendment numbered 3411.

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of July 31, 2025, under ''Text of Amendments.'')

AMENDMENT NOS. 3070, AS MODIFIED; 3430; 3025; 3409; 3081, AS MODIFIED; 3082, AS MODIFIED; 3416; 3080, AS MODIFIED; 3208; 3073, AS MODIFIED; 3110; 3431; 3418; 3163, AS MODIFIED; 3433; 3200; 3190, AS MODIFIED, AND 3220, AS MODIFIED TO AMENDMENT NO. 3411

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the managers' package to amendment No. 3411 were considered and agreed to.

The amendments were agreed to en bloc, as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 3070, AS MODIFIED

(Purpose: To strike a provision relating to hemp)

Strike section 781 of division B.

AMENDMENT NO. 3430

(Purpose: To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on the use of third-party contractors to conduct medical disability examinations of veterans for purposes of obtaining disability compensation)

At the appropriate place in title II of division A, 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 3025

(Purpose: To require a report on veterans participating in the housing choice voucher program)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. (a) Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs and Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committees on Veterans' Affairs and Financial Services of the House of Representatives a report that identifies, as of the date of the report, the total number of veterans participating in the housing choice voucher program under section 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)).

(b) In this section, the term ''veteran''—

(1) means a person who, regardless of length of service, was a member of the armed forces (as that term is defined in section 101 of title 10, United States Code); and

(2) does not include a person who—

(A) received a dishonorable discharge from the armed forces; or

(B) was discharged or dismissed from the armed forces by reason of the sentence of a general court-martial.

AMENDMENT NO. 3409

(Purpose: To allocate amounts for telehealth for veterans)

In section 250 of title II of division A, strike ''programs.'' and insert ''programs; and, $6,356,000,000 shall be made available for telehealth for veterans.''.

AMENDMENT NO. 3081, AS MODIFIED

(Purpose: To provide for the continuation of National Cemetery Administration surveys)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION SURVEYS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall continue to—

(1) administer the customer service survey of the National Cemetery Administration to veterans, families, and funeral homes through ongoing survey activities; and

(2) publish the results of such survey.

(b) SUBMITTAL TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days before the date on which any change is made to the survey described in subsection (a), including with respect to methodology, participants, or scope, the Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs shall submit a description of such change to—

(1) the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives.

AMENDMENT NO. 3082, AS MODIFIED

(Purpose: To address interment schedule availability at cemeteries under the control of the National Cemetery Administration)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. INTERMENT SCHEDULE AVAILABILITY AT CEMETERIES UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall maintain, on the publicly accessible website landing page of the National Cemetery Administration, a spreadsheet or similar document displaying the most recent interment schedule availability for each operational cemetery under the control of the National Cemetery Administration.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall—

(1) not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, make the spreadsheet or similar document described in subsection (a) available as required by such subsection; and

(2) once every 30 days thereafter, update such spreadsheet or similar document.

(c) DEFINITION OF INTERMENT SCHEDULE AVAILABILITY.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a proposed definition for the term ''interment schedule availability'' that—

(1) generally means the number of business days between the establishment of a case for a deceased individual and the first availability for the interment of the individual; and

(2) takes into account the ability to meet the family's preferred dates, days of the week, and times for scheduling the interment.

(d) REPORT ON HISTORICAL DATA.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on data for interment schedule availability during the five-year period ending on the date on which the report is submitted.

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

(1) the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives.

AMENDMENT NO. 3416

(Purpose: To allocate amounts for opioid prevention and treatment programs)

In section 250 of title II of division A, strike ''programs.'' and insert ''programs; and, $709,573,000 shall be made available for opioid prevention and treatment programs.''.

AMENDMENT NO. 3080, AS MODIFIED

(Purpose: To require reports on facilities at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri)

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

SEC. _____. (a)(1) Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Defense Health Agency shall submit to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report detailing the current and projected capacity, patient load, staffing requirements, and outstanding infrastructure needs at the General Leonard Wood Army Community Hospital in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

(2) The report required by paragraph (1) shall—

(A) assess the role of the hospital specified in such paragraph in supporting medical readiness and emergency care for active duty members of the Armed Forces, dependents of such members, and retirees;

(B) evaluate potential impacts to access and quality of care, including in the surrounding community, if the hospital were to be realigned, downgraded, or have its scope of services reduced; and

(C) assess how the hospital supports the functions and mission of Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, including training activities and programs.

(b)(1) Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Army shall submit to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report detailing the current condition of military family housing at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, including ongoing or planned renovation and upgrade projects, timelines for completion, and any challenges affecting such improvements.

(2) The report required by paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) the total estimated cost of conducting all necessary renovation and replacement activities for deficient family housing units, the number of units in need of replacement,

and a detailed plan for carrying out those activities; and

(B) an assessment of the impact of housing conditions on quality of life and readiness of members of the Armed Forces and their dependents;

(C) recommendations for addressing any identified shortcomings; and

(D) the findings from consultations with military families who live in housing units at Fort Leonard Wood.

AMENDMENT NO. 3208

(Purpose: To require a briefing on the current status, path forward, and timeline to construct a new medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Reno, Nevada)

At the appropriate place in title II of division A, insert the following:

SEC. _____. Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a briefing on the current status, path forward, and timeline to construct a new medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Reno, Nevada, utilizing in full the funds that have been previously appropriated for such purpose prior to their expiration.

AMENDMENT NO. 3073, AS MODIFIED

(Purpose: To require a report on New World screwworm readiness and response)

At the appropriate place in division B, insert the following:

SEC. _____. REPORT ON NEW WORLD SCREWWORM READINESS AND RESPONSE.

Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to Congress a report on the New World Screwworm domestic readiness and response initiative of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, with a particular focus on—

(1)(A) domestic readiness, including the construction of a domestic production facility in the event of a threat of a domestic outbreak; and

(B) exploring partnerships with States and industry with respect to that construction and other domestic preparedness efforts;

(2) sterile fly production technology and other eradication tools and technologies; and

(3) the benefits of and barriers, including timelines and costs, to enhanced domestic, as compared to international, sterile fly production.

AMENDMENT NO. 3110

(Purpose: To require an assessment of the feasibility of expanding the agricultural quarantine and inspection program to products entering Hawaii)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. ASSESSMENT OF FEASIBILITY OF EXPANDING AGRICULTURAL QUARANTINE AND INSPECTION PROGRAM TO PRODUCTS ENTERING HAWAII.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service shall conduct and submit to Congress an assessment regarding the feasibility of expanding the Agricultural Quarantine and Inspection program to products entering the State of Hawaii, which shall include a determination of the methods of transportation and the types of commerce that are the most likely contributors of invasive pests entering the State of Hawaii and recommendations on how to begin implementing the expansion and an estimate of the cost.

AMENDMENT NO. 3431

(Purpose: To allocate amounts for the Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Program)

In section 250 of title II of division A, strike ''programs.'' and insert ''programs; and, $36,879,000 shall be made available for the Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Program.''.

AMENDMENT NO. 3418

(Purpose: To provide appropriations to expedite fiber research on industrial hemp and expand cereal research into mycotoxin risk mitigation)

At the appropriate place in division B, insert the following:

SEC. _____. (a) For an additional amount for ''Agricultural Programs—Agricultural Research Service—Salaries and Expenses'', there is appropriated $500,000, to remain available until expended, to expedite fiber research on industrial hemp between the Cereal Disease Laboratory and the Cotton Fiber Bioscience and Utilization Research Unit, including cooperative agreements with qualified nonprofit organizations.

(b) For an additional amount for ''Agricultural Programs—Agricultural Research Service—Salaries and Expenses'', there is appropriated $500,000, to remain available until expended, to expand existing cereal research into methods to mitigate mycotoxin risks.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount appropriated by this Act under the heading ''Agricultural Programs—Processing, Research, and Marketing—Office of the Secretary'' in title I for the Office of Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations and Intergovernmental Affairs shall be reduced by $1,000,000.

AMENDMENT NO. 3163, AS MODIFIED

(Purpose: To fund activities relating to the suppression and control of Mormon crickets and grasshoppers)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. SUPPRESSION OF MORMON CRICKETS AND GRASSHOPPERS.

Of the funds provided in this Act under the heading ''SALARIES AND EXPENSES'' under the heading ''ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE'' under the heading ''AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS'' under title I of division B, $6,500,000 shall be for activities related to the suppression and control of Mormon crickets and grasshoppers in Western States, of which not less than $2,000,000 shall be for actual treatment of landscape.

AMENDMENT NO. 3433

(Purpose: To limit the availability of funds for canceling large contracts without prior notice and explanation to Congress)

At the end of title II of division A, add the following:

SEC. 2___. LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR CANCELING LARGE CONTRACTS.

None of the amounts appropriated by this title may be obligated or expended to cancel a contract with a value that exceeds $10,000,000 until the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has submitted 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 an advance notification and written explanation of contingency plans to replace the relevant service being cancelled, including any necessary change in the Department's staffing levels.

AMENDMENT NO. 3200

(Purpose: To increase funding for rural decentralized water systems)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount made available in the second undesignated paragraph under the heading ''RURAL WATER AND WASTE DISPOSAL PROGRAM ACCOUNT'' under the heading ''RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE'' in title III for—

(1) the rural utilities program described in section 306E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act shall be $6,500,000, of which not less than $1,500,000 shall be used to provide subgrants to eligible individuals for the construction, refurbishing, and servicing of individually owned household decentralized wastewater systems; and

(2) grants pursuant to section 306(a)(2)(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act shall be $238,900,000.

AMENDMENT NO. 3190, AS MODIFIED

(Purpose: To increase funding for the Healthy Fluid Milk Incentives Program, with an offset)

At the appropriate place in division B, insert the following:

SEC. ____. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount made available for—

(1) ''Domestic Food Programs—Food and Nutrition Service—Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program'' shall be $118,140,341,000, of which $4,000,000 shall be for the Healthy Fluid Milk Incentives Program; and

(2) ''Agricultural Programs—Processing, Research, and Marketing—Office of the Secretary'' shall be $50,792,000, of which not to exceed $5,000,000 shall be available for the Office of Communications.

AMENDMENT NO. 3220, AS MODIFIED

(Purpose: To require a report on funding for State homes for veterans)

At the appropriate place in title II of division A, insert the following:

SEC. _____. (a) Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and each Member of Congress a report on the current backlog in funding for construction and renovation of State homes for veterans.

(b) The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A list of all unfunded or partially funded applications for construction grants for State homes, including those identified on the priority lists for fiscal year 2024 and 2025.

(2) The estimated total funding required to fully fund all projects under such pending applications.

(3) A description of the key hurdles to clearing the backlog of construction grant applications, including administrative, regulatory, and funding-related barriers.

(4) Any recommendations for administrative or legislative action to reduce delays and accelerate the approval and completion of State home projects.

(5) An exploration of potential options for interim or alternative sources of funding to sustain or advance priority projects currently awaiting Federal support, including an evaluation of such options for feasibility and potential impact.

(c) The requirement under subsection (b)(5) shall not be construed as relieving Congress of its responsibility to fund State homes fully and in a timely manner.

(d) In this section, the term ''State home'' has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

AMENDMENT NO. 3114 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3411

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I call up my amendment No. 3114 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Oregon [Mr. MERKLEY] proposes an amendment numbered 3114 to amendment No. 3411.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To limit rescissions of funding)

At the appropriate place in the matter preceding division A, insert the following:

SEC. ___. RESCISSION LIMITATION.

No amounts may be rescinded from amounts provided under any division of this Act or any other appropriation Act for fiscal year 2026, unless the rescission is made through an appropriation Act (as defined in section 3 of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 622)).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate, equally divided.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, this amendment protects the work that we are doing today from a future rescission happening in a partisan basis.

Now, realize this only affects FY 2026 and therefore only bills that have been both passed here and in the House and signed by President Trump.

But here is why this is important: The work that we have done on a bipartisan basis has never been undone, until this last month, in the history of the Senate since the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 was passed.

Why? Because we agreed that the rescissions—that is, to repeal existing spending already in law—would be done in a bipartisan way, just as the initial bill was done in a bipartisan way.

This is important for us to work together, no matter who is in the White House in the future.

I must say, this bipartisan work is so important to preserve our responsibilities under the Constitution here in the Senate and the House, where the Constitution assigns the responsibility for the power of the purse.

I reserve the balance of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I will oppose this and will make a point of order here in a second.

This amendment would prevent Congress and the President from using the congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act's fast-track process for considering rescissions in fiscal year 2026 and beyond.

Under the Merkley amendment, rescissions can only be included in appropriations bills, which would need 60 votes. And the law in question allows a fast-track provision for rescissions. Senator MERKLEY's amendment would do away with that.

This amendment is subject to a point of order for violating Section 306 of the congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, which requires legislation dealing with the Budget Committee's jurisdiction to be reported or discharged from the Budget Committee.

POINT OF ORDER

The pending amendment No. 3114 contains matters within the Budget Committee's jurisdiction. I, therefore, raise a point of order against the amendment pursuant to Section 306 of the Congressional Budget Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, how many seconds do I have left?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has no seconds left.

Mr. MERKLEY. In that case, Mr. President, my—

Mr. GRAHAM. In the spirit of the endeavor, I will give you 15 seconds.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. You don't have 15 seconds.

Mr. GRAHAM. Well, I will one day get 15 seconds, and I will give it to you when I do.

Mr. MERKLEY. I ask unanimous consent for 15 seconds for my colleague and 15 seconds for myself on why this should or should not be waived.

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

Mr. MERKLEY. Please go ahead.

Mr. GRAHAM. I don't have anything else to say.

Mr. MERKLEY. Thank you.

I will borrow his 15 as well as mine.

MOTION TO WAIVE

Mr. President, we do have the power to waive this. It does take 60 votes, but this would be all of us together saying we should defend the bipartisan work here now, just as we have through the entire history since 1974. We are talking about a half century of bipartisan strategy being undone with the possibility of partisan rescissions.

Let's do our rescissions in a bipartisan way, in committee. And for that reason, unless there is a rebuttal from my colleague, I will make the formal request to waive.

OK, continuing.

Pursuant to section 904 of the Congressional Review Act of 1974 and the waiver provisions of applicable budget resolutions, I move to waive all applicable sections of that act and applicable budget points of order for the purposes of the pending measure.

VOTE ON MOTION

I ask for the yeas and nays.

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

Is there a sufficient second?

There appears be to 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), and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 44, nays 51, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 472 Leg.]

YEAS—44

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

NAYS—51

Banks	Graham	Moreno
Barrasso	Grassley	Mullin
Blackburn	Hagerty	Murkowski
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	Tillis
Daines	McCormick	Tuberville
Ernst	Moody	Wicker
Fischer	Moran	Young

NOT VOTING—5

Cassidy	Gallego	Welch
Duckworth	McConnell	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 44, and the nays are 51.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen, not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

The point of order is sustained, and the amendment falls.

The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, the Veterans Crisis Line is a critical—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator wish to call up his amendment?

AMENDMENT NO. 3432 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3411

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I call up my amendment No. 3432 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Connecticut [Mr. BLUMENTHAL], for himself and Mr. PADILLA, proposes an amendment numbered 3432 to Amendment No. 3411.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To prohibit the use of funds to reduce services under the Veterans Crisis Line)

At the appropriate place in title II of division A, insert the following:

SEC. _____. No funds appropriated by this title shall be used to reduce staffing, limit hours of operation, decrease training opportunities, curb access to relevant information technology systems, or otherwise reduce the capacity of the Veterans Crisis Line established under section 1720F(h) of title 38, United States Code, to respond to and provide resources to veterans in crisis.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, this amendment seeks to protect the victims crisis hotline, a critical lifeline for veterans who may take their own lives from the kind of cuts that we have seen during these first 6 months

of the Trump administration. Incredibly, the Trump administration fired the 24 crisis line employees without warning or cause. This staff coordinates the on-ground emergency response when veterans call and they feel they have no way to go on.

It directly conflicted with the assurances we were given by Secretary Collins that he would not fire frontline employees, and veterans' benefits and care would remain untouched.

Fortunately, we have bipartisan support for the Veterans Crisis Line, and I want to thank the chairman of the committee, Senator MORAN, for his support on this measure. Now, the damage—some of it has already been done, as we have heard in our hearing of June 25. Firsthand witnesses told us about the confusion and chaos that has resulted.

We need to invest the resources, now more than ever, and, in fact, more resources than we have devoted so far, more staff, and make sure that we keep faith with veterans when they are in crisis as a result of the service and sacrifice that we have asked of them.

It is critical to their mission and ours, and I ask for my colleagues to support this measure. I believe that a voice vote will be appropriate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, we want to thank Senator BLUMENTHAL and Senator MORAN for their hard work on the Veterans' Affairs Committee. We all support the mission at the Veterans Crisis Line. Preventing veteran suicide is a common goal shared by everyone in this Chamber. The VCL has taken more than 7.16 million calls since it was established. The VA reports that veterans who contact VCL are 10 times more likely to receive mental health care than those who do not.

I support this amendment and urge its adoption and would be glad to scream out ''yes'' with a voice vote.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 3432

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on adoption of the amendment.

The amendment (No. 3432) was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

AMENDMENT NO. 3447 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3411

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I call up my amendment No. 3447 and ask it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Connecticut [Mr. MURPHY], for himself and Mr. KELLY, proposes an amendment numbered 3447 to Amendment No. 3411.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To require a report on veterans who would have been reported to the national instant criminal background check system and who die by suicide with a firearm)

In section 412 of division A, before the period at the end, insert the following: ''*Provided,* That, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish quarterly on a publicly available website of the Department of Veterans Affairs a report on the number of veterans who would have been reported to the national instant criminal background check system established under section 103 of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act (34 U.S.C. 40901) if such reporting by the Secretary was permitted but for this section, and of those veterans, the number of suicides by firearm that occurred in the previous quarter''.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, every year, there are 6,400 veterans who die by suicide. This is an urgent crisis that I know matters to colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

A few years ago, we made a change in law that restores gun rights to veterans who have been deemed mentally incompetent. These are veterans who can't manage their financial affairs, can't balance a checkbook—about 35 percent of them are diagnosed with schizophrenia.

All this amendment seeks to do is to collect information to see what the rate of suicide has been amongst that population of veterans, many of them deeply mentally ill, who now are able to purchase a gun. This is just an amendment seeking to get that information so that we can make our best determination on a bipartisan basis as to how to best protect veterans who are at moments of crisis in their life.

If it were up to me, we would restore the previous policy for 30 years. Democrats and Republicans agreed that those veterans diagnosed with schizophrenia should not be able to buy a gun, but all I am asking for here is an amendment that would seek to get information on the rate of suicide for this population of veterans.

I would hope that my colleagues would support the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, veterans who are found by competent judicial authority to be a danger to themselves or others are reported to NICS under current law. There is no evidence to suggest that individuals who require a fiduciary are inherently more prone to violence.

Under the terms of current law with this amendment in place, veterans who are found to be a danger to themselves or others by a judge, magistrate, or other judicial authority are reported to the NICS system, as is entirely appropriate.

Needing help with your finances doesn't make you mentally incapacitated or mentally incompetent.

For this reason, I urge a ''no'' vote.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 3447

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question now occurs on adoption of the amendment.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, 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) and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 44, nays 51, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 473 Leg.]

YEAS—44

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

NAYS—51

Banks	Graham	Moreno
Barrasso	Grassley	Mullin
Blackburn	Hagerty	Murkowski
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	Tillis
Daines	McCormick	Tuberville
Ernst	Moody	Wicker
Fischer	Moran	Young

NOT VOTING—5

Cassidy	Gallego	Welch
Duckworth	McConnell	

The amendment (No. 3447) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CURTIS). The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we go to 10-minute votes.

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

The Senator from Maryland.

AMENDMENT NO. 3115 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3411

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I want to thank the Senator from New Mexico for that.

I call up my amendment No. 3115 that I offer on behalf of myself and Senators ALSOBROOKS, KAINE, and WARNER and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Maryland [Mr. VAN HOLLEN] proposes an amendment numbered 3115 to amendment No. 3411.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To prohibit funds from being used for reorganization of the Department of Agriculture and to require a benefit-cost analysis on that reorganization, a public comment period, and a report)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. LIMITATIONS ON REORGANIZATION OF DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—None of the funds made available to the Department of Agriculture in this Act or any other Act may be used to implement the Department of Agriculture memorandum issued on July 24, 2025 (relating to the Department of Agriculture reorganization plan) (referred to in this section as the ''Memorandum''), or any similar plan relating to reorganization of the Department of Agriculture.

(b) BENEFIT-COST ANALYSIS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall—

(1) conduct a benefit-cost analysis on the Memorandum and any similar plan relating to reorganization of the Department of Agriculture; and

(2) submit to the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Agriculture an unredacted report that contains—

(A) the findings of that benefit-cost analysis; and

(B) such other information as the Office of Inspector General determines necessary for that benefit-cost analysis.

(c) PUBLIC COMMENT; REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall—

(1) carry out a public comment period on the Memorandum and any similar plan relating to reorganization of the Department of Agriculture to solicit public comment from agricultural producers and other communities on the impact of that reorganization; and

(2) submit to the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Agriculture a report that contains—

(A) a description of how that reorganization will retain sufficient staff expertise to carry out Department of Agriculture mission areas and result in greater efficiencies and customer service for agricultural producers and other communities; and

(B) such other information as the Office of Inspector General determines necessary for the report.

(d) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—The Office of Inspector General of the Department of Agriculture shall submit to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and make publicly available, the reports received under subsections (b)(2) and (c)(2).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, USDA has proposed a massive reorganization plan having done absolutely no due diligence. They have not talked to families or to farmers or to rural communities about it. They have not backed up their estimates of cost savings, and they have not provided the information needed to assure that this reorganization will not harm the critical work that USDA does.

This amendment directs USDA to take a step back and provide a transparent, informed, carefully considered plan for any such reorganization before implementing it. In other words, look and aim before you shoot.

It requires a vetted benefit-cost analysis and review of how this reorganization would impact USDA's staff expertise and ability to provide customer service. It requires a public comment process so our constituents and stakeholders can weigh in. Once USDA takes those steps, Congress can assess the need for that reorganization in fiscal year 2027.

I urge a ''yes'' vote on this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Secretary of Agriculture has put forth a proposal to move some of the people that work in the DC area, to move those functions out to the country to be closer to the farmers and the ranchers they serve. I very much support this effort. We are at the front end of this effort.

She has testified in front of our Agriculture Approps Committee that she will work with us on it. The Ag-authorized committee is working on it as well. In fact, yesterday, I met with the Deputy Secretary of USDA. He committed to work on it.

We have a good process. We do not need to overly handcuff the USDA as they work to make this transition, which is a transition that we should make. We are working on it in the right way. We are at the front end of the proposal, not the back end.

I ask for a ''no'' vote on this amendment.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 3115

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question now occurs on adoption of the amendment.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 42, nays 53, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 474 Leg.]

YEAS—42

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

NAYS—53

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

NOT VOTING—5

Cassidy	Gallego	Welch
Duckworth	McConnell	

The amendment (No. 3114) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

AMENDMENT NO. 3466 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3411

Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator DUCKWORTH, I call up amendment No. 3466 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Georgia [Mr. OSSOFF], for Ms. DUCKWORTH, proposes an amendment numbered 3466 to amendment No. 3411.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on the plan of the Secretary for Department of Veterans Affairs workforce reduction in fiscal year 2026)

At the appropriate place in title II of division A, insert the following:

SEC. 2___. REPORT ON PLAN OF SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO REDUCE WORKFORCE OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress a report on the current plan of the Secretary to reduce the workforce of the Department of Veterans Affairs in fiscal year 2026.

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

(1) The analysis used by the Secretary to determine what, if any, workforce reductions are necessary to provide timely care and benefits for Veterans and why.

(2) How that analysis ensures that wait times will not be adversely affected by such reductions, but rather, assisted.

(c) LESSONS LEARNED.—The Secretary shall ensure that analyses submitted pursuant to subsection (b) incorporate lessons learned from terminations and reinstatements occurring in fiscal year 2025.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, Senator DUCKWORTH has an amendment that warrants bipartisan support.

Secretary Collins had announced earlier this year his plan to fire 80,000 personnel at the VA. Amidst public outrage, he has backed off that plan. We still don't know his intentions for mass firings in this coming fiscal year. All this amendment does is ask for a report on what the impact will be on the

provision of timely care and benefits for our veterans. So this is not a partisan or a political matter. If there are going to be significant reductions in force at the VA, we should know how it affects veterans' benefits.

I urge a vote for Senator DUCKWORTH's amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I understand Senator DUCKWORTH's concern. However, Secretary Collins publicly announced that, through normal attrition, early retirements, and deferred resignations, the VA staff would be properly sized by the end of fiscal year 2025. The rumored large-scale reduction in force is not necessary, and the VA has no plans to seek any further staffing reductions. Mission-critical positions at the VA are exempt from a hiring freeze and are not eligible for early retirement or deferred resignations.

To quote Secretary Collins:

A department-wide RIF is off the table.

Senator TUBERVILLE has an amendment that does not focus on rumored RIFs that will not take place but instead focuses on VA staffing reviews, the new staffing models it is pursuing, and the methodology underpinning these efforts.

For that reason, I ask for a ''no'' vote on this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. OSSOFF. I would just note, if that is the case, the Department can make that clear in their report.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 3466

Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on adoption of the amendment.

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) and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 45, nays 50, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 475 Leg.]

YEAS—45

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

NAYS—50

Banks	Graham	Moreno
Barrasso	Grassley	Mullin
Blackburn	Hagerty	Murkowski
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	Thune
Cruz	Lummis	Tillis
Curtis	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	McCormick	Wicker
Ernst	Moody	Young
Fischer	Moran	

NOT VOTING—5

Cassidy	Gallego	Welch
Duckworth	McConnell	

The amendment (No. 3466) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

AMENDMENT NO. 3413 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3411

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, I call up my amendment No. 3413 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Alabama [Mr. TUBERVILLE] proposes an amendment numbered 3413 to Amendment No. 3411.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit a report on the efforts of the Secretary to review and implement staffing models at the Department of Veterans Affairs that will ensure timely, high quality delivery of health care, benefits, and other services furnished by the Department)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. REPORT ON REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF STAFFING MODELS AT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this section, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(1) the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the efforts of the Secretary to review and implement staffing models at the Department of Veterans Affairs that will ensure timely, high quality delivery of health care, benefits, and other services furnished by the Department. Such report shall describe the methodology and review process the Secretary is using to create the staffing models for the Department.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, as a son of a World War II veteran, I have seen firsthand the critical role that the VA plays in caring for those who have served our country. Unfortunately, under President Biden's leadership, it was a dumpster fire.

Some of my Democratic colleagues seem to have forgotten about these failures, so let's take a trip down memory lane.

It was Department of Veterans Affairs under President Biden that rehired and gave full backpay to hundreds of VA employees who had been fired for failing to do their jobs. These employees were not let go by mistake; they had been fired for poor performance.

But, apparently, the Biden administration didn't care about that. The Biden VA decision to rehire these bad employees cost us $134 million.

Or my colleagues have forgotten that, magically, the VA had a multibillion-dollar budget shortfall last year. How does that even happen? There is zero accountability, unfortunately.

Thank goodness President Trump and Secretary Collins are in charge now. They are working around the clock to right-size the VA. The Trump administration is singularly focused on making sure veterans have timely access to quality care and benefits.

We need to support Secretary Collins and this administration in achieving the core goals for our veterans, not waste our time playing politics.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, the Senator from Alabama offers an amendment that would require the VA to submit a report on the implementation of staffing models, and that is sorely needed. And I rise in support of this amendment.

We saw Secretary Collins initially say he wanted to fire 15 percent of the VA workforce—80,000 people—with no explanation. Then he demolished morality at the VA so that 30,000 people quit. Now he says he is not going to fire 80,000 people. He fired most of the new hires, probationary workers, many of them veterans, until that was held up in court. None of this is supported by any kind of analysis or assessment of how it would impact wait times or the provision of service for veterans.

So I appreciate the Senator from Alabama for wanting to hold the administration accountable.

I urge a ''yes'' vote to the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I accept it, and I ask for a voice vote.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 3413

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on adoption of the amendment. The amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3413) was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

AMENDMENT NO. 3414 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3411

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I call up my amendment No. 3414 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Louisiana [Mr. KENNEDY] proposes an amendment numbered 3414 to amendment No. 3411.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To reduce the Agriculture discretionary appropriations by 2 percent across the board)

On page 219, after line 25, add the following:

SEC. 783. Each discretionary appropriation made under this division is reduced, on a pro rata basis, by the amount necessary to reduce the amount of discretionary appropriations made available under this division, but for this section, by 2 percent.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, this is an amendment to the Ag Appropriations Subcommittee budget. Our chair of that subcommittee is able, he is talented, and he exercises power maturely, in my judgment.

I just think we ought to reduce spending. It is clear to me that to do that, we are going to have to do it by baby steps.

This amendment would reduce fiscal year 2026 Agriculture discretionary spending appropriations, if you will, by 2 percent—2 percent. That would take us from $27.1 billion to $26.55 billion—a reduction of $542 million. That represents 0.007 percent of the total that the Federal Government is currently spending on an annualized basis.

Not to put too fine a point on it, but if the Federal budget were a 24-hour day—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. KENNEDY.—this reduction represents about 7 seconds.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, this amendment would be an across-the-board cut. We made targeted cuts, and we had to fully fund WIC, which was a significant increase. So our cuts are actually more than the 2 percent that the gentleman is talking about.

I support his desire to reduce spending, but, overall, we are up a little over 1 percent with that significant increase of about 7 percent in WIC.

Again, I think we have done this the right way. We still have to go to conference with the House. They are about 5 percent below where we are. So I would ask for a ''no'' vote on this amendment and defer to my colleague.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. I want to agree with Chairman HOEVEN. This amendment would apply an indiscriminate cut across a carefully negotiated bipartisan bill. It would create a funding shortfall for the WIC Program, threaten the ability of the FDA to collect user fees, undermine farm loan programs, shortchange the Nation's food safety enterprise, and hamper our ability to fight animal and plant diseases like bird flu and New World screwworm. I bet you didn't know what that was.

I urge my colleagues to join Senator HOEVEN and me in opposing this amendment.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 3414

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on adoption of the amendment.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas and nays have been requested. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 14, nays 81, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 476 Leg.]

YEAS—14

Banks	Hagerty	Paul
Barrasso	Johnson	Schmitt
Budd	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cruz	Lummis	Tuberville
Curtis	Moody	

NAYS—81

Alsobrooks	Hawley	Padilla
Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Reed
Blackburn	Hirono	Ricketts
Blumenthal	Hoeven	Risch
Blunt Rochester	Husted	Rosen
Booker	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Boozman	Justice	Sanders
Britt	Kaine	Schatz
Cantwell	Kelly	Schiff
Capito	Kim	Schumer
Collins	King	Scott (SC)
Coons	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cornyn	Lankford	Sheehy
Cortez Masto	Lee	Slotkin
Cotton	Luján	Smith
Cramer	Markey	Sullivan
Crapo	Marshall	Thune
Daines	McCormick	Tillis
Durbin	Merkley	Van Hollen
Ernst	Moran	Warner
Fetterman	Moreno	Warnock
Fischer	Mullin	Warren
Gillibrand	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Graham	Murphy	Wicker
Grassley	Murray	Wyden
Hassan	Ossoff	Young

NOT VOTING—5

Cassidy	Gallego	Welch
Duckworth	McConnell	

The amendment (No. 3414) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

AMENDMENT NO. 3113, AS MODIFIED, TO AMENDMENT NO. 3411

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I call up my amendment No. 3113 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Florida [Mr. SCOTT] proposes an amendment numbered 3113 to amendment No. 3411.

The amendment, as modified, is as follows:

(Purpose: To reduce funding for certain programs under the division making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies)

At the appropriate place in division B, insert the following:

SEC. ____. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount made available for—

(1) ''Agricultural Programs—National Institute of Food and Agriculture—Research and Education Activities'' shall be $487,510,000;

(2) ''Agricultural Programs—Economic Research Service'' shall be $80,000,000;

(3) ''Agricultural Programs—National Agricultural Statistics Service'' shall be $185,000,000;

(4) ''Agricultural Programs—Agricultural Research Service—Salaries and Expenses'' shall be $1,700,000,000;

(5) ''Agricultural Programs—Agricultural Research Service—Buildings and Facilities'' shall be $42,500,000;

(6) ''Farm Production and Conservation Programs—Natural Resources Conservation Service—Conservation Operations'' shall be $112,259,000;

(7) ''Farm Production and Conservation Programs—Natural Resources Conservation Service—Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations'' shall be $36,360,000;

(8) ''Farm Production and Conservation Programs—Farm Production and Conservation Business Center—Salaries and Expenses'' shall be $214,000,000;

(9) ''Farm Production and Conservation Programs—Farm Service Agency—Salaries and Expenses'' shall be $950,000,000, of which no amounts shall be required to be used for the hiring of new employees to fill vacancies and anticipated vacancies at Farm Service Agency county offices and farm loan officers;

(10) ''Rural Development Programs—Rural Development—Salaries and Expenses'' shall be $265,008,000;

(11) ''Rural Development Programs—Rural Housing Service—Rural Housing Insurance Fund Program Account'' for—

(A) gross obligations of the principal amount of section 523 self-help housing land development loans shall be $0; and

(B) the cost of section 523 self-help housing land development loans, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be $0;

(12) ''Rural Development Programs—Rural Housing Service—Rural Housing Voucher Account'' shall be $0;

(13) ''Rural Development Programs—Rural Housing Service—Mutual and Self-Help Housing Grants'' shall be $0;

(14) ''Rural Development Programs—Rural Housing Service—Rural Housing Assistance Grants'' shall be $0;

(15) ''Rural Development Programs—Rural Housing Service—Rural Community Facilities Program Account'' for the cost of loans, loan guarantees, and grants, including the cost of modifying loans, shall be $204,436,000, of which no amounts shall be available for community facilities grants, as authorized by section 306(a)(19) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, or grants to tribal colleges as authorized by section 306(a)(25) of such Act;

(16) ''Rural Development Programs—Rural Utilities Service—Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Loans Program Account'' for—

(A) cost-of-money rural telecommunications loans made pursuant to section

305(d)(2) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 shall be $0; and

(B) guaranteed rural telecommunications loans made pursuant to section 306 of that Act shall be $0;

(17) ''Domestic Food Programs—Food and Nutrition Service—Commodity Assistance Program'' shall be $91,070,000, of which no amounts shall be available for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program; and

(18) ''Foreign Assistance and Related Programs—Foreign Agricultural Service—McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program Grants'' shall be $0.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, first and most importantly, I want to thank my colleagues for their work on these appropriations bills and the support of our agriculture community in this bill.

Our Nation is $37 trillion in debt and running $2 trillion deficits after years of Democrats grossly expanding Federal spending. We have to start somewhere to get our out-of-control spending in check, and the President's budget is a great place to start.

President Trump made a promise to the American people that he would bring fiscal sanity to our Nation and turn the economy around. He wants to balance the budget, and so do I. The President put forward a budget proposal that works toward that goal. We should be passing appropriations bills that respect his requests and the will of the American people.

My amendment would put us closer to the President's budget request for the ag budget as he delivers on his promise to the American people.

I encourage my colleagues to support my amendment and restore fiscal sanity.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I support my colleagues' efforts to find spending reductions. He does make a number of changes that go in line with the President's budget, but he does a number of things that absolutely will not work.

For example, cuts ag research by more than 40 percent. Let me repeat that. He cuts ag research by more than 40 percent. Cuts the FSA. That is most important Agency for our farmers. That is out in farm country where they are—cuts that Farm Service Agency by 20 percent; rural development, cut 20 percent; technical assistance at NRCS by 80 percent.

So, again, we did make reductions. We actually reduced about 2 percent, but then we do fully fund WIC, which caused the increase to 1 percent. I ask for a ''no'' vote on this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I agree with Senator HOEVEN. This amendment really would undermine the serious bipartisan work that went into crafting a strong bill within the confines of our allocation, and I think Senator HOEVEN made that point very well.

It would slash a host of things that are critical to farmers, producers in rural communities, hamstringing research and extension programs at land-grant universities, cutting funding for the Farm Service Agency, gutting rural development programs, eliminating the Commodity Supplemental Food Program that would rip away nutrition assistance for 700,000 seniors.

I would urge my colleagues to join Senator HOEVEN and me in opposing this amendment.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 3113, AS MODIFIED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question now occurs on adoption of the amendment.

Mr. ROUNDS. 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 bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL).

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

The result was announced—yeas 15, nays 81, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 477 Leg.]

YEAS—15

Banks	Hagerty	Moody
Barrasso	Johnson	Moreno
Budd	Kennedy	Paul
Curtis	Lee	Schmitt
Ernst	Lummis	Scott (FL)

NAYS—81

Alsobrooks	Hassan	Peters
Baldwin	Hawley	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Ricketts
Blackburn	Hickenlooper	Risch
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rosen
Blunt Rochester	Hoeven	Rounds
Booker	Husted	Sanders
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Schatz
Britt	Justice	Schiff
Cantwell	Kaine	Schumer
Capito	Kelly	Scott (SC)
Collins	Kim	Shaheen
Coons	King	Sheehy
Cornyn	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Cortez Masto	Lankford	Smith
Cotton	Luján	Sullivan
Cramer	Markey	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Tillis
Cruz	McCormick	Tuberville
Daines	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Moran	Warner
Durbin	Mullin	Warnock
Fetterman	Murkowski	Warren
Fischer	Murphy	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murray	Wicker
Graham	Ossoff	Wyden
Grassley	Padilla	Young

NOT VOTING—4

Cassidy	McConnell	Welch
Gallego		

The amendment (No. 3113) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

AMENDMENT NO. 3428 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3411

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 3428 and ask it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Wisconsin [Mr. JOHNSON] proposes an amendment numbered 3428 to Amendment No. 3411.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To limit disclosures regarding earmarks)

On page 2, after line 13, add the following:

SEC. 4. LIMITATION ON DISCLOSURE OF EARMARKS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section—

(1) the term ''congressional earmark'' has the meaning given that term in clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the term ''disclosure'' means a mention or reference in any communications sent from the official office of a Member of Congress, any debate of a bill other than this Act in a congressional committee or on the floor of the Senate or the House of Representatives, any media interview or appearance, any public speaking engagement, or any public communications pursuant to a political campaign.

(b) LIMITATION.—Funds provided under any division of this Act for a congressional earmark shall be rescinded if a Member of Congress who requested and received the congressional earmark makes a disclosure of the congressional earmark outside of official debate of this Act in the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate or the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives or on the floor of the Senate or the House of Representatives.

(c) NOTICE.—Not later than 15 days after the date on which funds provided for any congressional earmark are rescinded under subsection (b), the head of the Federal agency to which the funds were made available shall notify the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives about the rescission.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, the late great Senator Tom Colburn referred to earmarks as the gateway drug to runaway spending.

In testimony before the House in 2018, he stated: I have witnessed earmarking up close and know it is inherently corrupt. Earmarks are abused as a form of currency to buy and sell votes of politicians and to reward political supporters.

Convicted superlobbyist Jack Abramoff affectionately called the earmark system ''the favor factory.''

I am sad to report that the favor factory is up and running about $1.3 billion worth of earmarks in this bill alone.

My amendment acknowledges the reality that those of us who are opposed to earmarks are grossly outnumbered, so as hard as we try to ban them, we won't be able to. So my amendment simply tries to prevent earmarks being used as a quasi-campaign contribution. So members can talk about the earmarks in official Senate proceedings, subcommittee hearings, committee hearings, on the floor, in official Senate publications, but if they go on media, if they set up press releases, if they use them in ads, those earmarks are automatically rescinded.

If people really don't believe that this is a favor factory, this amendment should pass 100 to zero.

I urge a ''yes'' vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, the Appropriations Committee takes very seriously the oversight and accountability of every CDS request. The project and certifications for each item are posted on both the committee website and Members' official website. Senators have to certify that neither they nor any immediate family member has a financial interest in the item request, and GAO, which is Congress's nonpartisan auditor, conducts an analysis of select projects every year.

The Johnson amendment would prohibit virtually any public communication about CDS and make the process less transparent.

This amendment states the remedy for breaking that new rule, for telling our constituents what we are doing is to rescind that CDS.

This is an important way for Senators to advocate for their States and communities through investments in local projects like improving transportation, drinking water infrastructure, workforce programs, childcare centers.

This amendment would take away your ability to be responsive to your communities. We absolutely should be letting our constituents know what we are doing here and what we are advocating for.

I strongly urge you to oppose this amendment.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 3428

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on adoption of the amendment.

Mr. JOHNSON. 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 bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL).

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

The result was announced—yeas 21, nays 75, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 478 Leg.]

YEAS—21

Banks	Ernst	Lummis
Blackburn	Hagerty	Marshall
Budd	Hawley	Moody
Crapo	Johnson	Moreno
Cruz	Kennedy	Paul
Curtis	Lankford	Risch
Daines	Lee	Scott (FL)

NAYS—75

Alsobrooks	Blumenthal	Britt
Baldwin	Blunt Rochester	Cantwell
Barrasso	Booker	Capito
Bennet	Boozman	Collins
Coons	Kelly	Schatz
Cornyn	Kim	Schiff
Cortez Masto	King	Schmitt
Cotton	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cramer	Luján	Scott (SC)
Duckworth	Markey	Shaheen
Durbin	McCormick	Sheehy
Fetterman	Merkley	Slotkin
Fischer	Moran	Smith
Gillibrand	Mullin	Sullivan
Graham	Murkowski	Thune
Grassley	Murphy	Tillis
Hassan	Murray	Tuberville
Heinrich	Ossoff	Van Hollen
Hickenlooper	Padilla	Warner
Hirono	Peters	Warnock
Hoeven	Reed	Warren
Husted	Ricketts	Whitehouse
Hyde-Smith	Rosen	Wicker
Justice	Rounds	Wyden
Kaine	Sanders	Young

NOT VOTING—4

Cassidy	McConnell	Welch
Gallego		

The amendment (No. 3428) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

AMENDMENT NO. 3411, AS AMENDED

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, first, let me announce to our colleagues that we are on the verge of an accomplishment that we have not done since 2018, and that is, pass appropriations bills across the Senate floor prior to the August recess.

(Applause.)

That is exercising our constitutional responsibility for the power of the purse, and it would not have happened without the extraordinarily hard work of the members of the Appropriations Committee. My colleague the vice chair, PATTY MURRAY—Senator MURRAY has been determined to reach this goal.

I also want to commend the leadership of the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, Agriculture, and I hope Legislative Branch Subcommittees for their work on the fiscal year 2026 bills.

Again, I think we can all be pleased that the Senate lived up to its responsibilities tonight.

Let me just end by thanking Leader THUNE for bringing these bills to the Senate floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I echo the thanks to all of our subcommittee and committee members and especially to the chair of our committee, Senator COLLINS, all of our staff—everyone who has worked really hard to get here.

These are good, bipartisan bills—bills that make crucial investments to help all of our farms and families and veterans and servicemembers thrive.

I urge a ''yes'' vote. I believe Congress should decide how to spend taxpayer dollars. This is how we do it. Vote yes.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 3411, AS AMENDED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question now occurs on adoption of the amendment.

Ms. COLLINS. 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) and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL).

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

The result was announced—yeas 87, nays 9, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 479 Leg.]

YEAS—87

Alsobrooks	Graham	Murkowski
Baldwin	Grassley	Murray
Banks	Hagerty	Ossoff
Barrasso	Hassan	Peters
Bennet	Hawley	Reed
Blackburn	Heinrich	Ricketts
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Risch
Blunt Rochester	Hirono	Rosen
Boozman	Hoeven	Rounds
Britt	Husted	Schatz
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cantwell	Johnson	Schumer
Capito	Justice	Scott (FL)
Collins	Kaine	Scott (SC)
Coons	Kelly	Shaheen
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sheehy
Cortez Masto	Kim	Slotkin
Cotton	King	Smith
Cramer	Klobuchar	Sullivan
Crapo	Lankford	Thune
Cruz	Lee	Tillis
Curtis	Luján	Tuberville
Daines	Marshall	Van Hollen
Duckworth	McCormick	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warnock
Ernst	Moody	Whitehouse
Fetterman	Moran	Wicker
Fischer	Moreno	Wyden
Gillibrand	Mullin	Young

NAYS—9

Booker	Murphy	Sanders
Lummis	Padilla	Schiff
Markey	Paul	Warren

NOT VOTING—4

Cassidy	McConnell	Welch
Gallego		

The amendment (No. 3411), as amended, was agreed to.

(Mr. HUSTED assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CURTIS). On this vote, the yeas are 87, the nays are 9.

The 60-vote threshold having been achieved, the amendment, as amended, is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3411), as amended, was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the third time.

The amendments were ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

VOTE ON H.R. 3944, AS AMENDED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

Mr. PETERS. 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 bill clerk called the roll.

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

the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL).

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

The result was announced—yeas 87, nays 9, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 480 Leg.]

YEAS—87

Alsobrooks	Graham	Murkowski
Baldwin	Grassley	Murray
Banks	Hagerty	Ossoff
Barrasso	Hassan	Peters
Bennet	Hawley	Reed
Blackburn	Heinrich	Ricketts
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Risch
Blunt Rochester	Hirono	Rosen
Boozman	Hoeven	Rounds
Britt	Husted	Schatz
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cantwell	Johnson	Schumer
Capito	Justice	Scott (FL)
Collins	Kaine	Scott (SC)
Coons	Kelly	Shaheen
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sheehy
Cortez Masto	Kim	Slotkin
Cotton	King	Smith
Cramer	Klobuchar	Sullivan
Crapo	Lankford	Thune
Cruz	Lee	Tillis
Curtis	Luján	Tuberville
Daines	Marshall	Van Hollen
Duckworth	McCormick	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warnock
Ernst	Moody	Whitehouse
Fetterman	Moran	Wicker
Fischer	Moreno	Wyden
Gillibrand	Mullin	Young

NAYS—9

Booker	Murphy	Sanders
Lummis	Padilla	Schiff
Markey	Paul	Warren

NOT VOTING—4

Cassidy	McConnell	Welch
Gallego		

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 87, the nays are 9.

The 60-vote threshold having been achieved, the bill, as amended, is passed.

The bill (H.R. 3944), as amended, was passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

AMENDMENT NO. 3412

(Purpose: To improve the bill.)

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. President, I call up my amendment No. 3412 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. MULLIN] proposes an amendment numbered 3412.

The amendment is as follows:

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of July 31, 2025, under ''Text of Amendments.'')

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. President, I come to the floor to ask my colleagues to support this fiscal year 2026 Legislative Branch bill.

This is a solid, bipartisan bill that meets the needs of Congress and supports our Agencies, especially the Sergeant at Arms and the Capitol Police, in a very fiscally responsible manner.

I commit to my colleagues to continue working in a bipartisan manner to address the best path forward for all of our security needs for the Members, for our families, and for the friends who may be around us. It is challenging, and I understand that. I commit to you guys—all—that I will work to meet those needs. We have had a bipartisan commitment from both sides, and I hear y'all's concerns. We will get those addressed, but this amendment moves us in the right direction.

With that, I urge all of my colleagues to vote for this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, thank you to Chair COLLINS and Vice Chair MURRAY.

The legislative branch bill is the smallest of the bills produced by the Senate Appropriations Committee, but it is really one of the most important because it helps to make sure that the legislature maintains its role as a separate and equal branch of government. It is no secret that this balance of power enshrined by the Founders in the Constitution could not be more important than it is today.

To be an effective check and balance to the executive branch, Congress and our support Agencies need adequate resources to carry out our responsibilities. This bill allocates those resources, allowing us to do the jobs that we were elected to do for the people of this Nation. Like most bills, each side got some of what they wanted and some of what they didn't, but like any good legislation, we continued to find common ground across the aisle on so many important points. This includes a continued focus on investments, constituent services and security, oversight, and campus operation.

It also includes placeholders for several important, security-related activities that Chair MULLIN and I have collectively agreed to further develop and appropriately fund in conference based on additional information that we expect to receive from the Sergeant at Arms and the Capitol Police.

I want to especially thank Chair MULLIN and his clerk Molly McCarty for their incredible work with us on the Legislative Branch bill and report and demonstrating their commitment to continuing to work with me to provide the resources necessary to protect all of us. I also want to thank Richard Braddock and my team for their work to develop this bipartisan bill.

I believe this legislation provides a bipartisan package supporting our most critical needs, and I would really urge all of our colleagues to vote in favor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I am the reason we are voting on this bill separately. I am going to vote no, and I would like to explain why.

I am not telling any of you to vote no, I am just telling you to follow your heart but take your brain with you.

As best I can tell, every bill that has come out of the Appropriations Committee has represented an increase in spending. This bill, which is our bill, funds the legislative branch, has the largest increase in spending. I think we can do better.

That is not a reflection of the conscientious and thoughtful work done by my colleagues, both of whom just spoke. I just think we need to set an example. When we are increasing our spending 6 percent and others less, we are sending a message that we are special, and I don't think we are.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 3412

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on adoption of the amendment.

Mr. MULLEN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL).

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

The result was announced—yeas 81, nays 15, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 481 Leg.]

YEAS—81

Alsobrooks	Fischer	Murray
Baldwin	Gillibrand	Ossoff
Barrasso	Graham	Peters
Bennet	Grassley	Reed
Blackburn	Hagerty	Ricketts
Blumenthal	Hassan	Risch
Blunt Rochester	Hawley	Rosen
Booker	Heinrich	Rounds
Boozman	Hickenlooper	Schatz
Britt	Hirono	Schmitt
Budd	Hoeven	Schumer
Cantwell	Hyde-Smith	Scott (SC)
Capito	Justice	Shaheen
Collins	Kaine	Sheehy
Coons	Kelly	Slotkin
Cornyn	Kim	Smith
Cortez Masto	King	Sullivan
Cotton	Klobuchar	Thune
Cramer	Lankford	Tillis
Crapo	Luján	Tuberville
Cruz	Marshall	Van Hollen
Curtis	McCormick	Warner
Daines	Merkley	Warnock
Duckworth	Moran	Whitehouse
Durbin	Moreno	Wicker
Ernst	Mullin	Wyden
Fetterman	Murkowski	Young

NAYS—15

Banks	Lummis	Paul
Husted	Markey	Sanders
Johnson	Moody	Schiff
Kennedy	Murphy	Scott (FL)
Lee	Padilla	Warren

NOT VOTING—4

Cassidy	McConnell	Welch
Gallego		

The amendment (No. 3412) was agreed to. (The bill (H.R. 3944), as amended, will be printed in a future edition of the RECORD.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, so we have now passed three appropriations bills—helping our farmers, helping our

veterans, helping our security. It shows that when both sides want to work together, we can get things done.

We hope we can make the same kind of progress on further appropriations bills that we have made on these.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I want to just congratulate Chair COLLINS, Vice Chair MURRAY, members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and the committee sub chairs this evening—I know, at least on our side, Chair BOOZMAN, Chair HOEVEN, Chair MULLIN—in getting a package of appropriations bills across the floor. It is a major accomplishment and something that I hope is a pattern for things to come. And so I would say thank you to all who worked so hard to get us to this point, including the many members of your staff who have worked night and day these last several weeks.

And the committee continues to report out, with big bipartisan margins, appropriations bills, and I hope we can get some more of them on the floor soon. So, again, congrats to the members of the committee, and let's vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume executive session and consider the Rinaldi nomination.

VOTE ON RINALDI NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Rinaldi nomination?

Mr. PETERS. 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL).

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

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 482 Ex.]

YEAS—51

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

NAYS—44

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

NOT VOTING—5

Cassidy	McConnell	Welch
Gallego	Sanders	

The nomination was confirmed.

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Under the previous order, the clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of David Woll, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

VOTE ON WOLL NOMINATION

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

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

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

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 483 Ex.]

YEAS—51

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

NAYS—43

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

NOT VOTING—6

Cassidy	McConnell	Tillis
Gallego	Sanders	Welch

The nomination was confirmed.

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of Nicholas Kent, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Education.

VOTE ON KENT NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question occurs on the nomination.

Mr. KELLY. 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

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

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

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 484 Ex.]

YEAS—50

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

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	Luján	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	McConnell	Welch
Gallego	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 immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY NOMINATIONS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today, I placed a hold on three Department of the Treasury nominees. The nominees are Brian Morrissey, Jr., of Virginia, to be General Counsel for the Department of the Treasury; Francis Brooke, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury; and Jonathan McKernan, of Tennessee, to be an Under Secretary of the Treasury.

During consideration of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, I worked with my colleagues to provide wind and solar an appropriate glidepath for the orderly phase-out of the tax credits. Ultimately, Congress enshrined in statute a 12-month transition period based on when projects ''begin construction.''

What it means for a project to ''begin construction'' has been well established by Treasury guidance for more than a decade. Moreover, Congress specifically references current Treasury guidance to set that term's meaning in law. This is a case where both the law and congressional intent are clear.

The Department of the Treasury is expected to issue rules and regulations implementing the agreed upon phase-out of the wind and solar credits by August 18, 2025.

Until I can be certain that such rules and regulations adhere to the law and congressional intent, I intend to continue to object to the consideration of these Treasury nominees.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 415, motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Bradley Hansell to be Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted nay.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 416, motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Arielle Roth to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted nay.

REMEMBERING RYNE ''RYNO'' SANDBERG

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, outside Wrigley Field in Chicago, there are statues of Chicago Cubs Hall of Famers and legends. Cast in bronze, these five men—including Fergie Jenkins, Ernie Banks, Billy Williams, and Ron Santo—each made a historic impact on the team, the city of Chicago, and Major League Baseball. The newest statue is one of Ryne Sandberg. For so many of us, ''Ryno'' was the face of the team, an ambassador for the best parts of baseball. His talent was only matched by the kindness he showed off the field. So it is with great sadness that I share the news of his passing.

Ryne was destined to be a ballplayer when he was born in Spokane, WA. His parents named him after the New York Yankees pitcher Ryne Duren. And as a child, Ryne would play ball for hours with nothing but an old bat and a plastic golf ball. By high school, he had already caught the eye of scouts from the big leagues. While he made his debut with the Philadelphia Phillies, he did not find his true home until he joined the Cubs in 1982.

Ryne saw success from the moment he joined the team. By the end of his first season, he was one of the top-rated rookies in the Nation. In 1983, the Cubs moved him to second base, and that year, he won his first Golden Glove Award. But it was in 1984 when the name Ryne Sandberg was cemented in Cubs history. That year, Ryne led the Cubs to their first postseason in 39 years by winning the NL East, where he also earned the NL Most Valuable Player.

Ryne had a way of playing that could make anyone fall in love with baseball, and this was on full display during the 1984 season. I was there, in the stands of Wrigley, when Ryne played what is now known as ''The Sandberg Game.'' I will never forget the roar of the crowd and the crack of the bat when he hit a home run at the bottom of the 10th, tying the game. That was one of the best ballgames I have ever seen. Ryne's talent, hustle, and drive were on full display that day, and he made fans believe in the impossible as the Cubs came back from a six-run deficit.

Ryne's success in 1984 was just the beginning of a dominant career. By the time he retired in 1997 after 16 seasons, he had been named to 10 All-Star Games, won nine Gold Gloves, and seven Silver Slugger Awards. Not many ballplayers have the same level of success at bat as they have in the field, but Ryne excelled at it all.

If there was one word to describe Ryne's approach to baseball, it would be respect. Ryne was someone who was just as proud to get a man on third as he was hitting a flashy home run. He trained hard, kept his head down, and led by example. Ryne did not play baseball because he wanted fame or money; he played because he loved the sport.

It was no surprise when Ryne was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 2005. It was a proper recognition of his talent and the impact he had on baseball. When remembering Ryne, I think back to something he said in his speech that day. In an era where baseball was facing serious scandals around steroid use, Ryne said, ''I didn't play the game right because I saw a reward . . . I played it right because that's what you're supposed to do.'' Even when celebrating his life of accomplishments, Ryne still took the time to try and make baseball better. He had that much respect for the game.

I had the pleasure of meeting Ryne, and in meeting him, it quickly became clear to me why he was loved by so many. Ryne was someone who would ask questions about your children and where you were from. He would offer to take a photo with you before you could even ask. He was a natural ambassador for the Cubs, even before he was officially offered that role in 2016. Ryne was always ready to give more to a team that he had raised to greatness. Cubs fans and all who love the sport will never forget his contributions.

I could not think of a better way to honor Ryne than today's announcement that the All-Star Game is coming back to Wrigley Field for the first time since Ryne won the 1990 Home Run Derby. I hope that as tens of thousands of baseball fans visit the Friendly Confines, in for the 2027 MLB All-Star Game, that they see Ryne's statue and reflect on what he brought to baseball and the legacy he left behind.

Despite all of Ryne's accomplishments in baseball, he always maintained that the best thing to ever happen to him was marrying his wife Margaret and being a father to his five children. Loretta and I send our deepest condolences to Margaret, Justin, Lindsey, Steven, BR, and Adriane, and his 11 grandchildren on their tremendous loss.

Ryno represented the best of the game. He reminded us, both on and off the field, why we love baseball. While we will miss him, he will live on with the legends on Gallagher Way and forever in our hearts as No. 23.

RECOGNIZING 50 YEARS OF HAYMARKET CENTER

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today when you look at Chicago's West Loop

neighborhood, you will see new lofts and condominiums, trendy restaurants, and many people moving in. But 50 years ago, it was one of the poorest parts of Chicago. It used to be called ''Skid Row'' and was crowded with warehouses and boarded-up businesses. Not much of that past is left there today, except for a few brick buildings and Chicago's largest addiction and mental health treatment facility, Haymarket Center, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

When Haymarket Center was founded in 1975, not many people would venture to the West Loop. Many locals were experiencing addiction and alcoholism, and the stigmas surrounding those diseases were devastating. At the time, the sentiment in America was that addiction was a personal failure. Those who suffered from addiction were cast out of society, isolated from their families, and denied the treatment they so desperately needed. Instead of being sent to hospitals, they would be sent to jails.

However, there was one man willing to venture to Skid Row. He had rosy Irish cheeks and a slight limp, and he was committed to helping those who had no one else to care for them. His name was Monsignor Ignatius McDermott, but we all knew him as Father Mac. Father Mac was a friend of mine; he was a model of compassion, commitment, and service.

He began his path to addiction treatment at Maryville Academy, an orphanage in a suburb 25 miles west of Chicago. Father Mac was only 25 when he started working at Maryville, and there, he saw how many children were affected by their parents' addiction. When he had to make a home visit, he often would venture to Skid Row and see the plight of those living there. These experiences drove him to move to Skid Row in 1946 to help people beat their addiction. Almost every night, Father Mac would walk up and down the streets of Skid Row looking for someone to offer encouragement.

That was something I always respected about Father Mac. While so many people would pick up the pace or cross the street to avoid someone who may be sick with addiction, Father Mac would slow down and stop to see what he could do to help.

As Father Mac served Chicago's West Loop, he began to realize that addiction needed to be treated like the disease it was. That realization was shared by a renowned surgeon and psychiatrist Dr. James West, who had his own struggles with addiction. Together, these two men founded Haymarket House, which would go on to become Haymarket Center.

The opening of Haymarket Center was a turning point in Chicago's approach to addiction treatment. In thinking about the mission that inspired these two men, I am reminded of something Father Mac would say. ''The Master is kindness . . . It is the only language in the world that the deaf can hear, the blind can see, that the mute can speak.'' And kindness is embodied throughout Haymarket Center's operations. It was one of the first places in Chicago where people in the throes of addiction could go and be treated with love, not judgement.

Fifty years later, that guiding light has not changed. Haymarket Center still is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It is a beacon of hope, ensuring our most vulnerable have access to critical services regardless of their income or background. Haymarket Center has grown to treat more than 12,000 patients a year and offers 30 specialized addiction and recovery programs in support of its mission. These programs also support job training and mental health counseling for patients, helping to address the root causes of suffering and providing patients with a path forward. Haymarket Center continues to push our understanding surrounding addiction into the future, recognizing the role that poverty and trauma play in addiction.

I and so many other of Chicago's representatives have seen the impact Haymarket Center has on our community. That is why, throughout my time in Congress, I have worked to secure resources and change Federal policies to help the healers at Haymarket Center fulfill their mission.

I want to thank Haymarket Center's current CEO Dr. Dan Lustig for his work in ensuring Haymarket continues to live up to Father Mac's vision. Dr. Lustig's leadership has kept Haymarket at the forefront of addiction treatment amidst the opioid epidemic and mental health crisis.

While Father Mac is no longer with us, his legacy lives on through Haymarket Center. I join people across the Chicagoland area in congratulating Haymarket Center for 50 years of incredible work, helping those who had no one else to turn to, and treating everyone who walked through its doors with kindness.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, on May 21, 2025, I was unavoidably absent for the following rollcall votes. My absence was due to familial obligations that presented an unavoidable conflict.

For rollcall Vote No. 265, had I been present, I would have voted yea.

For rollcall vote No. 266 had I been present, I would have voted nay.

For rollcall Vote No. 267 had I been present, I would have voted yea. For rollcall Vote No. 268, had I been present, I would have voted yea. For rollcall Vote No. 269, had I been present, I would have voted yea. For rollcall Vote No. 270, had I been present, I would have voted yea. For rollcall Vote No. 271, had I been present, I would have voted yea. For rollcall Vote No. 272, had I been present, I would have voted yea.

For rollcall vote No. 273 had I been present, I would have voted nay. For rollcall vote No. 274 had I been present, I would have voted nay. For rollcall vote No. 275 had I been present, I would have voted nay. For rollcall vote No. 276 had I been present, I would have voted nay. For rollcall vote No. 277 had I been present, I would have voted nay. For rollcall vote No. 278 had I been present, I would have voted nay. For rollcall vote No. 279 had I been present, I would have voted nay. For rollcall vote No. 280 had I been present, I would have voted nay. For rollcall vote No. 281 had I been present, I would have voted nay.

On July 8, 2025, I was unavoidably absent for the following rollcall votes. My absence was due to a weather delay in my flight arrival, which created an unavoidable conflict.

For rollcall Vote No. 373, had I been present, I would have voted nay. For rollcall Vote No. 374, had I been present, I would have voted nay.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF J. THOMAS MANGER

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor J. Thomas Manger, the former chief of the U.S. Capitol Police. Chief Manger has served our country honorably in law enforcement for nearly 50 years. Throughout his career, he has strived to ensure the safety of our communities, including as chief of the Montgomery County Police in my home State. In July of 2021, Chief Manger stepped up with strength, courage, and grace on behalf of our Nation following the attack on our Capitol on January 6.

As chief of the U.S. Capitol Police, Manger has demonstrated principled leadership, unwavering service, and a commitment to safeguarding members of Congress, staffers, and visitors. Following January 6, he reviewed over 100 safety recommendations, implementing many of them in an effort to improve security to protect the Capitol, the American people, and our democratic process. During his tenure, Chief Manger also worked to grow the Capitol Police force by hiring new officers, retaining current officers, and implementing policies to meet the changing demands on Capitol security.

Chief Manger's storied career in law enforcement began long before his decision to come out of retirement to protect our Nation's Capital. He started with the Fairfax County Police Department as an officer and rose through the ranks. He earned the Silver Medal of Valor in 1993 and served as police chief in Fairfax from 1998 to 2004. In 2004, he began his 15-year tenure as chief of police in Montgomery County. During his term, he proposed requiring body cameras for all officers, implemented de-escalation training for officers, and received several national awards. His numerous accolades include the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence's 2007 Law Enforcement Award, the Anti-Defamation League's 2016 Gorowitz Institute Service Award, the National

Immigration Forum's 2017 Keeper of the Dream Award, and the 2018 FBI National Executive Institute Penrith Award.

I commend Chief Manger for his many years of service, his dedication to the safety of the public and the stability of our democratic institutions. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his extraordinary service to this institution and wishing him a well-earned, enjoyable, and fulfilling retirement.

REMEMBERING COLONEL CARLYLE ''SMITTY'' HARRIS

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, this month, Mississippi said farewell to Col. Carlyle ''Smitty'' Harris—a war hero, a family man, and a community leader who left a storied legacy.

Many Mississippians know the story of Colonel Harris. In April 1965, during a mission over North Vietnam, Colonel Harris' F–105 was shot down by enemy artillery. He became the sixth American prisoner of war in that conflict and would spend nearly 8 years in captivity. Colonel Harris approached imprisonment with courage and resilience. He introduced his fellow POWs to the now-famous ''Tap Code,'' which allowed them to communicate with one another. His ingenuity helped sustain morale amid vile prison conditions.

Colonel Harris maintained a sharp mind during and after his military deployment. He was committed to a lifetime of learning and had a resume to prove it. While serving on the faculty of the Air War College, he completed two degrees. He continued his education at the University of Mississippi Law School and returned to the classroom several years later for a degree in banking.

Colonel Harris had a demanding work schedule, but he made time to volunteer. He approached numerous local leadership roles with the same dedication he gave to his Air Force and civilian careers. For years, he committed much of his spare time to philanthropic causes, including the Tupelo Rotary Club, the North Mississippi Medical Center, and the Boys and Girls Club.

Although Colonel Harris lived a remarkable life, those who knew him recall a man with a down-to-earth character. Despite his professional accomplishments, he was most proud of his role as a loving husband, father, and grandfather.

I join my fellow Mississippians in saluting Colonel ''Smitty'' Harris, remembering with gratitude and admiration his life of sacrifice and leadership.

REMEMBERING MICHAEL REMINGTON

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life and service of Michael John Remington. A longtime aide to former Wisconsin Representative Bob Kastenmeier, Mike played a pivotal role on Capitol Hill in shaping strong intellectual property laws America is known for and that our artists, musicians, authors, and others have utilized for decades.

Mike was born in 1945 in Baraboo, WI. A graduate of Central High School in Madison, Mike went on to earn his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Mike comes from a family with a deep commitment to public service. His father Frank Remington was a national leader on criminal law and procedure and whose work continues through the University of Wisconsin's Frank J. Remington Center.

Mike's first taste for service came as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Cote d'Ivoire in West Africa, where he helped build homes and a basketball court. Mike went on to earn a Fulbright scholarship which brought him to Paris, France. He was the first American to be a Fulbright scholar at the Conseil d'Etat, equivalent to the U.S. Supreme Court. Shortly thereafter, Mike moved to Washington, DC, to apply his unmatched work ethic and intellect to strengthen the U.S. legal system.

In 1977, he joined the staff of Representative Bob Kastenmeier, who represented Mike's hometown of Madison. During that time, Mike worked closely with Representative Kastenmeier to strengthen intellectual property laws. Later, Mike served as chief counsel to the Judiciary Subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives on Intellectual Property and Judicial Administration for 9 years, where he played a pivotal role in the enactment of over 20 public laws aimed at improving the administration of justice. Among his many accomplishments were several key amendments to patent law.

Mike was genuinely committed to bipartisanship, working closely with Members on both sides of the aisle to achieve shared goals around improving the legal system. Mike served as the director of the National Commission on Judicial Discipline and Removal, an entity established by Congress to study and report to the President, Chief Justice, and Congress on issues relating to judicial misconduct and impeachment. He also served as staff to the Presidential Clemency Board in the Ford administration and to the National Information Infrastructure Advisory Council in the Clinton administration.

Following his service on Capitol Hill, Mike became partner at Drinker Biddle in Washington, DC. Mike was also the founding chair of the firm's intellectual property group. Throughout his career, he worked with a diverse array of clients, from a performing rights organization representing thousands of songwriters and music publishers, to a university foundation involved in technology licensing, individual authors and creators, and an alliance of inventors and start-ups.

Beyond his public service, Mike was a beloved husband, father, and grandfather. He enjoyed travel, exploring his talents in cooking, photography, painting, and writing along the way.

In 2015, at an event honoring Representative Kastenmeier, former Wisconsin State Supreme Court Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson noted Mike's ''great influence in Congress and in Wisconsin'' and said ''there aren't enough Remingtons. Can't get enough Remingtons.''

Mike's dedicated public service, love of Wisconsin and our Nation, are a lasting and indelible legacy. I am grateful for Mike's service and leadership.

REMEMBERING TIMOTHY STRACHAN

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and remember an inspiring, beloved former member of the Senate community Timothy Strachan.

Tim, who served as a counsel on the Senate Judiciary Committee from 2005 to 2008, lived an incredible life that was characterized by an unbreakable spirit and the ability not just to overcome adversity, but thrive amid it. He tragically passed away last month after a courageous battle with cancer.

His story was anything but ordinary. As a standout quarterback at nearby DeMatha Catholic High School, Tim was a top college prospect when his life changed in an instant. On a beach vacation ahead of his senior year, he became paralyzed from the neck down after a swimming accident.

Such an earth-shaking disruption to a person's health and dreams for the future would shatter many of us, but Tim was undaunted and set about to reinvent his life's purpose.

He finished high school on time, attended the University of Maryland to study communications, and then earned a law degree from Georgetown University. After his time in the Senate concluded, he joined the Federal Communications Commission as an attorney advisor for its legislative affairs team as well as its lead attorney on wireless communications policy.

After the accident, the remarkable grit, perseverance, and hopeful outlook he characterized were striking, and he quickly became a dynamic motivational speaker whose trademark positivity and ability to connect with people were constantly in demand.

Tim's passion for football never waned. He served as a student assistant coach at the University of Maryland and went on to become the color commentator for its radio broadcasts for over 20 years.

He was also a devoted husband to his dear wife Leslie and cherished father to Olivia, Sophie, and Luke, as well as a fixture in his community who radiated joy and warmth. They, along with legions of admirers across the country, will deeply miss his larger-than-life presence.

I join so many others in extending sincere condolences to all of Tim Strachan's loved ones and friends who

celebrate his life, courageous example, and relentless gratitude. His legacy will be felt for many years to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TO DAVID CARDENAS

● Mr. SHEEHY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to express my appreciation to David Cardenas for his hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office this summer.

David is a native of Kalispell, MT. He attends the University of Alabama, where he is studying to obtain degrees in cybersecurity, finance, and a minor in Mandarin. David has demonstrated a strong work ethic, and his efforts have been key to our mission to serve the people of Montana here in our Nation's Capital.

I want to thank David for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It has been a pleasure having him as part of our team this summer, and I wish him all the best as he continues to build a bright future for himself.●

TRIBUTE TO GARRETT DAHLKE

● Mr. SHEEHY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to express my appreciation to Garrett Dahlke for his hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office this summer.

Garrett is a native of Bozeman, MT. He attends the University of Montana, where he is studying to obtain a degree in political science. Garrett has demonstrated a strong work ethic, and his efforts have been key to our mission to serve the people of Montana here in our Nation's Capital.

I want to thank Garrett for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It has been a pleasure having him as part of our team this summer, and I wish him all the best as he continues to build a bright future for himself.●

TRIBUTE TO AVA KOTSEN

● Mr. SHEEHY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to express my appreciation to Ava Kotsen for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office this summer.

Ava is a native of Warran Township, NJ. She attends Texas A&M University, where she is studying to obtain a degree in international studies. Ava has demonstrated a strong work ethic, and her efforts have been key to our mission to serve the people of Montana here in our Nation's Capital.

I want to thank Ava for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It has been a pleasure having her as part of our team this summer, and I wish her all the best as she continues to build a bright future for herself.●

TRIBUTE TO EMMA VENTIMIGLIA

● Mr. SHEEHY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to express my appreciation to Emma Ventimiglia for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office this summer.

Emma is a native of Chevy Chase, MD. She attends Boston College, where she is studying to obtain degrees in economics and psychology. Emma has demonstrated a strong work ethic, and her efforts have been key to our mission to serve the people of Montana here in our Nation's Capital.

I want to thank Emma for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It has been a pleasure having her as part of our team this summer, and I wish her all the best as she continues to build a bright future for herself.●

TRIBUTE TO MAXWELL LERAY

● Mr. SHEEHY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to express my appreciation to Maxwell Leray for his hard work as an intern in my office this summer.

Maxwell is a native of Great Falls, MT. He attends Grand Canyon University, where he is studying to obtain a degree in government with an emphasis in legal studies. Maxwell has demonstrated a strong work ethic, and his efforts have been key to our mission to serve the people of Montana here in our Nation's Capital.

I want to thank Maxwell for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It has been a pleasure having him as part of our team this summer, and I wish him all the best as he continues to build a bright future for himself.●

TRIBUTE TO KADEN LEVERENZ

● Mr. SHEEHY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to express my appreciation to Kaden Leverenz for her hard work as an intern in my office this summer.

Kaden is a native of Mt. Vernon, IN. She attends the University of Montana, where she is studying to obtain a degree in wildlife biology. Kaden has demonstrated a strong work ethic, and her efforts have been key to our mission to serve the people of Montana here in our Nation's Capital.

I want to thank Kaden for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It has been a pleasure having her as part of our team this summer, and I wish her all the best as she continues to build a bright future for herself.●

TRIBUTE TO AVA WILLIAMS

● Mr. SHEEHY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to express my appreciation to Ava Williams for her hard work as an intern in my office this summer.

Ava is a native of Billings, MT. She attends Montana State University in Billings, where she is studying to obtain a degree in political science with a minor in English. Ava has demonstrated a strong work ethic, and her efforts have been key to our mission to serve the people of Montana here in our Nation's Capital.

I want to thank Ava for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It has been a pleasure having her as part of our team this summer, and I wish her all the best as she continues to build a bright future for herself.●

CAPTAIN GEORGE KRIETEMEYER

● Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, when natural disasters strike, you can always count on the U.S. Coast Guard. This month, the Guard celebrates 235 years of excellence and lifesaving emergency missions. And that is because of heroes like CAPT George Krietemeyer of Opelika.

Growing up in the post-World War II era, Krietemeyer said his favorite pastime was watching John Wayne save the day in war movies. Like John Wayne, George wanted to be that hero for fellow Americans in times of need. He dreamed of attending the Naval Academy, but through a series of events, found himself attending the Coast Guard Academy in Connecticut. This experience would launch him into an over 30-year career in the Guard. He decided to attend flight school after a few years in duty where he trained to fly both airplanes and helicopters. Through his extensive training, Captain Krietemeyer established himself as a leader among the ranks.

He flew many missions during the Cuban Missile Crisis and learned firsthand the power of peace through strength. Captain Krietemeyer recalls witnessing the very moment when Soviet ships turned around and a near-war was avoided. He took the lead of developing a training school in North Carolina unlike anything the Coast Guard had before and served as the chief of training for the whole Coast Guard right here in Washington, DC. He spent 2 years at the helm of the U.S. Coast Guard Aviation Training Center in Mobile, AL. Captain Krietemeyer directly oversaw the training of nearly 15,000 guardsmen, and our Guard is no doubt much stronger because of his leadership.

Following his military retirement, Captain Krietemeyer took his family back to Mobile. For more than 30 years, his family resided in the Port City. Whether working as a Navy consultant or in the Mobile mayor's office, he continued to play an integral role in developing efficiency and promoting quality management wherever he served. The city of Mobile received the Alabama Quality Award as the result of his work.

Even though he is retired now, Captain Krietemeyer hasn't slowed down a bit. He stays both physically and mentally active by playing tennis and

pickleball and writing numerous books, including one about Mobile's 200-year Coast Guard history.

As John Wayne always said, ''Courage is being scared to death . . . and saddling up anyway.'' Captain Krietemeyer truly embodies this type of courage. And it is my honor to recognize him as the August Veteran of the Month.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

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

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

MEASURES DISCHARGED PETITION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works be discharged of further consideration of S.J. Res. 60, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to ''Emissions Budget and Allowance Allocations for Indiana Under the Revised Cross-State Air Pollution Rule Update,'' and, further, that the resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Elizabeth Warren, Chris Van Hollen, Adam B. Schiff, Richard Blumenthal, Angus S. King, John W. Hickenlooper, Bernard Sanders, Tim Kaine, Edward J. Markey, Jeff Merkley, Gary C. Peters, Christopher A. Coons, Peter Welch, Tammy Baldwin, Angela D. Alsobrooks, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Ben Ray Luján, Andy Kim, Jack Reed, Charles E. Schumer, Amy Klobuchar, Christopher Murphy, Tina Smith, Mazie K. Hirono, Brian Schatz, Jeanne Shaheen, Patty Murray, Cory A. Booker.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following joint resolution was discharged from the Committee on Environment and Public Works by petition, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 802(c), and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 60. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to ''Emissions Budget and Allowance Allocations for Indiana Under the Revised Cross-State Air Pollution Rule Update''.

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–1491. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting legislative proposals that the Department of Defense requests be enacted during the first session of the 119th Congress; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

EC–1492. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting legislative proposals that the Department of Defense requests be enacted during the first session of the 119th Congress; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–1493. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting legislative proposals that the Department of Defense requests be enacted during the first session of the 119th Congress; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1494. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting legislative proposals that the Department of Defense requests be enacted during the first session of the 119th Congress; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1495. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting legislative proposals that the Department of Defense requests be enacted during the first session of the 119th Congress; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1496. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting legislative proposals that the Department of Defense requests be enacted during the first session of the 119th Congress; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–1497. 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 SAS Airplanes; Amendment 39–23076'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2024–1702)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1498. 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 SAS Airplanes; Amendment 39–23080'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2025–1356)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1499. 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; Dassault Aviation Airplanes; Amendment 39–23077'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2025–0484)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1500. 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; DG Aviation GmbH (Type Certificate Previously Held by DG Flugzeugbau GmbH) Gliders; Amendment 39–23074'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2025–1119)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1501. 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 ''Modernization of Special Airworthiness Certification; Amdt. Nos. 1–80, 21–109, 22–1, 36–55, 43–63, 45–32, 61–159, 65–66, 91–381, 119–22, and 147–10'' ((RIN2120–AL50) (Docket No. FAA–2023–1377)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1502. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2023 Commercial Hook-and-Line Closure for Golden Tilefish in the South Atlantic'' (RIN0648–XD427) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1503. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Herring Fishery; Inseason Adjustment to the 2023 Atlantic Herring Specifications'' (RIN0648–XD421) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1504. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reopening of Commercial Harvest of Red Snapper in the South Atlantic for 4 Days'' (RIN0648–XD408) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1505. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; 2023–2024 Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Inseason Adjustments'' (RIN0648–BM62) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1506. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area'' (RIN0648–XD425) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1507. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Atka mackerel in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area'' (RIN0648–XD359) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1508. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United

States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer from North Carolina to Virginia'' (RIN0648–XD393) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1509. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries Off West Coast States; Modifications of the West Coast Commercial and Recreational Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Actions #19–26'' (RIN0648–XD334) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1510. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Commercial harvest closure for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel in the northern zone'' (RIN0648–XD394) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1511. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels using Trawl Gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska'' (RIN0648–XD305) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1512. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''2025 Recreational Harvest Closure for Gulf Gag'' (RIN0648–XE986) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1513. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the South Atlantic; 2025 Recreational Fishing Season Announcement and Closure for Blueline Tilefish in the South Atlantic'' (RIN0648–XE866) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1514. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Several Groundfish Species in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area'' (RIN0648–XF002) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1515. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fishery Management Plans of Puerto Rico, St. Croix, and St. Thomas and St. John; Amendment 3'' (RIN0648–BN06) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1516. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Pacific Cod in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska'' (RIN0648–XD678) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1517. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2024 Recreational Closure for Golden Tilefish in the South Atlantic'' (RIN0648–XD672) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1518. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pollock in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands'' (RIN0648–XD774) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1519. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2023 Commercial Closure for Blueline Tilefish in the South Atlantic'' (RIN0648–XD176) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1520. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2024 Recreational Fishing Season and Closure Date for Blueline Tilefish in the South Atlantic'' (RIN0648–XD427) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1521. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries Off West Coast States; the Highly Migratory Species Fishery; El Nino Pacific Loggerhead Conservation Area Closure'' (RIN0648–XD988) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1522. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries; General Category January Through March Quota Transfer'' (RIN0648–XE544) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1523. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; 2025–2026 Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Inseason Adjustments'' (RIN0648–BN48) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1524. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries Off West Coast States; Modifications of the West Coast Commercial Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Actions #18'' (RIN0648–XD191) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1525. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Bluefish Fishery; Quota Transfers from New Jersey to North Carolina and Rhode Island'' (RIN0648–XD279) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1526. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels Greater than or equal to 50 feet Length Overall using Hook-and-line Gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska'' (RIN0648–XD283) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1527. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area'' (RIN0648–XD263) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1528. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries Off West Coast States; Modifications of the West Coast Commercial and Recreational Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Actions #11-#16'' (RIN0648–XD128) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1529. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries; Closure of the Harpoon Category Fishery for 2023'' (RIN0648–XD160) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1530. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries; Harpoon Category Quota Transfer'' (RIN0648–XD185) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1531. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Gulf of Maine Cod Trimester Total Allowable Catch Area Closure for the Common Pool Fishery'' (RIN0648–XD202) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1532. A communication from the Biologist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Species; Designation of Critical Habitat for Five Species of

Threatened Indo-Pacific Corals'' (RIN0648–BJ52) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1533. A communication from the Marine Resources Management Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to the Port of Alaska Modernization Program Phase 2B: Cargo Terminals Replacement Project in Anchorage, Alaska'' (RIN0648–BM30) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1534. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revised Reporting Requirements Due to Catastrophic Conditions for Federal Seafood Dealers, Individual Fishing Quota Dealers, and Charter Vessels and Headboats in Portions of Florida'' (RIN0648–XC518) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1535. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Herring Fishery; 2022 Management Area 1A Possession Limit Adjustment'' (RIN0648–XC508) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1536. A communication from the Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Blueline Tilefish Fishery; 2023 Blueline Tilefish Commercial Quota Harvested'' (RIN0648–XD324) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1537. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific cod in the Bering Sea Subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area'' (RIN0648–XC277) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1538. 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 ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amdt. No. 4171'' ((RIN2120–AA65) (Docket No. 31611)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1539. A communication from the Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's Fiscal Year 2024 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1540. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26–111, ''Review of Agency Action Clarification Amendment Act of 2025''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1541. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26–114, ''Peace DC Omnibus Amendment Act of 2025''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1542. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Generic Aging Lessons Learned for Subsequent License Renewal (GALL–SLR), Final Report, Revision 1, Volumes 1 and 2; Standard Review Plan for Review of Subsequent License Renewal Applications for Nuclear Power Plants, Final Report, Revision 1; Technical Bases for Changes in the Subsequent License Renewal Guidance Documents, NUREG–2191, Revision 1, and NUREG–2192, Revision 1, Supplement 1'' (NUREG–2191, 2192, 2221) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 1, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1543. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26–112, ''Board of Trustees Training Amendment Act of 2025''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1544. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26–113, ''Disconnect Act of 2025''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1545. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26–116, ''Safe Passage Training and School Engagement Amendment Act of 2025''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. SCOTT, of South Carolina, from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, without amendment:

S. 2651. An original bill to increase the supply of affordable housing in America.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 2640. A bill to improve passenger vessel security and safety, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. JOHNSON:

S. 2641. A bill to provide that the rule relating to ''Short-Term, Limited-Duration Insurance and Independent, Noncoordinated Excepted Benefits Coverage'' shall have no force or effect; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 2642. A bill to authorize the President to treat as stocks of the United States any weapon or material seized by the United States while in transit from the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Houthis in the Republic of Yemen; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. LUJÁN (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 2643. A bill to amend the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, to enter into contracts, grants, and agreements to carry out certain ecosystem restoration activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 2644. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to assess the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Camden Battlefield area in the State of South Carolina as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

S. 2645. A bill to establish the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. CASSIDY, and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 2646. A bill to terminate the United States-People's Republic of China Income Tax Convention if the People's Liberation Army initiates an armed attack against Taiwan; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BUDD, Mr. KAINE, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. COONS):

S. 2647. A bill to reauthorize the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. KING):

S. 2648. A bill to prohibit reductions in the workforce at public shipyards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. 2649. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to allow the Secretary of Health and Human Services to release accreditation surveys related to hospitals and psychiatric hospitals and certain information related to such surveys for psychiatric hospitals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 2650. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for the reallocation of unused waivers of the foreign residency requirement for certain J-visa holders; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina:

S. 2651. An original bill to increase the supply of affordable housing in America; from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Ms. HIRONO, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 2652. A bill to amend title 14, United States Code, to require an annual plan and budget display for Coast Guard operations in the Pacific, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. 2653. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to permit the use of certain electric vehicle charging stations at rest areas on the Interstate System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. SLOTKIN (for herself, Ms. ERNST, Mr. RICKETTS, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2654. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to improve the biobased markets program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 2655. A bill to establish a community-based refugee reception program to provide initial refugee resettlement services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 2656. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to codify the Rule of Two, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2657. A bill to impose sanctions relating to the support of the People's Republic of China for the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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

S. 2658. A bill to require sponsors of drug applications and holders of approved applications to provide certain submissions and communications to the Food and Drug Administration and the United States Patent and Trademark Office; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2659. A bill to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to enhance the Office of Credit Risk Management, to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to issue rules relating to environmental obligations of certified development companies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. CURTIS:

S. 2660. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to protect the use of risk-based approaches by owners and operators of certain pipeline facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CURTIS:

S. 2661. A bill to allow for the use of risk-based inspections for in-service breakout tanks; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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

S. 2662. A bill to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to improve the loan guaranty program, enhance the ability of small manufacturers to access affordable capital, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. DAINES, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 2663. A bill to amend the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 to generally permit holding merchant banking investments of up to 15 years; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. OSSOFF:

S. 2664. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish the qualifying workforce training project credit; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. WARREN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. PETERS):

S. 2665. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for notification by manufacturers of critical drugs of increased demand, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BUDD (for himself and Mr. WELCH):

S. 2666. A bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish a taskforce on unlawful robocalls, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. REED, Mr. COONS, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 2667. A bill to prevent violence in the West Bank and authorize the imposition of sanctions with respect to any foreign person endangering United States national security and undermining prospects for a two-state solution by committing illegal violent acts; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. ROSEN:

S. 2668. A bill to protect consumers from price gouging of residential rental and sale prices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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

S. 2669. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to develop and implement a strategy to strengthen multilateral deterrence in the Indo-Pacific region; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida:

S. 2670. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to designate certain covered organizations as Foreign Financial Threat Organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. PADILLA, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WELCH, Mr. COONS, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 2671. A bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to require a section on reproductive rights in the Annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SANDERS (for Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. MERKLEY)):

S. 2672. A bill to codify Executive Order 14115 imposing certain sanctions on persons undermining peace, security, and stability in the West Bank; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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

S. 2673. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security to improve the transition of medics into the civilian workforce in certain health care occupations and to modify the assistance provided to separated members of the Armed Forces seeking employment with health care providers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. YOUNG:

S. 2674. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Defense to conduct or support capacity-building programs for foreign security forces to counter illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 2675. A bill to reduce the health risks of heat by establishing the National Integrated Heat Health Information System within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Integrated Heat Health Information System Interagency Committee to improve extreme heat preparedness, planning, and response, requiring a study, and establishing financial assistance programs to address heat effects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. KIM):

S. 2676. A bill to require the Director of the National Science Foundation to carry out a cloud laboratory network program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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

S. 2677. A bill to expand the sharing of information with respect to suspected violations of intellectual property rights in trade; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 2678. A bill to reauthorize the Global Fragility Act of 2019, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. COONS, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 2679. A bill to fulfill promises to Afghan allies; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE:

S.J. Res. 73. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to ''National Volatile Organic Compound Emission Standards for Aerosol Coatings: Interim Final Rule''; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE:

S.J. Res. 74. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration relating to ''Pipeline Safety: Editorial Change To Reflect the Name Change of the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America''; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. SCHMITT (for himself, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. LEE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. RICKETTS, Mrs. BRITT, Ms. ERNST, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BANKS, Mr. MORENO, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. BUDD, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SULLIVAN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mrs. MOODY, and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. Res. 363. A resolution solemnly marking the one-year anniversary of the attempted assassination of President Donald J. Trump, condemning the multiple attempts against the President's life, condemning those who incite violence against political officials, and honoring the victims of the shooting; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. RICKETTS (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. SMITH, and Ms. ERNST):

S. Res. 364. A resolution recognizing the 20th anniversary of the Renewable Fuel

Standard and its foundational role in strengthening American energy security, supporting rural communities, growing the United States economy, and improving environmental performance; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

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

S. Res. 365. A resolution designating August 1, 2025, as ''Gold Star Children's Day''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. HIRONO:

S. Res. 366. A resolution commemorating the 69th anniversary of the continuous operations of the Mauna Loa Observatory; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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

S. Res. 367. A resolution designating July 2025 as ''American Grown Flower and Foliage Month''; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. BRITT, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. Con. Res. 20. A concurrent resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act and reaffirming the United States' commitment to its principles and values; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 81

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 81, a bill to require a guidance clarity statement on certain agency guidance, and for other purposes.

S. 94

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK), the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY), the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) 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. 242

At the request of Mr. RICKETTS, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 242, a bill to protect the dignity of fetal remains, and for other purposes.

S. 522

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 522, a bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to modify the frequency of board of directors meetings, and for other purposes.

S. 529

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 529, a bill to limit cost-sharing for prescription drugs, and for other purposes.

S. 838

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 838, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income interest received on certain loans secured by rural or agricultural real property.

S. 1284

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1284, a bill to permanently extend the exemption from the engine compartment portion of the pre-trip vehicle inspection skills testing requirement for school bus drivers, and for other purposes.

S. 1384

At the request of Mr. BANKS, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1384, a bill to require States to report information on Medicaid payments to abortion providers.

S. 1404

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1404, a bill to combat organized crime involving the illegal acquisition of retail goods and cargo for the purpose of selling those illegally obtained goods through physical and online retail marketplaces.

S. 1552

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1552, a bill to promote and protect from discrimination living organ donors.

S. 1716

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1716, a bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to improve health care coverage under vision plans, and for other purposes.

S. 1773

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1773, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reinstate the deduction for personal casualty losses as in effect prior to the enactment of Public Law 115–97.

S. 2064

At the request of Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2064, a bill to amend title XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to provide coverage of comprehensive tobacco cessation services under such titles, and for other purposes.

S. 2195

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2195, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the brave women who served in World War II as members of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps and U.S. Navy Nurse Corps.

S. 2282

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) were added as cosponsors 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. 2285

At the request of Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2285, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to study and report on the relationship between hair straighteners and uterine cancer, particularly among women of color.

S. 2524

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2524, a bill to amend Public Law 119–21 to repeal the prohibition on making payments under the Medicaid program to certain entities.

S. 2540

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2540, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to reauthorize the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Grant Program of the Department of Justice.

S. 2565

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 2565, a bill to prohibit the District of Columbia government from entering into Sister City relationships with jurisdictions located in foreign adversary countries and for other purposes.

S. 2577

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2577, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to the right of members of a federally recognized Indian Tribe in the United States and First Nations individuals in Canada to cross the borders of the United States.

S. 2594

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2594, a bill to amend section 236 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to require immigration enforcement officers of the Department of Homeland Security to display visible identification during enforcement actions and provide privacy enhancing services.

S. 2636

At the request of Mrs. BRITT, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2636, a bill to prohibit individuals who are not citizens of the United States from voting in elections in the District of Columbia and to repeal the Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2022.

AMENDMENT NO. 2922

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2922 intended to be proposed to S. 2296, an original bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 2925

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2925 intended to be proposed to S. 2296, an original bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 2940

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2940 intended to be proposed to S. 2296, an original bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 2968

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2968 intended to be proposed to S. 2296, an original bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 2994

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2994 intended to be proposed to S. 2296, an original bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 3033

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 3094

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3094 intended to be proposed to S. 2296, an original bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 3114

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) and the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3114 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 3177

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) and the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3177 intended to be proposed to S. 2296, an original bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 3184

At the request of Mr. KELLY, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3184 intended to be proposed to S. 2296, an original bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 3185

At the request of Mr. KELLY, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3185 intended to be proposed to S. 2296, an original bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 3235

At the request of Ms. LUMMIS, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3235 intended to be proposed to S. 2296, an original bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 3237

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3237 intended to be proposed to S. 2296, an original bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 3247

At the request of Mr. BUDD, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3247 intended to be proposed to S. 2296, an original bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 3267

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3267 intended to be proposed to S. 2296, an original bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 3286

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3286 intended to be proposed to S. 2296, an original bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 3287

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3287 intended to be proposed to S. 2296, an original bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 3288

At the request of Mr. LEE, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3288 intended to be proposed to S. 2296, an original bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 3341

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3341 intended to be proposed to S. 2296, an original bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 3371

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3371 intended to be proposed to S. 2296, an original bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 3373

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3373 intended to be proposed to S. 2296, an original bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 3406

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3406 intended to be proposed to S. 2296, an original bill 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.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 363—SOLEMNLY MARKING THE ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP, CONDEMNING THE MULTIPLE ATTEMPTS AGAINST THE PRESIDENT'S LIFE, CONDEMNING THOSE WHO INCITE VIOLENCE AGAINST POLITICAL OFFICIALS, AND HONORING THE VICTIMS OF THE SHOOTING

Mr. SCHMITT (for himself, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. LEE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. RICKETTS, Mrs. BRITT, Ms. ERNST, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BANKS, Mr. MORENO, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. BUDD, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SULLIVAN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mrs. MOODY, and Mr. MARSHALL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 363

Whereas, on July 13, 2024, an attempt was made on the life of President Donald J. Trump in Butler, Pennsylvania;

Whereas Corey D. Comperatore tragically died while shielding his family from the gunfire in Butler, Pennsylvania;

Whereas David Dutch and James Copenhaver were critically injured in the attack and hospitalized in Butler, Pennsylvania;

Whereas, during these attacks, law enforcement, first responders, and medical personnel performed their duties with professionalism and heroism;

Whereas, on December 10, 2024, the Task Force on the Attempted Assassination of Donald J. Trump released their Final Report of Findings and Recommendations; and

Whereas continued calls for violence against the President of the United States, violent acts carried out against elected officials like those perpetrated against Governor of Pennsylvania Josh Shapiro, Minnesota State House Speaker Emerita Melissa Hortman, and Minnesota State Senator John Hoffman, and continued divisive rhetoric targeting elected officials are contradictory to the tradition of the United States and risk undermining the democratic process and endangering the lives of public servants: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the assassination attempts against President Donald J. Trump on July 13, 2024, in Butler, Pennsylvania, and on September 15, 2024, in West Palm Beach, Florida;

(2) honors Corey D. Comperatore, who died while protecting his family from the gunfire at the rally for President Trump;

(3) honors David Dutch and James Copenhaver, who were critically injured in the gunfire at the rally for President Trump and hospitalized;

(4) expresses gratitude to the law enforcement officers, first responders, and medical personnel who responded to the attacks, conducted investigations, and provided aid to the victims;

(5) affirms that the United States Secret Service is the agency responsible for protecting the country's highest elected officials and is therefore central to upholding the constitutional values of the United States;

(6) calls on all people of the United States to unite against political violence; and

(7) condemns those who incite violence against political officials.

SENATE RESOLUTION 364—RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RENEWABLE FUEL STANDARD AND ITS FOUNDATIONAL ROLE IN STRENGTHENING AMERICAN ENERGY SECURITY, SUPPORTING RURAL COMMUNITIES, GROWING THE UNITED STATES ECONOMY, AND IMPROVING ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

Mr. RICKETTS (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. SMITH, and Ms. ERNST) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

S. RES. 364

Whereas the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS), first established by Congress in 2005

and expanded in 2007, celebrates its 20th anniversary as a key national policy for increasing the supply of domestic renewable energy and supporting American families and the economy and energy security of the United States;

Whereas the RFS provides for steady growth by setting increasing annual volumetric targets for an appropriate variety of renewable fuels;

Whereas the RFS achieves this goal by setting annual volumetric targets for renewable fuel, including specific targets for biodiesel, cellulosic, and advanced fuel types;

Whereas these targets were designed to be ambitious in order to induce private sector innovation and investment, while providing ample flexibility in the law for the Environmental Protection Agency to administer the RFS, including the ability to adjust annual targets annually if necessary to reflect production volumes;

Whereas the RFS drives innovation that improves environmental performance by requiring that renewable fuel reduces lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions by certain minimum thresholds ranging from 20 percent to 60 percent, depending on the type of fuel;

Whereas, since 2007, the private sector has responded the RFS by investing billions of dollars in the renewable fuel sector to expand production of first-generation renewable fuel and to develop and demonstrate advanced renewable fuel;

Whereas the RFS has driven innovation and investment in the biofuels sector, resulting in more than 275 renewable fuel facilities in 36 States, producing over 25,000,000,000 gallons per year;

Whereas the renewable fuels industry supports a robust bioeconomy that, in 2023, contributed $210,000,000,000 to the United States gross domestic product and supported nearly 644,000 domestic jobs;

Whereas the RFS has provided critical markets for farmers in the United States, supporting rural economies and domestic processing, and helping to drive economic growth and strengthen rural communities;

Whereas the RFS continues to provide an important backstop for farmers in the United States to ensure robust domestic demand when facing uncertainty in export markets;

Whereas the RFS has enabled the United States ethanol industry to supply more than 98 percent of gasoline sold nationwide with at least 10 percent ethanol and has helped the biodiesel and renewable diesel industry produce over 5,000,000,000 gallons annually, about 10 percent of total on-road diesel use;

Whereas renewable fuels have delivered real savings for American consumers at the pump, with higher-level ethanol blends like E15 reducing prices by 10–30 cents per gallon on average and biodiesel driving down the price of traditional diesel by about 4 percent;

Whereas the RFS has contributed to significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions by requiring renewable fuels to meet minimum lifecycle emissions reductions and has helped the United States transportation sector make progress toward environmental sustainability;

Whereas the RFS has evolved over 2 decades to keep pace with new technologies and shifting markets, while remaining at the heart of ongoing national conversations about energy security, environmental stewardship, and the agricultural economy;

Whereas, over the past 20 years, the RFS has become a cornerstone of United States energy security by reducing reliance on volatile energy markets and supporting the domestic production of renewable fuels; and

Whereas to continue on the path toward greater energy dominance, the United States must continue its efforts to diversify its transportation fuel supply and avoid overreliance on imported fuels: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 20th anniversary of the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) as a milestone in America's commitment to strengthening energy security, supporting rural communities, growing the economy, and improving environmental performance;

(2) commends the contributions of the RFS in building a robust and innovative domestic renewable fuels industry;

(3) recognizes the positive impacts of the RFS on United States energy policy, the agricultural sector, and the environment over the past 2 decades;

(4) affirms the continued importance of the RFS in advancing the energy, economic, and environmental goals of the United States Government;

(5) believes that diversifying the fuel supply with an increasing percentage of domestic renewable fuel strengthens the economy of the United States, increases security, and improves environmental performance; and

(6) supports continued implementation of the RFS as enacted in 2007 to achieve this goal.

SENATE RESOLUTION 365—DESIGNATING AUGUST 1, 2025, AS ''GOLD STAR CHILDREN'S DAY''

Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. KELLY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 365

Whereas the recognition of Gold Star Families in the United States dates back to World War I, when the families of fallen members of the Armed Forces displayed a service flag with a gold star in the window of their homes;

Whereas, in 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed into law legislation declaring Gold Star Mother's Day, now known as ''Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day'', a national observance honoring the mothers of fallen members of the Armed Forces annually on the last Sunday of September;

Whereas, since 2010, the Senate has honored Gold Star Spouses by resolution annually on April 5, recognizing the unique sacrifices made by spouses of fallen members of the Armed Forces;

Whereas many thousands of children of military families have lost parents who served in the Armed Forces and also deserve national recognition for the burden and legacy they carry; and

Whereas, since 2021, the Senate has honored Gold Star Children by resolution annually on August 1, recognizing the debt of gratitude owed to children of fallen members of the Armed Forces by the people of the United States as part of the debt owed to the members of the Armed Forces who sacrificed all in protecting the freedom of the United States and the people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates August 1, 2025, as ''Gold Star Children's Day'';

(2) honors the sacrifices and hardships of the children of fallen members of the Armed Forces; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe Gold Star Children's Day in support of children of the fallen members of the Armed Forces of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 366—COMMEMORATING THE 69TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONTINUOUS OPERATIONS OF THE MAUNA LOA OBSERVATORY

Ms. HIRONO submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 366

Whereas the Mauna Loa Observatory (referred to in this preamble as the ''MLO'') is an atmospheric baseline station of the Global Monitoring Laboratory within the Earth System Research Laboratories (referred to in this preamble as the ''ESRL'') organized under the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research;

Whereas the mission of the ESRL is to measure atmospheric constituents that are capable of forcing adjustments to the climate of the Earth and those that may deplete the ozone layer;

Whereas the mission of the ESRL is primarily accomplished through long-term tropospheric measurements of key atmospheric parameters such as carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, methane, chlorofluorocarbons, ozone, sulfur dioxide, nitrous oxide, radon, aerosols, optical depth, and a spectrum of solar radiation parameters;

Whereas the MLO, due to its location on the north flank of Mauna Loa Volcano, on Hawaii Island, is the premier long-term atmospheric monitoring facility on Earth for sampling the troposphere as it protrudes through the strong marine temperature inversion layer present in the region;

Whereas the MLO, constructed in 1956 and continuously in operation since, is the site where the ever-increasing concentrations of global atmospheric carbon dioxide have been observed;

Whereas the MLO has been home to hundreds of atmospheric research programs—

(1) with national and international universities and government organizations; and

(2) related to a diverse spectrum of research categories; and

Whereas the MLO and its 4 sites on Hawaii Island, including the critical administrative office in Hilo, is home to a dedicated workforce committed to their mission to acquire, evaluate, and make available accurate, long-term records of the atmosphere in a manner that allows the causes and consequences of change to be understood: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the 69th anniversary of the continuous operations of the Mauna Loa Observatory (referred to in this resolution as the ''MLO'');

(2) recognizes the monumental contributions that the research conducted at and data produced by the MLO has provided to the global leadership in atmospheric research of the United States;

(3) reaffirms the Senate's strong support for the critical ongoing operations of the MLO, including its 4 sites on Hawaii Island; and

(4) honors the cultural significance of Mauna Loa to the Native Hawaiian community.

SENATE RESOLUTION 367—DESIGNATING JULY 2025 AS ''AMERICAN GROWN FLOWER AND FOLIAGE MONTH''

Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Mr. SCHIFF) submitted the

following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 367

Whereas cut flower and foliage growers in the United States are hard-working, dedicated individuals who bring beauty, economic stimulus, and pride to their communities and the United States;

Whereas the people of the United States have a long history of using flowers and foliage grown in the United States to bring beauty to important events and express affection for loved ones;

Whereas consumers spend more than $59,000,000,000 each year on floral products, including cut flowers, garden plants, bedding, and indoor plants;

Whereas, each year, an increasing number of households in the United States purchase fresh cut flowers and foliage from more than 16,000 florists and floral establishments;

Whereas the annual per capita spending on floral products by consumers in the United States is almost $177;

Whereas the people of the United States increasingly want to support domestically produced food and agricultural products and would prefer to buy locally grown flowers and foliage whenever possible, yet a majority of domestic consumers do not know where the flowers and foliage they purchase are grown;

Whereas, in response to increased demand, the ''Certified American Grown'' logo was created in July 2014 to educate and empower consumers to purchase flowers and foliage from domestic producers;

Whereas millions of stems of domestically grown flowers and foliage are now ''Certified American Grown'';

Whereas domestic flower and foliage farmers produce thousands of varieties of flowers and foliage across the United States, such as peonies in Alaska, Gerbera daisies in California, lupines in Maine, tulips in Washington, lilies in Oregon, larkspur in Texas, and leatherleaf in Florida;

Whereas the flower and foliage varieties with the highest production in the United States are tulips, lilies, Gerbera daisies, gladiolas, leatherleaf, irises, and roses;

Whereas people in every State have access to domestically grown flowers and foliage, yet only 20 percent of flowers and foliage sold in the United States is domestically grown;

Whereas the domestic cut flower and foliage industry—

(1) creates a substantial economic impact daily; and

(2) supports hundreds of growers, thousands of small businesses, and tens of thousands of jobs in the United States;

Whereas most domestic cut flowers and foliage are sold in the United States within 24 to 48 hours after harvest and last longer than flowers shipped longer distances;

Whereas flowers and foliage grown domestically enhance the ability of the people of the United States to festively celebrate weddings and births and honor those who have passed;

Whereas flower and foliage giving has been a holiday tradition in the United States for generations;

Whereas flowers and foliage speak to the beauty of motherhood on Mother's Day and to the spirit of love on Valentine's Day;

Whereas flowers and foliage help commemorate the service and sacrifice of members of the Armed Forces on Memorial Day and Veterans Day; and

Whereas the Senate encourages the cultivation of flowers and foliage in the United States by domestic flower and foliage farmers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates July 2025 as ''American Grown Flower and Foliage Month'';

(2) recognizes that purchasing flowers and foliage grown in the United States supports the farmers, small businesses, jobs, and economy of the United States;

(3) recognizes that growing flowers and foliage in the United States is a vital part of the agricultural industry of the United States;

(4) recognizes that cultivating flowers and foliage domestically enhances the ability of the people of the United States to festively celebrate holidays and special occasions; and

(5) urges all people of the United States to proactively showcase flowers and foliage grown in the United States in order to show support for—

(A) the flower and foliage farmers, processors, and distributors in the United States; and

(B) the agricultural industry of the United States overall.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 20—RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT AND REAFFIRMING THE UNITED STATES' COMMITMENT TO ITS PRINCIPLES AND VALUES

Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. BRITT, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 20

Whereas August 1, 2025, is the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe Final Act (referred to in this resolution as the ''Helsinki Final Act'');

Whereas, on August 1, 1975, 35 nations, including the United States, Canada, and the nations of Europe, signed the Helsinki Final Act, marking a historic milestone in international diplomacy during the Cold War;

Whereas the Helsinki Final Act established a comprehensive concept of security that encompasses political-military, environmental and economic, and human rights and humanitarian dimensions;

Whereas the Helsinki Final Act codified 10 principles in the Declaration on Principles Guiding Relations Between Participating States (commonly known as ''The Decalogue''), which—

(1) all participating states committed to respect and put into practice in their relations with each other; and

(2) have formed a basis for the international order in the region encompassing the participating states of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) since its inception in 1975;

Whereas these principles, adopted on the basis of consensus by all participating states and repeatedly reaffirmed, enshrine—

(1) the sovereign equality of all participating states and respect for the rights inherent in sovereignty;

(2) refraining from the threat or use of force among participating states;

(3) the inviolability of frontiers of the 57 participating states;

(4) the territorial integrity of participating states;

(5) the peaceful settlement of disputes among participating states;

(6) nonintervention in internal affairs;

(7) respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of thought, conscience, religion, or belief;

(8) equal rights and self-determination of peoples;

(9) cooperation among participating states; and

(10) fulfillment in good faith of obligations under international law;

Whereas the Helsinki Final Act, for the first time in the history of international agreements, recognized that respect for, and implementation of, commitments to human rights and fundamental freedoms are integral to stability and security within and among nations;

Whereas the principles of the Helsinki Final Act have been threatened in recent years by irresponsible acts of certain states, including the actions of the Russian Federation in its occupation of the territories of Ukraine, Moldova, and Georgia and which constitute a threat to the stability and security of Europe and the world;

Whereas the Russian Federation is responsible for the clear, gross, and uncorrected violation of all 10 principles of the Helsinki Final Act;

Whereas the scourge of anti-Semitism persists throughout the OSCE region and should continue to be called out, condemned, and opposed by all participating states;

Whereas Congress contributed to advancing the aims of the Helsinki Final Act by creating the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (commonly known as the ''Helsinki Commission'') to monitor and encourage compliance with provisions of the Helsinki Final Act;

Whereas the Helsinki Commission consists of 9 United States senators, 9 members of the United States House of Representatives, and 3 representatives from the Executive Branch of the United States Government;

Whereas the Helsinki Final Act ultimately led to the creation of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, which was designed to prevent, manage, and resolve conflict within and among the participating states;

Whereas the legacy of the Helsinki Final Act continues to serve as a guiding framework for—

(1) addressing security challenges;

(2) defending the rule of law; and

(3) supporting the rights of individuals against authoritarian oppression and aggression;

Whereas successive United States administrations since the Helsinki Final Act was signed in 1975 have made the Helsinki Final Act's Principles Guiding Relations Between Participating States a basis for United States policy toward Europe and the entire OSCE region;

Whereas Congress has strongly supported and encouraged the United States to promote improved compliance with these guiding principles, including by raising its concerns about noncompliance in a direct and frank manner, and continues to provide such support and encouragement; and

Whereas, in the face of renewed threats to sovereignty, democracy, and human rights, particularly in Eastern Europe and Eurasia, the principles of the Helsinki Final Act remain significant and foundational to a comprehensive concept of security: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) commemorates the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and recognizes the importance of the Helsinki Principles and the OSCE;

(2) reasserts the commitment of the United States to the full implementation of the Helsinki Final Act and to continued participation in the OSCE;

(3) urges all participating states to abide by their respective obligations under the Helsinki Final Act, including respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, which are vital to the functioning of democracy;

(4) calls on public officials, educators, librarians, and the people of the United States to join Congress in observance of this anniversary with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities; and

(5) conveys to all signatory states of the Helsinki Final Act that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democratic principles, economic liberty, peaceful resolution of conflicts among participating states, respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of participating states, and the implementation of related commitments continue to be vital elements in promoting security, prosperity, and peace throughout the region covered by the OSCE.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3413. Mr. TUBERVILLE proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3411 proposed by Ms. COLLINS 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.

SA 3414. Mr. KENNEDY proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3411 proposed by Ms. COLLINS to the bill H.R. 3944, supra.

SA 3415. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3411 proposed by Ms. COLLINS to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3416. Mr. BUDD (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3411 proposed by Ms. COLLINS to the bill H.R. 3944, supra.

SA 3417. Mr. BUDD (for himself and Mr. KELLY) 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 3418. Ms. KLOBUCHAR proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3411 proposed by Ms. COLLINS 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.

SA 3419. Mr. HUSTED 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 3420. Mr. MORAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3421. Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. KELLY, Mr. LUJÁN, and Mr. HICKENLOOPER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3422. Mr. MULLIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3423. Mr. MULLIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3424. Mr. FETTERMAN (for himself, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. KELLY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3425. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3426. Ms. ERNST (for herself and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3427. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3428. Mr. JOHNSON proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3411 proposed by Ms. COLLINS 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.

SA 3429. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3430. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3411 proposed by Ms. COLLINS 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.

SA 3431. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. CRAPO) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3411 proposed by Ms. COLLINS to the bill H.R. 3944, supra.

SA 3432. Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. PADILLA) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3411 proposed by Ms. COLLINS to the bill H.R. 3944, supra.

SA 3433. Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. KING) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3411 proposed by Ms. COLLINS to the bill H.R. 3944, supra.

SA 3434. Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) 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 3435. Mrs. CAPITO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3436. Mrs. CAPITO (for herself, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. TILLIS, and Mrs. BLACKBURN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3437. Mr. SHEEHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3438. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3439. Mr. LANKFORD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3440. Mr. LANKFORD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3441. Mr. LANKFORD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3442. Mr. LANKFORD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3443. Mr. LANKFORD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3444. Mr. TUBERVILLE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3445. Mr. TUBERVILLE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3446. Mr. SHEEHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3447. Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Mr. KELLY) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3411 proposed by Ms. COLLINS 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.

SA 3448. Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. WARREN, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WELCH, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. KIM, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. WARNER, Mr. KELLY, Mr. REED, and Mr. GALLEGO) 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 3449. Mr. MCCORMICK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3450. Mrs. FISCHER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3451. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3452. Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. CASSIDY, and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3453. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3454. Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3455. Mr. HUSTED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3456. Mr. HUSTED (for himself and Mr. MORENO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3457. Mr. HUSTED (for himself and Mr. MORENO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3458. Mr. HUSTED (for himself and Mr. MORENO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3459. Ms. ROSEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3460. Ms. ROSEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3461. Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Mr. CURTIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3462. Mr. FETTERMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3463. Mr. FETTERMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3464. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3465. Mr. SCHIFF submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3466. Ms. DUCKWORTH proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3411 proposed by Ms. COLLINS 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.

SA 3467. Mr. LANKFORD 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 3468. Mr. LANKFORD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3469. Mr. LANKFORD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3470. Mr. LANKFORD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3471. Mr. LANKFORD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3472. Mr. LANKFORD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3473. Mr. LANKFORD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3474. Mr. LANKFORD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3475. Mr. LANKFORD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3476. Mr. LANKFORD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3477. Mr. LANKFORD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3478. Mr. LANKFORD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3479. Mr. LANKFORD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3480. Mr. LANKFORD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3481. Mr. LANKFORD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3482. Mr. LANKFORD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3483. Mr. McCORMICK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3484. Mr. KELLY (for himself and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3485. Mr. REED 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 3486. Mr. REED 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 3487. Mr. MORAN (for himself and Ms. ROSEN) 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 3488. Mr. TILLIS (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3489. Mrs. BLACKBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3490. Mrs. BLACKBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3491. Mrs. BLACKBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3492. Mrs. BLACKBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3493. Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SHEEHY, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3494. Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. SCHATZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3495. Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. WARNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3496. Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3497. Mr. VAN HOLLEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3498. Mr. VAN HOLLEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3499. Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. CURTIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3500. Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. CURTIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3501. Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. HUSTED) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3502. Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3503. Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3504. Mrs. BLACKBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3505. Mr. BANKS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3506. Mr. BANKS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3507. Mr. LEE (for himself and Mr. CURTIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3508. Ms. LUMMIS (for herself and Mr. TUBERVILLE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3509. Mr. DAINES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3510. Mr. DAINES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3511. Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3512. Mr. DAINES (for himself and 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 3513. Mr. DAINES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3514. Mr. DAINES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3515. Mr. DAINES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3516. Mr. TILLIS (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3517. Mr. TILLIS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3518. Mr. TILLIS (for himself and Mr. JUSTICE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3519. Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. PETERS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3520. Mr. DAINES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3521. Mr. KELLY (for himself and Mr. GALLEGO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3522. Mr. KELLY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3523. Mr. KAINE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3524. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3525. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3526. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3527. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3528. Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3529. Mr. BOOKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3530. Mr. BOOKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3531. Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. MORAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3532. Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. MORAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3533. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3534. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3535. Mr. SCOTT of Florida submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3536. Mr. SCOTT of Florida submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3537. Mr. LANKFORD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3538. Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. KING, and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3539. Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3540. Mr. VAN HOLLEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3541. Mr. VAN HOLLEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3542. Mr. SCHIFF submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3543. Mr. SCHIFF submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3544. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3545. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3546. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3547. Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3548. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3549. Mr. KELLY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3550. Mr. KELLY (for himself and Mr. LANKFORD) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3551. Mr. KELLY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3552. Ms. SLOTKIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3553. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3554. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. SCHATZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3555. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3556. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. RISCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3557. Ms. SLOTKIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3558. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3559. Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3560. Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3561. Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3562. Mr. JOHNSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3563. Mr. JOHNSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3564. Mr. JOHNSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3565. Mr. JOHNSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3566. Mr. COONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3567. Mr. McCORMICK (for himself and Mr. WYDEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3568. Ms. ROSEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3569. Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3570. Mr. PETERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3571. Mr. MORAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3572. Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Mr. HICKENLOOPER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3573. Mr. YOUNG submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3574. Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3575. Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. WARNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3576. Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3577. Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. KAINE, and Ms. ALSOBROOKS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3578. Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER (for herself and Mr. BUDD) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3579. Ms. SMITH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3580. Ms. SMITH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3581. Ms. SMITH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3582. Ms. SMITH (for herself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3583. 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 3584. Mr. VAN HOLLEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3585. Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. BANKS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3586. Ms. LUMMIS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3587. Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. RISCH, and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3588. Mr. SANDERS (for Mr. WELCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. SANDERS to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3589. Mr. SANDERS (for Mr. WELCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. SANDERS to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3590. Mr. SANDERS (for Mr. WELCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. SANDERS to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3591. Mr. SANDERS (for Mr. WELCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. SANDERS to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3592. Mr. SANDERS (for Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. COONS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. KAINE)) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. SANDERS to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3593. Mr. SANDERS (for Mr. WELCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. SANDERS to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3594. Mr. SANDERS (for Mr. WELCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. SANDERS to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3595. Mr. SANDERS (for Mr. WELCH (for himself and Mr. SCHATZ)) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. SANDERS to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3596. Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3597. Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. LEE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3598. Mr. SANDERS (for Mr. WELCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. SANDERS to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3599. Mr. HICKENLOOPER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3600. Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself and Mr. CRAPO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3601. Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself and Mr. CRAPO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3602. Mr. HICKENLOOPER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3603. Mr. HICKENLOOPER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3604. Mr. HICKENLOOPER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3605. Mr. HICKENLOOPER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3606. Mr. HICKENLOOPER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3607. Mr. HICKENLOOPER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3608. Mr. RISCH (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3609. Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. PETERS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3610. Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. DURBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3611. Mr. ROUNDS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3612. Mr. ROUNDS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3613. Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. LEE, Mr. COONS, and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3614. Mr. RISCH (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3615. Mr. RISCH (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3616. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3617. Mr. RISCH (for himself and Mr. COONS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3618. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3619. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3620. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3621. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3622. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3623. Mr. RISCH (for himself and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3624. Mr. RISCH (for himself and Mr. COONS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3625. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3626. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3627. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3628. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3629. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3630. Mr. HICKENLOOPER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3631. Mr. HICKENLOOPER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3632. Mr. HICKENLOOPER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3633. Mr. HICKENLOOPER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3634. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3635. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3636. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3637. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3638. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. CURTIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3639. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3640. Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. ROUNDS, and Ms. SMITH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3641. Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended

to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3642. Mr. HOEVEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3643. Mr. HOEVEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3644. Mr. HOEVEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3645. Mr. WICKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3646. Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Ms. BALDWIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3647. Mr. HAGERTY (for himself and Mr. KAINE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3648. Mr. HAGERTY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3649. Mr. HAGERTY (for himself and Ms. ALSOBROOKS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3650. Mr. HAGERTY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3651. Mr. HAGERTY (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BUDD, and Ms. ALSOBROOKS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3652. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3653. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3654. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3655. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3656. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3657. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3658. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3659. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3660. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3661. Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. RISCH, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3662. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. PAUL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3663. Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. KIM) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3664. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3665. Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. PETERS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3666. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3667. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3668. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3669. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3670. Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. PADILLA) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3671. Mrs. BRITT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3672. Mrs. BRITT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3673. Mrs. BRITT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3674. Mrs. BRITT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3675. Mrs. BRITT (for herself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3676. Mr. MARKEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3677. Mr. VAN HOLLEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3678. Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. ROUNDS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3679. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3680. Mr. THUNE (for Mr. COONS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1659, to amend titles 11 and 28, United States Code, to modify the compensation payable to trustees serving in cases under chapter 7 of title 11, United States Code, to extend the term of certain temporary offices of bankruptcy judges, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3413. Mr. TUBERVILLE 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 REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF STAFFING MODELS AT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this section, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(1) the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the efforts of the Secretary to review and implement staffing models at the Department of Veterans Affairs that will ensure timely, high quality delivery of health care, benefits, and other services furnished by the Department. Such report shall describe the methodology and review process the Secretary is using to create the staffing models for the Department.

SA 3414. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3411 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intented 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 219, after line 25, add the following:

SEC. 783. Each discretionary appropriation made under this division is reduced, on a pro rata basis, by the amount necessary to reduce the amount of discretionary appropriations made available under this division, but for this section, by 2 percent.

SA 3415. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3411 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 219, after line 25, add the following:

SEC. 783. The discretionary appropriations made available under this division are reduced, on a pro rata basis, by the amount necessary to reduce the amount of discretionary appropriations made available under this division to be 2 percent less than the amount of discretionary appropriations 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).

SA 3416. Mr. BUDD (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to

amendment SA 3411 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:

In section 250 of title II of division A, strike ''programs.'' and insert ''programs; and, $709,573,000 shall be made available for opioid prevention and treatment programs.''.

SA 3417. Mr. BUDD (for himself and Mr. KELLY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 126__. DISPOSITION OF WEAPONS AND MATERIEL IN TRANSIT FROM IRAN TO HOUTHIS IN YEMEN.

(a) DISPOSITION OF WEAPONS AND MATERIEL.—The President may treat as stocks of the United States any weapon or materiel seized by the United States while in transit from the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Houthis in the Republic of Yemen.

(b) DRAWDOWN AUTHORITY.—Section 506(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2318(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(4) In addition to amounts otherwise specified in this section, the President may direct the drawdown of weapons and materiel treated as stocks of the United States, seized pursuant to section 126__(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026, to be provided to foreign partners.''.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the President shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that includes the following:

(1) The number of times the President exercised the authority under subsection (a).

(2) An inventory of the weapons and materiel treated as United States stocks pursuant to such authority.

(3) An inventory of the weapons and materiel provided to foreign partners pursuant to the authority provided in paragraph (4) of section 506(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2318(a)).

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

(1) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

SA 3418. Ms. KLOBUCHAR submitted an amendment intended to be propsed 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 division B, insert the following:

SEC. _____. (a) For an additional amount for ''Agricultural Programs—Agricultural Research Service—Salaries and Expenses'', there is appropriated $500,000, to remain available until expended, to expedite fiber research on industrial hemp between the Cereal Disease Laboratory and the Cotton Fiber Bioscience and Utilization Research Unit, including cooperative agreements with qualified nonprofit organizations.

(b) For an additional amount for ''Agricultural Programs—Agricultural Research Service—Salaries and Expenses'', there is appropriated $500,000, to remain available until expended, to expand existing cereal research into methods to mitigate mycotoxin risks.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount appropriated by this Act under the heading ''Agricultural Programs—Processing, Research, and Marketing—Office of the Secretary'' in title I for the Office of Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations and Intergovernmental Affairs shall be reduced by $1,000,000.

SA 3419. Mr. HUSTED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in subtitle F of title X, insert the following:

SEC. 10___. EXCLUSION FROM DEFINITION OF PRODUCTION FACILITY.

Section 11 v. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2014(v)) is amended, in the second sentence, by striking ''separating the isotopes of uranium or enriching uranium in the isotope 235'' and inserting ''(A) separating isotopes of uranium or enriching uranium in the isotope 235; or (B) reprocessing spent nuclear fuel in a manner that does not separate plutonium from other transuranic elements''.

SA 3420. Mr. MORAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title X, add the following new subtitle:

Subtitle H—ADS–B In and ADS–B Out Equipment Required for Aircraft Operating in Class B Airspace in the National Airspace System

SEC. 1091. ADS–B IN AND ADS–B OUT EQUIPMENT REQUIRED FOR AIRCRAFT OPERATING IN CLASS B AIRSPACE IN THE NATIONAL AIRSPACE SYSTEM.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, no aircraft, including military aircraft, shall be operated in Class B airspace in the national airspace system unless the aircraft has ADS–B In and ADS–B Out equipment that meets such performance requirements as the Administrator shall specify, and is installed, activated, and receiving whenever the aircraft is taxiing or in flight.

(2) LIMITATION ON REGULATIONS.—Neither the Secretary of Transportation nor the Administrator shall implement, administer, enforce, or otherwise give effect to any regulation that exempts aircraft, including military aircraft, from the requirements of paragraph (1).

(b) REPEAL OF EXEMPTION TO REQUIREMENT TO INSTALL AUTOMATIC DEPENDENT SURVEILLANCE-BROADCAST EQUIPMENT ON CERTAIN AIRCRAFT OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—Section 1046 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (49 U.S.C. 40101 note) is repealed.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration.

(2) ADS–B IN.—The term ''ADS–B In'' means onboard avionics technology that periodically receives ADS–B Out broadcasts of an aircraft's state vector (3-dimensional position and 3-dimensional velocity) and other required information as described in part 91.277 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation).

(3) ADS–B OUT.—The term ''ADS–B Out'' has the meaning given such term in section 91.227 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation).

(4) AIRCRAFT.—The term ''aircraft'' means fixed wing aircraft, rotorcraft, powered-lift aircraft, and any other form of manned aircraft.

SA 3421. Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. KELLY, Mr. LUJÁN, and Mr. HICKENLOOPER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title X, add the following:

Subtitle H—SAFE Orbit Act

SEC. 1091. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Situational Awareness of Flying Elements in Orbit Act'' or the ''SAFE Orbit Act''.

SEC. 1092. SPACE SITUATIONAL AWARENESS AND SPACE TRAFFIC COORDINATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce shall facilitate safe operations in space and encourage the development of commercial space capabilities by acquiring and disseminating unclassified data, analytics, information, and services on space activities.

(b) IMMUNITY.—The United States, any agencies and instrumentalities thereof, and any individuals, firms, corporations, and other persons acting for the United States Government, including nongovernmental entities, shall be immune from any suit in any court for any cause of action arising from the provision or receipt of space situational awareness services or information, whether or not provided in accordance with this section, or any related action or omission.

(c) ACQUISITION OF DATA.—The Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Space Commerce (established under section 50702(b) of title 51, United States Code, as amended by section 1093) is authorized to acquire—

(1) data, analytics, information, and services, including with respect to—

(A) location tracking data;

(B) positional and orbit determination information; and

(C) conjunction data messages; and

(2) such other data, analytics, information, and services as the Secretary of Commerce

determines necessary to avoid collisions of space objects.

(d) DATABASE ON SATELLITE LOCATION AND BEHAVIOR.—The Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Space Commerce shall provide access for the public, at no charge, to a fully updated, unclassified database of information concerning space objects and behavior that includes—

(1) the data and information acquired under subsection (c), except to the extent that such data or information is classified or a trade secret (as defined in section 1839 of title 18, United States Code); and

(2) the provision of basic space situational awareness services and space traffic coordination based on the data referred to in paragraph (1), including basic analytics, tracking calculations, and conjunction data messages.

(e) BASIC SPACE SITUATIONAL AWARENESS SERVICES.—The Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Space Commerce—

(1) shall provide to satellite operators, at no charge, basic space situational awareness services, including the data, analytics, information, and services described in subsection (c);

(2) in carrying out paragraph (1), may not compete with private sector space situational awareness products, to the maximum extent practicable; and

(3) not less frequently than every 3 years, shall review the basic space situational awareness services described in paragraph (1) to ensure that such services provided by the Federal Government do not compete with space situational awareness services offered by the private sector.

(f) REQUIREMENTS FOR DATA ACQUISITION AND DISSEMINATION.—In acquiring data, analytics, information, and services under subsection (c) and disseminating data, analytics, information, and services under subsections (d) and (e), the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Space Commerce shall—

(1) leverage commercial capabilities to the maximum extent practicable;

(2) prioritize the acquisition of data, analytics, information, and services from commercial industry located or licensed in the United States to supplement data collected by United States Government agencies, including the Department of Defense and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration;

(3) appropriately protect proprietary data, information, and systems of firms located in the United States, including by using appropriate infrastructure and cybersecurity measures, including measures set forth in the most recent version of the Cybersecurity Framework, or successor document, maintained by the National Institute of Standards and Technology; and

(4) facilitate the development of standardization and consistency in data reporting, in collaboration with satellite owners and operators, commercial space situational awareness data and service providers, the academic community, nonprofit organizations, and the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

(g) OTHER TRANSACTION AUTHORITY.—In carrying out the activities required by this section, the Secretary of Commerce shall enter into such contracts, leases, cooperative agreements, or other transactions as may be necessary.

(h) SPACE OBJECT DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''space object'' means any object launched into space, or created in space, robotically or by humans, including an object's component parts.

SEC. 1093. OFFICE OF SPACE COMMERCE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 50701 of title 51, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 50701. Definitions

''In this chapter:

''(1) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term 'Assistant Secretary' means the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Space Commerce.

''(2) BUREAU.—The term 'Bureau' means the Bureau of Space Commerce established under section 50702.

''(3) ORBITAL DEBRIS.—The term 'orbital debris'—

''(A) means—

''(i) any human-made space object orbiting Earth that—

''(I) no longer serves an intended purpose;

''(II) has reached the end of its mission; or

''(III) is incapable of safe maneuver or operation; and

''(ii) a rocket body and other hardware left in orbit as a result of normal launch and operational activities; and

''(B) includes fragmentation debris produced by failure or collision of human-made space objects.

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

''(5) SPACE OBJECT.—The term 'space object' means any object launched into space or created in space, robotically or by humans, including the component parts of such an object.

''(6) SPACE SITUATIONAL AWARENESS.—The term 'space situational awareness' means—

''(A) the identification, characterization, tracking, and the predicted movement and behavior of space objects and orbital debris; and

''(B) the understanding of the space operational environment.

''(7) SPACE TRAFFIC COORDINATION.—The term 'space traffic coordination' means the planning, assessment, and coordination of activities to enhance the safety, stability, and sustainability of operations in the space environment.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 507 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 50701 and inserting the following:

''50701. Definitions.''.

(b) TRANSITION OF OFFICE TO BUREAU.—Subsection (a) of section 50702 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: '', which, not later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of the SAFE Orbit Act, shall be elevated by the Secretary of Commerce from an office within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to a bureau reporting directly to the Office of the Secretary of Commerce''.

(c) ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONS OF BUREAU.—Subsection (c) of such section is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(6) to perform space situational awareness and space traffic management duties pursuant to the SAFE Orbit Act.''.

(d) ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR SPACE COMMERCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (b) of such section is amended to read as follows:

''(b) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The Bureau shall be headed by the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Space Commerce, who shall—

''(1) be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate;

''(2) report directly to the Secretary of Commerce; and

''(3) have a rate of pay that is equal to the rate payable for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5.''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) Section 50702(d) of title 51, United States Code, is amended—

(i) in the subsection heading, by striking ''DIRECTOR'' and inserting ''ASSISTANT SECRETARY''; and

(ii) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''Director'' and inserting ''Assistant Secretary''.

(B) Section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking ''Assistant Secretaries of Commerce (11)'' and inserting ''Assistant Secretaries of Commerce (12)''.

(3) REFERENCES.—On and after the date of the enactment of this Act, any reference in any law or regulation to the Director of the Office of Space Commerce shall be deemed to be a reference to the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Space Commerce.

(e) OFFICE OF SPACE COMMERCE STAFFING.—

(1) REQUIRED STAFF LEVELS DURING OFFICE TO BUREAU TRANSITION.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter until the date that is 1 year after the date on which the transition from office to bureau is complete, the Secretary of Commerce (referred to in this subsection as the ''Secretary'') and the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Space Commerce (referred to in this subsection as the ''Assistant Secretary'') shall—

(A) complete a staffing plan for the Office of Space Commerce, consistent with the functions described in section 50702 of title 51, United States Code, as amended by this subtitle, and the transition from an office to a bureau; and

(B) submit such plan to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives.

(2) NOTIFICATION OF TERMINATIONS NOT BASED ON PERFORMANCE.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary or the Assistant Secretary shall not reduce the number of full-time equivalent positions in the Office of Space Commerce or the Bureau of Space Commerce for any reason other than performance without prior notification to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives.

(f) TRANSITION REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that sets forth transition and continuity of operations plans for the functional and administrative transfer of the Office of Space Commerce from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to a bureau reporting to the Office of the Secretary of Commerce.

(2) GOAL.—The goal of transition and continuity of operations planning shall be to minimize the cost and administrative burden of establishing the Bureau of Space Commerce while maximizing the efficiency and effectiveness of the functions and responsibilities of the Bureau of Space Commerce, in accordance with this section and the amendments made by this section.

(3) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

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

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

SA 3422. Mr. MULLIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department

of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title V, add the following:

SEC. 550. MEDICAL ACCESSION STANDARDS FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

Chapter 37 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 658. Medical accession standards for members of the armed forces

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARDS.—(1) The Secretaries concerned shall establish uniform medical accession standards for each armed force. Such standards shall—

''(A) apply uniformly for all commissioned officers of an armed force; and

''(B) apply uniformly for all enlisted members of an armed force across each occupational specialty.

''(2) The Secretary concerned shall make readily available and understandable to potential members of the armed forces the standards established under paragraph (1), including an explanation of the process established under subsection (c)(1) and the process for seeking approval under subsection (c)(2).

''(b) PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN MEDICAL DISQUALIFICATIONS.—No person may be disqualified from serving as a member of the armed forces on the sole basis of a past diagnosis of a medical condition if—

''(1) the diagnosis occurred before such person reached the age of 13 years old;

''(2) the condition did not require treatment during the five-year period that ends on the date on which such person seeks to become a member of the armed forces;

''(3) a licensed medical professional provides a current evaluation affirming that such person does not meet diagnostic criteria for the condition and is medically fit for service as a member of the armed forces; and

''(4) the Secretary concerned determines such diagnosis is unlikely to impact the health and readiness of the armed force of which such person seeks to become a member.

''(c) PROCESS FOR REVIEW OR WAIVER OF MEDICAL DISQUALIFICATIONS.—(1) The Secretary concerned shall establish a process for the review of medical disqualifications of persons seeking to become a member of the armed forces.

''(2) The Secretary concerned may approve the accession of a person into the armed forces without regard to a disqualifying medical diagnosis if the Secretary concerned determines that the accession of such person is in the interests of national security.

''(d) REPORTS.—(1) The Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees an annual report identifying—

''(A) the number of persons disqualified from service as a member of the armed forces during the preceding calendar year due to medical history;

''(B) the number and type of approvals granted under subsection (c)(2) during the preceding calendar year; and

''(C) any updates to the medical standards for accession established under subsection (a) or the process established under subsection (c)(1) since the submission of the preceding report.

''(2) For any fiscal year in which the Secretary concerned approves the accession of a person into the Coast Guard under subsection (c)(2), the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report identifying the information required under paragraph (1)(B) with regards to such member.''.

SA 3423. Mr. MULLIN 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 VIII, add the following:

SEC. 840. ENHANCING EFFICIENCY AND FAIRNESS IN DEFENSE PROCUREMENT PROTESTS.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to streamline Department of Defense procurement by reducing frivolous bid protests while ensuring fair access to protest mechanisms for contractors.

(b) PROTEST FILING FEE.—

(1) FEE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided under paragraph (2), contractors filing a protest with the Government Accountability Office or the Court of Federal Claims for a Department of Defense contract that is determined to be ''frivolous'' in accordance with subsection (e) shall pay a non-refundable fee valued at 1 percent of the minimum guarantee value or fixed cost value as applicable, unless waived under paragraph (2).

(B) CREDITING OF FEES.—An amount received under this subsection—

(i) shall be retained by the Department of Defense or the element of the Department of Defense receiving the amount; and

(ii) shall be merged with and available for the same purpose and the same time period as the appropriation from which the contract oversight originated.

(C) DUE DATE.—Fees incurred under subparagraph (A) shall be due within 30 days of protest completion and the frivolous protest determination in accordance with subsection (e).

(2) EXEMPTIONS.—

(A) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS AND FIRST-TIME PROTESTERS.—Small business concerns (as that term is defined in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632)) and contractors with no prior protests in the preceding 3 years are exempt from the filing fee requirement under paragraph (1).

(B) LOW-VALUE CONTRACTS.—Contracts valued at less than $5,000,000 are exempt from the filing fee requirement under paragraph (1).

(c) ENHANCED OVERSIGHT FOR REPEAT PROTESTORS.—

(1) OVERSIGHT.—Contractors with three or more protests deemed frivolous by the Government Accountability Office or the Court of Federal Claims within a 5-year period may be subject to enhanced oversight, including mandatory pre-filing reviews by the Department of Defense.

(2) SUSPENSION.—Repeat frivolous protesters may face temporary suspension from bidding on Department of Defense contracts for up to 1 year.

(d) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary of Defense shall post on a publicly available website of the Department an annual report detailing protest filings, outcomes, and fees collected.

(e) GUIDANCE REGARDING FRIVOLOUS PROTESTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall issue guidance defining frivolous protests.

(f) ENHANCED OVERSIGHT DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''enhanced oversight'' means a review process by the Department of Defense to assess a contractor's protest history.

(g) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The requirements under this section (other than subsection (e)) shall take effect one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 3424. Mr. FETTERMAN (for himself, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. KELLY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title III, add the following:

SEC. 330. MODIFICATION OF MINIMUM CAPITAL INVESTMENT FOR CERTAIN DEPOTS OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

Section 2476(a)(1) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking ''the preceding three fiscal years'' and inserting ''the preceding fiscal year, the current fiscal year, and the estimated amount for the following fiscal year''.

SA 3425. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1265. MIDDLE EAST DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION COOPERATION INITIATIVE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Defense Innovation Community of Entities, shall establish an initiative to cooperate with defense innovation partners in the Middle East for the purpose of developing a strong international community of defense innovation entities among such partners—

(1) to create opportunities to procure the best of commercial technology from international companies, including such companies located in countries that are defense innovation partners in the Middle East, so as to meet the needs of warfighters that are such partners;

(2) to develop interoperable solutions compatible with capabilities of the United States and such partners;

(3) to build defense technology and defense innovation capacity in the United States and in countries that are such partners;

(4) to mature and expand the reach and impact of the innovation ecosystems within and among such partners;

(5) to strengthen the collective defense innovation bases and security posture of the United States and such partners through co-development, co-production, and co-sustainment opportunities; and

(6) to implement other partnerships, as the Secretary of Defense considers necessary.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the initiative established under subsection (a) is to address—

(1) shared challenges facing the United States and defense innovation partners in the Middle East from—

(A) the Islamic Republic of Iran;

(B) Iran-backed terrorist threats, including Hamas, the Houthis, and Hezbollah; and

(C) any other violent extremist organization within the area of responsibility of the United States Central Command; and

(2) any other such shared challenge, as determined by the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the commander of the United States Central Command and the Defense Innovation Community of Entities.

(c) FOCUS.—The initiative established under subsection (a) shall focus on the following capabilities:

(1) Unmanned systems, including unmanned aerial vehicles, unmanned underwater vehicles, and unmanned surface vehicles.

(2) Capabilities to counter unmanned systems, including kinetic, high-power microwave, and directed energy capabilities.

(3) Advanced intelligence and its defense applications.

(4) Any other capability necessary to resolve the shared challenges described in subsection (b), as determined by the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the commander of the United States Central Command and the Defense Innovation Community of Entities.

(d) EXPLORATORY DEFENSE INNOVATION PARTNERSHIPS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To implement the initiative established under subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Defense Innovation Community of Entities, shall seek to enter into exploratory defense innovation partnerships with defense innovation partners in the Middle East.

(2) EXPLORATORY DEFENSE INNOVATION PARTNERSHIPS DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''exploratory defense innovation partnership'' means a partnership that involves the following collaborative activities between the United States and defense innovation partners in the Middle East:

(A) Convening events focused on defense innovation, with participation of representatives of government, industry, and investors of the United States and defense innovation partners in the Middle East.

(B) Information exchanges between the United States and defense innovation partners in the Middle East to share best practices with respect to the acquisition of commercial technology that meets the needs of warfighters.

(C) Meetings to share lessons learned on rapidly prototyping, experimenting, and scaling innovative defense solutions during an ongoing military conflict.

(D) Any other collaborative activity to improve and integrate the defense innovation base of the United States and defense innovation partners in the Middle East.

(e) DETERMINATION ON ENTERING IN MATURE DEFENSE INNOVATION PARTNERSHIPS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Defense Innovation Community of Entities, shall issue a determination as to whether it is feasible for the United States to enter into a mature defense innovation partnership described in paragraph (2).

(2) MATURE DEFENSE INNOVATION PARTNERSHIPS DESCRIBED.—A mature defense innovation partnership described in this paragraph may include—

(A) the signing of a memorandum of understanding or defense innovation cooperation agreement between or among the United States and 1 or more defense innovation partners in the Middle East to facilitate joint defense innovation;

(B) the implementation of liaison officer exchange programs to deepen the integration of defense innovation efforts of the United States and 1 or more defense innovation partners in the Middle East;

(C) the implementation of commercial opportunities programming, including—

(i) prize challenges;

(ii) dual-use accelerators; and

(iii) educational series; and

(D) the solicitation, through commercial solutions openings, of innovative defense solutions from companies located within the country of 1 or more defense innovation partners in the Middle East.

(3) CONSIDERATION.—The Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Defense Innovation Community of Entities, shall make the determination required by paragraph (1) based on the following considerations:

(A) An evaluation as to the whether the implementation of exploratory defense innovation partnership described in subsection (d) has served the interests of United States national security.

(B) An assessment of potential benefits and risks to United States national security interests from pursuing mature defense innovation partnerships described in paragraph (2).

(C) An evaluation as to whether the pursuit of such a mature defense innovation partnership will unacceptably reduce the ability of the Defense Innovation Community of Entities to pursue defense innovation partnerships with allies and partners in the areas of responsibility of the United States Europe Command and the United States Indo-Pacific Command.

(D) Any other matter the Secretary of Defense considers relevant.

(4) REVISION.—In the case of a determination under paragraph (1) that it is not feasible to enter into a mature defense innovation partnership described in paragraph (2), the Secretary of Defense may, at any time if circumstances have changed to make such a partnership feasible, revise such determination and enter into such a partnership.

(f) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Defense Innovation Community of Entities, shall submit to Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report that includes—

(1) a description of the implementation of the exploratory defense innovation partnerships described in subsection (d); and

(2) the determination required by subsection (e) and a justification for such determination.

(g) DEFENSE INNOVATION PARTNERS IN THE MIDDLE EAST DEFINED.—The term ''defense innovation partners in the Middle East'' means the following:

(1) Israel.

(2) The United Arab Emirates.

(3) The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

(4) Each country within the area of responsibility of the United States Central Command that is selected by the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the commander of the United States Central Command and the Defense Innovation Community of Entities, as an ideal partner for collaboration in the area of defense innovation.

(h) PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY.—The Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of Commerce, shall take all necessary steps to ensure the protection of the intellectual properties of United States companies that participate in the initiative described in subsection (a) from foreign actors.

SA 3426. Ms. ERNST (for herself and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XII, add the following:

Subtitle F—Pacific Partnership Act

SEC. 1271. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Pacific Partnership Act''.

SEC. 1272. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress as follows:

(1) The United States has longstanding and enduring cultural, historic, economic, strategic, and people-to-people connections with the Pacific Islands, based on shared values, cultural histories, common interests, and a commitment to fostering mutual understanding and cooperation.

(2) Successive United States administrations have recognized the critical importance of the Pacific Islands, to the world in high-level strategic documents, including the—

(A) 2015 National Security Strategy, which first declared the rebalance to Asia and the Pacific, affirmed the United States as a Pacific nation, and paved the way for subsequent United States engagement with the Pacific Islands;

(B) 2017 National Security Strategy, which includes a commitment to ''shore up fragile partner states in the Pacific Islands region to reduce their vulnerability to economic fluctuations and natural disasters'';

(C) 2019 Indo-Pacific Strategy Report, which identified the Pacific Islands as ''critical to United States strategy because of our shared values, interests, and commitments'';

(D) 2022 Indo-Pacific Strategy Report, which recognized the need to engage further with the Pacific Islands on shared security goals; and

(E) 2022 Strategy for Pacific Partnership, which outlined goals and methods for deepening the United States partnerships with Pacific Island nations.

(3) The United States Government should further develop, expand, and support a comprehensive and multifaceted United States policy for the Pacific Islands that—

(A) promotes peace, security, and prosperity for all countries that respects the sovereignty and political independence of all nations;

(B) preserves the Pacific Ocean as a corridor for international maritime economic opportunities and growth and promotes sustainable development;

(C) supports regional efforts to address shared challenges, including by strengthening resilience to natural disasters and stewardship of natural resources; and

(D) strengthens democratic governance and the rule of law, and promotes internationally recognized human rights and the preservation of the region's cultural heritages.

(4) The United States should collaborate closely with existing regional multilateral institutions and frameworks, such as the Pacific Islands Forum and the Pacific Community.

(5) The United States should work closely with United States allies and partners with

existing relationships and interests in the Pacific Islands, such as Australia, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, and Taiwan, and regional institutions like the Pacific Islands Forum.

SEC. 1273. STRATEGY FOR PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 1, 2026, and again not later than January 1, 2030, the President, in coordination with the Secretary of State, shall develop and submit to the appropriate congressional committees a strategy entitled the ''Strategy for Pacific Partnership'' (in this section referred to as the ''Strategy'').

(b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The Strategy shall include each of the following:

(1) A description of overarching goals for United States engagement in the Pacific Islands region, including United States diplomatic posts, defense posture, and economic engagement.

(2) An assessment of threats and pressures to the Pacific Islands region including those caused by factors such as—

(A) natural disasters;

(B) illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing;

(C) non-United States military presence and activity;

(D) developmental challenges;

(E) economic coercion and corruption; and

(F) other factors assessed to be causing a direct risk to the United States national interests in the Pacific Islands.

(3) A plan to address the threats assessed pursuant to paragraph (2).

(4) A plan for the resources necessary for the United States to meet its goals in the Pacific Islands region.

(5) Mechanisms, including existing forums, for coordinating and cooperating on shared goals among the following, as appropriate:

(A) the governments of Pacific Island countries;

(B) regional partners in the Pacific Islands region, including multilateral forums and organizations, such as the Pacific Islands Forum;

(C) civil society in the Pacific Islands; and

(D) United States subnational governments in the Pacific.

(c) CONSULTATION.—In developing the Strategy, the President should consult, as appropriate, with—

(1) relevant United States governmental agencies;

(2) regional organizations, such as the Pacific Islands Forum, the Pacific Islands Development Program, the Pacific Community, the Forum Fisheries Agency, and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme;

(3) the governments of the countries in the Pacific Islands;

(4) civil society stakeholders;

(5) United States allies and partners; and

(6) United States Pacific territories and States.

SEC. 1274. EXTENSION OF DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITIES TO THE PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM.

The provisions of the International Organizations Immunities Act (22 U.S.C. 288 et seq.) may be extended to the Pacific Islands Forum in the same manner, to the same extent, and subject to the same conditions as such provisions may be extended to a public international organization in which the United States participates pursuant to any treaty or under the authority of any Act of Congress authorizing such participation or making an appropriation for such participation.

SEC. 1275. ALLIES AND PARTNERS IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President, in consultation with the Secretary of State, and the relevant heads of other Federal departments and agencies, should consult and coordinate with allies and partners in the Pacific Islands region, including Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Taiwan, and regional institutions, such as the Pacific Islands Forum, the Pacific Islands Development Program, the Pacific Community and Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, with respect to programs to provide assistance to the Pacific Islands, including for purposes of—

(1) deconflicting programming;

(2) ensuring that any programming does not adversely affect the absorptive capacity of the Pacific Islands;

(3) ensuring complementary programs benefit the Pacific Islands to the maximum extent practicable; and

(4) ensuring that programming aligns with regional development goals to promote a shared vision for the future of the Pacific Islands.

(b) FORMAL CONSULTATIVE PROCESS.—The President should establish a formal consultative process with such regional allies and partners to coordinate with respect to such programs and future-years programming.

SEC. 1276. REPORTING.

(a) UPDATES OF CERTAIN REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the heads of other Federal departments and agencies as appropriate, shall annually update the reports listed in paragraph (2) to include within the scope of such reports a regional discussion of transnational crime affecting the Pacific Islands.

(2) REPORTS LISTED.—The reports listed in this paragraph are the following:

(A) The International Narcotics Control Strategy report required by section 489 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2291h).

(B) The Improving International Fisheries Management report required by section 607 of title VI of the Fisheries Act of 1995 (16 U.S.C. 1826h).

(C) The Trafficking in Persons report submitted under section 110 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107).

(b) MODIFICATION TO REPORT ON INDO-PACIFIC REGION.—Section 5595(c) of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117–263; 136 Stat. 3393) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (1) and redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (1);

(2) in paragraph (1), as so redesignated, by striking ''the 2022 Indo-Pacific Strategy, or successor documents,'' and inserting ''any relevant guidance documents''; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (1), as so redesignated, the following:

''(2) Implementing any relevant guidance documents that set forth the United States Government strategy toward the Pacific Islands region.''.

SEC. 1277. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

(2) PACIFIC ISLANDS; PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION.—The term ''Pacific Islands'' and ''Pacific Islands region'' mean the nations, territories, and other jurisdictions in the Pacific Ocean within the broad groupings of Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia.

SA 3427. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title VI, add the following:

SEC. 629. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE STUDY ON CASUALTY ASSISTANCE AND LONG-TERM CARE PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 1, 2027, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on the structure and execution of the casualty assistance and long-term care programs of the Armed Forces.

(b) ELEMENTS.—In conducting the study required by subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall assess options—

(1) to improve the standardization of the selection and management of casualty assistance officers across the Armed Forces, including standardized tour lengths similar to military recruiters;

(2) to improve the standardization, quality, and proficiency of training for casualty assistance officers across the Armed Forces in requisite policies, procedures, and knowledge of entitlements, benefits, and financial obligations surviving families may encounter;

(3) to develop a Defense-wide survivor contact registry allowing surviving families to voluntarily provide contact information to ensure periodic check-ins with surviving families during significant milestones following the death of a member of the Armed Forces; and

(4) to develop an integrated Defense-wide long-term care program for surviving families, modeled on the Army's Survivor Outreach Services, that provides information about survivor entitlements and access to expert case managers and counselors.

(c) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after completing the study required by subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report that includes—

(1) the results of the study;

(2) recommendations relating to the options assessed under subsection (b); and

(3) a plan for implementing those recommendations.

SA 3428. Mr. JOHNSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA3411 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; as follows:

On page 2, after line 13, add the following:

SEC. 4. LIMITATION ON DISCLOSURE OF EARMARKS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section—

(1) the term ''congressional earmark'' has the meaning given that term in clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the term ''disclosure'' means a mention or reference in any communications sent from the official office of a Member of Congress, any debate of a bill other than this Act in a congressional committee or on the

floor of the Senate or the House of Representatives, any media interview or appearance, any public speaking engagement, or any public communications pursuant to a political campaign.

(b) LIMITATION.—Funds provided under any division of this Act for a congressional earmark shall be rescinded if a Member of Congress who requested and received the congressional earmark makes a disclosure of the congressional earmark outside of official debate of this Act in the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate or the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives or on the floor of the Senate or the House of Representatives.

(c) NOTICE.—Not later than 15 days after the date on which funds provided for any congressional earmark are rescinded under subsection (b), the head of the Federal agency to which the funds were made available shall notify the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives about the rescission.

SA 3429. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1241. STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP ON DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL PRIORITIES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND TAIWAN.

The Secretary of Defense shall seek to establish a partnership between the Defense Innovation Unit of the Department of Defense and appropriate counterparts of Taiwan—

(1) to enhance market opportunities for United States-based and Taiwan-based defense technology companies;

(2) to bolster Taiwan's defense industrial base;

(3) to harmonize global security posture through emerging technology;

(4) to counter the development, by the Chinese Communist Party and adversarial proxy groups aligned with the Chinese Communist Party, of dual-use defense technologies; and

(5) in coordination with appropriate counterpart offices of the Ministry of National Defense of Taiwan—

(A) to enable coordination on defense industrial priorities;

(B) to streamline emerging defense technology research and development;

(C) to establish, for defense technology startups, more pathways to market; and

(D) to collaborate on the coordinated development of dual-use defense capabilities, such as the following:

(i) Drones.

(ii) Microchips.

(iii) Directed energy weapons.

(iv) Artificial intelligence.

(v) Missile technology.

(vi) Intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance technology.

SA 3430. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3411 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:

At the appropriate place in title II of division A, 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 3431. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. CRAPO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Ms. COLLINS 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:

In section 250 of title II of division A, strike ''programs.'' and insert ''programs; and, $36,879,000 shall be made available for the Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Program.''.

SA 3432. Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. PADILLA) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3411 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:

At the appropriate place in title II of division A, insert the following:

SEC. _____. No funds appropriated by this title shall be used to reduce staffing, limit hours of operation, decrease training opportunities, curb access to relevant information technology systems, or otherwise reduce the capacity of the Veterans Crisis Line established under section 1720F(h) of title 38, United States Code, to respond to and provide resources to veterans in crisis.

SA 3433. Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. KING) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3411 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:

At the end of title II of division A, add the following:

SEC. 2____. LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR CANCELING LARGE CONTRACTS.

None of the amounts appropriated by this title may be obligated or expended to cancel a contract with a value that exceeds $10,000,000 until the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has submitted 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 an advance notification and written explanation of contingency plans to replace the relevant service being cancelled, including any necessary change in the Department's staffing levels.

SA 3434. Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title X, insert the following:

Subtitle H—FISH Act of 2025

SEC. 1091. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Fighting Foreign Illegal Seafood Harvests Act of 2025'' or the ''FISH Act of 2025''.

SEC. 1092. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—Unless otherwise provided, the term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or the designee of the Administrator.

(2) BENEFICIAL OWNER.—The term ''beneficial owner'' means, with respect to a vessel, a person that, directly or indirectly, through any contract, arrangement, understanding, relationship, or otherwise—

(A) exercises substantial control over the vessel; or

(B) owns not less than 50 percent of the ownership interests in the vessel.

(3) FISH.—The term ''fish'' means finfish, crustaceans, and mollusks.

(4) FORCED LABOR.—The term ''forced labor'' has the meaning given that term in section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1307).

(5) IUU FISHING.—The term ''IUU fishing'' means activities described as illegal fishing, unreported fishing, and unregulated fishing in paragraph 3 of the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, adopted at the 24th Session of the Committee on Fisheries in Rome on March 2, 2001.

(6) REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION.—The terms ''regional fisheries management organization'' and ''RFMO'' have the meaning given the terms in section 303 of the Port State Measures Agreement Act of 2015 (16 U.S.C. 7402).

(7) SEAFOOD.—The term ''seafood'' means fish, shellfish, processed fish, fish meal, shellfish products, and all other forms of marine animal and plant life other than marine mammals and birds.

(8) SECRETARY.—Unless otherwise provided, the term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Commerce acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or the designee of the Administrator.

SEC. 1093. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States to partner, consult, and coordinate with foreign governments (at the national and subnational levels), civil society, international organizations, international financial institutions, subnational coastal communities, commercial and recreational fishing industry leaders, communities that engage in artisanal or subsistence fishing, fishers, and the private sector, in a concerted effort—

(1) to continue the broad effort across the Federal Government to counter IUU fishing, including any potential links to forced labor, human trafficking, and other threats to maritime security, as outlined in sections 3533 and 3534 of the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8002 and 8003); and

(2) to, additionally—

(A) prioritize efforts to prevent IUU fishing at its sources; and

(B) support continued implementation of the Central Arctic Ocean Fisheries agreement, as well as joint research and follow-on actions that ensure sustainability of fish stocks in Arctic international waters.

SEC. 1094. ESTABLISHMENT OF AN IUU VESSEL LIST.

Section 608 of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826i) is amended by striking subsections (c) and (d) and inserting the following:

''(c) IUU VESSEL LIST.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of State, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and the Secretary of Labor, shall develop, maintain, and make public a list of foreign vessels, foreign fleets, and beneficial owners of foreign vessels or foreign fleets engaged in IUU fishing or fishing-related activities in support of IUU fishing (referred to in this section as the 'IUU vessel list').

''(2) INCLUSION ON LIST.—The IUU vessel list shall include any foreign vessel, foreign fleet, or beneficial owner of a foreign vessel or foreign fleet for which the Secretary determines there is clear and convincing evidence to believe that a foreign vessel is any of the following (even if the Secretary has only partial information regarding the vessel):

''(A) A vessel listed on an IUU vessel list of an international fishery management organization.

''(B) A vessel knowingly taking part in fishing that undermines the effectiveness of an international fishery management organization's conservation and management measures, including a vessel—

''(i) exceeding applicable international fishery management organization catch limits; or

''(ii) that is operating inconsistent with relevant catch allocation arrangements of the international fishery management organization, even if operating under the authority of a foreign country that is not a member of the international fishery management organization.

''(C) A vessel, either on the high seas or in the exclusive economic zone of another country, identified and reported by United States authorities to an international fishery management organization to be conducting IUU fishing when the United States has reason to believe the foreign country to which the vessel is registered or documented is not addressing the allegation.

''(D) A vessel, fleet, or beneficial owner of a vessel or fleet on the high seas identified by United States authorities to be conducting IUU fishing or fishing that involves the use of forced labor, including individuals and entities subject to a withhold release order or a finding issued by U.S. Customs and Border Protection pursuant to section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1307) or any other U.S. Customs and Border Protection enforcement action.

''(E) A vessel that knowingly provides services (excluding emergency or enforcement services) to a vessel that is on the IUU vessel list, including transshipment, resupply, refueling, or pilotage.

''(F) A vessel that is a fishing vessel engaged in commercial fishing within the exclusive economic zone of the United States without a permit issued under title II of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1821 et seq.).

''(G) A vessel that has the same beneficial owner as another vessel on the IUU vessel list at the time of the infraction.

''(3) NOMINATIONS TO BE PUT ON THE IUU VESSEL LIST.—The Secretary may receive nominations for putting a vessel on the IUU vessel list from—

''(A) the head of an executive branch agency that is a member of the Interagency Working Group on IUU Fishing established under section 3551 of the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8031);

''(B) a country that is a member of the Combined Maritime Forces; or

''(C) civil organizations that have data-sharing agreements with a member of the Interagency Working Group on IUU Fishing.

''(4) PROCEDURES FOR ADDITION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may put a vessel on the IUU vessel list only after notification to the vessel's beneficial owner and a review of any information that the owner provides within 90 days of the notification.

''(B) HEARING.—A beneficial owner may request a hearing on the evidence if the owner's vessel is placed on the IUU vessel list under subparagraph (A) and may present new evidence to the Interagency Working Group on IUU Fishing described in paragraph (3)(A). Such Working Group shall review the new evidence and vote on whether the vessel shall remain on the IUU vessel list or not.

''(5) PUBLIC INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall publish its procedures for adding vessels on, and removing vessels from, the IUU vessel list. The Secretary shall publish the IUU vessel list itself in the Federal Register annually and on a website, which shall be updated any time a vessel is added to the IUU vessel list, and include the following information (as much as is available and confirmed) for each vessel on the IUU vessel list:

''(A) The name of the vessel and previous names of the vessel.

''(B) The International Maritime Organization (IMO) number of the vessel, or other Unique Vessel Identifier (such as the flag state permit number or authorized vessel number issued by an international fishery management organization).

''(C) The maritime mobile service identity number and call sign of the vessel.

''(D) The business or corporate address of each beneficial owner of the vessel.

''(E) The country where the vessel is registered or documented, and where it was previously registered if known.

''(F) The date of inclusion on the IUU vessel list of the vessel.

''(G) Any other Unique Vessel Identifier (UVI), if applicable.

''(H) Any other identifying information on the vessel, as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

''(I) The basis for the Secretary's inclusion of the vessel on the IUU vessel list under paragraph (2).

''(d) CONSEQUENCES OF BEING ON IUU VESSEL LIST.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except for the purposes of inspection and enforcement or in case of force majeure, a vessel on the IUU vessel list may be prohibited from—

''(A) traveling through the United States territorial sea unless it is conducting innocent passage; and

''(B) delivering or receiving supplies or services, or transshipment, within waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

''(2) SERVICING PROHIBITED.—No vessel of the United States may service a vessel that is on the IUU vessel list, except in an emergency involving life and safety or to facilitate enforcement.

''(3) FISHING TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS.—It should be a priority for United States delegations to—

''(A) advocate for the incorporation of articles in international fishery management organizations providing identical or similar safeguards described in this section in new and updated bilateral or multilateral fishing treaties; and

''(B) encourage parties to international and regional fisheries organizations that the United States is party to, or holds observer status, to take similar measures described in this section.

''(e) PERMANENCY OF IUU VESSEL LIST.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraphs (2) through (4), a vessel, fleet, or beneficial owner of a vessel or fleet that is put on the IUU vessel list shall remain on the IUU vessel list.

''(2) REVOCATION OF WRO.—The Secretary shall remove a vessel or fleet from the IUU vessel list if the vessel was added to the IUU vessel list because it was found by U.S. Customs and Border Protection to have had a withhold release order or a finding issued pursuant to section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1307) and the withhold release order was subsequently revoked.

''(3) APPLICATION BY OWNER FOR POTENTIAL REMOVAL.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In consultation with the Secretary of State and U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the Secretary may remove a vessel, fleet, or beneficial owner of a vessel or fleet from the IUU vessel list if the beneficial owner of the vessel submits an application for removal to the Secretary that meets the standards that the Secretary has set out for removal.

''(B) STANDARDS.—The Secretary shall include in the standards set out for removal a determination that the vessel or vessel owner has not engaged in IUU fishing or fishing that involves the use of forced labor during the 5-year period preceding the date of the application for removal. The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, shall determine whether each application for removal demonstrates that sufficient corrective action has been taken to remediate the violations and infractions that led to the inclusion on the IUU vessel list.

''(C) CONSIDERATION OF RELEVANT INFORMATION.—In considering an application for removal, the Secretary shall consider relevant information from all sources.

''(4) REMOVAL DUE TO INTERNATIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION ACTION.—The Secretary may remove a vessel from the IUU vessel list if the vessel was put on the list because it was a vessel listed on an IUU vessel list of an international fishery management

organization, pursuant to subsection (c)(2)(A), and the international fishery management organization removed the vessel from its IUU vessel list.

''(f) REGULATIONS AND PROCESS.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of the Fighting Foreign Illegal Seafood Harvests Act of 2025, the Secretary shall issue regulations to set a process for establishing, maintaining, implementing, and publishing the IUU vessel list. The Administrator may add or remove a vessel, fleet, or beneficial owner of a vessel or fleet from the IUU vessel list on the date the vessel becomes eligible for such addition or removal.

''(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—Unless otherwise provided, the term 'Administrator' means the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or the designee of the Administrator.

''(2) BENEFICIAL OWNER.—The term 'beneficial owner' means, with respect to a vessel, a person that, directly or indirectly, through any contract, arrangement, understanding, relationship, or otherwise—

''(A) exercises substantial control over the vessel; or

''(B) owns not less than 50 percent of the ownership interests in the vessel.

''(3) FORCED LABOR.—The term 'forced labor' has the meaning given that term in section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1307).

''(4) FOREIGN VESSEL.—The term 'foreign vessel' has the meaning given the term in section 110 of title 46, United States Code).

''(5) INTERNATIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION.—The term 'international fishery management organization' means an international organization established by any bilateral or multilateral treaty, convention, or agreement for the conservation and management of fish.

''(6) IUU FISHING.—The term 'IUU fishing' has the meaning given the term 'illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing' in the implementing regulations or any subsequent regulations issued pursuant to section 609(e).

''(7) SEAFOOD.—The term 'seafood' means fish, shellfish, processed fish, fish meal, shellfish products, and all other forms of marine animal and plant life other than marine mammals and birds.

''(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Commerce to carry out this section $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2030.''.

SEC. 1095. VISA SANCTIONS FOR FOREIGN PERSONS.

(a) FOREIGN PERSONS DESCRIBED.—A foreign person is described in this subsection if the foreign person is the owner or beneficial owner of a vessel on the IUU vessel list developed under section 608(c) of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826i(c)).

(b) INELIGIBILITY FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—

(1) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—A foreign person described in subsection (a) is—

(A) inadmissible to the United States;

(B) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and

(C) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(2) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The visa or other entry documentation of a foreign person described in subsection (a) shall be revoked, regardless of when such visa or other entry documentation is or was issued.

(B) IMMEDIATE EFFECT.—A revocation under subparagraph (A) shall, in accordance with section 221(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(i))—

(i) take effect; and

(ii) cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the person's possession.

(c) NATIONAL INTEREST WAIVER.—The President may waive the imposition of sanctions under this section with respect to a foreign person.

(d) EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) EXCEPTIONS FOR AUTHORIZED INTELLIGENCE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.—This section shall not apply with respect to activities subject to the reporting requirements under title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.) or any authorized intelligence, law enforcement, or national security activities of the United States.

(2) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS.—Sanctions under subsection (b) shall not apply with respect to the admission of an alien to the United States if such admission is necessary to comply with the obligations of the United States under the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or the Convention on Consular Relations, done at Vienna April 24, 1963, and entered into force March 19, 1967, or other international obligations.

(3) EXCEPTION FOR SAFETY OF VESSELS AND CREW.—Sanctions under this section shall not apply with respect to a person providing provisions to a vessel identified under section 608(c) of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826i) if such provisions are intended for the safety and care of the crew aboard the vessel, or the maintenance of the vessel to avoid any environmental or other significant damage.

(4) EXCEPTION FOR FORCED LABOR.—Sanctions under this section shall not apply with respect to a person described in subsection (a), if such person was listed as the owner of a vessel described in that subsection through the use of force, threats of force, fraud, or coercion.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMISSION; ADMITTED; ALIEN; LAWFULLY ADMITTED FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE.—The terms ''admission'', ''admitted'', ''alien'', and ''lawfully admitted for permanent residence'' have the meanings given those terms in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

(2) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term ''foreign person'' means an individual or entity that is not a United States person.

(3) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term ''United States person'' means—

(A) a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States;

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity; or

(C) any person in the United States.

SEC. 1096. AGREEMENTS.

(a) PRESIDENTIAL NEGOTIATION.—In negotiating any relevant agreement with a foreign nation or nations after the date of enactment of this Act, the President is encouraged to consider the impacts on or to IUU fishing and fishing that involves the use of forced labor and strive to ensure that the agreement strengthens efforts to combat IUU fishing and fishing that involves the use of forced labor as long as such considerations do not come at the expense of higher priority national interests of the United States.

(b) FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGEMENT.—The Federal Government should encourage other nations to ratify treaties and agreements that address IUU fishing to which the United States is a party, including the UN Fish Stocks Agreement, the High Seas Fishing Compliance Agreement, the Port State Measures Agreement, and other applicable agreements, as long as such agreements have been ratified by the Senate, and pursue bilateral and multilateral initiatives to raise international ambition to combat IUU fishing, including in the G7 and G20, the United Nations, the International Labor Organization (ILO), and the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and through voluntary multilateral efforts, as long as clear burden sharing arrangements with partner nations are determined. The bilateral and multilateral initiatives should address underlying drivers of IUU fishing and fishing that involves the use of forced labor, such as the practice of transshipment, flags of convenience vessels, and government subsidies of the distant water fishing industry.

SEC. 1097. ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS.

(a) INCREASE BOARDING OF VESSELS SUSPECTED OF IUU FISHING.—The Commandant of the Coast Guard shall strive, in accordance with the UN Fish Stocks Agreement, to increase, from year to year, its observation of vessels on the high seas that are suspected of IUU fishing and related harmful practices, and is encouraged to consider boarding these vessels to the greatest extent practicable.

(b) FOLLOW UP.—The Administrator shall, in consultation with the Commandant of the Coast Guard and the Secretary of State, coordinate regularly with regional fisheries management organizations to determine what corrective measures each country has taken after vessels that are registered or documented by the country have been boarded for suspected IUU fishing.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act and in accordance with information management rules of the relevant regional fisheries management organizations, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit a report to Congress on—

(1) the total number of bilateral agreements utilized or enacted during Coast Guard counter-IUU patrols and future patrol plans for operations with partner nations where bilateral agreements are required to effectively execute the counter-IUU mission and any changes to IUU provisions in bilateral agreements;

(2) incidents of IUU fishing observed while conducting High Seas Boarding and Inspections (HSBI), how the conduct is tracked after referral to the respective country where the vessel is registered or documented, and what actions are taken to document or otherwise act on the enforcement, or lack thereof, taken by the country;

(3) the country where the vessel is registered or documented, the country where the vessel was previously registered and documented if known, and status of a vessel interdicted or observed to be engaged in IUU fishing on the high seas by the Coast Guard;

(4) incident details on vessels observed to be engaged in IUU fishing on the high seas, boarding refusals, and what action was taken; and

(5) any other potential enforcement actions that could decrease IUU fishing on the high seas.

SEC. 1098. IMPROVED MANAGEMENT AT THE REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON IUU FISHING.—Section 3551(c) of the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8031(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (13), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (14), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(15) developing a strategy for leveraging enforcement capacity against IUU fishing, particularly focusing on nations identified under section 609(a) of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826j(a)); and

''(16) developing a strategy for leveraging enforcement capacity against associated abuses, such as fishing that involves the use of forced labor and other illegal labor practices, and increasing enforcement and other actions across relevant import control and assessment programs, using as resources—

''(A) the List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor produced pursuant to section 105 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (22 U.S.C. 7112);

''(B) the Trafficking in Persons Report required under section 110 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107);

''(C) United States Customs and Border Protection's Forced Labor Division and enforcement activities and regulations authorized under section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1307); and

''(D) reports submitted under the Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act of 2020 (Public Law 116–145).''.

(b) SECRETARY OF STATE IDENTIFICATION.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Commandant of the Coast Guard and the Administrator, shall—

(1) identify regional fisheries management organizations that the United States is party to that do not have a high seas boarding and inspection program; and

(2) identify obstacles, needed authorities, or existing efforts to increase implementation of these programs, and take action as appropriate.

SEC. 1099. STRATEGIES TO OPTIMIZE DATA COLLECTION, SHARING, AND ANALYSIS.

Section 3552 of the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8032) is amended by adding at the end:

''(c) STRATEGIES TO OPTIMIZE DATA COLLECTION, SHARING, AND ANALYSIS.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of the Fighting Foreign Illegal Seafood Harvests Act of 2025, the Working Group shall identify information and resources to prevent fish and fish products from IUU fishing and fishing that involves the use of forced labor from entering United States commerce without increasing burden or trade barriers on seafood not produced from IUU fishing. The report shall include the following:

''(1) Identification of relevant data streams collected by Working Group members.

''(2) Identification of legal, jurisdictional, or other barriers to the sharing of such data.

''(3) In consultation with the Secretary of Defense, recommendations for joint enforcement protocols, collaboration, and information sharing between Federal agencies and States.

''(4) Recommendations for sharing and developing forensic resources between Federal agencies and States.

''(5) Recommendations for enhancing capacity for United States Customs and Border Protection and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to conduct more effective field investigations and enforcement efforts with U.S. state enforcement officials.

''(6) Recommendations for improving data collection and automated risk-targeting of seafood imports within the United States' International Trade Data System and Automated Commercial Environment.

''(7) Recommendations for the dissemination of IUU fishing and fishing that involves the use of forced labor analysis and information to those governmental and non-governmental entities that could use it for action and awareness, with the aim to establish an IUU fishing information sharing center.

''(8) Recommendations for an implementation strategy, including measures for ensuring that trade in seafood not linked to IUU fishing and fishing that involves the use of forced labor is not impeded.

''(9) An analysis of the IUU fishing policies and regulatory regimes of other countries in order to develop policy and regulatory alternatives for United States consideration.''.

SEC. 1099A. INVESTMENT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE FISHERIES SECTOR.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the heads of relevant agencies, are encouraged to increase support to programs that provide technical assistance, institutional capacity, and investment to nations' fisheries sectors for sustainable fisheries management and combating IUU fishing and fishing involving the use of forced labor. The focus of such support is encouraged to be on priority regions and priority flag states identified under section 3552(b) of the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8032(b)).

(b) ANALYSIS OF US CAPACITY-BUILDING EXPERTISE AND RESOURCES.—In order to maximize efforts on preventing IUU fishing at its sources, the Interagency Working Group on IUU Fishing established under section 3551 of the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8031) shall analyze United States capacity-building expertise and resources to provide support to nations' fisheries sectors. This analysis may include an assessment of potential avenues for in-country public-private collaboration and multilateral collaboration on developing local fisheries science, fisheries management, maritime enforcement, and maritime judicial capabilities.

SEC. 1099B. STRATEGY TO IDENTIFY SEAFOOD AND SEAFOOD PRODUCTS FROM FOREIGN VESSELS USING FORCED LABOR.

The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, in coordination with the Secretary shall—

(1) develop a strategy for utilizing relevant United States Government data to identify imports of seafood harvested on foreign vessels using forced labor; and

(2) publish information regarding the strategy developed under paragraph (1) on the website of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

SEC. 1099C. REPORTS.

(a) IMPACT OF NEW TECHNOLOGY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, with support from the Administrator and the Working Group established under section 3551 of the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8031), shall conduct a study to assess the impact of new technology (such as remote observing, the use of drones, development of risk assessment tools and data-sharing software, immediate containerization of fish on fishing vessels, satellite Wi-Fi technology on fishing vessels, and other technology-enhanced new fishing practices) on IUU fishing and associated crimes (such as trafficking and fishing involving the use of forced labor) and propose ways to integrate these technologies into global fisheries enforcement and management.

(b) RUSSIAN AND CHINESE FISHING INDUSTRIES' INFLUENCE ON EACH OTHER AND ON THE UNITED STATES SEAFOOD AND FISHING INDUSTRY.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, with support from the Secretary of Commerce and the Office of the United States Trade Representative, shall—

(1) conduct a study on the collaboration between the Russian and Chinese fishing industries and on the role of seafood reprocessing in China (including that of raw materials originating in Russia) in global seafood markets and its impact on United States seafood importers, processors, and consumers; and

(2) complete a report on the study that includes classified and unclassified portions, as the Secretary of State determines necessary.

(c) FISHERMEN CONDUCTING UNLAWFUL FISHING IN THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE.—Section 3551 of the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8031) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(d) THE IMPACTS OF IUU FISHING AND FISHING INVOLVING THE USE OF FORCED LABOR.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in consultation with relevant members of the Working Group, shall seek to enter into an arrangement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine under which the National Academies will undertake a multifaceted study that includes the following:

''(A) An analysis that quantifies the occurrence and extent of IUU fishing and fishing involving the use of forced labor among all flag states.

''(B) An evaluation of the costs to the United States economy of IUU fishing and fishing involving the use of forced labor.

''(C) An assessment of the costs to the global economy of IUU fishing and fishing involving the use of forced labor.

''(D) An assessment of the effectiveness of response strategies to counter IUU fishing, including both domestic programs and foreign capacity-building and partnering programs.

''(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection $2,000,000.''.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 24 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report on the study conducted under subsection (d) of section 3551 of the Maritime SAFE Act that includes—

(1) the findings of the National Academies; and

(2) recommendations on knowledge gaps that warrant further scientific inquiry.

SEC. 1099D. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM.

Section 212(a) of the National Sea Grant College Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1131(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''for fiscal year 2025'' and inserting ''for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2031''; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking ''FOR FISCAL YEARS 2021 THROUGH 2025''; and

(B) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''fiscal years 2021 through 2025'' and inserting ''fiscal years 2026 through 2031''.

SA 3435. Mrs. CAPITO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. SECOND CHANCE ACT REAUTHORIZATION.

(a) STATE AND LOCAL REENTRY DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—Section 2976 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10631) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (7), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in paragraph (8), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(9) treating substance use disorders, including by providing peer recovery services, case management, and access to overdose education and overdose reversal medications; and

''(10) providing reentry housing services.''; and

(2) in subsection (o)(1), by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2026 through 2030''.

(b) GRANTS FOR FAMILY-BASED SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT.—Section 2926(a) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10595a(a)) is amended by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2026 through 2030''.

(c) GRANT PROGRAM TO EVALUATE AND IMPROVE EDUCATIONAL METHODS AT PRISONS, JAILS, AND JUVENILE FACILITIES.—Section 1001(a)(28) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10261(a)(28)) is amended by striking ''2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023'' and inserting ''2026 through 2030''.

(d) CAREERS TRAINING DEMONSTRATION GRANTS.—Section 115(f) of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (34 U.S.C. 60511(f)) is amended by striking ''2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023'' and inserting ''2026 through 2030''.

(e) OFFENDER REENTRY SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE COLLABORATION PROGRAM.—Section 201(f)(1) of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (34 U.S.C. 60521(f)(1)) is amended by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2026 through 2030''.

(f) COMMUNITY-BASED MENTORING AND TRANSITIONAL SERVICE GRANTS TO NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.—Section 211(f) of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (34 U.S.C. 60531(f)) is amended by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2026 through 2030''.

SA 3436. Mrs. CAPITO (for herself, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. TILLIS, and Mrs. BLACKBURN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in subtitle E of title XII, insert the following:

SEC. 12____. RESTRICTION ON FUNDING FOR UNITED NATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The United States may not make any voluntary or assessed contributions to the United Nations for assistance in Afghanistan until the Secretary of State certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that—

(1) no United States funds are used in cash shipments by the United Nations into Afghanistan;

(2) no specially designated global terrorist organization receives funds as a result of such cash shipments; and

(3) no foreign terrorist organization receives funds as a result of such cash shipments.

(b) REVOCATION.—If, after making a certification pursuant to subsection (a), the Secretary determines that such certification is inaccurate, the Secretary shall—

(1) revoke such certification; and

(2) provide to the appropriate congressional committees—

(A) a notification of such revocation; and

(B) a detailed justification for such revocation.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATION.—The term ''foreign terrorist organization'' means an organization that has been designated as a foreign terrorist organization by the Secretary of State, pursuant to section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189).

(3) SPECIALLY DESIGNATED GLOBAL TERRORIST ORGANIZATION.—The term ''specially designated global terrorist organization'' means an organization that has been designated as a specially designated global terrorist pursuant to Executive Order 13224 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property and prohibiting transactions with persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism).

SA 3437. Mr. SHEEHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. JUSTICE FOR UNITED STATES VICTIMS OF STATE SPONSORED TERRORISM.

Section 404(d)(4)(D)(iv)(IV) of the Justice for United States Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism Act (34 U.S.C. 20144(d)(4)(D)(iv)(IV)) is amended by striking item (bb) and inserting the following:

''(bb) REMAINING AMOUNTS.—

''(AA) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026, the Special Master shall authorize payment to any victim described in clause (i) equal to the amount that the authorized lump sum catch-up payment was offset by amounts received in Peterson v. Islamic Republic of Iran, No. 10 Civ. 4518 (S.D.N.Y.).

''(BB) REMAINING AMOUNTS.—All amounts remaining in the lump sum catch-up payment reserve fund, including any accrued interest, in excess of the amounts described in subitem (AA) and subclauses (I) and (II) of clause (iii), shall be deposited into the Fund under this section. If the Special Master transferred the balance of the lump sum catch-up payment reserve fund before the date of enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026, the payments required under subitem (AA) shall be made from the Fund.''.

SA 3438. Mr. RISCH 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. EXCHANGE OR ACQUISITION OF LAND UNDER THE FEDERAL LAND POLICY AND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1976.

Section 701 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 note; Public Law 94–579) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(k) No other provision of law limits or qualifies any provision of this Act authorizing an exchange or acquisition of public lands, including any exchange or acquisition that occurred before, on, or after the date of enactment of this Act.''.

SA 3439. Mr. LANKFORD 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 I, add the following:

SEC. 142. PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN REDUCTIONS TO INVENTORY OF E–3 AIRBORNE WARNING AND CONTROL SYSTEM AIRCRAFT.

(a) PROHIBITION.—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2026 for the Air Force may be obligated or expended to retire, prepare to retire, or place in storage or in backup aircraft inventory any E–3 aircraft if such actions would reduce the total aircraft inventory for such aircraft below 16.

(b) EXCEPTION FOR PLAN.—If the Secretary of the Air Force submits to the congressional defense committees a plan for maintaining readiness and ensuring there is no lapse in mission capabilities, the prohibition under subsection (a) shall not apply to actions taken to reduce the total aircraft inventory for E–3 aircraft to below 16, beginning 30 days after the date on which the plan is so submitted.

(c) EXCEPTION FOR E–7 AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT.—If the Secretary of the Air Force procures enough E–7 Wedgetail aircraft to accomplish the required mission load, the prohibition under subsection (a) shall not apply to actions taken to reduce the total aircraft inventory for E–3 aircraft to below 16 after the date on which such E–7 Wedgetail aircraft are delivered.

SA 3440. Mr. LANKFORD 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 I, add the following:

SEC. 142. AIRBORNE WARNING AND CONTROL SYSTEM AIRCRAFT.

(a) PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN REDUCTIONS TO INVENTORY OF E–3 AIRBORNE WARNING AND CONTROL SYSTEM AIRCRAFT.—

(1) PROHIBITION.—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2026 for

the Air Force may be obligated or expended to retire, prepare to retire, or place in storage or in backup aircraft inventory any E–3 aircraft if such actions would reduce the total aircraft inventory for such aircraft below 16.

(2) EXCEPTION FOR PLAN.—If the Secretary of the Air Force submits to the congressional defense committees a plan for maintaining readiness and ensuring there is no lapse in mission capabilities, the prohibition under paragraph (1) shall not apply to actions taken to reduce the total aircraft inventory for E–3 aircraft to below 16, beginning 30 days after the date on which the plan is so submitted.

(3) EXCEPTION FOR E–7 AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT.—If the Secretary of the Air Force procures enough E–7 Wedgetail aircraft to accomplish the required mission load, the prohibition under paragraph (1) shall not apply to actions taken to reduce the total aircraft inventory for E–3 aircraft to below 16 after the date on which such E–7 Wedgetail aircraft are delivered.

(b) E–7 AIRCRAFT PROGRAM.—

(1) LIMITATION.—Funds authorized to be appropriated for the E–7 Wedgetail aircraft program by this Act and prior Acts under the headings ''Aircraft Procurement, Air Force'' and ''Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Air Force'' shall be obligated and expended only for the purposes for which such funds were authorized and appropriated. Such funds may not be reprogrammed or transferred for other purposes.

(2) PROHIBITION.—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or prior Acts may be obligated or expended to pause, cancel, or terminate the E–7 Wedgetail aircraft program or prepare to pause, cancel, or terminate such program.

SA 3441. Mr. LANKFORD 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 XI, insert the following:

SEC. ___. LIMITATION ON APPOINTMENT OF RETIRED MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES TO CERTAIN POSITIONS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3326 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by inserting ''**certain**'' before ''**positions**''; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''appointed'' and all that follows through ''Defense'' and inserting ''appointed to a position in the excepted or competitive service classified at or above GS–14 of the General Schedule (or equivalent) in or under the Department of Defense''; and

(B) in paragraph (1), by striking ''for the purpose'' and all that follows through ''Management''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 33 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 3326 and inserting the following new item:

''3326. Appointments of retired members of the armed forces to certain positions in the Department of Defense.''.

SA 3442. Mr. LANKFORD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 12___. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON INCREASING PORT AND AIRFIELD CAPACITY OF COUNTRIES IN INDO-PACIFIC REGION.

It is the sense of Congress that, as the People's Republic of China continues to grow in influence through infrastructure (specifically infrastructure that can easily be shifted from economic to military uses), the United States International Development Finance Corporation should prioritize providing alternative financing opportunities that increase port and air field capacity of countries throughout the Indo-Pacific region that—

(1) are targets of the predatory infrastructure development scheme of the People's Republic of China; and

(2) are eligible for support provided by the Corporation under title II of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9621 et seq.).

SA 3443. Mr. LANKFORD 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 X, add the following:

SEC. 1248. CHINESE DEBT STUDY.

(a) REPORTS.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of State, working through the Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs, shall direct each United States embassy to prepare a report outlining Chinese equity and assets within their respective countries of operation.

(b) CONTENTS.—Each report prepared pursuant to subsection (a) shall include, with respect to the indebted country—

(1) an assessment of the country's overall debt obligations to the People's Republic of China;

(2) a list of known infrastructure projects that are financed from capital provided by—

(A) the banking system of the People's Republic of China, including—

(i) policy banks, including—

(I) the China Development Bank;

(II) the Export-Import Bank of China; and

(III) the Agricultural Development Bank of China;

(ii) commercial banks owned by the Government of the People's Republic of China, including—

(I) the Bank of China;

(II) the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China;

(III) the Agricultural Bank of China;

(IV) the China Construction Bank; and

(V) the Bank of Communications Limited;

(iii) sovereign wealth funds, including—

(I) China Investment Corporation;

(II) China Life Insurance Company;

(III) China National Social Security Fund; and

(IV) the Silk Road Fund;

(iv) urban commercial banks; and

(v) rural financial institutions;

(B) international financing institutions, including—

(i) the World Bank Group;

(ii) the Asian Development Bank;

(iii) the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank; and

(iv) the New Development Bank; and

(C) any other financial institution or entity the Secretary of State considers appropriate;

(3) an assessment of which known infrastructure projects included in the list described in paragraph (2) are projects under the Belt and Road Initiative;

(4) any domestic vulnerabilities that the debts referred to in paragraph (1) could exacerbate in such country;

(5) a list of collateral for debts incurred by Belt and Road Initiative projects described in paragraph (3); and

(6) a list of known assets in the country that are owned by entities controlled by the Government of the People's Republic of China, including telecommunications and critical infrastructure.

(c) SUBMISSION; COMPILATION.—

(1) STAFFING.—Each diplomatic post shall designate at least 1 employee—

(A) to monitor the investments of the entities referred to in subsection (b)(2); and

(B) to compile the reports required under subsection (a).

(2) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 120 days after receiving each directive described in subsection (a), the ambassador or chargé d'affaires of each embassy shall submit a report containing the information described in subsection (b) to the Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth.

(3) COMPILATION.—The Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth shall annually compile the information contained in the reports submitted pursuant to paragraph (2) to create a centralized database of information about Chinese capital investments in the developing world.

(d) NOTIFICATIONS; ANNUAL REPORT.—

(1) NOTIFICATIONS.—After the submission of the initial reports pursuant to subsection (c)(2), the Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth require that the employees designated under subsection (c)(1), under the supervision of the ambassador or chargé d'affaires of the diplomatic post to which they are assigned, to notify the Under Secretary not later than 30 days after the date on which the employee discovers that an entity referred to in subsection (b)(2) has made a new investment in an infrastructure project in the country in which such diplomatic post is located.

(2) ANNUAL REPORT.—The ambassador or chargé d'affaires of each embassy shall submit a holistic annual report to the Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth that contains information about all investments in infrastructure projects made in the country in which such embassy is located by any entity referred to in subsection (b)(2) during the 1-year period immediately preceding such submission.

(e) USE OF INFORMATION.—The Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, in consultation with the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, shall utilize the information in the database compiled pursuant to subsection (c)(3) to provide guidance to the leadership and staff of relevant embassies to counter the influence of the People's Republic of China in the indebted countries.

SA 3444. Mr. TUBERVILLE 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_____. REVEAL DOD ACT OF 2025.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Reporting Exemptions and Vetting Excessive Access Limitations Act in the Department of Defense of 2025'' or the ''REVEAL DOD Act of 2025''.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) United States Senate Committee on Armed Services; and

(B) House Armed Services Committee.

(2) DEPARTMENT.—The term ''Department'' means the Department of Defense as that term is defined in section 308(b) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3075).

(3) NEED-TO-KNOW WAIVER.—The term ''need-to-know waiver'' means the waiver of the requirement described in section 4.1(a)(3) of Executive Order 13526 (75 Fed. Reg. 707; relating to classified national security information) pursuant to section 4.4(a) of that Executive Order.

(4) RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL STAFF.—The term ''relevant congressional staff'' means any appropriately cleared permanent congressional staff as defined by the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate.

(c) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) INITIAL REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Department of Defense shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on need-to-know waivers active at elements of the intelligence community as of January 19, 2025.

(B) CONTENTS.—The report required by subparagraph (A) shall include—

(i) an identification of each need-to-know waiver active as of January 19, 2025; and

(ii) for each need-to-know waiver identified under clause (i)—

(I) the date of the need-to-know waiver;

(II) the name of the recipient of such need-to-know waiver;

(III) the name of the individual who issued such need-to-know waiver; and

(IV) the reason for the need-to-know waiver.

(C) FORM.—The report required by subparagraph (A) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

(2) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30, 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter for five years, the Inspector General of the Department of Defense shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on need-to-know waivers active at elements of the intelligence community as of the date of the report and issued during the relevant fiscal year.

(B) CONTENTS.—Each report required by subparagraph (A) shall include—

(i) an identification of each need-to-know waiver issued during the relevant fiscal year for such report; and

(ii) for each need-to-know waiver identified under clause (i)—

(I) the date of the need-to-know waiver;

(II) the name of the recipient of the need-to-know waiver;

(III) the name of the individual who issued such need-to-know waiver; and

(IV) the reason for the need-to-know waiver.

(C) FORM.—Each report required by subparagraph (A) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

(D) TRANSMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days after submitting a report to the appropriate congressional committees under subparagraph (A), the Director of National Intelligence shall transmit such report to Congress and all relevant congressional staff.

SA 3445. Mr. TUBERVILLE 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_____. REVEAL ACT OF 2025.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Reporting Exemptions and Vetting Excessive Access Limitations Act of 2025'' or the ''REVEAL Act of 2025''.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(B) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

(2) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The term ''intelligence community'' has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003).

(3) NEED-TO-KNOW WAIVER.—The term ''need-to-know waiver'' means the waiver of the requirement described in section 4.1(a)(3) of Executive Order 13526 (75 Fed. Reg. 707; relating to classified national security information) pursuant to section 4.4(a) of that Executive Order.

(4)) RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL STAFF.—The term ''relevant congressional staff'' means any appropriately cleared permanent congressional staff as defined by the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate.

(c) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) INITIAL REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on need-to-know waivers active at elements of the intelligence community as of January 19, 2025.

(B) CONTENTS.—The report required by subparagraph (A) shall include—

(i) an identification of each need-to-know waiver active as of January 19, 2025; and

(ii) for each need-to-know waiver identified under clause (i)—

(I) the date of the need-to-know waiver;

(II) the name of the recipient of such need-to-know waiver;

(III) the name of the individual who issued such need-to-know waiver; and

(IV) the reason for the need-to-know waiver.

(C) FORM.—The report required by subparagraph (A) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

(2) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30, 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter for five years, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on need-to-know waivers active at elements of the intelligence community as of the date of the report and issued during the relevant fiscal year.

(B) CONTENTS.—Each report required by subparagraph (A) shall include—

(i) an identification of each need-to-know waiver issued during the relevant fiscal year for such report; and

(ii) for each need-to-know waiver identified under clause (i)—

(I) the date of the need-to-know waiver;

(II) the name of the recipient of the need-to-know waiver;

(III) the name of the individual who issued such need-to-know waiver; and

(IV) the reason for the need-to-know waiver.

(C) FORM.—Each report required by subparagraph (A) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

(D) TRANSMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days after submitting a report to the appropriate congressional committees under subparagraph (A), the Director of National Intelligence shall transmit such report to Congress and all relevant congressional staff.

SA 3446. Mr. SHEEHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title VI, add the following:

SEC. 605. STANDARDIZATION OF RETIRED OR RETAINER PAY INCREASE FOR ENLISTED MEMBERS CREDITED WITH EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM.

(a) ARMY PERSONNEL.—Section 7361(a)(2) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting ''or 7317'' after ''section 7314''; and

(2) by striking ''(but to'' and all that follows through ''this title))''.

(b) AIR FORCE PERSONNEL.—Section 9361(a)(2) of such title is amended—

(1) by inserting ''or 9317'' after ''section 9314''; and

(2) by striking ''(but to'' and all that follows through ''this title))''.

(c) NAVY AND MARINE CORPS PERSONNEL.—Section 8326 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(d)(1) If the member has been credited by the Secretary of the Navy with extraordinary heroism in the line duty, the member's retired pay shall be increased by 10 percent.

''(2) The Secretary's determination as to extraordinary heroism is conclusive for all purposes.''.

(d) RESERVE COMPONENT PERSONNEL.—Section 12739 of such title is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking ''of the amount determined under subsection (a)''; and

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''in the case of a person who retires before January 1, 2021,'' after ''Except as provided in paragraph (2),''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting ''but before December 27, 2021,'' after ''December 31, 2006,''.

(e) COMPUTATION OF RETIRED PAY.—

(1) MEMBERS WHO JOINED BEFORE SEPTEMBER 8, 1980.—Section 1402(f) of such title is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''or 9314'' and inserting '', 7317, 9314, or 9317'';

(B) by striking paragraph (2); and

(C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2).

(2) MEMBERS WHO JOINED AFTER SEPTEMBER 7, 1980.—Section 1402a(f) of such title is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''or 9314'' and inserting '', 7317, 9314, or 9317'';

(B) by striking paragraph (2); and

(C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2).

(f) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to any member who retires on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 3447. Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Mr. KELLY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3411 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:

In section 412 of division A, before the period at the end, insert the following: ''*Provided*, That, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish quarterly on a publicly available website of the Department of Veterans Affairs a report on the number of veterans who would have been reported to the national instant criminal background check system established under section 103 of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act (34 U.S.C. 40901) if such reporting by the Secretary was permitted but for this section, and of those veterans, the number of suicides by firearm that occurred in the previous quarter''.

SA 3448. Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. WARREN, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WELCH, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. KIM, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. WARNER, Mr. KELLY, Mr. REED, and Mr. GALLEGO) 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. LIMITED AUTHORITY TO USE THE ARMED FORCES TO SUPPRESS INSURRECTION OR REBELLION AND QUELL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

(a) STATEMENT OF CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY.—This section represents an exercise of Congress's authorities under—

(1) clauses 14, 15, 16, and 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution of the United States;

(2) section 4 of article IV of the Constitution of the United States; and

(3) section 5 of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

(b) AMENDMENTS TO INSURRECTION PROVISIONS IN TITLE 10, UNITED STATES CODE.—Chapter 13 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking sections 251 through 255 and inserting the following new sections:

''§ 251. Statement of policy

''It is the policy of the United States that domestic deployment of the armed forces for the purposes set forth in this chapter should be a last resort and should be ordered only if State and local authorities in the State concerned are unable or otherwise fail to suppress the insurrection or rebellion, quell the domestic violence, or enforce the laws that are being obstructed, and Federal civilian law enforcement authorities are unable to do so.

''§ 252. Triggering circumstances

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The authorities granted to the President by section 253 may be exercised only if—

''(1) there is an insurrection or rebellion in a State—

''(A) against the State or local government, in such numbers, or with such force or capacity, as to overwhelm State or local authorities, and the chief executive of the State requests assistance under this chapter; or

''(B) against the Government of the United States, in such numbers, or with such force or capacity, as to overwhelm State or local authorities;

''(2) there is domestic violence in a State that is sufficiently widespread or severe as to overwhelm State or local authorities, and the chief executive of the State, or super majority of the State legislature, requests assistance under this chapter; or

''(3) there is, within a State—

''(A) obstruction of the execution of State or Federal law that has the effect of depriving any party or class of the people of that State of a right, privilege, immunity, or protection named in the Constitution and secured by law, and State or local authorities or Federal civilian law enforcement personnel are unable, fail, or refuse to protect that right, privilege, or immunity, or to give that protection;

''(B) obstruction of the execution of Federal law by private actors where such obstruction creates an immediate threat to public safety and the use of State or local authorities and Federal civilian law enforcement personnel is insufficient to ensure execution of the law and—

''(i) the private actors are in such numbers, or with such force or capacity, as to overwhelm State or local authorities and Federal civilian law enforcement personnel; or

''(ii) State or local authorities and Federal civilian law enforcement personnel otherwise fail to address the obstruction; or

''(C) obstruction of the execution of Federal law by the State or its agents, where the use of Federal civilian law enforcement personnel is insufficient to ensure execution of the law.

''(b) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—(1) Subsection (a)(3)(A) shall be construed to encompass the obstruction of any provision of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.) or section 2004 of the Revised Statutes (52 U.S.C. 10101) regarding protection of the right to vote. Any deployment of the armed forces in such circumstances shall be subject to section 2003 of the Revised Statutes (52 U.S.C. 10102), sections 592 and 593 of title 18, and any other applicable statutory limitations designed to protect the right to vote.

''(2) In any situation covered by subsection (a)(3)(A), the State shall be considered to have denied the equal protection of the laws secured by the Constitution.

''§ 253. Authority of the President

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b) and sections 254 through 257, the President may, if the conditions specified in section 252 are met, order to active duty any reserve component forces and use the armed forces to suppress the insurrection or rebellion, quell the domestic violence, or enforce the laws that are being obstructed.

''(b) LIMITATIONS.—(1) During any deployment of the armed forces under subsection (a), the armed forces shall remain subordinate to the chain of command prescribed in section 162(b) of this title.

''(2) Any part of the armed forces employed to suppress an insurrection or rebellion, quell domestic violence, or enforce the law under the authorities granted by subsection (a) must operate under the Standing Rules for the Use of Force.

''(3) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to authorize—

''(A) suspension of the writ of habeas corpus; or

''(B) any action that violates Federal law or, where consistent with Federal law, State law.

''(c) STANDING RULES FOR THE USE OF FORCE.—In this section, the term 'Standing Rules for the Use of Force' means Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Instruction (CJCSI) 3121.01B, dated June 13, 2005, and entitled, 'Standing Rules of Engagement/Standing Rules for the Use of Force for U.S. Forces', or any successor instruction.

''§ 254. Consultation with Congress; proclamation to disperse; reporting requirement; effective periods of authorities

''(a) CONSULTATION.—The President shall, to the maximum extent practicable, consult with Congress before exercising the authorities granted under section 253.

''(b) PROCLAMATION.—Before exercising the authorities granted by section 253, the President shall, by proclamation immediately transmitted to Congress and the Federal Register—

''(1) specify which paragraph and, where applicable, subparagraph and clause, of section 252(a) provides the basis for such exercise of authority; and

''(2) order the lawbreakers to disperse peaceably within a reasonable, limited time period.

''(c) REPORT.—Contemporaneously with the proclamation required under subsection (b), the President shall submit to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a written report setting forth the following:

''(1) The circumstances necessitating the exercise of the authorities granted to the President by section 253.

''(2) Where applicable, a certification by the Attorney General of the United States that the chief executive of the State in question has requested assistance under this chapter or that State authorities are unable or have otherwise failed to address the circumstances necessitating exercise of the President's authorities under section 253.

''(3) Certification by the Attorney General of the United States that options other than the use of the armed forces have been exhausted, or that those options would likely be insufficient to resolve the situation and that delay would likely cause significant harm.

''(4) A description of the size, mission, scope, and expected duration of the use of the armed forces, with a certification by the relevant Service Secretary or Secretaries that, in their best military advice and opinion, the armed forces to be called for duty are trained, equipped, and able to complete the assigned mission.

"§ 255. Congressional approval

''(a) TEMPORARY EFFECTIVE PERIODS.—(1) Any authority made available under section 253 shall terminate 7 days after the President makes the proclamation required under section 254(b) unless—

''(A) there is enacted into law a joint resolution of approval under subsection (b) with respect to the proclamation; or

''(B) there is a material and significant change in factual circumstances that are set forth in a new proclamation and report to Congress as provided in subsections (b) and (c) of section 254.

''(2) Notwithstanding subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1), no authority may be exercised after the 7-day period described in such paragraph if the exercise of authority has been enjoined by a court of competent jurisdiction.

''(3) If Congress is physically unable to convene as a result of an insurrection, rebellion, domestic violence, or obstruction of law described in a proclamation issued pursuant to section 254(b), the 7-day period described in paragraph (1) shall begin on the first day Congress convenes for the first time after the insurrection, rebellion, domestic violence, or obstruction of law.

''(b) EFFECT OF A JOINT RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL.—If there is enacted into law a joint resolution of approval as defined in subsection (d), then any authority made available under this chapter may be exercised with respect to the insurrection, rebellion, or domestic violence described in the proclamation that is the subject of such resolution for 14 days from the date of the enactment of such resolution, except that such exercise of authority must terminate if enjoined by a court of competent jurisdiction on the ground that it violates the terms of this chapter, the Constitution of the United States, or other applicable Federal law.

''(c) RENEWAL OF JOINT RESOLUTIONS OF APPROVAL.—An exercise of authority subject to a joint resolution of approval may not be exercised for longer than 14 days, unless—

''(1) there is enacted into law another joint resolution of approval renewing the President's authority pursuant to section 253; or

''(2) there has been a material and significant change in factual circumstances that are set forth in a new proclamation and report to Congress as provided in subsections (b) and (c) of section 254.

''(d) JOINT RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'joint resolution of approval' means a joint resolution that contains only the following provisions after its resolving clause:

''(1) A provision approving the exercise of authority specified by the President in a proclamation made under subsection (b) of section 254.

''(2) A statement that the exercise of authority may continue for a period of 14 days unless enjoined by a court of competent jurisdiction on the ground that it violates the terms of this chapter, the Constitution of the United States, or other applicable Federal or State law.

''(e) PROCEDURES FOR CONSIDERATION OF JOINT RESOLUTIONS OF APPROVAL.—

''(1) INTRODUCTION.—A joint resolution of approval may be introduced in either House of Congress by any member of that House at any time that authority under section 253 is in effect pursuant to a proclamation made under section 254(b) or a joint resolution of approval enacted into law pursuant to subsection (b).

''(2) REQUESTS TO CONVENE CONGRESS DURING RECESSES.—If, when the President transmits to Congress a proclamation under section 254(b) or at any time that authority under section 253 is in effect as described in paragraph (1), Congress has adjourned sine die or has adjourned for any period in excess of 3 calendar days, the majority leader of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, or their respective designees, acting jointly after consultation with and with the concurrence of the minority leader of the Senate and the minority leader of the House, shall notify the Members of the Senate and House, respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate if, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

''(3) COMMITTEE REFERRAL.—A joint resolution of approval shall be referred in each House of Congress to the committee or committees having jurisdiction over the emergency authorities invoked by the proclamation under section 254(b) that are the subject of the joint resolution.

''(4) CONSIDERATION IN SENATE.—In the Senate, the following shall apply:

''(A) REPORTING AND DISCHARGE.—If the committee to which a joint resolution of approval has been referred has not reported it at the end of 3 calendar days after its introduction, that committee shall be automatically discharged from further consideration of the resolution and it shall be placed on the calendar.

''(B) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.—Notwithstanding Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, when the committee to which a joint resolution of approval is referred has reported the resolution, or when that committee is discharged under subparagraph (A) from further consideration of the resolution, it is at any time thereafter in order (even though a previous motion to the same effect has been disagreed to) for a motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution, and all points of order against the joint resolution (and against consideration of the joint resolution) are waived. The motion to proceed is subject to 4 hours of debate divided evenly between those favoring and those opposing the joint resolution of approval. The motion is not subject to amendment, or to a motion to postpone, or to a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business.

''(C) FLOOR CONSIDERATION.—A joint resolution of approval shall be subject to 10 hours of consideration, to be divided evenly between those favoring and those opposing the joint resolution of approval.

''(D) AMENDMENTS.—No amendments shall be in order with respect to a joint resolution of approval.

''(E) MOTION TO RECONSIDER FINAL VOTE.—A motion to reconsider a vote on passage of a joint resolution of approval shall not be in order.

''(F) APPEALS.—Points of order, including questions of relevancy, and appeals from the decision of the Presiding Officer, shall be decided without debate.

''(5) CONSIDERATION IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—In the House of Representatives, the following shall apply:

''(A) REPORTING AND DISCHARGE.—If any committee to which a joint resolution of approval has been referred has not reported it to the House within 3 calendar days after the date of referral, such committee shall be discharged from further consideration of the joint resolution.

''(B) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the third legislative day after each committee to which a joint resolution of approval has been referred reports it to the House or has been discharged from further consideration of the joint resolution, and except as provided in clause (ii), it shall be in order to move to proceed to consider the joint resolution in the House. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion. The motion shall not be debatable. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is disposed of shall not be in order.

''(ii) SUBSEQUENT MOTIONS TO PROCEED TO JOINT RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL.—A motion to proceed to consider a joint resolution of approval shall not be in order after the House has disposed of another motion to proceed on that resolution.

''(C) FLOOR CONSIDERATION.—Upon adoption of the motion to proceed in accordance with subparagraph (B)(i), the joint resolution of approval shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution to final passage without intervening motion except 2 hours of debate, equally divided and controlled by the sponsor of the joint resolution (or a designee) and an opponent. A motion to reconsider the vote on passage of the joint resolution shall not be in order.

''(D) AMENDMENTS.—No amendments shall be in order with respect to a joint resolution of approval.

''(6) RECEIPT OF RESOLUTION FROM OTHER HOUSE.—If, before passing a joint resolution of approval, one House receives a joint resolution of approval from the other House, then—

''(A) the joint resolution of the other House shall not be referred to a committee and shall be deemed to have been discharged from committee on the day it is received; and

''(B) the procedures set forth in paragraphs (4) and (5), as applicable, shall apply in the receiving House to the joint resolution received from the other House to the same extent as such procedures apply to a joint resolution of the receiving House.

''(f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The enactment of a joint resolution of approval under this section shall not be interpreted to serve as a grant or modification by Congress of statutory authority of the President.

''(g) RULES OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE.—This section is enacted by Congress—

''(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the Senate and the House of Representatives, respectively, and as such is deemed a part of the rules of each House, respectively, but applicable only with respect to the procedure to be followed in the House in the case of joint resolutions described in this section, and supersedes other rules only to the extent that it is inconsistent with such other rules; and

''(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either House to change the rules (so far as relating to the procedure of that House) at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of that House.

"§ 256. Termination of authority

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Any exercise of authority specified by the President in a proclamation made under subsection (b) of section 254 shall terminate on the earliest of—

''(1) the date provided for in section 255(a);

''(2) the date provided for in section 255(b);

''(3) the date specified in an Act of Congress terminating the authority;

''(4) the date specified in a proclamation of the President terminating the emergency; or

''(5) the date of a revocation of a request for assistance under this chapter by the chief executive of the State in question.

''(b) EFFECT OF TERMINATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Effective on the date of the termination of authority under subsection (a)—

''(A) except as provided by paragraph (2), any powers or authorities exercised by reason of the authority shall cease to be exercised;

''(B) any amounts reprogrammed or transferred under any provision of law with respect to the exercise of authority that remain unobligated on that date shall be returned and made available for the purpose for which such amounts were appropriated; and

''(C) any contracts entered into under any provision of law relating to the execution of authority shall be terminated.

''(2) SAVINGS PROVISION.—The termination of an exercise of authority under this chapter shall not affect—

''(A) any legal action taken or pending legal proceeding not finally concluded or determined on the date of the termination under subsection (a);

''(B) any legal action or legal proceeding based on any act committed prior to that date; or

''(C) any rights or duties that matured or penalties that were incurred prior to that date.

''§ 257. Judicial review

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding, and without prejudice to, any other provision of law, any individual or entity (including a State or local government) that is injured by, or has a credible fear of injury from, the use of members of the armed forces under this chapter may bring a civil action for declaratory or injunctive relief. In any action under this section, the district court shall have jurisdiction to decide any question of law or fact arising under this chapter, including challenges to the legal basis for members of the armed forces to be acting under this chapter.

''(b) STANDARD OF REVIEW.—A determination that the conditions specified in section 252 are met shall be upheld if supported by substantial evidence.

''(c) EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION.—It shall be the duty of the applicable district court of the United States and the Supreme Court of the United States to advance on the docket and to expedite to the greatest possible extent the disposition of any matter brought under this section.

''(d) APPEALS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Supreme Court of the United States shall have jurisdiction of an appeal from a final decision of a district court of the United States in a civil action brought under this section.

''(2) FILING DEADLINE.—A party shall file an appeal under paragraph (1) not later than 30 days after the court issues a final decision under subsection (a).

''§ 258. State defined

''For purposes of this chapter, the term 'State' includes the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, Guam, and the Virgin Islands.

''§ 259. Limitation on use of National Guard members performing training or other duty for certain purposes

''A member of the National Guard performing training or other duty under section 502(a) or (f) of title 32 may not be used to suppress a domestic insurrection or rebellion, quell domestic violence, or enforce the law.''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) USE OF STATE DEFENSE FORCES.—Section 109(c) of title 32, United States Code, is amended by inserting '', except as provided by section 253 of title 10'' after ''armed forces''.

(2) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 13 of title 10, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''Sec.
''251. Statement of policy.
''252. Triggering circumstances.
''253. Authority of the President.
''254. Consultation with Congress; proclamation to disperse; reporting requirement; effective periods of authorities.
''255. Congressional approval.
''256. Termination.
''257. Judicial review.
''258. State defined.
''259. Limitation on use of National Guard members performing training or other duty for certain purposes.''.

SA 3449. Mr. MCCORMICK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1248. ADVOCACY FOR INCREASED EXCHANGE RATE TRANSPARENCY FROM THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Under Article IV of the Articles of Agreement of the International Monetary Fund, the People's Republic of China has committed to orderly exchange rate arrangements, the avoidance of exchange rate manipulation, and cooperation with the Fund to ensure ''firm surveillance'' of the exchange rate policies of the People's Republic of China. Pursuant to Article VIII of the Articles of Agreement of the Fund, the Fund may require the People's Republic of China to furnish data on gold and foreign exchange holdings, including assets held by non-official agencies of the People's Republic of China.

(2) In its November 2022 report, entitled ''Macroeconomic and Foreign Exchange Policies of Major Trading Partners of the United States'', the Department of the Treasury concluded, ''China provides very limited transparency regarding key features of its exchange rate mechanism, including the policy objectives of its exchange rate management regime and its activities in the offshore [renminbi] market.''. The Department continued: ''China's lack of transparency and use of a wide array of tools complicate Treasury's ability to assess the degree to which official actions are designed to impact the exchange rate.''.

(3) In that report, the Department further noted, ''China's failure to publish foreign exchange intervention and broader lack of transparency around key features of its exchange rate mechanism make it an outlier among major economies and warrants Treasury's close monitoring.''.

(b) ADVOCACY FOR INCREASED EXCHANGE RATE TRANSPARENCY FROM THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall instruct the United States Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund to use the voice and vote of the United States to advocate for—

(1) increased transparency from the People's Republic of China, and enhanced multilateral and bilateral surveillance by the Fund, with respect to the exchange rate arrangements of the People's Republic of China, including any indirect foreign exchange market intervention through Chinese financial institutions or state-owned enterprises;

(2) in connection with consultations with the People's Republic of China under Article IV of the Articles of Agreement of the Fund, the inclusion of any significant divergences by the People's Republic of China from the exchange rate policies of other issuers of currencies used in determining the value of Special Drawing Rights; and

(3) during governance reviews of the Fund, stronger consideration by members and management of the Fund of the performance of the People's Republic of China as a responsible stakeholder in the international monetary system when evaluating quota and voting shares at the Fund.

(c) SUNSET.—The requirement under subsection (b) shall terminate on the date that is 30 days after the earlier of—

(1) the date on which the United States Governor of the International Monetary Fund reports to Congress that the People's Republic of China—

(A) is in substantial compliance with obligations of the People's Republic of China under the Articles of Agreement of the Fund regarding orderly exchange rate arrangements; and

(B) has undertaken exchange rate policies and practices consistent with those of other issuers of currencies used in determining the value of Special Drawing Rights; or

(2) the date that is 7 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 3450. Mrs. FISCHER 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 C of title VII, insert the following:

SEC. 724. MILITARY-CIVILIAN MEDICAL SURGE PROGRAM.

Section 1096 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by adding at the end the following ''**; medical surge program**''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(e) MEDICAL SURGE PROGRAM.—(1) The Secretary of Defense shall carry out a program of record known as the Military-Civilian Medical Surge Program to—

''(A) support locations that the Secretary selects under paragraph (3)(B); and

''(B) enhance the interoperability and medical surge capability and capacity of the National Disaster Medical System in response to a declaration or other action described in subparagraphs (A) through (E) of paragraph (4).

''(2)(A) The Secretary, acting through the National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (or such successor center), shall oversee the operation, staffing, and deployment of the Program.

''(B) In carrying out the Program, the Secretary shall maintain requirements for staffing, specialized training, research, and education regarding patient regulation, movement, definitive care, and other matters the Secretary determines critical to sustaining the health of members of the armed forces.

''(3)(A) In carrying out the Program, the Secretary shall establish partnerships at locations selected under subparagraph (B) with public, private, and nonprofit health care organizations, health care institutions, health

care entities, academic medical centers of institutions of higher education, and hospitals that the Secretary determines—

''(i) are critical in mobilizing a civilian medical response in support of a wartime contingency or other catastrophic event in the United States; and

''(ii) have demonstrated technical proficiency in critical national security domains, including high-consequence infectious disease and special pathogen preparedness, and matters relating to defense, containment, management, care, and transportation.

''(B)(i) The Secretary shall select not fewer than eight locations that are operationally relevant to the missions of the Department of Defense under the National Disaster Medical System and are aeromedical or other transport hubs or logistics centers in the United States for partnerships under subparagraph (A).

''(ii) The Secretary may select more than eight locations under clause (i), including locations outside of the continental United States, if the Secretary determines such additional locations cover areas of strategic and operational relevance to the Department of Defense.

''(4) The Secretary shall ensure that the partnerships under paragraph (3)(A) allow for civilian medical personnel to quickly and effectively mobilize direct support to military medical treatment facilities and provide support to other requirements of the military health system pursuant to the following:

''(A) A declaration of a national emergency under the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.).

''(B) A public health emergency declared under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d).

''(C) A declaration of war by Congress.

''(D) The exercise for the President of executive powers under the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1541 et seq.).

''(E) Any other emergency or major disaster as declared by the President.

''(5)(A) Not later than July 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the status, readiness, and operational capabilities of the Program.

''(B) Each report required under subparagraph (A) shall include an assessment of personnel readiness, resource availability, interagency coordination efforts, and recommendations for continued improvements to the Program.

''(6) In this subsection:

''(A) The term 'institution of higher education' means a four-year institution of higher education (as defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a))).

''(B) The term 'National Disaster Medical System' means the system established under section 2812 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh–11).

''(C) The term 'Program' means the Military-Civilian Medical Surge Program established under paragraph (1).''.

SA 3451. Mr. BLUMENTHAL 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___. ARBITRATION OF DISPUTES INVOLVING THE RIGHTS OF SERVICEMEMBERS AND VETERANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title 9, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''CHAPTER 5—ARBITRATION OF SERVICEMEMBER AND VETERAN DISPUTES

''Sec.
''501. Definitions.
''502. No validity or enforceability.

''§ 501. Definitions

''In this chapter:

''(1) PREDISPUTE ARBITRATION AGREEMENT.—The term 'predispute arbitration agreement' means an agreement to arbitrate a dispute that has not yet arisen at the time of the making of the agreement.

''(2) PREDISPUTE JOINT-ACTION WAIVER.—The term 'predispute joint-action waiver' means an agreement, whether or not part of a predispute arbitration agreement, that would prohibit, or waive the right of, one of the parties to the agreement to participate in a joint, class, or collective action in a judicial, arbitral, administrative, or other forum, concerning a dispute that has not yet arisen at the time of the making of the agreement.

''§ 502. No validity or enforceability

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, no predispute arbitration agreement or predispute joint-action waiver shall be valid or enforceable with respect to a dispute relating to disputes arising under chapter 43 of title 38.

''(b) APPLICABILITY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—An issue as to whether this chapter applies with respect to a dispute shall be determined under Federal law. The applicability of this chapter to an agreement to arbitrate and the validity and enforceability of an agreement to which this chapter applies shall be determined by a court, rather than an arbitrator, irrespective of whether the party resisting arbitration challenges the arbitration agreement specifically or in conjunction with other terms of the contract containing such agreement, and irrespective of whether the agreement purports to delegate such determinations to an arbitrator.

''(2) COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS.—Nothing in this chapter shall apply to any arbitration provision in a contract between an employer and a labor organization or between labor organizations, except that no such arbitration provision shall have the effect of waiving the right of a worker to seek judicial enforcement of a right arising under a provision of the Constitution of the United States, a State constitution, or a Federal or State statute, or public policy arising therefrom.''.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Title 9, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in section 1 by striking ''of seamen,'' and all that follows through ''interstate commerce'' and inserting ''persons and causes of action under chapter 43 of title 38'';

(B) in section 2, by inserting ''or 5'' before the period at the end;

(C) in section 208, in the second sentence, by inserting ''or 5'' before the period at the end; and

(D) in section 307, in the second sentence, by inserting ''or 5'' before the period at the end.

(2) TABLE OF CHAPTERS.—The table of chapters of title 9, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''5. Arbitration of servicemember and veteran disputes ..... 501''.

(c) APPLICABILITY.—This section, and the amendments made by this section, shall apply with respect to any dispute or claim that arises or accrues on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 3452. Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. CASSIDY, and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1248. CONDITIONAL TERMINATION OF THE UNITED STATES-PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA INCOME TAX CONVENTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall provide written notice to the People's Republic of China through diplomatic channels of the United States' intent to terminate the United States-The People's Republic of China Income Tax Convention, done at Beijing April 30, 1984, and entered into force January 1, 1987, as provided by Article 28 of the Convention, not later than 30 days after the President notifies the Secretary of the Treasury that the People's Liberation Army has initiated an armed attack against the Republic of China (commonly known as ''Taiwan'').

(b) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—The President shall submit written notification of a termination described in subsection (a) to—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Finance of the Senate.

SA 3453. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in subtitle C of title XXXI, insert the following:

SEC. 31___. SURPLUS DEFENSE PLUTONIUM FOR COMMERCIAL REACTORS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Energy shall establish within the Office of Nuclear Energy a milestone-based program to be known as the ''Surplus Defense Plutonium for Commercial Reactors Program'' (referred to in this section as the ''Program''), which shall be headed by the Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy (referred to in this section as the ''Assistant Secretary'').

(b) DUTIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the Program, the Assistant Secretary, in collaboration with the Administrator for Nuclear Security and the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, shall—

(A) work with industry to determine interest in obtaining access to surplus defense plutonium or defense plutonium materials, currently located within the Department of Energy complex, so that such plutonium can

be utilized by commercial nuclear fuel fabricators that have been deemed qualified by the Assistant Secretary, including having contracted fuel offtake (referred to in this section as ''participants''), for fabrication into fuel for advanced nuclear reactors;

(B) enter into agreements with participants utilizing the Other Transaction Agreement authority; and

(C) distribute such plutonium to participants for processing and fabrication through a milestone-based program that requires participants to meet particular technical milestones, as determined by the Assistant Secretary, before a participant is awarded portions of material by the Department.

(2) TIMELINE.—The Assistant Secretary shall—

(A) not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, commence carrying out subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1);

(B) not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, complete carrying out paragraph (1)(B);

(C) not later than January 1, 2028, commence carrying out paragraph (1)(C); and

(D) not later than January 1, 2035, complete carrying out paragraph (1)(C).

(c) TERMINATION OF SURPLUS PLUTONIUM DILUTE AND DISPOSE PROGRAM.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy shall terminate the surplus plutonium dilute and dispose program except with respect to the legal obligations of the Department of Energy to the State of South Carolina.

(d) TRANSFER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Upon termination of the surplus plutonium dilute and dispose program pursuant to subsection (c), the unobligated balance of any amounts previously appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Energy for the surplus plutonium dilute and dispose program shall be transferred to the Office of Nuclear Energy.

(2) USE OF FUNDS.—The Assistant Secretary shall use the funds transferred pursuant to paragraph (1) carry out this section.

(e) ANNUAL BRIEFING.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and every year thereafter until such time the Program is completed, the Assistant Secretary, in coordination with the Administrator for Nuclear Security and the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, shall provide to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives a briefing on the progress of the Program.

(f) APPLICATION TO THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.—The establishment of the Program under this section shall not affect the legal obligations of the Department of Energy to the State of South Carolina.

SA 3454. Mr. GRASSLEY 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. INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS UNDER THE FOREIGN AGENTS REGISTRATION ACT.

(a) DEFINITION OF INFORMATIONAL MATERIAL.—Section 1 of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended (22 U.S.C. 611) is amended by inserting after subsection (p) the following:

''(q) INFORMATIONAL MATERIAL.—The term 'informational material' means any material that a person disseminating the material believes or has reason to believe will, or that the person intends to in any way, influence any agency or official of the Government of the United States or any section of the public within the United States with reference to—

''(1) formulating, adopting, or changing the domestic or foreign policies of the United States; or

''(2) the political or public interests, policies, or relations of a government of a foreign country or a foreign political party.''.

(b) FILING AND LABELING OF INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION OR ADVICE.—Section 4 of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended (22 U.S.C. 614) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking ''POLITICAL PROPAGANDA'' and inserting ''INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS'';

(2) in subsection (b), by inserting ''that states the name of the foreign country in which the foreign principal is located,'' after ''on behalf of the foreign principal,''; and

(3) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

''(e) INFORMATION FURNISHED TO AGENCIES OR OFFICIALS OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.—It shall be unlawful for any person within the United States who is an agent of a foreign principal required to register under the provisions of this Act to transmit, convey, or otherwise furnish to any agency or official of the Government (including a Member or committee of either House of Congress) for or in the interests of such foreign principal any informational material or to request from any such agency or official for or in the interests of such foreign principal any information or advice unless the informational material or the request is prefaced or accompanied by a true and accurate statement to the effect that such person is registered as an agent of such foreign principal under this Act.''.

SA 3455. Mr. HUSTED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title V, add the following:

SEC. 508. DESIGNATION OF COMMANDER OF AIR FORCE MATERIEL COMMAND AS HOLDING THE RANK OF GENERAL.

The Commander of Air Force Materiel Command, while so serving, shall hold the grade of general.

SA 3456. Mr. HUSTED (for himself and Mr. MORENO) 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 II, insert the following:

SEC. 2___. SILICON HEARTLAND NATIONAL CAMPUS.

The amount authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2026 by section 201 for research, development, test, and evaluation is hereby increased by $30,000,000, with the amount of the increase to be available for Aerospace Sensors (PE 0602204F) for Silicon Heartland National Campus.

SA 3457. Mr. HUSTED (for himself and Mr. MORENO) 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:

On page 105, strike line 12 and insert the following:

retary considers appropriate; and

(3) potential enhancements to existing National Aeronautics and Space Administration facilities needed to enable use of these facilities by the Department of Defense for testing and research of hypersonic systems.

At the appropriate place in subtitle B of title II, insert the following:

SEC. 2___. AVOIDING DUPLICATION OF HYPERSONIC TESTING EFFORTS.

To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary of Defense shall use existing hypersonic testing facilities or hypersonic testing facilities currently undergoing refurbishment, including those owned by other departments and agencies, for testing related to the development of hypersonic systems.

SA 3458. Mr. HUSTED (for himself and Mr. MORENO) 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:

In section 1531, at the end, add the following:

(e) COORDINATION WITH NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Golden Dome Direct Reporting Program Manager may coordinate with the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for the purpose of accelerating the development and fielding of the technologies and capabilities necessary for the successful deployment of the Golden Dome missle defense system, including in the areas of advanced communications, in-space propulsion, hypersonic research, and spacecraft power.

(2) SECONDMENT OF GOLDEN DOME OFFICIALS.—To further the coordination authorized under paragraph (1), the Golden Dome Direct Reporting Program Manager may second or temporarily station Golden Dome officials at field centers of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

SA 3459. Ms. ROSEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by

her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1265. REPORT ON BUREAU OF DIPLOMATIC SECURITY'S "RETURN TO STANDARDS" INITIATIVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report that includes the impacts of the Bureau of Diplomatic Security's initiative known as ''Return to Standards'' on the security needs of United States embassies, consulates, and other diplomatic installations outside the United States.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall describe the impacts of the Return to Standards initiative and other reductions in staffing and resources from the beginning of the initiative to the date of enactment of this Act for all embassies, consulates, and other overseas diplomatic installations, including detailed descriptions and explanations of all reductions of personnel or other resources, including their effects on—

(1) securing facilities and perimeters;

(2) transporting United States personnel into the foreign country;

(3) gathering actionable intelligence; and

(4) executing any other relevant operations for which they are responsible.

SA 3460. Ms. ROSEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. REPORT ON VISA OPERATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on visa backlogs and the feasibility of providing priority visas to nationals of countries that are of strategic importance to the tourism industry of the United States.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall address the following:

(1) The status of visa backlogs and wait times, including internal and external recommendations to streamline and improve consular processes, as required by the joint exploratory statement for the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act (division F of Public Law 118–47; 138 Stat. 729), including the rationale and justification for the implementation of each such recommendation.

(2) The impact of reductions in force on improvement of the overall efficiency of consular operations, processing time, and customer experience for applicants.

(3) The extent to which Department of State personnel, other than consular personnel, have been used to improve the overall efficiency of consular operations, processing time, and customer experience for visa applicants during periods of high demand.

(4) The viability of temporarily assigning Department of State personnel, other than consular personnel, to consular operations during periods of high demand for visa processing.

(5) The extent to which the use of technology, including artificial intelligence, may alleviate visa backlogs.

SA 3461. Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Mr. CURTIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XII, add the following:

Subtitle F—Taiwan Undersea Cable Resilience Initiative Act

SEC. 1271. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Taiwan Undersea Cable Resilience Initiative Act''.

SEC. 1272. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Undersea communication cables (in this subtitle referred to as ''undersea cables'') are critical infrastructure essential for global communication, commerce, and national security, particularly for Taiwan, whose economic and security stability relies heavily on undersea cable connectivity.

(2) The Government of the People's Republic of China has increasingly used gray zone tactics to undermine the security and sovereignty of Taiwan, including suspected sabotage of undersea cables in and around Taiwan, such as the incidents involving the severing of cables around the Matsu Islands of Taiwan and other key regions in 2023 and 2025.

(3) Undersea cables are a primary target in the strategy of the Government of the People's Republic of China to cripple the communication capabilities of Taiwan in the event of a military conflict, as part of broader hybrid warfare tactics. Disruption of undersea cables would significantly impact the ability of Taiwan to communicate both domestically and internationally, leading to a breakdown in military, economic, and social functions.

(4) The vulnerability of Taiwan to attacks on undersea cables has been compounded by an increasing number of foreign vessels suspected of involvement in sabotage, including Chinese-linked vessels, which are perceived as direct threats to Taiwan's critical infrastructure.

(5) The ability of the Government of the People's Republic of China to disrupt or sever undersea cables is a critical element of its military strategy aimed at softening Taiwan's defenses and isolating Taiwan from international support in the event of an invasion or military confrontation.

(6) Recent activities by foreign adversaries, particularly the People's Republic of China, have increased the risk of sabotage and disruption to undersea cables serving Taiwan and other nations. Notably, in February 2023, the Matsu Islands of Taiwan experienced major internet disruptions due to two undersea cables being severed, with suspicions pointing toward deliberate external interference. Furthermore, in January 2025, Chunghwa Telecom reported damage to an international undersea cable and identified a ''suspicious vessel''—the Chinese-linked cargo ship Shunxin39—near the affected area. The Coast Guard of Taiwan has indicated concerns that that vessel may have been involved in deliberately cutting the cable. In a subsequent incident, Taiwan seized the Togo-flagged Hong Tai 58, suspected of deliberately severing an undersea cable. The Coast Guard of Taiwan acknowledged the possibility of China's involvement as part of a ''grey area intrusion''.

(7) Since 2023, there have been at least 11 cases of damage to undersea cables around Taiwan and a similar number in the Baltic Sea, with authorities in Taiwan and Europe suspecting Chinese and Russian involvement in several incidents, although some damages have been attributed to natural causes. Those incidents highlight the vulnerability of those critical systems to gray zone tactics and the difficulty of proving sabotage or holding perpetrators accountable.

(8) The sabotage of undersea cables constitutes gray zone tactics designed to destabilize and undermine international security without direct military confrontation.

(9) Several regional mechanisms have been established to bolster the security of undersea cables, including the Nordic Warden initiative for maritime domain awareness and the Quad Partnership for Cable Connectivity and Resilience, aimed at enhancing the security and resilience of undersea cables in the Indo-Pacific.

(10) To counter the threats described in this section and safeguard the resilience of Taiwan, it is imperative for the United States and its allies to take decisive action to bolster Taiwan's defenses for undersea cables and foster international cooperation to protect those critical assets.

SEC. 1273. TAIWAN UNDERSEA CABLE RESILIENCE INITIATIVE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 360 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Commandant of the Coast Guard, and such other heads of agencies as the Secretary of State considers relevant, shall establish an initiative to be known as the ''Taiwan Undersea Cable Resilience Initiative'' (in this section referred to as the ''Initiative'').

(b) PRIORITY.—The Initiative shall prioritize the protection and resilience of undersea cables near Taiwan, with a focus on countering threats from the People's Republic of China to the critical infrastructure of Taiwan.

(c) KEY FOCUS AREAS.—

(1) ADVANCED MONITORING AND DETECTION CAPABILITIES.—In carrying out the Initiative, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of Defense, shall develop and deploy advanced undersea cable monitoring systems for Taiwan capable of detecting disruptions or potential sabotage in real-time, including by informing Taiwan, as appropriate, of early warnings from global intelligence networks.

(2) RAPID RESPONSE PROTOCOLS.—In carrying out the Initiative, the Secretary of State shall—

(A) establish rapid response protocols for repairing severed undersea cables or mitigating disruptions; and

(B) work with allies of the United States to help Taiwan develop the logistical capacity to respond quickly to attacks on undersea cables and minimize downtime.

(3) ENHANCING MARITIME DOMAIN AWARENESS.—In carrying out the Initiative—

(A) the Secretary of the Navy and the Commandant of the Coast Guard, in collaboration with the Coast Guard of Taiwan and regional allies, shall enhance maritime domain awareness around Taiwan, focusing on the detection of suspicious vessels or activities near critical undersea cable routes; and

(B) the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall assist in joint patrols and surveillance, particularly in the Taiwan Strait and surrounding maritime zones, to monitor potential threats and prevent sabotage.

(4) INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORKS FOR PROTECTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the Initiative, the Secretary of State shall seek to establish cooperative frameworks with regional allies and global partners to protect the undersea cable networks near Taiwan.

(B) ELEMENTS.—The frameworks established under subparagraph (A) shall provide for participation by the United States in joint drills, intelligence-sharing platforms, and collaborative surveillance operations to enhance collective security against sabotage.

(5) TAIWAN-SPECIFIC CABLE HARDENING.—In carrying out the Initiative, the Secretary of State shall encourage and support the hardening of critical undersea cables near Taiwan, including reinforcing cables, improving burial depths, and using more resilient materials to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters and deliberate interference.

SEC. 1274. COUNTERING CHINA'S GRAY ZONE TACTICS.

(a) WORKING WITH PARTNERS TO COUNTER CHINESE SABOTAGE.—The President shall work with Taiwan and like-minded international partners to implement strategies that directly counter the use by the Government of the People's Republic of China of undersea cable sabotage as part of its gray zone warfare, including by increasing diplomatic pressure on that Government to adhere to international norms regarding the protection of undersea infrastructure.

(b) RAISING AWARENESS.—The President shall work with Taiwan to raise global awareness of the risks posed by interference by the Government of the People's Republic of China in undersea cables, including through public diplomacy efforts, information sharing, and international forums that address gray zone tactics and the protection of critical infrastructure.

SEC. 1275. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO SABOTAGE OF UNDERSEA CABLES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to any person of the People's Republic of China that the President determines is responsible for or complicit in damaging undersea cables critical to the national security of Taiwan.

(b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions described in this subsection are the following:

(1) BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.—The President shall exercise all of the powers granted by the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of a person described in subsection (a), if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(2) INELIGIBILITY FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—

(A) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—An alien described in subsection (a) shall be—

(i) inadmissible to the United States;

(ii) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and

(iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(B) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The visa or other entry documentation of an alien described in subsection (a) shall be revoked, regardless of when such visa or other entry documentation is or was issued.

(ii) IMMEDIATE EFFECT.—A revocation under clause (i) shall—

(I) take effect immediately; and

(II) automatically cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the possession of the alien.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.—

(1) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may exercise all authorities provided under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out this section.

(2) PENALTIES.—A person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of this section or any regulation, license, or order issued to carry out this section shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

(d) EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) EXCEPTION FOR INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.—This section shall not apply with respect to activities subject to the reporting requirements under title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.) or any authorized intelligence activities of the United States.

(2) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS.—Sanctions under subsection (b)(2) shall not apply with respect to the admission of an alien to the United States if such admission is necessary to comply with the obligations of the United States under the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success on June 26, 1947, and entered into force on November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or the Convention on Consular Relations, done at Vienna on April 24, 1963, and entered into force on March 19, 1967, or other international obligations of the United States.

(3) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The authorities and requirements to impose sanctions under this section shall not include the authority or requirement to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(B) GOOD DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term ''good'' means any article, natural or manmade substance, material, supply or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment, and excluding technical data.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMISSION; ADMITTED; ALIEN.—The terms ''admission'', ''admitted'', and ''alien'' have the meanings given those terms in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

(2) PERSON OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.—The term ''person of the People's Republic of China'' means—

(A) an individual who is a citizen or national of the People's Republic of China; and

(B) an entity owned or controlled by the Government of the People's Republic of China, organized under the laws of the People's Republic of China, or otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of the Government of the People's Republic of China.

(3) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term ''United States person'' means—

(A) any United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States;

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or of any jurisdiction within the United States, including any foreign branch of such an entity; or

(C) any person in the United States.

SEC. 1276. SEMIANNUAL REPORT.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter, the President shall submit to Congress a report detailing—

(1) any incidents of interference in undersea cables near Taiwan; and

(2) any actions taken in response to such incidents.

SA 3462. Mr. FETTERMAN 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. _____. RECORDS AND REPORTS ON MONETARY INSTRUMENTS TRANSACTIONS.

(a) RECORDS AND REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 5312 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(2)—

(i) by redesignating subparagraphs (Y) and (Z) as subparagraphs (Z) and (AA), respectively; and

(ii) by inserting after subparagraph (X) the following:

''(Y) a person engaged in the trade in works of art, including a dealer, advisor, consultant, custodian, gallery, auction house, museum, collector, or any other person who engages as a business as an intermediary in the sale of works of art, unless the person—

''(i) during the prior year, participated in no single transaction valued over $10,000 that involved a work of art;

''(ii) has not, during the prior year, participated in total transactions valued at $50,000 that involved a work of art; or

''(iii) is a person engaged in the art market for the sole purpose of selling works of art created by the person.''; and

(B) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the following:

''(2) WORK OF ART.—The term 'work of art' means any original painting, sculpture, watercolor, print, drawing, photograph, installation art, or video art, not including—

''(A) applied art such as product design, fashion design, architectural design, or interior design; or

''(B) mass-produced decorative art, including ceramics, textiles, or carpets.''.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by paragraph (1) shall take effect on the earlier of—

(A) the effective date of the rules issued under subsection (c); and

(B) the date that is 360 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) MANDATORY UPDATE TO TREASURY GUIDANCE ON ART TRANSACTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 360 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury shall issue updated guidance to the advisory issued by the Office of Foreign Asset Control on October 30, 2020, regarding the risks of high-value artwork transactions involving sanctioned persons or entities.

(2) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—The Secretary of Treasury shall consult and coordinate with appropriate Federal agencies to update the guidance described in paragraph (1).

(c) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury (acting through the Director of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network), in consultation and coordination with appropriate Federal agencies, shall issue proposed rules to carry out the amendments made by subsection (a), including—

(1) determining which persons should be subject to the rulemaking based on domestic or international geographical location;

(2) the degree to which the regulations should apply based on status as an agent or intermediary acting on behalf of a purchaser; and

(3) whether certain exemptions should apply to the regulations.

(d) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 6110(a) of the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2020 (title LXI of division F of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116–283; 134 Stat. 4561) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking ''subparagraphs (Z) and (AA)'' and inserting ''subparagraphs (AA) and (BB)''; and

(ii) by striking ''subparagraphs (Y) and (Z)'' and inserting ''subparagraphs (Z) and (AA)''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by striking ''subparagraph (X)'' and inserting ''subparagraph (Y)''; and

(ii) by striking '' ''(Y) a'' and inserting '' ''(X) a''; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking ''Section 5312(a)(2)(Y)'' and inserting ''Section 5312(a)(2)(X)''.

SA 3463. Mr. FETTERMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title X, add the following:

Subtitle H—Honoring Civil Servants Killed in the Line of Duty

SEC. 1091. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Honoring Civil Servants Killed in the Line of Duty Act''.

SEC. 1092. INCREASING DEATH GRATUITY FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter VII of chapter 55 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 5571. Employee death gratuity payments

''(a) DEFINITION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 5561(2), in this section, the term 'employee' means an individual who has been determined by the Secretary of Labor to be an employee within the meaning of section 8101(1), but not including any individual described in subparagraph (D) of section 8101(1).

''(2) EXCLUSIVE AUTHORITY.—A determination described in paragraph (1) may be made only by the Secretary of Labor.

''(b) GRATUITY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to the death of an employee occurring on or after the date of enactment of this section, notwithstanding section 8116, and in addition to any payment made under subchapter I of chapter 81, the head of the agency employing the employee shall pay from appropriations made available for salaries and expenses of that agency a death gratuity to the person identified under subsection (c)(2), if the death of the employee—

''(A) results from injury sustained while in the line of duty of the employee; and

''(B) is not—

''(i) caused by willful misconduct of the employee;

''(ii) caused by the intention of the employee to bring about the injury or death of the employee or another; or

''(iii) proximately caused by the intoxication of the injured employee.

''(2) AMOUNT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the amount of a death gratuity paid under paragraph (1) with respect to an employee shall be $100,000, as adjusted each March 1 by the amount determined by the Secretary of Labor to represent the percentage change in the Personal Consumption Expenditures Price Index published for December of the preceding year over that Index published for the December of the year prior to the preceding year, adjusted to the nearest ⅒ of 1 percent.

''(B) LOCAL COMPENSATION PLANS.—For an employee compensated under a local compensation plan established under section 408 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3968), the amount of a death gratuity paid under paragraph (1) with respect to the employee shall be in an amount determined in rules issued by the Secretary of State.

''(c) RECIPIENT OF PAYMENT.—

''(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term 'child'—

''(A) includes—

''(i) a natural child; and

''(ii) an adopted child; and

''(B) does not include a stepchild.

''(2) ORDER OF PRECEDENCE.—A death gratuity paid under subsection (b) with respect to an employee shall be paid in the following order of precedence:

''(A)(i) To the beneficiary designated to receive the gratuity by the employee in a signed and witnessed writing that is received by the agency employing the employee before the date of the death of the employee.

''(ii) A designation, change, or cancellation of beneficiary in a will, or another document not described in clause (i), shall have no force or effect for the purposes of that clause.

''(B) If there is no beneficiary described in subparagraph (A), to the surviving spouse of the employee.

''(C) If neither subparagraph (A) nor (B) applies, to the children of the employee (including the descendant of any deceased child by representation) such that each such child receives an equal amount of the gratuity.

''(D) If none of subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) applies, to the surviving parents of the employee such that each such surviving parent receives an equal amount of the gratuity.

''(E) If none of subparagraphs (A) through (D) applies, to the duly appointed executor or administrator of the estate of the employee.

''(F) If none of subparagraphs (A) through (E) applies, to the person entitled, under the laws of the State in which the employee is domiciled, as of the date on which the employee dies, to receive the payment.''.

(2) REPEAL OF DEATH GRATUITY PAYMENT AUTHORITY.—Section 651 of the Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Appropriations Act, 1997 (5 U.S.C. 8133 note) is repealed.

(3) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The table of sections for chapter 55 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking the item relating to subchapter VII and inserting the following:

''SUBCHAPTER VII—PAYMENTS TO MISSING PERSONS AND PAYMENTS FOR DISABILITY OR DEATH''; AND

(B) by inserting after the item relating to section 5570 the following:

''5571. Employee death gratuity payments.''.

(4) ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The heading for subchapter VII of chapter 55 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking ''EMPLOYEES'' and inserting ''PERSONS AND PAYMENTS FOR DISABILITY OR DEATH''.

(b) AMENDMENT TO TITLE 49.—Section 40122(g)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (I)(iii), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon;

(2) in subparagraph (J), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (J) the following:

''(K) section 5571, relating to death gratuities resulting from an injury sustained in the line of duty.''.

SEC. 1093. FUNERAL EXPENSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 8134(a) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(1)'' after ''(a)'';

(2) by striking ''$800'' and inserting ''$8,800''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) The amount described in paragraph (1) shall be adjusted on March 1 of each year by the percentage amount determined by the Secretary of Labor under section 8146a for that year.''.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by subsection (a)(2) shall apply with respect to any death occurring on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 1094. DEATH GRATUITY FOR INJURIES INCURRED IN CONNECTION WITH EMPLOYEE'S SERVICE WITH AN ARMED FORCE.

Section 8102a of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking ''The United States'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The United States'';

(B) in paragraph (1), as so designated, by striking ''up to''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) ADJUSTMENT.—The amount described in paragraph (1) shall be adjusted each March 1 by the amount determined by the Secretary of Labor to represent the percentage change in the Personal Consumption Expenditures Price Index published for December of the preceding year over that Index published for the December of the year prior to the preceding year, adjusted to the nearest ⅒ of 1 percent.'';

(2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

''(c) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER BENEFITS.—With respect to a death occurring on or after the date of enactment of the Honoring Civil Servants Killed in the Line of Duty Act, the death gratuity payable under this section may not be reduced by the amount of any other death gratuity provided under any other provision of Federal law based on the same death.''; and

(3) in subsection (d), by adding at the end the following:

''(7) If a person covered by this section does not have any eligible survivors, as described in this subsection, and that person has not designated an alternate person to receive a

payment under this section, the payment shall be paid to the personal representative of the person's estate.''.

SEC. 1095. AGENCY GRATUITY FOR DEATHS SUSTAINED IN THE LINE OF DUTY ABROAD.

Section 413 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3973) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the first sentence, by striking ''dependents'' and inserting ''beneficiaries''; and

(B) in the second sentence, by inserting '', except as provided in subsection (e)'' after ''payable from any source'';

(2) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

''(b) EXECUTIVE AGENCIES.—The head of an executive agency shall, pursuant to guidance issued under subsection (c), make a death gratuity payment authorized by this section to the surviving beneficiaries of—

''(1) any employee of that agency who dies as a result of injuries sustained in the performance of duty abroad while subject to the authority of the chief of mission pursuant to section 207; or

''(2) an individual in a special category serving in an uncompensated capacity for that agency abroad in support of a diplomatic mission, as identified in guidance issued under subsection (c), who dies as a result of injuries sustained in the performance of duty abroad.'';

(3) by striking subsection (d);

(4) by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

''(d) ELIGIBILITY UNDER CHAPTER 81 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE.—A death gratuity payment shall be made under this section only if the death is determined by the Secretary of Labor to have resulted from an injury (excluding a disease proximately caused by the employment) sustained in the performance of duty under section 8102 of title 5, United States Code.'';

(5) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (f);

(6) by inserting after subsection (d), as added by paragraph (4), the following:

''(e) OFFSET.—For deaths occurring on or after the date of enactment of the Honoring Civil Servants Killed in the Line of Duty Act, the death gratuity payable under this section shall be reduced by the amount of any death gratuity provided under section 5571 of title 5, United States Code, based on the same death.''; and

(7) in subsection (f), as so redesignated by paragraph (5), by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

''(2) the term 'surviving beneficiaries' means the person or persons identified pursuant to the order of precedence established under section 5571(c)(2) of title 5, United States Code.''.

SEC. 1096. EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORIZATION.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term ''agency'' means an agency that is authorized or required to make a payment under a covered provision; and

(2) the term ''covered provision'' means—

(A) section 5571 of title 5, United States Code, as added by section 1092 of this Act;

(B) section 8102a of title 5, United States Code, as amended by section 1094 of this Act; or

(C) section 413 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3973), as amended by section 1095 of this Act.

(b) AUTHORIZATION.—If the head of an agency determines, with the concurrence of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, that a natural disaster, act of terrorism, or other incident results in the inability of the agency to make additional payments under a covered provision—

(1) there are authorized to be appropriated to the agency such sums as may be necessary to make those additional payments; and

(2) the head of the agency may make those additional payments only to the extent additional amounts are made available for those purposes.

(c) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that, not later than 30 days after the date on which the head of an agency submits to Congress a request for supplemental appropriations for the purposes described in subsection (b), Congress should take action with respect to that request.

SEC. 1097. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term ''agency'' has the meaning given the term in section 5561 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) REQUIREMENT.—If the head of an agency makes a death gratuity payment under section 5571 of title 5, United States Code, as added by section 1092 of this Act, the agency head shall, not later than 15 business days after the date on which the agency head makes that payment, submit to the Comptroller General of the United States a notification regarding that payment.

(b) GAO REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives a report regarding the aggregate amount of death gratuities paid under section 5571 of title 5, United States Code, as added by section 1092 of this Act, during the year covered by the report.

(c) AUDIT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(1) perform an audit regarding death gratuities paid under section 5571 of title 5, United States Code, as added by section 1092 of this Act;

(2) as part of the audit performed under paragraph (1), determine the frequency with which future audits of the payments described in that paragraph shall occur; and

(3) submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives the results of the audit performed under paragraph (1).

SA 3464. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title III, add the following:

SEC. 334. REPORT ON USE OF 6PPD IN DESIGN AND PRODUCTION OF TIRES PROCURED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the use of 6PPD in the design and production of tires procured by the Department of Defense.

(b) INITIATIVES.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include a list of initiatives of the Department of Defense, if any, researching potential alternatives to 6PPD in tire production.

(c) 6PPD DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''6PPD'' means the chemical N-(1,3-dimethylbutyl)-N′-phenyl-p-phenylenediamine.

SA 3465. Mr. SCHIFF 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 X, add the following:

SEC. 1038. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FOOD PURCHASES.

(a) PURCHASING REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that—

(1) by not later than October 1, 2028, the Department of Defense and its food service contractors purchase, by dollar volume—

(A) a minimum 5 percent of organic food;

(B) 5 percent of food from producers within the State of final destination; and

(C) 5 percent of food from small and mid-sized producers; and

(2) by October 1, 2030, the Department of Defense purchases by dollar volume—

(A) a minimum 10 percent of organic food;

(B) 10 percent of food from producers within the State of final destination; and

(C) 10 percent of food from small and mid-sized producers.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than December 31, 2030, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on Department of Defense food procurement for fiscal years 2028 through 2030.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following information, by fiscal year:

(A) The total amount spent by all Department of Defense food service operations worldwide.

(B) The amount, by dollar volume, spent on different food categories such as meat, fruits and vegetables, dairy, other relevant categories.

(C) The amount, by dollar volume, spent on food sourced from local farmers.

(D) The amount, by dollar volume, spent on food sourced from small and mid-sized farmers.

(E) The amount, by dollar volume, spent on organic food.

SA 3466. Ms. DUCKWORTH proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3411 proposed by Ms. COLLINS 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; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title II of division A, insert the following:

SEC. 2____. REPORT ON PLAN OF SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO REDUCE WORKFORCE OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress a report on the current plan of the Secretary to reduce the workforce of the Department of Veterans Affairs in fiscal year 2026.

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

(1) The analysis used by the Secretary to determine what, if any, workforce reductions are necessary to provide timely care and benefits for Veterans and why.

(2) How that analysis ensures that wait times will not be adversely affected by such reductions, but rather, assisted.

(c) LESSONS LEARNED.—The Secretary shall ensure that analyses submitted pursuant to subsection (b) incorporate lessons learned from terminations and reinstatements occurring in fiscal year 2025.

SA 3467. Mr. LANKFORD 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. _____. NONDISCRIMINATION IN DISASTER ASSISTANCE.

Section 308(a) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5151(a)) is amended by striking ''or economic status'' and inserting ''economic status, or political affiliation''.

SA 3468. Mr. LANKFORD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title X, add the following:

Subtitle I—Border Enforcement, Security, and Trade Facilitation

SEC. 1091. SHORT TITLES.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Border Enforcement, Security, and Trade Facilitation Act of 2025'' or the ''BEST Facilitation Act''.

SEC. 1092. OFFICE OF FIELD OPERATIONS IMAGE TECHNICIAN PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 411(g) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 211(g)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(6) IMAGE TECHNICIAN PILOT PROGRAM.—

''(A) IMAGE TECHNICIAN 1.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—There shall be in the Office of Field Operations, Image Technician 1 positions, which shall be filled in accordance with the provisions under chapter 33 (relating to appointments in the competitive service) and chapters 51 and 53 (relating to classification and rates of pay) of title 5, United States Code.

''(ii) CONDITIONS.—Image Technician 1 positions—

''(I) may be filled by existing U.S. Customs and Border Protection employees;

''(II) are not law enforcement officer positions;

''(III) may not be filled by independent contractors; and

''(IV) shall be assigned to a regional command center established under subparagraph (F).

''(iii) DUTIES.—The duties of an Image Technician 1 shall include—

''(I) reviewing non-intrusive inspection images of conveyances and containers entering or exiting the United States through a land, sea, or air port of entry or international rail crossing;

''(II) assessing whether images of conveyances and containers appear to contain anomalies indicating the potential presence of contraband, persons unlawfully seeking to enter or exit the United States, or illicitly concealed merchandise, including illicit drugs and terrorist weapons;

''(III) recommending entry release or exit release for any conveyances and containers whenever the images of such items do not include noticeable anomalies indicating the potential presence of contraband, persons seeking to unlawfully enter or exit the United States, or illicitly concealed merchandise, including illicit drugs or terrorist weapons, to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officer responsible for inspecting such conveyance or container; and

''(IV) recommending further inspection of any conveyances and containers whenever the Image Technician reasonably believes that an image of any such item contains anomalies indicating the potential presence of contraband, persons seeking to unlawfully enter or exit the United States, or illicitly concealed merchandise, such as illicit drugs or terrorist weapons, to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer who is responsible for inspecting such conveyance or container.

''(B) IMAGE TECHNICIAN 2.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—There shall be in the Office of Field Operations, Image Technician 2 positions, which shall be filled in accordance with the provisions under chapter 33 (relating to appointments in the competitive service) and chapters 51 and 53 (relating to classification and rates of pay) of title 5, United States Code.

''(ii) CONDITIONS.—Image Technician 2 positions—

''(I) may be filled by existing U.S. Customs and Border Protection employees;

''(II) are not law enforcement officer positions;

''(III) may not be filled by independent contractors; and

''(IV) shall be assigned to a regional command center established under subparagraph (F).

''(iii) DUTIES.—The duties of an Image Technician 2 shall include—

''(I) carrying out all of the duties described in subclauses (I) through (IV) of subparagraph (A)(ii);

''(II) receiving intelligence from the National Targeting Center regarding tactics, techniques, and procedures being used at ports of entry and in the border environment by malign actors to facilitate the unlawful entry or exit of contraband, persons, or illicitly concealed merchandise, such as illicit drugs or terrorist weapons; and

''(III) reporting new information to the National Targeting Center regarding tactics, techniques, and procedures being used at ports of entry and in the border environment by malign actors to facilitate the unlawful entry or exit of contraband, persons, or concealed merchandise, such as illicit drugs or terrorist weapons.

''(C) SUPERVISORY U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION OFFICERS.—

''(i) SUPERVISION.—All image technicians shall be supervised by a Supervisory U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officer.

''(ii) DISCRETION AND DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY.—The appropriate Supervisory U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officer, while working with image technicians, shall retain the discretion and final decision-making authority—

''(I) to release conveyances or cargo for entry; or

''(II) to refer such conveyance or cargo for further inspection.

''(iii) TRAINING.—A Supervisory U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officer who supervises image technicians shall receive additional training in accordance with subparagraph (D).

''(D) TRAINING REQUIREMENTS.—All image technicians shall receive annual training and additional ad hoc training, to the extent necessary based on current trends, regarding—

''(i) respecting privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties, including the protections against unreasonable searches and seizures afforded by the First and Fourth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States, as applicable and as interpreted by the Federal courts;

''(ii) analyzing images generated by non-intrusive inspection technologies or any successor technologies deployed by U.S. Customs and Border Protection;

''(iii) identifying commodities and merchandise in images generated by non-intrusive inspection technologies or any successor technologies deployed by U.S. Customs and Border Protection;

''(iv) identifying contraband, persons who are seeking to unlawfully enter or exit the United States, or illicitly concealed merchandise, such as illicit drugs or terrorist weapons, in images generated by non-intrusive technologies or any successor technologies deployed by U.S. Customs and Border Protection;

''(v) tactics, techniques, and procedures being used at ports of entry and in the border environment by malign actors to facilitate the unlawful entry or exit of contraband, persons, or illicitly concealed merchandise, such as illicit drugs or terrorist weapons; and

''(vi) any other training that the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection determines to be relevant to the duties described in subparagraphs (A)(iii) or (B)(iii).

''(E) ANNUAL ASSESSMENT.—All image technicians shall receive annual testing with respect to their—

''(i) accuracy in image analysis;

''(ii) timeliness in image analysis; and

''(iii) ability to ascertain tactics, techniques, and procedures being used at ports of entry and in the border environment by malign actors to facilitate the unlawful entry or exit of contraband, persons, or illicitly concealed merchandise, such as illicit drugs or terrorist weapons.

''(F) COMMAND CENTERS.—As part of the pilot program established under this paragraph, the Executive Assistant Commissioner of the Office of Field Operations shall establish 5 regional command centers at land, rail, air, and sea ports in which image technicians shall review non-intrusive inspection images.

''(G) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph may be construed to affect the discretion and final decision-making authority given to U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officers to release conveyances or cargo for entry or exit or to refer such conveyances or cargo for further inspection.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) SUNSET.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall cease to have effect on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) TRANSFERS AUTHORIZED.—Upon the termination of the pilot program established by section 411(g)(6) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by subsection (a), individuals occupying Image Technician 1 or Image Technician 2 positions in the Office of Field Operations may transfer to comparable positions within U.S. Customs and Border

Protection or the Department of Homeland Security.

SEC. 1093. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) SEMIANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than 180 days after the hiring of the first positions described in section 411(g)(6) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 2092(a), and every 180 days thereafter, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, in consultation with the Executive Assistant Commissioner of the Office of Field Operations, shall submit a report to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives that identifies—

(1) the number of Image Technician 1 and Image Technician 2 positions filled during the reporting period;

(2) the number of Image Technician 1 and Image Technician 2 positions currently employed by the Office of Field Operations, disaggregated by—

(A) port of entry or field office;

(B) image technician position; and

(C) command center, as applicable;

(3) the daily average number of images scanned by each Image Technician 1 and each Image Technician 2;

(4) training methodologies utilized to train image technicians;

(5) assessment passage rates of image technicians;

(6) the impact of image technicians on interdiction rates at ports of entry and international rail crossings at which image technicians are stationed or from which image technicians review images, including—

(A) throughput increases or decreases at such ports of entry and international rail crossings;

(B) increases or decreases in waiting times at such ports of entry and international rail crossings;

(C) average wait times at such ports of entry and international rail crossings; and

(D) increases or decreases of seizures of contraband, persons seeking to unlawfully enter or exit the United States, or illicitly concealed merchandise, such as illicit drugs or terrorist weapons, broken down by type of seizure and port of entry or international rail crossing;

(7) the impact of image technicians on U.S. Customs and Border Protection's capability to review non-intrusive inspection images of conveyances and containers entering or exiting the United States through a land, sea, or air port of entry or international rail crossing;

(8) an assessment of the effectiveness with which image technicians carry out the duties described in subparagraphs (A)(iii) and (B)(iii) of section 411(g)(6) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 2092(a), compared to any U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers who are assigned such duties.

(9) the progress made in establishing command centers under the pilot program established by such section;

(10) any infrastructure or resource needs required to establish such command centers; and

(11) the ports of entry and international rail crossing, as applicable, that are supported by such a command center.

(b) BIANNUAL BRIEFINGS.—The Executive Assistant Commissioner of the Office of Field Operations shall provide biannual briefings to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives regarding the information described in the latest report submitted pursuant to subsection (a).

SA 3469. Mr. LANKFORD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title X, add the following:

Subtitle I—E-Verify for Federal Contractors

SEC. 1091. SHORT TITLES.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Secure And Fair Employment in Federal Contracting Act'' or the ''SAFE Contracting Act''.

SEC. 1092. E-VERIFY COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 47 of title 41, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 4715. E–Verify compliance requirement

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—

''(1) ENTITY.—The term 'entity' means any organization seeking to provide goods or services to the United States Government, including any parent company, subsidiary, or affiliate of such organization.

''(2) E–VERIFY PROGRAM.—The term 'E-Verify Program' means the program described in section 403(a) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note).

''(3) EXECUTIVE AGENCY.—The term 'executive agency' means—

''(A) an Executive department, a military department, or an independent establishment (as such terms are defined in sections 101, 102, and 104(1) of title 5, United States Code); and

''(B) any wholly owned Government corporation (as defined in section 9101(3) of title 31, United States Code).

''(b) CONTRACTOR CERTIFICATION.—Each entity submitting a bid or proposal for a contract with an executive agency shall include, in such bid or proposal, a certification that such entity, and each subcontractor such entity will use to carry out its duties under such contract—

''(1) is currently enrolled in the E-Verify Program; and

''(2) is fully complying with all statutes, regulations, and policies governing the E–Verify Program.

''(c) PROHIBITION.—An executive agency may not award a contract to an entity that has not made the certification required under subsection (b).

''(d) EXTENSION OR RENEWAL OF CONTRACTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the SAFE Contracting Act, each executive agency shall incorporate the procedures described in subsections (b) and (c) into their contract extension and renewal procedures.

''(e) AGENCY DETERMINATION OF CONTRACTOR COMPLIANCE.—Each executive agency shall—

''(1) evaluate each certification submitted pursuant to subsection (b) by any entity with which such executive agency seeks to enter into a contract and any other information relevant to the entity's enrollment in the E-Verify Program and its compliance with all statutes, regulations, and policies governing the E–Verify Program;

''(2) before awarding such contract, confirm that such entity—

''(A) is enrolled in the E–Verify Program; and

''(B) is fully complying with all statutes, regulations, and policies governing the E–Verify Program; and

''(3) after awarding such contract—

''(A) monitor such entity's continued compliance with all statutes, regulations, and policies governing the E–Verify Program; and

''(B) annually post, on a publicly available website, such executive agency's findings regarding such compliance.

''(f) PROCEDURES FOR NONCOMPLIANCE.—

''(1) NOTICE.—Not later than 14 days after an executive agency determines that an entity currently contracting with such executive agency is not in full compliance with all statutes, regulations, and policies governing the E-Verify Program, such executive agency shall submit written notice to such entity describing such noncompliance and any actions such entity must complete to return to full compliance.

''(2) CONSEQUENCE FOR CONTINUED NONCOMPLIANCE.—If an entity fails to return to full compliance during the 30-day period beginning on the date on which such entity receives notice pursuant to paragraph (1), such entity shall be referred to the Administrator of General Services for suspension and debarment proceedings in accordance with subpart 9.4 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

''(g) SUBCONTRACTOR COMPLIANCE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Before any subcontract is awarded under any contract awarded by an executive agency, such executive agency shall ensure that the entity selected for such subcontract—

''(A) is enrolled in the E-Verify Program; and

''(B) maintains continuous compliance with all statutes, regulations, and policies governing the E–Verify Program.

''(2) PROCEDURES FOR NONCOMPLIANCE.—

''(A) NOTICE.—Not later than 14 days after an executive agency determines that an subcontractor of an entity currently contracting with such executive agency is not in full compliance with all statutes, regulations, and policies governing the E-Verify Program, such executive agency shall submit written notice to such subcontractor describing such noncompliance and any actions such subcontractor must complete to return to full compliance.

''(B) CONSEQUENCE FOR CONTINUED NONCOMPLIANCE.—If a subcontractor fails to return to full compliance during the 30-day period beginning on the date on which such subcontractor receives notice pursuant to subparagraph (A), such subcontractor shall be referred to the Administrator of General Services for suspension and debarment proceedings in accordance with subpart 9.4 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 47 of title 41, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''4715. E–Verify compliance requirement.''.

SEC. 1093. IMPLEMENTATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act—

(1) the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council shall amend the Federal Acquisition Regulation to implement and the amendments made by section 1092; and

(2) the Administrator of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy shall develop and implement all policies and procedures necessary to implement such amendments, which, after consultation with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, shall include clarification of the responsibilities and expectations of Executive agencies in monitoring contractor enrollment in, and compliance with, the E-Verify Program.

(b) DATA COLLECTION.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, to help ensure the accuracy of Federal

procurement data and to better monitor contractor compliance with the E–Verify Program, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services shall—

(1) develop and implement information collection measures detailing Federal contractors enrolled in the E-Verify program; and

(2) notify Executive agencies of such information collection measures once such measures have been developed and implemented.

(c) LIMITATIONS ON REGULATIONS, POLICIES, AND PROCEDURES.—Regulations, policies, and procedures issued pursuant to subsection (a) may not reduce or limit, or authorize waivers for, any of the requirements described in of the amendments made by section 1092.

SEC. 1094. ANNUAL REPORTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1131 of title 41, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking ''**report**'' and inserting ''**reports**'';

(2) by striking ''The Administrator'' and inserting the following:

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) E–VERIFY COMPLIANCE REPORT.—The Administrator, in consultation with the Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, shall annually submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that—

''(1) summarizes the information posted on each executive agency's public website pursuant to section 4715(e)(3)(B); and

''(2) identifies the number of entities that have been referred to the Administrator of General Services during the reporting period pursuant to section 4715(f)(2) due to continued noncompliance with the E–Verify Program.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 11 of title 41, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 1131 and inserting the following:

1131. Annual reports.

SA 3470. Mr. LANKFORD 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. _____. OMB GUIDANCE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED AGENCY.—The term ''covered agency'' means an agency described in section 901(b) of title 31, United States Code.

(2) DIRECTOR.—The term ''Director'' means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

(3) INTERNAL CONTROL.—The term ''internal control'' means a process that is—

(A) effected by the management and other personnel of an entity; and

(B) designed to provide reasonable assurance with respect to the achievement of objectives relating to—

(i) effectiveness and efficiency of operations;

(ii) reliability of financial reporting; and

(iii) compliance with applicable law.

(b) GUIDANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall issue guidance to covered agencies for the development of plans for internal control that are ready or adaptable for immediate use in future emergencies or crises.

(2) CONTENTS.—The guidance issued under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) be in alignment with the documents of the Government Accountability Office entitled ''A Framework for Managing Improper Payments in Emergency Assistance Programs'' and ''A Framework for Managing Fraud Risks in Federal Programs''; and

(B) require plans for internal control of covered agencies to include—

(i) the identification of a senior official of the covered agency to be responsible and accountable for the implementation of the plan; and

(ii) policies and procedures to timely—

(I) assess the risks of improper payments and fraud relating to the implementation of any supplemental appropriation, or other increase in budget authority, that may be made available to the covered agency for a purpose relating to disaster relief or response to a public health or other emergency; and

(II) develop and implement appropriate responses to the risks described in subclause (I), including any changes to internal controls, to ensure that, to the greatest extent possible, appropriate controls are in place prior to the expenditure of funds.

(3) REVIEW.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which guidance is issued under paragraph (1), and not less frequently than once every 3 years thereafter, the Director shall review and, as necessary, revise the guidance.

(c) PLAN SUBMISSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the head of each covered agency head shall submit to the Director the plan of the covered agency required under the guidance issued under subsection (b)(1).

(2) REVISIONS.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which the head of a covered agency submits a plan under paragraph (1), and not less frequently than once every 3 years thereafter, the head of each covered agency shall—

(A) review and, if necessary, revise the plan of the covered agency; and

(B) submit to the Director any revised plan of the covered agency.

(3) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than annually thereafter, the Director shall submit to Congress, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives the plans submitted by covered agencies under this subsection.

(d) UNAVAILABILITY OF JUDICIAL REVIEW.—A determination, finding, action, or omission under this section by the Director or the head of a covered agency shall not be subject to judicial review.

(e) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated for the purpose of carrying out this section.

SA 3471. Mr. LANKFORD 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. _____. SAFEGUARDING THE TRANSPARENCY AND EFFICIENCY OF PAYMENTS.

(a) IMPROPER PAYMENTS.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 3351 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(i) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (8) as paragraphs (3) through (9), respectively; and

(ii) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

''(2) CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER.—The term 'chief financial officer' means—

''(A) with respect to an executive agency described in section 901(b), the Chief Financial Officer of the executive agency appointed under such section; and

''(B) with respect to an executive agency that is not described in section 901(b), the official serving as the senior executive responsible for managing the financial activities of the executive agency.''.

(B) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 3353(a)(4)(B) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(i) in clause (i), by striking ''section 3351(2)(B)'' and inserting ''section 3351(3)(B)'';

(ii) in clause (ii), by striking ''section 3351(2)(C)'' and inserting ''section 3351(3)(C)'';

(iii) in clause (iii), by striking ''section 3351(2)(D)'' and inserting ''section 3351(3)(D)''; and

(iv) in clause (vi), by striking ''section 3351(2)(A)'' and inserting ''section 3351(3)(A)''.

(2) ESTIMATES OF IMPROPER PAYMENTS AND REPORTS ON ACTIONS TO REDUCE IMPROPER PAYMENTS.—Section 3352 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in paragraph (3)—

(I) in subparagraph (B), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''paragraph (1)'' and inserting ''paragraph (1)(B)''; and

(II) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''paragraph (1)'' each place it appears and inserting ''paragraphs (1) and (4)''; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) NEW PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES.—In addition to the programs and activities identified under paragraph (1)(B) and subject to paragraph (5), the head of an executive agency shall annually identify as susceptible to significant improper payments any program or activity that—

''(A) has or is expected to have outlays exceeding $100,000,000 in any one of the first 3 fiscal years of operation; and

''(B) is in the first 4 years of operation.

''(5) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (4) shall not apply with respect to any program or activity that the head of the relevant executive agency concludes, based on the results of a review conducted under paragraph (1), is not susceptible to significant improper payments.'';

(B) in subsection (c)(1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''subsection (a)(1)'' and inserting ''paragraph (1) or (4) of subsection (a)''; and

(ii) by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

''(A) produce a statistically valid estimate of the improper payments made under the program or activity, or an estimate of such improper payments that is otherwise appropriate using a methodology approved by—

''(i) the Director of the Office of Management and Budget; and

''(ii) the chief financial officer of the executive agency; and

''(B) report the estimates described in subparagraph (A) in accordance with subsection (j).''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(j) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Any annual report required to be made by the head of an executive agency under this section shall—

''(1) be included in the materials accompanying the annual financial statement of the executive agency and, as required, in applicable guidance of the Office of Management and Budget; and

''(2) include a statement by the chief financial officer of the executive agency—

''(A) certifying the reliability of the executive agency's identification of programs and activities that may be susceptible to significant improper payments under subsection (a); and

''(B) describing the actions of the chief financial officer of the executive agency to monitor the development and implementation of any corrective action plans reported under subsection (d).''.

(3) FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROLS RELATING TO FRAUD AND IMPROPER PAYMENTS.—Section 3357 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

''(d) REPORTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For each fiscal year beginning in the first fiscal year after the date of enactment of the Safeguarding the Transparency and Efficiency of Payments Act, and in each of the following 9 fiscal years, the head of each agency shall submit to Congress, in the report containing the annual financial statement of the agency, a report—

''(A) on the progress of the agency in—

''(i) implementing—

''(I) the financial and administrative controls required to be established under subsection (c)(1);

''(II) the fraud risk principles in the Standards for Internal Control in the Federal Government of the Government Accountability Office; and

''(III) Circular A–123 of the Office of Management and Budget with respect to the leading practices for managing fraud risk;

''(ii) identifying fraud risks and vulnerabilities, including with respect to payroll, beneficiary payments, grants, large contracts, and purchase and travel cards; and

''(iii) establishing strategies, procedures, and other steps to curb fraud; and

''(B) that includes information on the status of implementing each of the 11 leading practices identified in the report published by the Government Accountability Office on July 28, 2015, entitled 'Framework for Managing Fraud Risks in Federal Programs'.

''(2) INFORMATION IN REPORT.—If the annual financial statement of an agency, or an alternative report of the agency included in the annual financial statement, includes information that fulfills the requirements of this subsection, the head of the agency may include a brief statement to that effect in the financial statement or alternative report without duplicating the information required under this subsection in a separate or standalone report.''.

(b) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated for the purpose of carrying out this section or the amendments made by this section.

SA 3472. Mr. LANKFORD 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. _____. CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICERS; GOVERNMENTWIDE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Improving Federal Financial Management Act''

(b) CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER AND DEPUTY CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER.—Chapter 9 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 902(a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''An'' and inserting ''It shall be the duty and responsibility of each agency Chief Financial Officer to oversee and provide leadership in the areas of budget formulation and execution, planning and performance, risk management, internal controls, financial systems, accounting, and other areas as the Director of the Office of Management and Budget may designate. In carrying out the preceding sentence, each'';

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (C), by inserting ''areas and'' before ''systems''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (D)—

(I) in clause (iii), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(II) in clause (iv), by striking ''performance;'' and inserting ''performance and integration of performance and cost information; and''; and

(III) by adding at the end the following:

''(v) annual agency financial statements prepared in accordance with United States generally accepted accounting principles;'';

(C) by redesignating paragraph (8) as paragraph (10);

(D) by redesignating paragraphs (5) through (7) as paragraphs (6) through (8), respectively;

(E) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

''(5) prepare, in consultation with financial management and other appropriate experts, an agency plan to implement the 4-year financial management plan prepared by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget under section 3512(a)(2) of this title and to achieve and sustain effective financial management in the agency, which shall—

''(A) be completed within 90 days of the issuance of a governmentwide plan under section 3512(a)(2) of this title;

''(B) be revised as determined necessary by the Chief Financial Officer;

''(C) include performance-based financial management metrics against which the financial management performance of the agency shall be assessed; and

''(D) be submitted upon completion or revision to the head of the agency, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Comptroller General, and appropriate committees of Congress, and be made publicly available;'';

(F) in paragraph (6), as so redesignated—

(i) by striking subparagraph (A);

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) through (E) as subparagraphs (A) through (D), respectively; and

(iii) in subparagraph (C), as so redesignated, by adding ''and'' at the end;

(G) in paragraph (7), as so redesignated—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget,'' and inserting '', the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Comptroller General, and appropriate committees of Congress, which shall be made publicly available and'';

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''agency;'' and inserting ''agency, including—

''(i) the progress of the agency in implementing the agency plan described in paragraph (5);

''(ii) the progress of the agency in implementing the governmentwide 4-year financial management plan prepared by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget under section 3512(a)(2) of this title; and

''(iii) the performance of the agency against financial management metrics established by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget;''; and

(iii) in subparagraph (D)—

(I) by striking ''of the reports'' and inserting ''of—

''(i) the reports'';

(II) in clause (i), as so designated, by striking ''the amendments made by the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982 (Public law 97–255); and'' and inserting ''section 3512(d) of this title;''; and

(III) by adding at the end the following:

''(ii) agency spending data published under the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note); and

''(iii) the reporting of the agency under the Federal Financial Management Improvement Act of 1996 (31 U.S.C. 3512 note); and'';

(H) in paragraph (8), as so redesignated—

(i) by striking ''monitor the'' and insert ''manage the formulation and''; and

(ii) by striking '', and prepare and submit to the head of the agency timely performance reports; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(I) by inserting after paragraph (8), as so redesignated, the following:

''(9) be responsible for linking performance and cost information, including the preparation and submission to the head of the agency of timely performance reports that incorporate cost information;'';

(J) in paragraph (10), as so redesignated—

(i) by inserting ''inflation and'' before ''costs''; and

(ii) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(K) by adding at the end the following:

''(11) coordinate with senior agency personnel, including the Chief Data Officer, Chief Information Officer, Chief Performance Officer, Chief Acquisition Officer, Chief Risk Officer, and Chief Evaluation Officer of the agency on—

''(A) the exercise of authorities under this subsection; and

''(B) the strategic planning, performance measurement and reporting, and risk management functions of the agency.''; and

(2) in section 903—

(A) in subsection (a), by inserting ''and who shall assist the agency Chief Financial Officer in the performance of each of the duties of the agency Chief Financial Officer under this chapter'' after ''matters''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(c) Notwithstanding subchapter III of chapter 33 of title 5, in the event of a vacancy in the position of Chief Financial Officer of an agency, the Deputy Chief Financial Officer of the agency shall serve as the acting Chief Financial Officer.''.

(c) GOVERNMENTWIDE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Section 3512 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''a financial management status report and a governmentwide 5-year financial management plan'' and inserting ''a governmentwide 4-year financial management plan and a financial management status report'';

(B) by striking paragraph (2);

(C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2);

(D) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking ''5-year'' and inserting ''4-year'';

(II) by striking ''shall describe'' and inserting the following: ''shall—

''(i) describe'';

(III) in clause (i), as so designated, by striking ''5 fiscal years to improve the financial management of the Federal Government.'' and inserting ''4 fiscal years to improve the financial management of the Federal Government in a manner that is strategic, comprehensive, and cost-effective; and''; and

(IV) by adding at the end the following:

''(ii) be developed in consultation with the Chief Financial Officers Council, the Chief Information Officers Council, the Chief Data Officer Council, the Chief Acquisition Officers Council, the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, the Government Accountability Office, and, as appropriate, other councils and financial management experts.''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''5-year'' and inserting ''4-year'';

(II) in clause (iii)—

(aa) by striking ''for developing'' and inserting ''for improving financial management systems, including—

''(I) developing''; and

(bb) by adding at the end the following:

''(II) linking performance and cost information to facilitate effective and efficient decision making;

''(III) eliminating duplicative and unnecessary systems and activities; and

''(IV) identifying opportunities for agencies to share systems and services and encouraging agencies to do so where practicable;'';

(III) by striking clause (iv);

(IV) by redesignating clause (v) as clause (iv);

(V) by inserting after clause (iv), as so redesignated, the following:

''(v) provide a strategy for reporting performance and cost information;'';

(VI) in clause (vi), by striking ''5-year'' and inserting ''4-year'';

(VII) in clause (vii), by striking ''identify'' and inserting ''provide a strategy for strengthening the Federal financial management workforce, including identification of'';

(VIII) in clause (viii), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(IX) by redesignating clause (ix) as clause (x);

(X) by inserting after clause (viii) the following:

''(ix) include comprehensive financial management performance-based metrics against which the financial management performance of executive agencies can be assessed; and''; and

(XI) in clause (x), as so redesignated, by striking ''5-year'' and inserting ''4-year'';

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

''(3) A financial management status report under this subsection shall include—

''(A) a description and analysis of the status of financial management in the executive branch, including the progress made towards implementing the governmentwide 4-year financial management plan, the status of remaining challenges, and, as necessary based on obligations or expenditures, any updates or revisions to the cost estimates included in the most recent governmentwide 4-year financial management plan;

''(B) a summary of the performance of agencies against the metrics developed and identified by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget in the governmentwide 4-year financial management plan;

''(C) a summary of the most recently completed financial statements—

''(i) of Federal agencies under section 3515 of this title; and

''(ii) of Government corporations;

''(D) a summary of the most recently completed financial statement audits and reports—

''(i) of Federal agencies under subsections (e) and (f) of section 3521 of this title; and

''(ii) of Government corporations;

''(E) a summary of reports on internal accounting and administrative control systems submitted to the President and Congress under subsection (d);

''(F) a listing of agencies whose financial management systems do not comply substantially with the requirements of section 803(a) of the Federal Financial Management Improvement Act of 1996 (31 U.S.C. 3512 note), and a summary statement of the efforts underway to remedy the noncompliance; and

''(G) any other information the Director considers appropriate to fully inform Congress regarding the financial management of the Federal Government.'';

(F) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking ''15 months after the date of the enactment of this subsection'' and inserting ''6 months after the date of enactment of the Improving Federal Financial Management Act''; and

(II) by striking ''5-year'' and inserting ''4-year''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in clause (i)—

(aa) by striking ''Not later than January 31 of each year thereafter'' and inserting ''At a minimum, concurrently with the submission of the budget of the United States Government under section 1105(a) of this title made in the first full fiscal year following any year in which the term of the President commences under section 101 of title 3'';

(bb) by striking ''financial management status report and a revised governmentwide 5-year'' and inserting ''governmentwide 4-year''; and

(cc) by striking ''5 fiscal years'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ''4 fiscal years.''; and

(II) in clause (ii)—

(aa) by striking ''revised governmentwide 5-year'' and inserting ''governmentwide 4-year''; and

(bb) by striking ''paragraph (3)(B)(viii)'' and inserting ''paragraph (2)(B)(viii)''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) Each year, concurrently with the submission of the budget of the United States Government under section 1105(a) of this title, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress and the Comptroller General a financial management status report.''; and

(G) by striking paragraph (5);

(2) in subsection (d)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) a separate report on the results of the assessment and conclusion required under subsection (e)(2).'';

(3) by redesignating subsections (e), (f), and (g) as subsections (f), (g), and (h), respectively; and

(4) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

''(e) The head of each executive agency shall—

''(1) in establishing the internal accounting and administrative controls under subsection (c), identify the key financial management information needed for effective financial management and decision making; and

''(2) annually assess and make a conclusion on the effectiveness of the internal controls of the executive agency over financial reporting and key financial management information identified under paragraph (1).''.

(d) AUDITS BY AGENCIES.—Section 3521 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (e)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and adjusting the margins accordingly;

(B) by striking ''(e) Each financial'' and inserting ''(e)(1) Each financial'';

(C) in paragraph (1), as so designated, by striking ''standards—'' and inserting ''standards.''; and

(D) by inserting after paragraph (1), as so designated, the following:

''(2) As part of each audit under this subsection, the auditor shall—

''(A) evaluate the design of the internal control of the agency over financial reporting and key financial information, as assessed and reported on by the head of the agency under section 3512(d)(2)(C) of this title;

''(B) determine whether those controls have been implemented;

''(C) for controls that are properly designed and implemented, perform sufficient tests of those controls to conclude whether the controls are operating effectively, including sufficient tests to support a low level of assessed control risk; and

''(D) communicate controls that the auditor concludes are not suitably designed and implemented or are not operating effectively, as appropriate under applicable generally accepted government auditing standards.

''(3) Audits under this subsection shall be conducted—''; and

(2) in subsection (h), by striking ''section 3512(a)(3)(B)(viii)'' and inserting ''section 3512(a)(2)(B)(viii)''.

(e) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3348(e) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by adding ''or'' at the end;

(2) by striking paragraph (4); and

(3) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (4).

SA 3473. Mr. LANKFORD 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. PILOT PROGRAM FOR PROPERTY ACQUISITIONS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

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

(3) COVERED COMMUNITY.—The term ''covered community'' means a local government determined by the Administrator to be able to meet relevant Federal and State statutory and regulatory requirements for hazard mitigation assistance—

(A) with limited assistance from the State in which the local government is located; and

(B) for which the Administrator received positive feedback from the State in which the local government is located relating to eligibility for the pilot program.

(4) LOCAL GOVERNMENT; STATE.—The terms ''local government'' and ''State'' have the meanings given those terms in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122).

(5) PILOT PROGRAM.—The term ''pilot program'' means the pilot program established under subsection (b).

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator shall carry out a pilot program under which covered communities may directly apply to the Administrator for hazard mitigation assistance for the purposes of property acquisition and structure demolition or relocation assistance under section 404(b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170c(b)).

(c) SELECTION.—

(1) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining whether a local government is a covered community for purposes of the pilot program, the Administrator shall—

(A) consult with the State in which the local government is located before determining the suitability of the local government for the pilot program; and

(B) provide a written justification to the local government and the State in which the local government is located for selecting or not selecting the local government for the pilot program, which shall be based on—

(i) the prior performance and current processes of the local government relating to property acquisitions and other hazard mitigation projects;

(ii) the level of need in the local government in conducting or completing future or ongoing property acquisition and structure demolition or relocation assistance projects;

(iii) the risks posed to the local government by inclement weather; and

(iv) such other matters as the Administrator determines relevant.

(2) CRITERIA.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall select not more than 2 local governments from each Federal Emergency Management Agency region to participate in the pilot program.

(B) LIMITATION.—Not more than 1 local government shall be selected from a State within a Federal Emergency Management Agency region.

(C) FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall publish in the Federal Register a notice detailing the requirements for local governments seeking to participate in the pilot program.

(3) LENGTH OF PARTICIPATION.—A covered community may not participate in the pilot program for a period of more than 48 months.

(d) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Administrator shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an annual report on the effectiveness of the pilot program, which shall include—

(1) a summary of the relevant characteristics of covered communities selected for the pilot program, including relevant demographic information, the number of properties in the covered community participating in the National Flood Insurance Program, and whether each covered community was frequently impacted by other, non-flooding-related major disasters;

(2) a determination of whether the pilot program significantly expedited the property acquisition process of the Federal Emergency Management Agency in covered communities that participated in the pilot program;

(3) an evaluation of the problems, or potential problems, caused or likely to be caused by permanently allowing covered communities to directly apply for hazard mitigation assistance for the purposes of property acquisition and structure demolition or relocation assistance under section 404(b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170c(b)), which shall be informed by—

(A) feedback from covered communities participating in the pilot program;

(B) the States in which the covered communities participating in the pilot program are located; and

(C) such other factors as the Administrator determines relevant; and

(4) an evaluation of whether the pilot program should be made permanent, ended, or extended for a certain period of time.

(e) TERMINATION.—The pilot program shall terminate not later than 8 years after the date on which the Administrator selects the covered communities for participation in the pilot program under subsection (c)(2).

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the pilot program.

SA 3474. Mr. LANKFORD 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. _____. PROMOTING OPPORTUNITIES TO WIDEN ELECTRICAL RESILIENCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 403 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170b) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) ELECTRIC UTILITIES.—

''(1) HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIVITIES.—An electric utility may carry out cost-effective hazard mitigation activities jointly or otherwise in combination with activities for the restoration of power carried out with assistance provided under this section.

''(2) ELIGIBILITY FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE.—In any case in which an electric utility facility receives assistance under this section for the emergency restoration of power, the receipt of such assistance shall not render such facility ineligible for any hazard mitigation assistance under section 406 for which such facility is otherwise eligible.''.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall only apply to amounts appropriated on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 3475. Mr. LANKFORD 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. GUIDANCE CLARITY STATEMENT REQUIRED.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—Each agency, as defined in section 551 of title 5, United States Code, shall include a guidance clarity statement as described in subsection (b) on any guidance issued by that agency under section 553(b)(4)(A) of title 5, United States Code, on and after the date that is 30 days after the date on which the Director of the Office of Management and Budget issues the guidance required under subsection (c).

(b) GUIDANCE CLARITY STATEMENT.—A guidance clarity statement required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) be displayed prominently on the first page of the document; and

(2) include the following: ''The contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and do not, of themselves, bind the public or the agency. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.''.

(c) OMB GUIDANCE.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall issue guidance to implement this Act.

SA 3476. Mr. LANKFORD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title X, add the following:

Subtitle I—Joint Cargo Scanning

SECTION 1091. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Strengthening Security Through Joint Cargo Scanning Act''.

SEC. 1092. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Finance of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(E) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives;

(F) the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives;

(G) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(H) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

SEC. 1093. COLLABORATION INVOLVING SCANNED IMAGES FROM CERTAIN PORTS OF ENTRY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State, may establish, pursuant to a bilateral agreement with a foreign government, a 5-year pilot program to improve border security in the United States through the analysis of manifest data and images of cargo and conveyances captured by non-intrusive scanning technologies deployed at designated foreign ports of entry.

(b) PILOT PARTICIPANTS.—The pilot program may be staffed by approved law enforcement officers from—

(1) U.S. Customs and Border Protection;
(2) U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement;
(3) any other Federal law enforcement agency, as appropriate, that has been designated as a pilot program participant by the Secretary; and
(4) appropriate law enforcement agencies of foreign government that are members of a vetted unit established by the United States Government.

(c) PILOT LOCATION.—The United States Government, to the greatest extent practicable, shall carry out the analysis function of the pilot program authorized under subsection (a) at the National Targeting Center operated by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

(d) MANIFEST DATA.—To the greatest extent practicable, the pilot shall allow for the sharing of manifest data from the designated foreign ports of entry with U.S. Customs and Border Protection for the purpose of carrying out the pilot program authorized under subsection (a).

(e) PROHIBITION ON FOREIGN PARTICIPATION.—The pilot program authorized under subsection (a) shall require participating foreign governments to prohibit—
(1) the handling of, access to, and analysis of any manifest data or images generated from non-intrusive inspection technologies by any law enforcement officer of the foreign government;
(2) the processing of data to carry out the pilot program through any hardware or software that does not meet the requirements established by the Secretary.
(3) the acquisition of hardware, software, or commercial off-the-shelf solutions by the United States Government or a participating foreign government that is produced by any entity designated on the entity list administered by the Bureau of Industry and Security at the Department of Commerce.

(f) PARTICIPATING PORTS OF ENTRY.—The pilot program authorized under subsection (a) shall designate 5 ports of entry in the participating foreign country through which cargo and conveyances are transported from a participating foreign country to the United States, including at least 1 international rail crossing and 2 land ports of entry.

(g) PRIVACY, CIVIL RIGHTS, AND CIVIL LIBERTIES.—The Secretary, or the designee of the Secretary, shall specify training requirements for all United States Government personnel who participate in the pilot program authorized under subsection (a) to guarantee the protection of civil rights, civil liberties, and privacy of all individuals within the jurisdiction of the United States, in accordance with Federal law.

(h) QUARTERLY CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFINGS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 90 days thereafter, the Secretary, or the Secretary's designee, shall brief the appropriate congressional committees regarding the implementation of this Act.

(i) BILATERAL AGREEMENT.—
(1) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 30 days after the execution of any bilateral agreement to carry out the pilot program established pursuant to subsection (a), the Secretary, or the Secretary's designee, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees—
(A) an unredacted copy of such agreement; and
(B) a written description of the elements and scope of the pilot program.
(2) BRIEFING.—Not later than 7 days after submitting the report required under paragraph (1), the Secretary, or the Secretary's designee, shall brief the appropriate congressional committees regarding the implementation of the agreement referred to in paragraph (1).
(3) FORM.—The agreement and written description contained in the report submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) and the briefing provided pursuant to paragraph (2) may be in classified form to protect national security or to comply with any applicable Federal law.

(j) SEMIANNUAL REPORT.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter while the pilot program established pursuant to subsection (a) is operational, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that includes, with respect to the reporting period—
(A) the number of United States Government law enforcement personnel who are authorized to participate in the pilot program, disaggregated by Federal department or agency;
(B) the name and type of ports of entry that are authorized participate in the pilot program;
(C) the total amount of cargo and conveyances flowing through the ports of entry that are authorized to participate in the pilot program, disaggregated by—
(i) the direction of travel (whether into the United States from a participating foreign country or away from the United States to a participating foreign country); and
(ii) by port of entry;
(D) the total number and percentage of total cargo and conveyances that were scanned by non-intrusive inspection technology at ports of entry authorized to participate in the pilot program, disaggregated by port of entry;
(E) the total number and percentage of manifests and underlying manifest data analyzed by law enforcement personnel under the pilot program;
(F) the number of identified anomalies in the images generated by non-intrusive inspection technologies at ports of entry authorized to participate in the pilot program, disaggregated by port of entry;
(G) the number of anomalies in the manifests and underlying manifest data analyzed by law enforcement personnel under the pilot program, disaggregated by originating port of entry of such cargo and conveyance;
(H) the total number of seizures of contraband, persons seeking to unlawfully enter the United States, or illicitly concealed merchandise, including illicit drugs or terrorist weapons, resulting from the analysis of images captured by non-intrusive inspection technologies at a participating port of entry under the pilot program, disaggregated by originating port of entry; and
(I) the total number of seizures of contraband, persons seeking to unlawfully enter the United States, or illicitly concealed merchandise, including illicit drugs or terrorist weapons, resulting from the analysis of manifest data by law enforcement personnel of a participating foreign country, disaggregated by originating port of entry.
(2) FORM.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in an unclassified format, but may include a classified annex.

(k) ASSESSMENT.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the termination of the pilot program established pursuant to subsection (a), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees containing an assessment of the pilot program, including—
(A) the methodology used by the Secretary and the participating foreign government to identify participating ports of entry;
(B) whether the pilot program strengthened the border security of the United States;
(C) whether the pilot program increased the interdiction of contraband, persons seeking to unlawfully enter the United States, or illicitly concealed merchandise, including illicit drugs or terrorist weapons at participating ports of entry;
(D) any security concerns regarding the deployment of any United States Government-owned hardware or software assets in the participating foreign country;
(E) any security concerns regarding the access to data under the pilot program by participating foreign government law enforcement personnel;
(F) whether the pilot program meaningfully increased throughput at participating ports of entry;
(G) the impact of the pilot program on United States businesses and foreign businesses that carry out international trade at participating ports of entry;
(H) whether additional measures could ensure that the pilot program facilitates the seizure of contraband, persons seeking to unlawfully enter the United States, or illicitly concealed merchandise, including illicit drugs or terrorist weapons, at participating ports of entry; and
(I) whether additional measures could ensure that the pilot program mitigates any impacts referred to in subparagraph (G).
(2) ACCESS TO DATA.—The Comptroller General shall have ongoing access to any data necessary to complete the assessment required under paragraph (1) on time.
(3) QUARTERLY BRIEFINGS BY COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—Not less frequently than once every 90 days while the pilot program is operational, the Comptroller General, or the Comptroller General's designee, shall brief the appropriate congressional committees regarding the progress towards completing the assessment required under paragraph (1).

SA 3477. Mr. LANKFORD 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. EARLY MIGRATION ALERT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle D of title IV of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 251 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 448. EARLY MIGRATION ALERT PROGRAM.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Department a program to be known as the 'Early Migration Alert Program' (referred to in this section as 'EMAP').

''(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of EMAP are—

''(1) to lead the Department's dissemination of information relating to the movement and release of aliens into the United States; and

''(2) to formalize partnerships with regional stakeholders to integrate, analyze, and disseminate information relating to the movement and release of aliens into the United States.

''(c) INFORMATION SHARING.—

''(1) PROVISION OF INFORMATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 24 hours before releasing an alien into the United States, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Commissioner of U.S.

Customs and Border Protection and the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, shall provide to State, local, Tribal, and territorial government personnel in the relevant jurisdiction information relating to the number of such aliens to be released, the number of such aliens with known criminal histories, the initial destinations of such aliens, and the final destinations where such aliens intend to settle.

''(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in subparagraph (A) may be construed to require U.S. Customs and Border Protection or U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to detain an alien any longer than required by law.

''(2) ELECTRONIC MAIL NOTIFICATION SERVICE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, shall take such actions as are necessary to develop an electronic mail notification system and a list of State, local, Tribal, and territorial government personnel who may receive information under paragraph (1).

''(B) DELIVERY.—Information under paragraph (1) may be provided via the electronic mail notification system under subparagraph (A) only if a verified official government email address of the receiving jurisdiction is on file with EMAP.

''(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect and apply with respect to any alien who is apprehended or released on or after the date of the enactment of this section.

''(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated $400,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 and 2027 to carry out this section.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 447 the following new item:

''Sec. 448. Early Migration Alert Program.''.

SA 3478. Mr. LANKFORD 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. _____. ASSESSMENT OF AND REPORT ON COAST GUARD CAPABILITIES FOR SECURING MARITIME BORDER.

(a) ASSESSMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant of the Coast Guard (referred to this section as the ''Commandant''), in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of Defense, shall conduct an assessment of the current and future capabilities of the Coast Guard for executing the Coast Guard's homeland security, defense, and intelligence missions relating to securing the maritime border of the United States.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The assessment required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) An identification of the resources necessary to carry out the homeland security, defense, and intelligence missions of the Coast Guard relating to securing the maritime border of the United States, including personnel, equipment, technology, supplies, storage, and maintenance needs.

(B) A review of the capabilities of the Coast Guard with respect to such missions, including—

(i) in the air, land, sea, and cyber domains; and

(ii) with respect to the intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance abilities of the Coast Guard.

(C) A description of any capability gap or shortfall that affects, or will affect, the ability of the Coast Guard to secure the maritime border of the United States.

(D) A discussion of any acquisition challenge that contributes to such a gap or shortfall.

(E) A review of the interoperability of Coast Guard capabilities with systems, platforms, and programs of the Navy, including an assessment as to whether increased such interoperability would improve the ability of the Coast Guard to secure the maritime border.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the findings of the assessment conducted under subsection (a) that includes—

(A) an identification of any capability gap with respect to executing the mission of the Coast Guard to secure the maritime border of the United States; and

(B) any concern or other matter the Commandant considers appropriate.

(2) FORM.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form but, to the extent required to ensure accuracy and completeness, may include a classified annex.

(c) BRIEFING.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the report required by subsection (b) is submitted, and annually thereafter, the Commandant shall provide the appropriate committees of Congress with a briefing on the steps the Commandant is taking to address any capability gap or concern identified in the report.

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

(1) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Armed Services; and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

SA 3479. Mr. LANKFORD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title X, add the following:

Subtitle I—Border Drone Threat Assessment

SEC. 1091. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Border Drone Threat Assessment Act''

SEC. 1092. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration.

(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

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

(D) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

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

(F) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(G) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives;

(H) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives;

(I) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives;

(J) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives;

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

(L) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives; and

(M) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(3) AT OR NEAR THE INTERNATIONAL BORDERS OF THE UNITED STATES.—The term ''at or near the international borders of the United States'' means at or within 100 air miles of an international land border or coastal border of the United States.

(4) COMMANDER.—The term ''Commander'' means the Commander of the United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM).

(5) DIRECTOR.—The term ''Director'' means the Director of National Intelligence.

(6) FOREIGN MALIGN INFLUENCE.—The term ''foreign malign influence'' has the meaning given such term in section 119B(f) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3059(f)).

(7) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The term ''intelligence community'' has the meaning given such term in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003).

(8) MALIGN ACTOR.—The term ''malign actor'' means any individual, group, or organization that is engaged in foreign malign influence, illicit drug trafficking, or other forms of transnational organized crime.

(9) TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME.—The term ''transnational organized crime'' has the meaning given such term in section 284(i) of title 10, United States Code.

(10) UNDER SECRETARY.—The term ''Under Secretary'' means the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security.

(11) UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.—The term ''Under Secretary of Defense'' means the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security.

(12) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT; UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM.—The terms ''unmanned aircraft'' and ''unmanned aircraft system'' have the meanings given such terms in section 44801 of title 49, United States Code.

SEC. 1093. THREAT ASSESSMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Commander, the Director, the Under Secretary, the Administrator, and the heads of the other elements of the intelligence community, shall complete an assessment of the threat regarding unmanned aircraft systems at or near the international borders of the United States.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The threat assessment required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a description of the malign actors operating unmanned aircraft systems at or near the international borders of the United States, including malign actors who cross such borders;

(2) a description of how a threat is identified and assessed at or near the international

borders of the United States, including a description of the capabilities of the United States Government to detect and identify unmanned aircraft systems operated by, or on behalf of, malign actors;

(3) a description of the data and information collected by operators of unmanned aircraft systems at or near the international borders of the United States, including how such data is used by malign actors;

(4) a description of the tactics, techniques, and procedures used at or near the international borders of the United States by malign actors with regards to unmanned aircraft systems, including how unmanned aircraft systems are acquired, modified, and utilized to conduct malicious activities, including attacks, surveillance, conveyance of contraband, and other forms of threats;

(5) a description of the guidance, policies, and procedures that address the privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties of persons who lawfully operate unmanned aircraft systems at or near the international borders of the United States;

(6) a description of the capabilities of the United States Government to counter, contain, trace, defeat, or otherwise mitigate threats from unmanned aircraft systems operated by malign actors at or near the international borders of the United States;

(7) an assessment of whether the capabilities of the United States Government are sufficient for achieving complete air domain awareness at or near the international borders of the United States; and

(8) an assessment of the adequacy of current authorities of the United States Government to counter the use of unmanned aircraft systems by malign actors at or near the international borders of the United States, including an accounting of the delineated responsibilities of Federal agencies to counter, contain, trace, or defeat unmanned aircraft systems at or near the international borders of the United States.

SEC. 1094. REPORT AND BRIEFING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after completing the threat assessment required under section 2092, the Under Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Commander, the Director, the Under Secretary, and the Administrator, shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees containing findings with respect to such assessment.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a detailed description of the threats posed to the national security of the United States by unmanned aircraft systems operated by malign actors at or near the international borders of the United States;

(2) a summary of the current responsibilities, authorities, regulations, policies, and procedures of the United States Government for achieving air domain awareness at and near the international borders of the United States and countering and defeating unmanned aircraft systems used by malign actors along such borders; and

(3) an assessment of whether a change in authorities or additional authorities or resources are necessary to achieve complete air domain awareness at or near international borders of the United States and to counter and defeat unmanned aircraft systems used by malign actors along such borders.

(c) FORM.—The report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex, as appropriate.

(d) BRIEFING.—Not later than 90 days after the submission of the report required under subsection (a), the Under Secretary of Defense shall provide a briefing regarding the report to the appropriate congressional committees.

SA 3480. Mr. LANKFORD 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. ELECTRONIC VISA UPDATE SYSTEM AUTHORIZATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall operate and maintain the electronic visa update system established under the final rule of the Department of Homeland Security entitled ''Establishment of the Electronic Visa Update System (EVUS)'' (81 Fed. Reg. 203 (October 20, 2016)) (referred to in this section as the ''System'') for the purpose of collecting from each designated alien such biographical, travel, and other information as the Secretary considers necessary.

(b) DESIGNATION OF NONIMMIGRANT CATEGORIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall designate 1 or more nonimmigrant categories the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.) for purposes of participation in the System by designated aliens.

(2) CRITERIA.—In determining whether to designate a nonimmigrant category under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall take into consideration the following:

(A) The rate by which nonimmigrants in such category overstay their visas.

(B) The rate by which nonimmigrants in such category comply with the requirements of their visas.

(C) The national security interests and public safety of the United States.

(3) NOTICE.—On designation of a nonimmigrant category under this subsection, the Secretary shall publish notice of the designation in the Federal Register.

(c) DESIGNATION OF COUNTRIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall designate 1 or more countries for purposes of participation in the System by designated aliens if such country—

(A) has a visa overstay rate that exceeds the rate established pursuant to subparagraph (C) of section 217(c)(8) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1187(c)(8)) or a visa refusal rate that exceeds the criteria described in subparagraph (A) of that section; and

(B) is not a member of the visa waiver program under section 217 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1187).

(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining whether to designate a country under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall take into consideration the following:

(A) The number and validity period of United States visas issued to nationals of such country.

(B) Any public safety or national security threat posed by nationals of such country to the United States.

(C) With respect to citizens of the United States who are present in such country pursuant to nonimmigrant visas, or the equivalent, issued by such country, any requirement that such citizens share biographical, travel, or other information with the government of such country.

(D) With respect to nationals of such country who have been ordered removed from the United States, the number of such nationals such country has refused to accept or with respect to whom has unreasonably delayed the return.

(3) PUBLICATION.—On designation of a country under this subsection, the Secretary shall publish notice of the designation in the Federal Register.

(d) REQUIRED USE OF SYSTEM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (6), a designated alien shall—

(A) not later than 5 days after the date on which a nonimmigrant visa is issued to the designated alien, enroll in the System; and

(B) not more frequently than every 180 days, as required by the Secretary, submit to the System—

(i) such biographical, travel, and other information as the Secretary may require; and

(ii) a copy of the designated alien's passport or other government-issued document establishing the citizenship or nationality of the designated alien.

(2) OTHER SUBMISSIONS.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1)(B), the Secretary may, at any time, require a designated alien to submit the items described in clauses (i) and (ii) of that paragraph if the Secretary determines that such submission is required due to the discovery of new derogatory information regarding such designated alien or if the submission of such items is in the national security interests of the United States.

(3) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register notice of—

(A) the requirements for the submission of information under paragraph (1), including—

(i) associated timelines; and

(ii) a list of circumstances in which a designated alien shall be required to update information in the System; and

(B) any updates to such requirements.

(4) NOTICE OF COMPLIANCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a designated alien who has complied with paragraph (1)(A), the Secretary shall ensure that, not less than 72 hours after the time at which the designated alien so complied, the designated alien receives a confirmation of compliance.

(B) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall establish, by regulation, procedures requiring a designated alien to timely submit to a carrier traveling to the United States a notice of compliance before the designated alien may board the carrier.

(5) EFFECT OF NONCOMPLIANCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 15 days after making a finding of noncompliance, the Secretary shall issue a notice of noncompliance to, and revoke the visa of, a designated alien who—

(i) fails to comply with paragraph (1), except to the extent provided in subparagraph (B)(i);

(ii) submits fraudulent information under that paragraph; or

(iii) remains in the United States after the date on which the designated alien's period of authorized stay or visa validity period has expired.

(B) SUBMISSION OF INACCURATE INFORMATION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a designated alien who is issued a notice of noncompliance under subparagraph (A)(i) due to submission of inaccurate information—

(I) the Secretary shall—

(aa) issue to the designated alien a notice of noncompliance;

(bb) revoke the visa of the designated alien; and

(cc) provide the designated alien with an opportunity to correct the inaccurate information; and

(II) not later than 14 days after the date of issuance of the notice of noncompliance, the

designated alien may correct the inaccurate information concerned.

(ii) RESCISSION OF REVOCATION.—The Secretary may rescind a revocation under clause (i) if the designated alien corrects, to the satisfaction of the Secretary, the inaccurate information submitted to the System.

(C) DATE OF ISSUANCE OF NOTICE OF NONCOMPLIANCE.—For purposes of this paragraph, a notice of noncompliance shall be considered to be issued to a designated alien on the date on which such notice is sent to the last known address of the designated alien.

(6) TRANSITION PERIOD.—In the case of an alien admitted to the United States in a nonimmigrant category that is subsequently designated under subsection (b) after the alien's date of admission or in the case of an alien admitted to the United States in a nonimmigrant category designated under subsection (b) who holds a passport from a country that is subsequently designated under subsection (c) after the alien's date of admission, such alien shall enroll in the System not later than the earlier of—

(A) the date that is 60 days after the date of the applicable designation; or

(B) 5 days after the date on which half of the alien's period of authorized stay remains.

(e) FEES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(A) charge designated aliens a fee for the use of the System; and

(B) not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, commence assessment and collection of such fee.

(2) AMOUNT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The fee charged under paragraph (1) shall be not less than $10.00 for each use of the System.

(B) ADJUSTMENT.—The Secretary—

(i) may adjust such fee to ensure recovery of the full direct costs to the Department of Homeland Security of operating and maintaining the System; and

(ii) not less than 30 days before the effective date of any such adjustment, shall publish in the Federal Register notice of the adjustment.

(3) ACCOUNT FOR COLLECTIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, there is established in the Treasury of the United States a separate account, to be known as the ''Electronic Visa Update System Account'', into which amounts collected under this subsection shall be deposited and made exclusively available for expenses incurred by the Department of Homeland Security in carrying out this section. Amounts so credited shall remain available until expended, without fiscal year limitation, and shall be available in addition to any other appropriated funds.

(f) REPORTS.—

(1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that contains the following:

(A) The number of aliens who have received a notification of compliance under the final rule of the Department of Homeland Security entitled ''Establishment of the Electronic Visa Update System (EVUS)'' (81 Fed. Reg. 203 (October 20, 2016)) since the date on which such final rule was issued.

(B) The number of aliens who have received a notification of noncompliance under such final rule.

(C) The number of aliens who received such a notification of noncompliance but whose visa was not revoked.

(D) The number of aliens who—

(i) received such a notification of noncompliance; but

(ii) were permitted to board a carrier traveling to the United States or were admitted to the United States.

(E) The number of aliens subject to such final rule who did not timely depart the United States on or before the date on which their period of authorized stay or visa validity period expires.

(2) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that contains, for each of the most recent 5 fiscal years, the following:

(A) An identification of the countries and nonimmigrant visa categories that have been designated under this section.

(B) The number of designated aliens who have received a notification of compliance under this section.

(C) The number of designated aliens who have received a notification of noncompliance under this section.

(D) The number of designated aliens who have received such a notification of noncompliance but whose visa was not revoked.

(E) The number of designated aliens who—

(i) have received such a notification of noncompliance; but

(ii) were permitted to board a carrier traveling to the United States or were admitted to the United States.

(F) The number of designated aliens who did not timely depart the United States on or before the date on which their period of authorized stay or visa validity period expires.

(g) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed as affecting Department of Homeland Security or Department of State regulations relating to the System that is in effect as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise specifically provided, any term used in this section that is used in the immigration laws shall have the meaning given such term in the immigration laws.

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

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(3) DESIGNATED ALIEN.—The term ''designated alien'' means an alien who—

(A) has been issued a visa for admission to the United States as a nonimmigrant in a nonimmigrant category designated by the Secretary under subsection (b); or

(B) holds a passport, issued by a country designated under subsection (c), that contains such a visa.

(4) IMMIGRATION LAWS.—The term ''immigration laws'' has the meaning given such term in section 101(a)(17) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(17)).

(5) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

SA 3481. Mr. LANKFORD 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 VII, insert the following:

SEC. 7___. CONSCIENCE PROTECTIONS FOR MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES WHO PROVIDE OR ASSIST WITH PROVISION OF HEALTH CARE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall not take any adverse action against a member of the Armed Forces who provides or assists in the provision of health care for the Department of Defense (including as a behavioral, mental, or physical health professional) on the basis that such member declines to perform, assist, refer for, or otherwise participate in a particular medical procedure, counseling activity, or course of treatment because of a sincere religious belief or moral conviction of such member or because the particular medical procedure, counseling activity, or course of treatment would, in the professional medical judgment of such member, be harmful to the patient.

(b) NO IMPACT ON CARE.—The Secretary shall ensure that no patient is unduly delayed in receiving any medically indicated care they are otherwise eligible to receive, including preventative, emergency, and routine care, because of compliance by the Secretary with subsection (a).

(c) ADVERSE ACTION DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''adverse action'' includes any adverse personnel action, discrimination, or denial of promotion, schooling, training, or assignment.

SA 3482. Mr. LANKFORD 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 XI, insert the following:

SEC. ____. DEFINITION OF DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASE FACILITY FOR PURPOSES OF DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY.

Section 1125(c) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (10 U.S.C. 1580 note prec.; Public Law 114–328) is amended by inserting ''and includes supporting units of a facility at an installation or base'' after ''United States''.

SA 3483. Mr. MCCORMICK 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:

Strike section 1012 and insert the following:

SEC. 1012. LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS IN THE NATIONAL DEFENSE SEALIFT FUND TO PURCHASE CERTAIN USED FOREIGN CONSTRUCTED VESSELS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2218 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting ''(other than an excluded vessel)'' after ''any used vessel'';

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting ''(other than an excluded vessel)'' after ''a used vessel'';

(iii) by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following new subparagraph (C):

''(C) The Secretary may only use the authority under this paragraph to purchase more than 10 foreign-constructed vessels if, for each such vessel so purchased after the tenth vessel, the Secretary purchases two vessels under paragraph (4).'';

(iv) in subparagraph (D), by striking ''subparagraph (A)'' and inserting ''this paragraph''; and

(v) by striking subparagraph (E) and redesignating subparagraphs (F) and (G) as subparagraphs (E) and (F), respectively; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph (4):

''(4) A vessel purchased under this paragraph is a vessel—

''(A) purchased using funds in the National Defense Sealift Fund;

''(B) constructed in a ship yard located in the United States; and

''(C) the construction of which is managed by a commercial vessel construction manager.''; and

(2) in subsection (k), by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(6) The term 'excluded vessel' means a vessel that was—

''(A) constructed or substantially modified by an entity located in the People's Republic of China; or

''(B) constructed by a Chinese military company, as such term is defined in section 1260H(d)(1) of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116–283; 10 U.S.C. 113 note).''.

(b) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.—Section 2218 of title 10, United States Code, as amended by subsection (a), is further amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(1)(D), by striking ''section 11 of the Merchant Ship Sales Act of 1946 (50 U.S.C. 4405)'' and inserting ''section 57100 of title 46'';

(2) in subsection (f)(2), by striking ''section 1424(b) of Public Law 101–510 (104 Stat. 1683)'' and inserting ''section 1424(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1991 (Public Law 101–510; 10 U.S.C. 8661 note)''; and

(3) in subsection (k)—

(A) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking ''section 1424 of Public Law 101–510 (104 Stat. 1683)'' and inserting ''section 1424 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1991 (Public Law 101–510; 10 U.S.C. 8661 note)''; and

(B) in paragraph (3)(B), by striking ''section 11 of the Merchant Ship Sales Act of 1946 (50 U.S.C. 4405)'' and inserting ''section 57100 of title 46''.

SA 3484. Mr. KELLY (for himself and Mr. CORNYN) 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 IX, add the following:

SEC. 923. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE TO REVIEW TECHNOLOGIES, PROCESSES, AND INVESTMENT RELATED TO COMBINED JOINT ALL-DOMAIN COMMAND AND CONTROL.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Defense may establish a subcommittee (referred to in this section as the ''Subcommittee'') under the board of advisors established pursuant to section 233 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116–283; 10 U.S.C. 4001 note) to review technologies to achieve combined joint all-domain command and control.

(b) MEMBERS.—The Subcommittee shall consist of a subset of the members of the board of advisors described in subsection (a).

(c) AREAS OF REVIEW.—The Subcommittee may review the following:

(1) Processes for integrating joint effects chains to support priority operational challenges.

(2) Data architectures, including potential roles for artificial intelligence and machine learning technologies.

(3) Methods for achieving a platform-agnostic joint common operating picture through data accessibility, interoperability, and integration into combatant command workflows, to assist the incorporation of commercial communications technologies.

(4) Networking technologies, including potential roles for artificial intelligence and machine learning.

(5) Enterprise and edge cloud technologies.

(6) Interoperability technologies, including software programs like the System-of-Systems Technology Integration Tool Chain for Heterogeneous Electronic Systems (commonly referred to as ''STITCHES'').

(7) Interoperability technologies to integrate vehicles out of the Replicator project with relevant battle networks.

(8) Any other matters determined relevant by the Secretary of Defense.

(d) TERMINATION.—The Subcommittee shall terminate on December 31, 2029.

SA 3485. Mr. REED 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. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act or any other Act may be used to enter into a settlement agreement, consent decree, or other agreement in a civil action that would affect the classification or regulation of, or otherwise preclude enforcement of the law with regard to, any device that meets the definition of the term ''firearm'' under section 5845 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

SA 3486. Mr. REED 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. ___. EMPLOYEES FOR NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION ACTIVITIES.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds provided to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration by this Act or any other Act for any fiscal year shall be used to maintain not fewer than the number of full-time permanent Federal employees employed on September 30, 2024, for carrying out activities of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

SA 3487. Mr. MORAN (for himself and Ms. ROSEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title III, add the following:

SEC. 350. EXPANSION OF AUTHORITY OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FOR INTERGOVERNMENTAL SUPPORT AGREEMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2679 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (4), by striking ''provided in subsection (a)'' and inserting ''under paragraph (1)''; and

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

''(5) In entering into or carrying out an intergovernmental support agreement under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned or the State, local, or tribal government, as the case may be, may agree to partner or collaborate with another Federal agency or agencies to provide, receive, or share installation-support services.'';

(2) in subsection (c), by striking the first sentence and inserting the following: ''To pay the costs of installation-support services under an intergovernmental support agreement under this section, the Secretary concerned may use funds available to the Secretary concerned for operation and maintenance, research, development, test, and evaluation, procurement of ammunition, or military construction and may use non-appropriated funds available to the Secretary concerned.'';

(3) in subsection (e)(4), by striking ''September 30, 2025'' and inserting ''September 30, 2030''; and

(4) in subsection (f)(1), by inserting '', including those for repair, construction, maintenance, or operation of a facility,'' after ''for its own needs''.

(b) PILOT PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Defense shall carry out a pilot program under which the Secretary may enter into not more than one intergovernmental support agreement under section 2679 of title 10, United States Code, for each of the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force for a term not to exceed 20 years, notwithstanding the limitation under subsection (a)(2)(A) of such section.

SA 3488. Mr. TILLIS (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) 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. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO THE CAMP LEJEUNE JUSTICE ACT OF 2022.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 804 of the Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2022 (28 U.S.C. 2671 note prec.) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking ''in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina'';

(2) by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

''(c) BURDENS AND STANDARD OF PROOF.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The party filing an action under this section shall be entitled to appropriate relief upon showing—

''(A) the existence of 1 or more relationships between the type of contaminant in any water at Camp Lejeune and the type of harm suffered by the individual harm; and

''(B) that the individual was present at Camp Lejeune for a period of not less than 30 days, whether or not consecutive.

''(2) EVIDENTIARY STANDARDS.—To demonstrate the causal relationship described in paragraph (1), a party shall produce evidence showing that the relationship between exposure to any level of contaminants of a type in any water at Camp Lejeune and the type of harm is—

''(A) sufficient to conclude that a causal relationship exists; or

''(B) sufficient to conclude that a causal relationship is at least as likely as not.'';

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

''(d) EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION AND VENUE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina shall have exclusive jurisdiction and venue for coordinated or consolidated pretrial administrative and procedural matters and resolution over any action filed under subsection (b).

''(2) TRANSFER.—A party filing an action under subsection (b) may transfer such action to the United States District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina, the United States District Court for the Western District of North Carolina, or the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina for pretrial and trial of such action, including the adjudication of all evidentiary motions.

''(3) JURY TRIAL.—Any action against the United States under subsection (b) shall, at the request of either party to such action, be tried by the court with a jury.

''(4) EXPEDITED DISPOSITION.—The court shall advance an action filed under subsection (b) on the docket, and expedite the disposition of such action to the greatest extent possible.''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(k) ATTORNEY FEES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The total amount of attorneys fees under this section shall be in an amount that is not more than—

''(A) 20 percent of any settlement entered into before a civil action under subsection (b) is commenced; or

''(B) 25 percent of any judgement rendered or settlement entered into after a civil action under subsection (b) is commenced.

''(2) DIVISION OF FEES.—A division of a fee under paragraph (1) between attorneys who are not in the same firm may be made only if the division is in proportion to the services performed by each attorney.

''(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit an individual or the legal representative of an individual and such individual's or representative's attorney from agreeing to a fee award that is less than the maximum percentage specified in paragraph (1).''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section and the amendments made by this section shall take effect as if enacted on August 10, 2022, and shall apply to any claim or action under section 804 of the Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2022 that is pending on, or filed on or after, the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section or an amendment made by this section shall be construed to modify the applicability or statute of limitations provisions under section 804(j) of the Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2022 (28 U.S.C. 2671 note prec.).

SA 3489. Mrs. BLACKBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. STUDY OF NATIONAL SECURITY RISKS POSED BY CERTAIN ROUTERS AND MODEMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a study of the national security risks and cybersecurity vulnerabilities posed by consumer routers, modems, and devices that combine a modem and router that are designed, developed, manufactured, or supplied by persons owned by, controlled by, or subject to the influence of a covered country.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the results of the study conducted under subsection (a).

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED COUNTRY.—The term ''covered country'' means a country specified in section 4872(f)(2) of title 10, United States Code.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.

SA 3490. Mrs. BLACKBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 2___. JOINT QUANTUM INFORMATION SCIENCE DEFENSE TRANSITION ACTIVITIES.

Chapter 301 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 4001 the following new section:

''§ 4002. Joint quantum information science defense transition activities

''(a) ACTIVITIES REQUIRED.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall establish a set of activities to accelerate the adoption and implementation quantum information science technology within the Department of Defense.

''(2) ELEMENTS.—Pursuant to the activities established under paragraph (1), the Secretary, acting through the Principal Quantum Advisor designated under subsection (b), shall—

''(A) explore and identify quantum information science technologies and use cases that—

''(i) have demonstrated value in advancing the priorities and missions of the Department; and

''(ii) may be applied to address operational problems;

''(B) develop plans to transition such quantum information science technologies from the research and development phase to operational use within the Department, including within each of the Armed Forces; and

''(C) carry out such transition plans.

''(b) DESIGNATION OF PRINCIPAL QUANTUM ADVISOR.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026, the Secretary of Defense shall designate a senior official of the Department of Defense to serve as the Principal Quantum Advisor for the Department.

''(2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Principal Quantum Advisor shall serve as the official within the Department of Defense with principal responsibility for—

''(A) coordinating activities relating to the accelerated demonstration and transition of quantum information science technologies for applications specific to operational challenges faced by the Department;

''(B) coordinating, overseeing, and managing the set of activities established under subsection (a);

''(C) carrying out the activities described in paragraphs (3) through (6); and

''(D) carrying out such other duties relating to the development and implementation of quantum information science technologies as the Secretary may direct.

''(3) DEFINING AND CODIFYING DEFENSE QUANTUM INFORMATION SCIENCE USE CASES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Principal Quantum Advisor shall—

''(i) identify operational challenges faced by the Department of Defense that have the potential to be addressed through the use of quantum information science-technology based solutions, including solutions based on the quantum information science technology areas described subparagraph (C);

''(ii) for each such challenge, determine if the implementation of a quantum information science technology-based solution has the potential to be significantly more effective at addressing such challenge compared to a non-quantum information science technology-based solution, taking into account the technology and manufacturing readiness level of the quantum information science technology-based solution;

''(iii) for each potential quantum information science technology-based solution identified under clause (ii), evaluate and determine the technology and manufacturing readiness level of the solution taking into account the current readiness level of such solution—

''(I) within the Department;

''(II) among other departments and agencies of the Federal Government;

''(III) among Five Eyes countries; and

''(IV) within academia and industry.

''(iv) for each quantum information science technology-based solution determined under clause (iii) to have a technology and manufacturing readiness level of 5 or higher, begin prototyping and evaluation activities of such solution at scale in operationally relevant environments by not later than the end of fiscal year 2025; and

''(v) for each quantum information science technology-based solution determined under

clause (iii) to have a technology and manufacturing readiness level of 4 or lower, submit to Congress a plan for funding such solution over the period of five fiscal years following the date of the report using research, development, test, and evaluation funds designated as budget activity 1 (basic research), budget activity 2 (applied research), budget activity 3 (advanced technology development), or budget activity 4 (advanced component development and prototypes) as those budget activity classifications are set forth in volume 2B, chapter 5 of the Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation (DOD 7000.14–R), or successor regulation.

''(B) COORDINATION.—In carrying out this paragraph, the Principal Quantum Advisor shall coordinate with and seek input from the Armed Forces and unified combatant commands—

''(i) to identify and better understand the operational requirements of such Armed Forces and commands; and

''(ii) to ensure that the timeline for transitioning any quantum information science technology-based capability to operational use within the Armed Forces and combatant commands aligns with—

''(I) the plans of such Forces and commands across the period covered by the future-years defense program; and

''(II) the program objective memorandum processes for such Forces and commands.

''(C) QUANTUM INFORMATION SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY AREAS DESCRIBED.—The quantum information science technology areas described in this subparagraph are the following:

''(i) Quantum sensing, including—

''(I) alternative precision navigation and timing;

''(II) undersea or underground detection;

''(III) advanced intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance quantum imaging techniques; and

''(IV) biomedical and health care.

''(ii) Quantum computing, including—

''(I) annealing;

''(II) quantum-enabled machine learning;

''(III) simulation and optimization; and

''(IV) integrating quantum computing with high-performance supercomputing.

''(iii) Quantum annealing.

''(iv) Quantum communications, networking, and networked quantum computers.

''(v) Quantum-enabled modeling and simulation.

''(vi) Hybrid quantum computing and the integration of quantum and classical computing components.

''(vii) Such other quantum-enabled technologies as the Principal Quantum Advisor considers appropriate.

''(4) ACCELERATION OF DEVELOPMENT AND FIELDING OF QUANTUM INFORMATION SCIENCE TECHNOLOGIES.—The Principal Quantum Advisor shall—

''(A) use the flexibility of regulations, personnel, acquisition, partnerships with industry and academia, or other relevant policies of the Department to accelerate the transition and fielding of quantum information science technologies;

''(B) ensure engagement with combatant commands, defense and private industries, research universities, and unaffiliated, nonprofit research institutions on matters relating such quantum information science technologies; and

''(C) provide technical advice and support organizations and elements of the Department of Defense, including the Armed Forces, to optimize the use of quantum information science technologies to meet mission requirements.

''(5) INDUSTRY AND ACADEMIA ENGAGEMENT.—

''(A) INCLUSION IN CONSORTIUM.—The Secretary, in coordination with the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, shall ensure that the Principal Quantum Advisor is included in the activities of the consortium established pursuant to section 201(b) of the National Quantum Initiative Act (15 U.S.C. 8831(b)).

''(B) OUTREACH ACTIVITIES.—Not less frequently than once each quarter, the Principal Quantum Advisor shall conduct outreach and engagement with industry and academic leaders—

''(i) to educate organizations in the quantum information science industrial base on national security quantum information science use cases and operational challenges faced by the Department that have the potential to be addressed through the use of quantum information science technology-based solutions as described in paragraph (3);

''(ii) to the extent determined appropriate by the Principal Quantum Advisor, provide industry with the opportunity to identify quantum information science technology-based solutions to operational challenges faced by the Department;

''(iii) to educate organizations in the Defense industrial base on near-term and commercially available quantum information science technology-based solutions that provide operationally relevant warfighting capabilities;

''(iv) to advance relevant quantum information science supply chains and manufacturing capabilities within the United States and among allies and partners of the United States; and

''(v) to facilitate the commercialization of quantum information science technology-based solutions developed by the research and engineering organizations of the Department of Defense.

''(6) ALLIED QUANTUM ENHANCEMENT.—

''(A) ALIGNMENT WITH AUKUS EFFORTS.—Based on the quantum information science use cases identified under paragraph (3)(A)(ii), the Principal Quantum Advisor shall—

''(i) identify areas in which the United Kingdom and Australia, pursuant to Pillar II the partnership among Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States (commonly known as 'AUKUS') are pursuing technology aligned with such use cases; and

''(ii) align Department research and development and procurement funding in relation to quantum information science technologies on accelerating opportunities where Australia and the United Kingdom are pursuing such technologies.

''(B) MULTILATERAL AUKUS AND NATO MEETINGS.—The Principal Quantum Advisor shall organize—

''(i) a recurring multilateral meeting of quantum technology experts from the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia to facilitate information-sharing and planning relevant to quantum information science technology and defense-specific use cases for such technology; and

''(ii) a recurring multilateral meeting of quantum technology experts from member nations of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to facilitate such information-sharing and planning.

''(c) STRATEGIC PLAN.—

''(1) PLAN REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall develop strategic plan to guide the development, assessment, procurement, and implementation of quantum information science technologies within the Department over the period of five years following the date of the plan.

''(2) ELEMENTS.—The plan required under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

''(A) Plans for the continuous evaluation, development, and implementation of quantum information science technology solutions within the Department.

''(B) Plans for the development, review, performance evaluation, and adoption of a fault-tolerant, utility-scale quantum computer and the transition of that capability to appropriate organizations and elements of the Department, including the Armed Forces, and such other departments and agencies of the Federal Government as the Secretary determines appropriate.

''(C) Plans for allocating the resources of the Department to ensure such resources are focused on quantum information science technologies with the potential to solve operational challenges.

''(D) Identification of quantum information science technologies that—

''(i) have critical defense-specific applications;

''(ii) cannot be adapted from commercially available quantum information science technology; and

''(iii) are unlikely to be pursued or accelerated by industry because of limited commercial value.

''(E) Plans for supporting the development of capabilities identified under subparagraph (D).

''(F) Plans to help strengthen the quantum information science supply chain domestically and among trusted allies and against untrusted adversaries, including through an assessment of—

''(i) any associated strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats; and

''(ii) critical components, suppliers, and single points of failure.

''(3) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that includes the plan developed under paragraph (1).

''(d) COMMERCIAL SECURITY STRATEGY.—The Secretary shall adopt a comprehensive security strategy for commercially developed capabilities based on the guide utilized in the Underexplored Systems for Utility-Scale Quantum Computing program of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

''(e) NATIONAL SECURITY QUANTUM INFORMATION SCIENCE ADOPTION ACCELERATION TESTBED.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Energy, shall establish a national defense quantum information science joint center of excellence (referred to in this subsection as the 'Center').

''(2) ORGANIZATION.—The Center shall be operated by the Secretary and shall include participation from at least the following organizations:

''(A) One or more research laboratories of the Armed Forces.

''(B) A National Laboratory (as defined in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801)).

''(C) A federally funded research and development center or a university-affiliated research center.

''(D) Quantum information science companies.

''(3) LOCATION.—The Secretary of Defense shall establish the Center at a location in the United States that is reasonably accessible to each organization described in paragraph (2).

''(4) ACTIVITIES.—The Center shall carry out the following activities:

''(A) Facilitate quantum information science technology transition and workforce development activities.

''(B) Conduct outreach to enhance industry and academia's understanding of and contribution to national security quantum information science technology use cases and current operational challenges faced by the Department.

''(C) Prototype quantum information science technologies, with priority given to the prototyping and transition of quantum information science-enabled position, navigation, and timing efforts and quantum sensors at technology readiness level six or higher.

''(D) Integrate the prototyping activities under subparagraph (C) with the needs of the unified combatant commands.

''(E) Accelerate the transition of advanced quantum information science technology from the research and development phase into operational use.

''(F) Expand the quantum information science workforce of the United States and the quantum information science workforces of nations that are allies and partners of the United States.

''(5) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may award grants and enter into contracts and other agreements, on a competitive basis, to support the activities of the Center.

''(6) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection $20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

''(f) RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES AND WORKFORCE PLANNING.—

''(1) ENHANCEMENT OF RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026, the Secretary shall seek to increase opportunities for the study of quantum information science within—

''(A) the military service academies.

''(B) the Reserve Officers' Training Corps; and

''(C) other institutions and programs of the Department and the Armed Forces that provide postsecondary and graduate level education.

''(2) STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES.—The Secretary shall direct the chief of each Armed Force, in consultation with the heads of the research laboratories under the jurisdiction of such Armed Force—

''(A) to adopt internal standard operating procedures for quantum information science workforce development to monitor and evaluate progress toward human capital goals and human capital programmatic results; and

''(B) to involve top management, employees, and other stakeholders in quantum information science workforce planning by—

''(i) developing and implementing an enterprise-wide strategic quantum workforce plan; and

''(ii) communicating quantum workforce goals, initiatives, and metrics for evaluating success throughout each laboratory.

''(g) BUDGET REVIEW.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, acting through the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), require the Secretaries of the military departments and the heads of the Defense Agencies with responsibilities associated with any quantum information science activity to transmit the proposed budget for such activities for a fiscal year and for the period covered by the future-years defense program submitted to Congress under section 221 of this title for that fiscal year to the Principal Quantum Advisor for review before submitting the proposed budget to the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller).

''(2) REPORT TO SECRETARY.—The Principal Quantum Advisor shall review each proposed budget transmitted, and, not later than January 31 of the year preceding the fiscal year for which the budget is proposed, shall submit to the Secretary a report containing the comments of the Principal Quantum Advisor with respect to all such proposed budgets, together with the certification of the Principal Quantum Advisor regarding whether each proposed budget is adequate.

''(3) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than March 31 of each year, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report specifying each proposed budget that the Principal Quantum Advisor did not certify to be adequate. The report of the Secretary shall include the following matters:

''(A) A discussion of the actions that the Secretary proposes to take, together with any recommended legislation that the Secretary considers appropriate, to address the inadequacy of the proposed budgets specified in the report.

''(B) Any additional comments that the Secretary considers appropriate regarding the inadequacy of the proposed budgets.

''(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section;

''(1) The term 'Five Eyes countries' means the following:

''(A) Australia.

''(B) Canada.

''(C) New Zealand.

''(D) The United Kingdom.

''(E) The United States.

''(2) The term 'quantum information science' means the use of the laws of quantum physics for the storage, transmission, manipulation, computing, or measurement of information.''.

SA 3491. Mrs. BLACKBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in subtitle D of title I, insert the following:

SEC. ___. REPORT ON RECAPITALIZATION PLAN FOR KC–135 AIR REFUELING WINGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force, in consultation with the Director of the Air National Guard, shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the Department of the Air Force's plan to recapitalize KC–135 air refueling wings that will not receive the KC–46A Pegasus aircraft.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A comprehensive list of all active duty, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserve KC–135 units, including the current mission, aircraft inventory, and assigned personnel levels for each unit.

(2) A timeline and criteria for the recapitalization of existing KC–135 aircraft, including the prioritization process for KC–46A deliveries and the rationale for unit selection.

(3) An assessment of the long-term plan for units not scheduled to receive KC–46A aircraft, including any planned deactivations, mission conversions, or sustainment of legacy KC–135 fleets.

(4) An evaluation of the impact of recapitalization decisions on total force air refueling capability, including operational risk and geographic coverage for the United States Indo-Pacific Command, the United States European Command, and other combatant commands.

(5) A plan to ensure equitable transition for Air National Guard units, including mitigation measures for wings that will continue operating legacy KC–135 aircraft.

(6) Recommendations for any additional resources, authorities, or legislative actions needed to support the recapitalization plan and ensure continuity of air refueling operations.

SA 3492. Mrs. BLACKBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 16___. STRATEGY ON QUANTUM READINESS.

(a) STRATEGY REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall, in coordination with the Chief Information Officer of the Department of Defense, submit to the congressional defense committees a strategy on quantum readiness. Such strategy shall include each of the following:

(1) An assessment of the risks that quantum computing pose to Department of Defense systems and data.

(2) A determination of which Department systems and data are most vulnerable to quantum threats and critical to protect, and timelines for the transition of such systems and data.

(3) An identification of the progress made by organizations and elements of the Department of Defense in inventorying and migrating all cryptographic systems to post-quantum cryptography by 2035 or earlier.

(4) A plan to adopt and deploy automated quantum readiness platform tools, including capabilities that—

(A) provide continuous visibility into an organization's cryptographic landscape;

(B) automate the prioritization of cryptographic risks; and

(C) facilitate the remediation of insecure cryptography.

(5) An identification of the methodology used for evaluating and validating Department cryptographic modules as quantum ready.

(6) An estimate of resources needed to achieve quantum readiness by the target deadline of 2035, as well as an additional estimate of resources needed to achieve quantum readiness earlier than 2035.

(7) A detailed breakdown of how the funds provided in section 20005(a)(29) of the Act entitled ''An Act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of H. Con. Res. 14'', approved July 4, 2025 (Public Law 119–21) will be allocated and obligated across specific programs, projects, and activities.

(8) Any other matter the Secretary of Defense considers relevant.

(b) FORM OF STRATEGY.—The strategy required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

(c) BRIEFING.—Not later than 240 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall, in coordination with the Chief Information Officer, submit to the congressional defense committees a briefing on the strategy required under subsection (a).

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term ''post-quantum cryptography'' has the meaning given that term in

section 3 of the Quantum Computing Cybersecurity Preparedness Act (Public Law 117–260; 6 U.S.C. 1526 note).

(2) The term ''quantum readiness'' means the state in which an agency's cryptographic systems have been inventoried, continuously assessed for quantum vulnerabilities, and remediated through the adoption of quantum-resistant cryptographic algorithms and other practices.

SA 3493. Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SHEEHY, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title X, add the following new subtitle:

Subtitle H—Rotorcraft Operations Transparency and Oversight Reform

SECTION 1091. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Rotorcraft Operations Transparency and Oversight Reform Act'' or the ''ROTOR Act''.

SEC. 1092. REVISION TO EXCEPTION FOR ADS–B OUT TRANSMISSION.

(a) RULEMAKING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration (in this subtitle referred to as the ''Administrator'') shall issue or revise regulations to clarify that, with respect to the exception described in section 91.225(f)(1) of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, the term ''sensitive government mission'' shall not include any proficiency evaluation or training mission operated within the lateral boundaries of the surface area of Class B or Class C airspace, unless such operation is for a national security event.

(2) REPORT.—If the Administrator fails to issue or revise regulations pursuant to paragraph (1), the Administrator shall, within 30 days, submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the status of such regulations, including the reasons that the Administrator has failed to issue or revise such regulations.

(b) GUIDANCE ON USE OF TECHNOLOGY OTHER THAN ADS–B.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall issue guidance to clarify that, to the extent practicable, all aircraft operating for purposes of national defense, homeland security intelligence, or law enforcement should utilize Traffic Information Services–Broadcast (''TIS–B'') and the Traffic Alert and Collision Avoidance System (''TCAS'').

(c) REPORTS.—

(1) TO THE ADMINISTRATOR.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, each agency required to operate Automatic Dependent Surveillance–Broadcast Out (in this subtitle referred to as ''ADS–B Out'') in transmit mode in accordance with section 91.225 of such title 14 shall submit to the Administrator, on a quarterly basis until the date described in paragraph (3), a report that includes—

(A) an attestation that such operations are regularly transmitting ADS–B Out and are conducted with proper consideration to aviation safety; and

(B) a summary of operations in which the ADS–B Out equipment is not in transmit mode, including the date, time, duration, and mission type of such operations.

(2) TO CONGRESS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, and biannually thereafter until the date described in paragraph (3), the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the frequency and nature of the ADS–B Out exceptions granted to Federal, State, local, and tribal agencies under section 91.225(f)(1) of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations. Such report shall include—

(i) aggregated data on the operations in which ADS–B Out equipment is not in transmit mode by each agency described in paragraph (1); and

(ii) a determination from the Administrator whether such operations jeopardize aviation safety.

(B) SPECIAL NOTIFICATION.—If the Administrator determines that an agency described in paragraph (1) is too frequently, at the discretion of the Administrator, using exceptions granted under section 91.225(f)(1) of such title 14, the Administrator shall notify the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives of such determination within 14 days of such determination.

(3) SUNSET.—The reporting requirements described in this subsection shall terminate on the date that is 10 years after the date of enactment of this section.

SEC. 1093. ADS–B IN REQUIREMENTS.

(a) REQUIREMENT FOR NEWLY MANUFACTURED MANNED AIRCRAFT.—Subject to subsection (c), not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall issue a final rule that has an effective date which is not later than 3 years of the date on which such final rule is issued to require that any newly manufactured aircraft (other than an unmanned aircraft as defined in section 44801 of title 49, United States Code) registered in the United States shall be equipped with Automatic Dependent Surveillance–Broadcast In (referred to in this section as ''ADS–B In'').

(b) ADS–B IN REQUIRED IN DESIGNATED AIRSPACE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (c), not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall issue a final rule that has an effective date which is not later than 3 years of the date on which such final rule is issued to require that any aircraft (other than an unmanned aircraft as defined in section 44801 of title 49, United States Code) manufactured as of the date of enactment of this section that is required to be equipped with ADS–B Out when operating in an airspace described in section 91.225(d) of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, shall also be required to install and operate ADS–B In.

(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—

(A) ADDITIONAL TIME.—In conducting the rulemaking under paragraph (1), the Administrator may consider whether any aircraft described in paragraph (1) would require additional time, not to exceed an additional 2 years after the effective date described in paragraph (1), to implement such requirement.

(B) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—If the Administrator determines there is a need to provide additional time as described in subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall—

(i) notify Congress not later than 14 days after making such determination; and

(ii) include a justification for such determination, as well as the date on which full compliance is expected.

(3) SPECIAL DETERMINATION.—For purposes of meeting the requirements of paragraph (1), the Administrator shall determine whether the use of a non-Technical Standard Order receiver is permissible for aircraft with a maximum certificated takeoff weight of fewer than 12,500 pounds.

(c) EXCEPTION.—The requirements of subsections (a) and (b) shall not apply to any aircraft described in section 91.225(e) of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, including balloons and gliders not certified with an electrical system.

SEC. 1094. STUDY ON DYNAMIC RESTRICTED AREA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall initiate a study on the feasibility, costs, and benefits of establishing a dynamic restricted area for rotorcraft and powered-lift (as such terms are defined in section 1.1 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this section) over the Potomac River to the north, south, and east of DCA. Such study's final report shall be—

(1) completed not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section; and

(2) submitted to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In conducting the study required under subsection (a), the Administrator shall review, but is not limited to—

(1) terrestrial and aircraft-based technology or equipment improvements required to operationalize a dynamic restricted area inside the FRZ and in proximity to DCA;

(2) the training requirements to enable the use of an automated visual warning system in a way that functions as a traffic signal that is similar to the system deployed in the FRZ, as of the date of enactment of this section, to warn aircraft that they are entering a dynamic restricted airspace that is active or inactive;

(3) the ways in which the dynamic restricted area can be depicted on various paper and electronic aeronautical charts and other navigational materials;

(4) the feasibility of using automated audio sounds to indicate active or inactive restricted area, including a continuous tone being generated on a certain aviation VHF and UHF radio communication and VOR and TACAN frequencies that are modulated in tone frequency and tone length (such as Instrument Landing System marker sounds) such that they are received by existing aviation VHF or UHF radio communications transceivers and an automated visual warning system deployed in the FRZ;

(5) the potential and mitigation steps for pilot and air traffic controller distraction;

(6) procedures to allow air traffic controllers to override any automatic function of the system for manual control;

(7) the creation of an indication or other signal in the air traffic control tower at DCA and the Potomac Terminal Radar Approach Control Facility (''TRACON'') to communicate the status of whether the dynamic restricted area is active or inactive;

(8) the creation of methods to anticipate fixed wing aircraft taking off from DCA so to provide sufficient warning to rotorcraft and powered-lift aircraft of the imminent activation of the dynamic restricted area; and

(9) any other matters determined appropriate by the Administrator.

(c) BRIEFING.—Not later than 30 days after completing the study required by subsection (a), the Administrator shall brief the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives on the results of the study.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DCA.—The term ''DCA'' means Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport.

(2) DYNAMIC RESTRICTED AREA.—The term ''dynamic restricted area'' means an area of restriction placed on specific areas of airspace, which is contemplated to be an area over the Potomac River that is 4 miles north, south, and east of DCA, to prevent the transit of rotorcraft and powered lift aircraft that activates independently from air traffic controller action and automatically by computer action based on criteria that uses position, altitude, and velocity data from fixed wing aircraft.

(3) FRZ.—The term ''FRZ'' means the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area Flight Restricted Zone, as defined by section 93.335 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this subtitle).

(4) TACAN.—The term ''TACAN'' means tactical air navigation pursuant to Appendix 3 Abbreviation/Acronyms of the Aeronautical Information Manual.

(5) UHF.—The term ''UHF'' means ultra high frequency pursuant to Appendix 3 Abbreviation/Acronyms of the Aeronautical Information Manual.

(6) VHF.—The term ''VHF'' means very high frequency pursuant to Appendix 3 Abbreviation/Acronyms of the Aeronautical Information Manual.

(7) VOR.—The term ''VOR'' means VHF Omnidirectional Range pursuant to Appendix 3 Abbreviation/Acronyms of the Aeronautical Information Manual.

SEC. 1095. INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE ARMY AUDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Inspector General of the Army shall initiate an audit to evaluate the Army's coordination with the Federal Aviation Administration, pilot training, and qualification standards, and the Army's use of ADS–B Out and whether it adheres to Army policy, regulation, and law.

(b) ASSESSMENT.—In conducting the audit required by subsection (a), the Inspector General of the Army shall assess practices and recommendations for the Army, including—

(1) whether Army policy and United States law was adhered to, and the Army's coordination with the Federal Aviation Administration, during National Capitol Region (in this subsection referred to as the ''NCR'') operations of pilot training and qualifications standards in the NCR;

(2) the Army's policy on ADS–B Out equipage, usage, and activation;

(3) maintenance protocols for UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters operated by the 12th Army Aviation Brigade including, but not limited to, the calibration of any system that transmits altitude and position information outside the aircraft and the calibration of systems that sends altitude and position information to the pilots inside the aircraft;

(4) compliance with the September 29, 2021, Letter of Agreement executed between the Pentagon Heliport Air Traffic Control Tower and the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport Air Traffic Control Tower regarding flight operations in the NCR; and

(5) the Army's review of loss of separation incidents involving its rotorcraft in the NCR along with possible mitigations to prevent future mishaps.

(c) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE.—Not later than 14 days after the audit required by subsection (a) is concluded, the Secretary of the Army shall—

(1) transmit a report on the results of the audit, without redactions, to the Committee on the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives; and

(2) publicly release the report without redactions, except to the extent required for national security reasons.

SEC. 1096. REVIEW OF ROTORCRAFT TRAFFIC SURROUNDING COMMERCIAL SERVICE AIRPORTS.

(a) REVIEW.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall initiate a review of all currently charted helicopter routes where flight paths of fixed-wing aircraft and rotorcraft (as defined in section 1.1 of such title 14) may not provide sufficient separation, as determined by the Administrator.

(b) MODIFICATION OF FLIGHT ROUTES.—Based on the results of the review conducted under subsection (a), the Administrator shall evaluate and modify flight routes, as necessary, to improve separation between fixed-wing aircraft and rotorcraft (as so defined).

(c) BRIEFING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall brief the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives on the results of the review conducted under subsection (a) and any modifications to flight routes made under subsection (b).

SEC. 1097. REPEAL OF PROVISION REGARDING ADS–B EQUIPMENT ON CERTAIN AIRCRAFT OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

Section 1046 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (49 U.S.C. 40101 note) is repealed.

SA 3494. Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. SCHATZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title X, insert the following:

Subtitle H—Kids Off Social Media Act

CHAPTER 1—KIDS OFF SOCIAL MEDIA ACT

SEC. 1091. SHORT TITLE.

This chapter may be referred to as the ''Kids Off Social Media Act''.

SEC. 1092. DEFINITIONS.

In this chapter:

(1) PERSONALIZED RECOMMENDATION SYSTEM.—The term ''personalized recommendation system'' means a fully or partially automated system used to suggest, promote, or rank content, including other users or posts, based on the personal data of users.

(2) CHILD.—The term ''child'' means an individual under the age of 13.

(3) COMMISSION.—The term ''Commission'' means the Federal Trade Commission.

(4) KNOW OR KNOWS.—The term ''know'' or ''knows'' means to have actual knowledge or knowledge fairly implied on the basis of objective circumstances.

(5) PERSONAL DATA.—The term ''personal data'' has the same meaning as the term ''personal information'' as defined in section 1302 of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 6501) .

(6) SOCIAL MEDIAL PLATFORM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''social media platform'' means a public-facing website, online service, online application, or mobile application that—

(i) is directed to consumers;

(ii) collects personal data;

(iii) primarily derives revenue from advertising or the sale of personal data; and

(iv) as its primary function provides a community forum for user-generated content, including messages, videos, and audio files among users where such content is primarily intended for viewing, resharing, or platform-enabled distributed social endorsement or comment.

(B) LIMITATION.—The term ''social medial platform'' does not include a platform that, as its primary function for consumers, provides or facilitates any of the following:

(i) The purchase and sale of commercial goods.

(ii) Teleconferencing or videoconferencing services that allow reception and transmission of audio or video signals for real-time communication, provided that the real-time communication is initiated by using a unique link or identifier to facilitate access.

(iii) Crowd-sourced reference guides such as encyclopedias and dictionaries.

(iv) Cloud storage, file sharing, or file collaboration services, including such services that allow collaborative editing by invited users.

(v) The playing or creation of video games.

(vi) Content that consists primarily of news, sports, sports coverage, entertainment, or other information or content that is not user-generated but is preselected by the platform and for which any chat, comment, or interactive functionality is incidental, directly related to, or dependent on the provision of the content provided by the platform.

(vii) Business, product, or travel information including user reviews or rankings of such businesses, products, or other travel information.

(viii) Educational information, experiences, training, or instruction provided to build knowledge, skills, or a craft, district-sanctioned or school-sanctioned learning management systems and school information systems for the purposes of schools conveying content related to the education of students, or services or services on behalf of or in support of an elementary school or secondary school, as such terms are defined in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

(ix) An email service.

(x) A wireless messaging service, including such a service provided through short message service or multimedia messaging protocols, that is not a component of, or linked to, a social media platform and where the predominant or exclusive function of the messaging service is direct messaging consisting of the transmission of text, photos, or videos that are sent by electronic means, where messages are transmitted from the sender to the recipient and are not posted publicly or within a social media platform.

(xi) A broadband internet access service (as such term is defined for purposes of section 8.1(b) of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation).

(xii) A virtual private network or similar service that exists solely to route internet traffic between locations.

(7) TEEN.—The term ''teen'' means an individual over the age of 12 and under the age of 17.

(8) USER.—The term ''user'' means, with respect to a social media platform, an individual who registers an account or creates a profile on the social media platform.

SEC. 1093. NO CHILDREN UNDER 13.

(a) NO ACCOUNTS FOR CHILDREN UNDER 13.—A social media platform shall not permit an individual to create or maintain an account or profile if it knows that the individual is a child.

(b) TERMINATION OF EXISTING ACCOUNTS BELONGING TO CHILDREN.—A social media platform shall terminate any existing account or profile of a user who the social media platform knows is a child.

(c) DELETION OF CHILDREN'S PERSONAL DATA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), upon termination of an existing account or profile of a user pursuant to subsection (b), a social media platform shall immediately delete all personal data collected from the user or submitted by the user to the social media platform.

(2) CHILDREN'S ACCESS TO PERSONAL DATA.—To the extent technically feasible and not in violation of any licensing agreement, a social media platform shall allow the user of an existing account or profile that the social media platform has terminated under subsection (b), from the date such termination occurs to the date that is 90 days after such date, to request, and shall provide to such user upon such request, a copy of the personal data collected from the user or submitted by the user to the social media platform both—

(A) in a manner that is readable and which a reasonable person can understand; and

(B) in a portable, structured, and machine-readable format.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in subsection (c) shall be construed to prohibit a social media platform from retaining a record of the termination of an account or profile and the minimum information necessary for the purposes of ensuring compliance with this section.

SEC. 1094. PROHIBITION ON THE USE OF PERSONALIZED RECOMMENDATION SYSTEMS ON CHILDREN OR TEENS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) PROHIBITION ON USE OF PERSONALIZED RECOMMENDATION SYSTEMS ON CHILDREN OR TEENS.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), a social media platform shall not use the personal data of a user or visitor in a personalized recommendation system to display content if the platform knows that the user or visitor is a child or teen.

(2) EXCEPTION.—A social media platform may use a personalized recommendation system to display content to a child or teen if the system only uses the following personal data of the child or teen:

(A) The type of device used by the child or teen.

(B) The languages used by the child or teen to communicate.

(C) The city or town in which the child or teen is located.

(D) The fact that the individual is a child or teen.

(E) The age of the child or teen.

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The prohibition in subsection (a) shall not be construed to—

(1) prevent a social media platform from providing search results to a child or teen deliberately or independently searching for (such as by typing a phrase into a search bar or providing spoken input), or specifically requesting, content, so long as such results are not based on the personal data of the child or teen (except to the extent permitted under subsection (a)(2));

(2) prevent a social media platform from taking reasonable measures to—

(A) block, detect, or prevent the distribution of unlawful or obscene material;

(B) block or filter spam, or protect the security of a platform or service; or

(C) prevent criminal activity; or

(3) prohibit a social media platform from displaying user-generated content that has been selected, followed, or subscribed to by a teen account holder as long as the display of the content is based on a chronological format.

SEC. 1095. DETERMINATION OF WHETHER AN OPERATOR HAS KNOWLEDGE FAIRLY IMPLIED ON THE BASIS OF OBJECTIVE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT AN INDIVIDUAL IS A CHILD OR TEEN.

(a) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—For purposes of enforcing this chapter, in making a determination as to whether a social media platform has knowledge fairly implied on the basis of objective circumstances that a user is a child or teen, the Commission or the attorney general of a State, as applicable, shall rely on competent and reliable evidence, taking into account the totality of circumstances, including whether a reasonable and prudent person under the circumstances would have known that the user is a child or teen.

(b) PROTECTIONS FOR PRIVACY.—Nothing in this chapter, including a determination described in subsection (a), shall be construed to require a social media platform to—

(1) implement an age gating or age verification functionality; or

(2) affirmatively collect any personal data with respect to the age of users that the social media platform is not already collecting in the normal course of business.

(c) RESTRICTION ON USE AND RETENTION OF PERSONAL DATA.—If a social media platform or a third party acting on behalf of a social media platform voluntarily collects personal data for the purpose of complying with this chapter, the social media platform or a third party shall not—

(1) use any personal data collected specifically for a purpose other than for sole compliance with the obligations under this chapter; or

(2) retain any personal data collected from a user for longer than is necessary to comply with the obligations under this chapter or than is minimally necessary to demonstrate compliance with this chapter.

SEC. 1096. ENFORCEMENT.

(a) ENFORCEMENT BY COMMISSION.—

(1) UNFAIR OR DECEPTIVE ACTS OR PRACTICES.—A violation of this chapter shall be treated as a violation of a rule defining an unfair or deceptive act or practice prescribed under section 18(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 57a(a)(1)(B)).

(2) POWERS OF COMMISSION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall enforce this chapter in the same manner, by the same means, and with the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as though all applicable terms and provisions of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.) were incorporated into and made a part of this chapter.

(B) PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES.—Any person who violates this chapter shall be subject to the penalties and entitled to the privileges and immunities provided in the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.).

(3) AUTHORITY PRESERVED.—Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to limit the authority of the Commission under any other provision of law.

(b) ENFORCEMENT BY STATES.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION.—Subject to paragraph (3), in any case in which the attorney general of a State has reason to believe that an interest of the residents of the State has been or is threatened or adversely affected by the engagement of a social media platform in a practice that violates this chapter, the attorney general of the State may, as parens patriae, bring a civil action against the social media platform on behalf of the residents of the State in an appropriate district court of the United States to—

(A) enjoin that practice;

(B) enforce compliance with this chapter;

(C) on behalf of residents of the States, obtain damages, restitution, or other compensation, each of which shall be distributed in accordance with State law; or

(D) obtain such other relief as the court may consider to be appropriate.

(2) RIGHTS OF FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.—

(A) NOTICE TO FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The attorney general of a State shall notify the Commission in writing that the attorney general intends to bring a civil action under paragraph (1) before the filing of the civil action.

(ii) CONTENTS.—The notification required under clause (i) with respect to a civil action shall include a copy of the complaint to be filed to initiate the civil action.

(iii) Clause (i) shall not apply with respect to the filing of an action by an attorney general of a State under this paragraph if the attorney general of the State determines that it not feasible to provide the notice required in that clause before filing the action.

(B) INTERVENTION BY FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.—Upon receiving notice under subparagraph (A)(i), the Commission shall have the right to intervene in the action that is the subject of the notice.

(3) EFFECT OF INTERVENTION.—If the Commission intervenes in an action under paragraph (1), it shall have the right—

(A) to be heard with respect to any matter that arises in that action; and

(B) file a petition for appeal.

(4) INVESTIGATORY POWERS.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed to prevent the attorney general of a State from exercising the powers conferred on the attorney general by the laws of the State to—

(A) conduct investigations;

(B) administer oaths or affirmations; or

(C) compel the attendance of witnesses or the production of documentary or other evidence.

(5) PREEMPTIVE ACTION BY FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.—In any case in which an action is instituted by or on behalf of the Commission for a violation of this chapter, no State may, during the pendency of that action, institute a separate civil action under paragraph (1) against any defendant named in the complaint in the action instituted by or on behalf of the Commission for that violation.

(6) VENUE; SERVICE OF PROCESS.—

(A) VENUE.—Any action brought under paragraph (1) may be brought in—

(i) the district court of the United States that meets applicable requirements relating to venue under section 1391 of title 28, United States Code; or

(ii) another court of competent jurisdiction.

(B) SERVICE OF PROCESS.—In an action brought under paragraph (1), process may be served in any district in which the defendant—

(i) is an inhabitant; or

(ii) may be found.

SEC. 1097. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAWS.

The provisions of this chapter shall preempt any State law, rule, or regulation only to the extent that such State law, rule, or regulation conflicts with a provision of this chapter. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prohibit a State from enacting a law, rule, or regulation that provides greater protection to children or teens than

the protection provided by the provisions of this chapter. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to—

(1) affect the application of—

(A) section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g, commonly known as the ''Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974'') or other Federal or State laws governing student privacy; or

(B) the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 (15 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.) or any rule or regulation promulgated under such Act; or

(2) authorize any action that would conflict with section 18(h) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 57a(h)).

SEC. 1098. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This chapter shall take effect 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

CHAPTER 2—EYES ON THE BOARD ACT OF 2025

SEC. 1099. SHORT TITLE.

This chapter may be cited as the ''Eyes on the Board Act of 2025''.

SEC. 1099A. UPDATING THE CHILDREN'S INTERNET PROTECTION ACT TO INCLUDE SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1721 of the Children's Internet Protection Act (title XVII of Public Law 106–554) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (f) through (h) as subsections (g) through (i), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

''(f) LIMITATION ON USE OF SCHOOL BROADBAND SUBSIDIES FOR ACCESS TO SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) COMMISSION.—The term 'Commission' means the Federal Communications Commission.

''(B) SECTION 254(H).—The term 'section 254(h)' means section 254(h) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 254(h)).

''(C) SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM.—The term 'social media platform'—

''(i) means any website, online service, online application, or mobile application that—

''(I) serves the public; and

''(II) primarily provides a forum for users to communicate user-generated content, including messages, videos, images, and audio files, to other online users; and

''(ii) does not include—

''(I) an internet service provider;

''(II) electronic mail;

''(III) an online service, application, or website—

''(aa) that consists primarily of content that is not user-generated, but is preselected by the provider; and

''(bb) for which any chat, comment, or interactive functionality is incidental to, directly related to, or dependent on the provision of content described in item (aa);

''(IV) an online service, application, or website—

''(aa) that is non-commercial and primarily designed for educational purposes; and

''(bb) the revenue of which is not primarily derived from advertising or the sale of personal data;

''(V) a wireless messaging service, including such a service provided through a short messaging service or multimedia service protocols—

''(aa) that is not a component of, or linked to, a website, online service, online application, or mobile application described in clause (i); and

''(bb) the predominant or exclusive function of which is direct messaging consisting of the transmission of text, photos, or videos that—

''(AA) are sent by electronic means from the sender to a recipient; and

''(BB) are not posted publicly or on a website, online service, online application, or mobile application described in clause (i);

''(VI) a teleconferencing or video conferencing service that allows for the reception and transmission of audio or video signals for real-time communication that is initiated by using a unique link or identifier to facilitate access;

''(VII) a product or service that primarily functions as business-to-business software or a cloud storage, file sharing, or file collaboration service; or

''(VIII) an organization that is not organized to carry on business for the profit of the organization or of the members of the organization.

''(D) TECHNOLOGY PROTECTION MEASURE.—The term 'technology protection measure' means a specific technology that blocks or filters access to a social media platform.

''(2) REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—

''(i) CERTIFICATION REQUIRED.—An elementary or secondary school that is subject to paragraph (5) of section 254(h) may not receive services at discount rates under section 254(h) unless the school, school board, local educational agency, or other authority with responsibility for administration of the school—

''(I) submits to the Commission the certification described in subparagraph (B); and

''(II) ensures that the use of the school's supported services, devices, and networks is in accordance with the certification described in subclause (I).

''(ii) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in clause (i) may be construed to prohibit—

''(I) district-sanctioned or school-sanctioned learning management systems and school information systems used for purposes of schools conveying content related to the education of students; or

''(II) a teacher from using a social media platform for educational instruction.

''(B) CERTIFICATION WITH RESPECT TO STUDENTS AND SOCIAL MEDIA.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—A certification under this subparagraph is a certification that the applicable school, school board, local educational agency, or other authority with responsibility for administration of the school—

''(I) is enforcing a policy of preventing students of the school from accessing social media platforms on any supported service, device, or network that includes—

''(aa) monitoring the online activities of any such service, device, or network to determine if those students are accessing social media platforms; and

''(bb) the operation of a technology protection measure with respect to those services, devices, and networks that protects against access by those students to a social media platform; and

''(II) is enforcing the operation of the technology protection measure described in subclause (I) during any use of supported services, devices, or networks by students of the school.

''(ii) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subparagraph may be construed to require the applicable school, school board, local educational agency, or other authority to track an individual website, online application, or mobile application that a student is attempting to access (or any search terms used by, or the browsing history of a student) beyond the identity of the website or application and whether access to the website or application is blocked by a technology protection measure because the website or application is a social media platform.

''(C) TIMING OF IMPLEMENTATION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a school to which this paragraph applies, the certification under this paragraph shall be made—

''(I) with respect to the first program funding year under section 254(h) after the date of enactment of the Eyes on the Board Act of 2025, not later than 120 days after the beginning of that program funding year; and

''(II) with respect to any subsequent funding year, as part of the application process for that program funding year.

''(ii) PROCESS.—

''(I) SCHOOLS WITH MEASURES IN PLACE.—A school covered by clause (i) that has in place measures meeting the requirements necessary for certification under this paragraph shall certify its compliance with this paragraph during each annual program application cycle under section 254(h), except that, with respect to the first program funding year after the date of enactment of the Eyes on the Board Act of 2025, the certification shall be made not later than 120 days after the beginning of that first program funding year.

''(II) SCHOOLS WITHOUT MEASURES IN PLACE.—

''(aa) FIRST 2 PROGRAM YEARS.—A school covered by clause (i) that does not have in place measures meeting the requirements for certification under this paragraph—

''(AA) for the first program year after the date of enactment of the Eyes on the Board Act of 2025 in which the school is applying for funds under section 254(h), shall certify that the school is undertaking such actions, including any necessary procurement procedures, to put in place measures meeting the requirements for certification under this paragraph; and

''(BB) for the second program year after the date of enactment of the Eyes on the Board Act of 2025 in which the school is applying for funds under section 254(h), shall certify that the school is in compliance with this paragraph.

''(bb) SUBSEQUENT PROGRAM YEARS.—Any school that is unable to certify compliance with such requirements in such second program year shall be ineligible for services at discount rates or funding in lieu of services at such rates under section 254(h) for such second year and all subsequent program years under section 254(h), until such time as such school comes into compliance with this paragraph.

''(III) WAIVERS.—Any school subject to subclause (II) that cannot come into compliance with subparagraph (B) in such second program year may seek a waiver of subclause (II)(aa)(BB) if State or local procurement rules or regulations or competitive bidding requirements prevent the making of the certification otherwise required by such subclause. A school, school board, local educational agency, or other authority with responsibility for administration of the school shall notify the Commission of the applicability of such subclause to the school. Such notice shall certify that the school in question will be brought into compliance before the start of the third program year after the date of enactment of the Eyes on the Board Act of 2025 in which the school is applying for funds under section 254(h).

''(D) NONCOMPLIANCE.—

''(i) FAILURE TO SUBMIT CERTIFICATION.—Any school that knowingly fails to comply with the application guidelines regarding the annual submission of a certification required by this paragraph shall not be eligible for services at discount rates or funding in lieu of services at such rates under section 254(h).

''(ii) FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH CERTIFICATION.—Any school that knowingly fails to ensure the use of its supported services, devices, and networks is in accordance with a certification under subparagraph (B) shall

reimburse any funds and discounts received under section 254(h) for the period covered by such certification.

''(iii) REMEDY OF NONCOMPLIANCE.—

''(I) FAILURE TO SUBMIT.—A school that has failed to submit a certification under clause (i) may remedy the failure by submitting the certification to which the failure relates. Upon submittal of such certification, the school shall be eligible for services at discount rates under section 254(h).

''(II) FAILURE TO COMPLY.—A school that has failed to comply with a certification as described in clause (ii) may remedy the failure by ensuring that the use of its supported services, devices, and networks is in accordance with such certification. Upon submittal to the Commission of a certification or other appropriate evidence of such remedy, the school shall be eligible for services at discount rates under section 254(h).

''(E) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph may be construed to consider a school, school board, local educational agency, or other authority with responsibility for the administration of a school in violation of this paragraph, or subject to a delay in the processing of funding applications or requests for reimbursement, if that school, school board, local educational agency, or other authority makes a good faith effort to comply with this paragraph and to correct a known violation of this paragraph within a reasonable period of time.

''(3) ENFORCEMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall—

''(i) not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of the Eyes on the Board Act of 2025, amend the rules of the Commission to carry out this subsection; and

''(ii) subject to subparagraph (B), enforce this subsection, and any rules issued under this subsection, as if this subsection and those rules were part of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.) or the rules issued under that Act.

''(B) LIMITATIONS.—

''(i) NONCOMPLIANCE DESPITE GOOD FAITH EFFORTS.—The Commission may not seek recovery of funding provided under section 254(h), or delay the processing of a funding application, because of the violation by a school, school board, local educational agency, or other authority with responsibility for administration of the school of any requirement of this subsection, or any rule issued under this subsection, if the school, school board, local educational agency, or other authority with responsibility for administration of the school made a good faith effort to comply with that requirement and correct any known violations of that requirement within a reasonable period of time.

''(ii) NONCOMPLIANCE WITHOUT GOOD FAITH EFFORTS.—With respect to any violation of a requirement of this subsection, or any rule issued under this subsection, in which a school, school board, local educational agency, or other authority with responsibility for administration of the school does not make a good faith effort to comply with that requirement, or does not correct any known violation of that requirement within a reasonable period of time, the Commission shall seek recovery of the funding provided to the school under section 254(h) for such period consistent with the remedy established under paragraph (2)(D)(iii).

''(4) EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN LIBRARIES.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed to require a library (as defined in section 213 of the Museum and Library Services Act (20 U.S.C. 9122)), except a library of an elementary or secondary school, to comply with the requirements of this subsection or any rule issued under this subsection.''.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 254(h) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 254(h)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5)(E)—

(A) in clause (i), in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking ''1721(h)'' and inserting ''1721(i)''; and

(B) in clause (ii)(I), by striking ''1721(h)'' and inserting ''1721(i)''; and

(2) in paragraph (6)(E)—

(A) in clause (i), in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking ''1721(h)'' and inserting ''1721(i)''; and

(B) in clause (ii)(I), by striking ''1721(h)'' and inserting ''1721(i)''.

SEC. 1099B. INTERNET SAFETY POLICIES.

Section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 254) is amended—

(1) in subsection (h)(5)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(i)—

(i) in subclause (I), by inserting ''and copies of the Internet safety policy to which each such certification pertains'' before the semicolon at the end; and

(ii) in subclause (II)—

(I) by striking ''Commission'' and all that follows through the end of the subclause and inserting the following: ''Commission—

''(aa) a certification that an Internet safety policy described in subclause (I) have been adopted and implemented for the school; and''; and

(II) by adding at the end the following:

''(bb) copies of the Internet safety policy described in item (aa); and''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(G) DATABASE OF INTERNET SAFETY POLICIES.—The Commission shall establish an easily accessible, public database that contains each Internet safety policy submitted to the Commission under subclauses (I) and (II) of subparagraph (A)(i).''; and

(2) in subsection (l), by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

''(3) AVAILABILITY FOR REVIEW.—A copy of each Internet safety policy adopted by a library under this subsection shall be made available to the Commission, upon request of the Commission, by the library for purposes of the review of the Internet safety policy by the Commission.''.

CHAPTER 3—SEVERABILITY

SEC. 1099C. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this subtitle is determined to be unenforceable or invalid, the remaining provisions of this subtitle shall not be affected.

SA 3495. 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 end of subtitle A of title XXVIII, add the following:

SEC. 2811. COASTAL RISK MANAGEMENT PROJECTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall carry out projects for mitigation of hurricane and storm damage risk that will contribute to maintaining or improving military installation resilience (as defined in section 101(f)(8) of title 10, United States Code) or will prevent or mitigate encroachment that could affect operations of the Department of Defense.

(b) COST SHARE.—Not less than 10 percent of the amount of costs associated with the coastal storm risk management features of a project carried out under subsection (a) shall be paid by a non-Federal interest.

SA 3496. Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN) 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___. FOREIGN COMMERCIAL SPYWARE.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) there is a national security need for the legitimate and responsible procurement and application of cyber intrusion capabilities, including for efforts relating to counterterrorism, counternarcotics, and countertrafficking;

(2) the growing commercial market for sophisticated cyber intrusion capabilities has enhanced state and non-state actors' ability to target and track journalists, human rights defenders, and civil society groups for nefarious purposes;

(3) the proliferation of commercial spyware presents significant and growing risks to United States national security, including to the safety and security of United States Government personnel; and

(4) ease of access into and lack of transparency in the commercial spyware market raises the probability of spreading potentially destructive or disruptive cyber capabilities to a wider range of malicious actors

(b) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to oppose the misuse of foreign commercial spyware to target journalists, human rights defenders, and civil society groups;

(2) to coordinate with allies and partners of the United States to prevent the export of commercial spyware tools to end-users likely to use them for malicious activities;

(3) to maintain robust information-sharing with trusted allies and partners of the United States on commercial spyware proliferation and misuse, including to better identify and track these tools;

(4) to work with private industry to identify and counter the abuse and misuse of commercial spyware technology; and

(5) to work with allies and partners of the United States to establish robust guardrails to ensure that the use of commercial spyware tools is consistent with respect for internationally recognized human rights and the rule of law.

SEC. 10___. VISA RESTRICTIONS FOR MISUSE OF FOREIGN COMMERCIAL SPYWARE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State may, pursuant to section 212(a)(3)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(3)(C)), implement visa restrictions for aliens (as defined in section 101(a) of that Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a))) that the Secretary has reason to believe—

(1) have been knowingly involved in the misuse of foreign commercial spyware to target, arbitrarily or unlawfully surveil, harass, suppress, or intimidate individuals, including—

(A) journalists;

(B) defenders of internationally recognized human rights;

(C) members of ethnic or religious minority groups; or

(D) family members of individuals described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C); or

(2) facilitate or derive financial benefit from the misuse of foreign commercial spyware, including by—

(A) developing, directing, or controlling the operations of foreign entities that furnish technologies such as commercial spyware to governments that engage in the misuse of foreign commercial spyware described in paragraph (1); or

(B) acting on behalf of such governments.

(b) NATIONAL SECURITY WAIVER.—The Secretary of State may waive the application of subsection (a) with respect to an individual if the Secretary—

(1) determines that the waiver is in the national security interests of the United States; and

(2) submits to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on that determination.

SEC. 10____. ANNUAL REPORT ON COUNTRIES ABUSING COMMERCIAL SPYWARE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) FOREIGN COMMERCIAL SPYWARE; FOREIGN COMPANY; SPYWARE.—The terms ''foreign commercial spyware'', ''foreign company'', and ''spyware'' have the meanings given such terms in section 1102A of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3232a(a)).

(2) HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER.—The term ''human rights defender'' means an individual, including a journalist, activist, lawyer, community leader, land or environmental defender, labor leader, whistleblower, political prisoner, or member of a civil society organization or opposition political party, working alone or in a group, who uses nonviolent means to promote or protect human rights and fundamental freedoms in a manner consistent with the principles described in the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

(3) UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS.—The term ''United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders'' means the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 9, 1998.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Director of National Intelligence and the heads of relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall submit a classified report to the appropriate congressional committees describing incidents occurring during the 1-year period preceding the date on which such report is submitted that involve the use of foreign commercial spyware by the governments or government officials of foreign countries to monitor or harass officials of the United States or human rights defenders.

(c) ELEMENTS.—Each report required under subsection (b) shall include, with respect to each incident included in the report—

(1) the identification of the foreign government or government officials responsible for ordering the use of and deploying the foreign commercial spyware;

(2) the identification of the United States officials or human rights defenders who were targeted;

(3) a description of the foreign commercial spyware used, including technical characteristics, capabilities, and brand names;

(4) a list of foreign persons who derive financial benefit from such foreign commercial spyware;

(5) the identification of the supplier and procurer of such foreign commercial spyware;

(6) an assessment of —

(A) whether the vendor of the foreign commercial spyware has targeted United States persons; and

(B) the threat that the foreign commercial spyware poses to current and future United States foreign policy objectives and national security;

(7) a description of—

(A) how the foreign commercial spyware was or is used to suppress freedom of speech, dissent, and other political freedoms; and

(B) any connections between the foreign commercial spyware and gross violations of human rights, including extrajudicial killings, disappearances, torture, and mass arbitrary detentions;

(8) a description of the suspected impetus or motivation for the targeting of the United States officials or human rights defenders concerned; and

(9) any statements the foreign government that used, or the foreign company that provided, the foreign commercial spyware has made regarding the use of the foreign commercial spyware, including denials of its use.

SA 3497. Mr. VAN HOLLEN 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 IX, add the following:

SEC. 923. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON CIVILIAN PROTECTION CENTER OF EXCELLENCE.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Department of Defense is required by section 184 of title 10, United States Code, to operate the Civilian Protection Center of Excellence and maintain sufficient resources and staff for the Center to pursue its purpose as set forth in that section;

(2) the Department of Defense is not permitted to disestablish, dismantle, or cease functional operation of the Civilian Protection Center of Excellence without an Act of Congress authorizing such actions; and

(3) actions to disestablish, dismantle, or cease functional operation of the Civilian Protection Center of Excellence would be inconsistent with the intent of Congress and the rule of law.

SA 3498. Mr. VAN HOLLEN 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 IX, add the following:

SEC. 923. PERSONNEL TO IMPLEMENT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE POLICY ON CIVILIAN HARM.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to facilitate fulfillment of the requirements of section 936 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law 115–232; 10 U.S.C. 134 note).

(b) PERSONNEL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall do the following:

(1) Add to, and assign within, each of the United States Central Command, the United States Africa Command, the United States Special Operations Command, the United States European Command, the United States Southern Command, the United States Indo-Pacific Command, and the United States Northern Command not fewer than four personnel who shall have primary responsibility for the following in connection with military operations undertaken by such command:

(A) Providing guidance and oversight relating to mitigation of and response to civilian harm and the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure.

(B) Identifying and integrating approaches to mitigating and responding to civilian harm across all levels of command into command policy and procedure, plans, operations, exercises, training, and capability requirements.

(C) Ensuring information and analysis of the civilian environment and estimated risk to civilians to support battlespace awareness and mission effectiveness.

(D) Receiving reports of civilian harm and conducting or overseeing civilian harm assessments.

(E) Analyzing civilian harm incidents and trends and identifying and disseminating lessons learned related to civilian harm mitigation and response.

(F) Overseeing civilian harm response functions on behalf of the commander of such command, including offering condolences for civilian casualties, including ex gratia payments.

(G) Ensuring the integration of activities relating to civilian harm mitigation and response, protection of civilians, and promotion of observance of human rights in security cooperation activities and enhancing shared good practice and capabilities development for civilian harm mitigation and response with allies and partners of the United States.

(H) Maintaining dialogue and conducting consultations with nongovernmental organizations on civilian harm, human rights, and humanitarian matters.

(2) Add to, and assign within, the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy not fewer than four personnel who shall have primary responsibility for implementing and overseeing the implementation of Department of Defense policy on the protection of civilians and civilian harm mitigation and response, consistent with the laws of war.

(3) Add to, and assign within, the Joint Staff not fewer than two personnel who shall have primary responsibility for the following:

(A) Overseeing implementation by the components of the Department of Defense of Department policy on civilian harm mitigation and response.

(B) Developing and sharing in the implementation of such policy.

(C) Communicating operational guidance on such policy.

SA 3499. Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. CURTIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XII, add the following:

Subtitle F—Taiwan Allies Fund

SEC. 1271. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Taiwan Allies Fund Act''.

SEC. 1272. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Taiwan is a free and prosperous democracy of more than 23,000,000 people and an important contributor to peace and stability around the world.

(2) The People's Republic of China has engaged in a years-long campaign to diplomatically isolate Taiwan on the world stage.

(3) Since 2013, the Gambia, São Tomé and Príncipe, Panama, the Dominican Republic, Burkina Faso, El Salvador, the Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Nicaragua, Honduras, and, most recently in 2024, Nauru have severed diplomatic relations with Taiwan in favor of diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China.

(4) The People's Republic of China has used economic and diplomatic intimidation against countries pursuing unofficial relations with Taiwan, including Lithuania, Czechia, and the United States.

(5) The Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 (Public Law 96–8) states that it is the policy of the United States ''to maintain the capacity of the United States to resist any resort to force or other forms of coercion that would jeopardize the security, or the social or economic system, of the people on Taiwan''.

(6) The Taiwan Allies International Protection and Enhancement Initiative (TAIPEI) Act of 2019 (Public Law 116–135) states that the United States Government should—

(A) ''support Taiwan in strengthening its official diplomatic relationships as well as other partnerships with countries in the Indo-Pacific region and around the world''; and

(B) ''consider, in certain cases as appropriate and in alignment with United States interests, increasing its economic, security, and diplomatic engagement with nations that have demonstrably strengthened, enhanced, or upgraded relations with Taiwan''.

SEC. 1273. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that the United States Government should—

(1) advocate, as appropriate, for Taiwan's presence on the global stage, including at international organizations;

(2) promote the preservation and expansion of Taiwan's official diplomatic relations with countries around the world;

(3) expand Taiwan's unofficial relations with countries around the world;

(4) encourage countries with unofficial relations with Taiwan to deepen their engagement; and

(5) advance the economic development of countries that support democratic partners like Taiwan.

SEC. 1274. TAIWAN ALLIES FUND.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Of the amounts made available under the Countering PRC Influence Fund for each of the fiscal years 2026, 2027, and 2028, there is authorized to be appropriated $40,000,000 for each such fiscal year to support Taiwan's international space.

(b) ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES.—Amounts available pursuant to the authorization of appropriations under subsection (a) may be used in countries that—

(1) maintain official relations with Taiwan or have meaningfully strengthened unofficial relations with Taiwan;

(2) have been subject to coercion or pressure by the People's Republic of China due to their relations with Taiwan; and

(3) lack the economic or political capability to effectively respond to such coercion or pressure by the People's Republic of China without the support of the United States.

(c) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts available pursuant to the authorization of appropriations under subsection (a) may be used to support any of the following activities in the countries described in subsection (b):

(1) To support health initiatives that provide alternatives to the Health Silk Road.

(2) To build the capacity and resilience of civil society, media, and other nongovernmental organizations in countering the influence and propaganda of the People's Republic of China.

(3) To diversify supply chains away from the People's Republic of China.

(4) To provide alternatives to People's Republic of China development assistance and project financing.

(5) To advance Taiwan's meaningful participation in international fora and multilateral organizations.

(6) To work with the private sector to provide United States or allied alternatives to People's Republic of China information and communications technology infrastructure and components.

(d) LIMITATION ON FUNDS.—A country described in subsection (b) may not receive more than $5,000,000 of funds made available pursuant to the authorization of appropriations under subsection (a) during any fiscal year.

(e) IMPLEMENTATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Administrator for the United States Agency for International Development, the Director of the American Institute in Taiwan, and the heads other relevant Federal agencies, shall coordinate and carry out activities described in subsection (c).

(2) AUTHORITIES.—Amounts available pursuant to the authorization of appropriations under subsection (a) may be considered foreign assistance under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) for purposes of making available the administrative authorities in that Act and may be transferred to, and merged with, funds made available for any provision of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to carry out the purposes of this section, except that such funds shall remain available until expended.

(3) COORDINATION WITH TAIWAN.—In order to maximize cost efficiency and eliminate duplication, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Administrator for the United States Agency for International Development, should work with the Director of the American Institute in Taiwan to ensure coordination with relevant parties of Taiwan, as appropriate.

(4) COST-SHARING WITH TAIWAN.—The Secretary of State should convey to relevant parties of Taiwan, as appropriate, that Taiwan should contribute commensurate assistance to countries described in subsection (b).

(5) REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, and annually thereafter for two years, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on activities described in this section that were carried out during the preceding fiscal year.

(B) ELEMENTS.—Each report required by subparagraph (A) shall include—

(i) with respect to each activity described in subsection (c)—

(I) the amount of funding for the activity;

(II) the goal to which the activity relates; and

(III) an assessment of the success of the activity to meet the goal to which the activity relates; and

(ii) with respect to this subsection—

(I) the amount of funding for the activity provided by Taiwan during the preceding year, if any; and

(II) an assessment of whether the funding described in subclause (I) is commensurate with funding provided by the United States.

(f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to apply to or limit United States foreign assistance not provided using amounts available pursuant to the authorization of appropriations under subsection (a).

(g) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

SA 3500. Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. CURTIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1248. TAIWAN INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Taiwan International Solidarity Act''.

(b) CLARIFICATION REGARDING UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 2758 (XXVI).—Section 2(a) of the Taiwan Allies International Protection and Enhancement Initiative (TAIPEI) Act of 2019 (Public Law 116–135) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''(a) FINDINGS.—''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(10) United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2758 (XXVI) established the representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China as the only lawful representatives of China to the United Nations. The resolution did not address the issue of representation of Taiwan and its people in the United Nations or any related organizations, nor did the resolution take a position on the relationship between the People's Republic of China and Taiwan or include any statement pertaining to Taiwan's sovereignty.

''(11) The United States opposes any initiative that seeks to change Taiwan's status without the consent of the people of Taiwan.''.

(c) UNITED STATES ADVOCACY FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO RESIST THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA'S EFFORTS TO DISTORT THE ''ONE CHINA'' POSITION.—Section 4 of the Taiwan Allies International Protection and Enhancement Initiative (TAIPEI) Act of 2019 is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) to instruct, as appropriate, representatives of the United States Government in all organizations described in paragraph (1) to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to advocate that such organizations resist the People's Republic of China's efforts to distort the decisions, language, policies, or procedures of such organizations regarding Taiwan.''.

(d) OPPOSING THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA'S EFFORTS TO UNDERMINE TAIWAN'S TIES AND PARTNERSHIPS INTERNATIONALLY.—Section 5(a) of the Taiwan Allies International Protection and Enhancement Initiative (TAIPEI) Act of 2019 is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) encourage, as appropriate, United States allies and partners to oppose the People's Republic of China's efforts to undermine Taiwan's official diplomatic relationships and its partnerships with countries with which it does not maintain diplomatic relations.''.

(e) REPORT ON THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA'S ATTEMPTS TO PROMOTE ITS ''ONE CHINA'' POSITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 5(b) of the Taiwan Allies International Protection and Enhancement Initiative (TAIPEI) Act of 2019 is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: ''and information relating to any prior or ongoing attempts by the People's Republic of China to undermine Taiwan's membership or observer status in all organizations described in section 4(1) and Taiwan's ties and relationships with other countries in accordance with subsection (a)''.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall—

(A) take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(B) apply beginning with the first report required after such date under section 5(b) of the Taiwan Allies International Protection and Enhancement Initiative (TAIPEI) Act of 2019, as amended by paragraph (1).

SA 3501. Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. HUSTED) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title XXVIII, add the following:

SEC. 2811. MODIFICATIONS TO LIMITATIONS ON UNSPECIFIED MINOR CONSTRUCTION.

Section 2805 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)—

(A) by striking ''$9,000,000'' each place it appears and inserting ''$12,000,000'';

(B) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following new paragraph (4):

''(4) Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Defense shall review the dollar limitations under this subsection and, based on a review of the Unified Facilities Criteria 3-701-01 (DoD Facilities Pricing Guide, published March 17, 2022), or successor criteria, determine if such dollar limitations should be increased.''; and

(2) in subsection (f)—

(A) by striking ''(1) ADJUSTMENT OF LIMITATIONS.—''; and

(B) by striking ''$14,000,000'' and inserting ''$18,000,000''.

SA 3502. Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1210. YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS INITIATIVE.

(a) SHORT TITLES.—This section may be cited as the ''Young African Leaders Initiative Act of 2025'' or the ''YALI Act of 2025''.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Young African Leaders Initiative, launched in 2010, is a signature effort to invest in the next generation of African leaders;

(2) Africa is a continent of strategic importance and it is vital for the United States to support strong and enduring partnerships with the next generation of African leaders;

(3) the United States Government should prioritize investments to build the capacity of emerging young African leaders in sub-Saharan Africa, including through efforts that—

(A) enhance leadership skills;

(B) encourage entrepreneurship;

(C) strengthen public administration and the role of civil society;

(D) enhance peace and security in their respective countries of origin and across Africa; and

(E) connect young African leaders continentally and globally across the private, civic, and public sectors;

(4) youth in Africa have a positive impact on efforts to foster economic growth, improve public sector transparency and governance, and counter extremism, and should be an area of focus for United States outreach on the African continent; and

(5) the Secretary of State should—

(A) increase the number of fellows from Africa participating in the Mandela Washington Fellowship above the estimated 700 fellows who participated during fiscal year 2024; and

(B) identify additional ways to connect YALI alumni to United States public and private resources and institutions.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) YALI.—The term ''YALI'' means the Young African Leaders Initiative established under this section.

(d) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Young African Leaders Initiative (referred to in this section as ''YALI''), which shall be carried out by the Secretary of State.

(e) PURPOSE.—YALI shall seek to build the capacity of young African leaders in sub-Saharan Africa in the areas of business, civic engagement, or public administration, including through efforts that—

(1) support young African leaders by offering professional development, training, and networking opportunities, particularly in the areas of leadership, innovation, civic engagement, elections, human rights, entrepreneurship, good governance, peace and security, and public administration; and

(2) provide increased economic and technical assistance to young African leaders to promote economic growth, strengthen ties between United States and African businesses, build resilience to predatory lending practices, and improve capacity in key economic areas such as tendering, bidding, and contract negotiations, budget management and oversight, anti-corruption, and establishment of clear policy and regulatory practices.

(f) FELLOWSHIPS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—YALI shall support the participation in the United States in the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders of fellows from Africa who—

(A) are between 25 and 35 years of age;

(B) have demonstrated strong capabilities in entrepreneurship, innovation, public service, and leadership; and

(C) have had a positive impact in their communities, organizations, or institutions.

(2) OVERSIGHT.—The fellowships described in paragraph (1) shall be overseen by the Secretary of State through the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

(3) ELIGIBILITY.—The Secretary of State shall establish and publish—

(A) eligibility criteria for participation as a fellow under paragraph (1); and

(B) criteria for determining which eligible applicants will be selected.

(g) RECIPROCAL EXCHANGES.—Subject to the approval of the Secretary of State, United States citizens may—

(1) engage in reciprocal exchanges in connection with alumni of the fellowship described in subsection (f); and

(2) collaborate on projects with such fellowship alumni.

(h) REGIONAL LEADERSHIP CENTERS AND NETWORKS.—The Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall establish—

(1) not fewer than 4 regional leadership centers in sub-Saharan Africa to offer in-person and online training throughout the year on business and entrepreneurship, civic leadership, and public management to young African leaders who—

(A) are between 18 and 35 years of age;

(B) have demonstrated strong capabilities in entrepreneurship, innovation, public service and leadership, and peace-building and conflict resolution; and

(C) have had a positive impact in their communities, organizations, or institutions; and

(2) an online network that provides information and courses on, and connections with leaders in, the private and public sectors of Africa.

(i) ACTIVITIES.—

(1) UNITED STATES-BASED ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the heads of relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall oversee all United States-based activities carried out under YALI, including—

(A) the participation of Mandela Washington Fellows in a 6-week Leadership Institute at a United States educational institution in business, civic engagement, or public management, including academic sessions, site visits, professional networking opportunities, leadership training, community service, and organized cultural activities; and

(B) the participation by Mandela Washington fellows in an annual Mandela Washington Fellowship Summit, to provide such Fellows the opportunity to meet with United States leaders from the private, public, and nonprofit sectors.

(2) AFRICA-BASED ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator for the United States Agency for International Development and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, should continue to support YALI activities in sub-Saharan Africa, including—

(A) continued leadership training and other professional development opportunities for Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders alumni upon their return to their home countries, including online courses, technical assistance, and access to funding;

(B) training for young African leaders at regional leadership centers established pursuant to subsection (h), and through online and in-person courses offered by such centers; and

(C) opportunities for networking and engagement with—

(i) alumni of the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders;

(ii) alumni of programs at regional leadership centers established pursuant to subsection (h);

(iii) United States and like-minded diplomatic missions, business leaders, and others as appropriate; and

(iv) where practicable and appropriate, other United States-funded regional leadership programs, including the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI), the Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative (YLAI), the Young Pacific Leaders (YPL), and the Young Transatlantic Innovation Leaders Initiative (YTILI), and through Department of State programs such as the Community Engagement Exchange Program and other initiatives.

(3) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall carry out this subsection by seeking to partner with the private sector—

(A) to pursue public-private partnerships;

(B) to leverage private sector expertise;

(C) to expand networking opportunities; and

(D) to identify funding opportunities and fellowship and employment opportunities for YALI.

(j) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall submit a plan to the appropriate congressional committees for implementing YALI, including—

(1) a description of clearly defined program goals, targets, and planned outcomes for each year and for the duration of implementation of the program;

(2) a strategy to monitor and evaluate the program and progress made toward achieving such goals, targets, and planned outcomes; and

(3) a strategy to ensure the program is promoting United States foreign policy goals in Africa, including ensuring that the program is clearly branded, paired with robust public diplomacy efforts, and incorporates diversity among participants as practicable, including countries and communities in Africa facing economic distress, civil conflict, marginalization, and other challenges.

(k) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for the following 4 years, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees, and publish in a publicly accessible, internet-based form, a report that includes—

(1) a description of the progress made toward achieving the goals, targets, and planned outcomes described in subsection (j)(1), including an overview of the program implemented in the previous year and an estimated number of beneficiaries;

(2) an assessment of how YALI is contributing to and promoting United States-Africa relations, particularly in areas of increased private sector investment, trade promotion, support to civil society, improved public administration, promoting peace and security, and fostering entrepreneurship and youth empowerment;

(3) recommendations for improvements or changes to YALI and the implementation plan, if any, that would improve their effectiveness during subsequent years of YALI's implementation; and

(4) for the first report submitted under this subsection, an assessment of the feasibility of expanding YALI to Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, and Egypt.

(l) SUNSET.—This section shall cease to have effect on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 3503. Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina 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:

DIVISION E—ROAD TO HOUSING ACT

SEC. 5001. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the ''Renewing Opportunity in the American Dream to Housing Act of 2025'' or the ''ROAD to Housing Act of 2025''.

SEC. 5002. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this division is as follows:

DIVISION E—ROAD TO HOUSING ACT

Sec. 5001. Short title.
Sec. 5002. Table of contents.

TITLE I—IMPROVING FINANCIAL LITERACY

Sec. 5101. Reforms to housing counseling and financial literacy programs.

TITLE II—BUILDING MORE IN AMERICA

Sec. 5201. Rental assistance demonstration program.
Sec. 5202. Increasing housing in opportunity zones.
Sec. 5203. Housing Supply Frameworks Act.
Sec. 5204. Whole-Home Repairs Act.
Sec. 5205. Community Investment and Prosperity Act.
Sec. 5206. Build Now Act.
Sec. 5207. Better Use of Intergovernmental and Local Development (BUILD) Housing Act.
Sec. 5208. Unlocking Housing Supply Through Streamlined and Modernized Reviews Act.
Sec. 5209. Innovation Fund.
Sec. 5210. Accelerating Home Building Act.
Sec. 5211. Build More Housing Near Transit Act.
Sec. 5212. Revitalizing Empty Structures Into Desirable Environments (RESIDE) Act.
Sec. 5213. Housing Affordability Act.

TITLE III—MANUFACTURED HOUSING FOR AMERICA

Sec. 5301. Housing Supply Expansion Act.
Sec. 5302. Modular Housing Production Act.
Sec. 5303. Property Improvement and Manufactured Housing Loan Modernization Act.
Sec. 5304. Price Act.

TITLE IV—ACCESSING THE AMERICAN DREAM

Sec. 5401. Creating incentives for small dollar loan originators.
Sec. 5402. Small dollar mortgage points and fees.
Sec. 5403. Appraisal Industry Improvement Act.
Sec. 5404. Helping More Families Save Act.
Sec. 5405. Choice in Affordable Housing Act.

TITLE V—PROGRAM REFORM

Sec. 5501. Reforming Disaster Recovery Act.
Sec. 5502. HOME Investment Partnerships Reauthorization and Improvement Act.
Sec. 5503. Rural Housing Service Reform Act.
Sec. 5504. New Moving to Work cohort.
Sec. 5505. Reducing Homelessness Through Program Reform Act.
Sec. 5506. Incentivizing local solutions to homelessness.

TITLE VI—VETERANS AND HOUSING

Sec. 5601. VA Home Loan Awareness Act.
Sec. 5602. Veterans Affairs Loan Informed Disclosure (VALID) Act.
Sec. 5603. Housing Unhoused Disabled Veterans Act.

TITLE VII—OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Sec. 5701. Requiring annual testimony and oversight from housing regulators.
Sec. 5702. FHA reporting requirements on safety and soundness.
Sec. 5703. United States Interagency Council on Homelessness oversight.
Sec. 5704. NeighborWorks Accountability Act.
Sec. 5705. Appraisal Modernization Act.

TITLE VIII—COORDINATION, STUDIES, AND REPORTING

Sec. 5801. HUD-USDA-VA Interagency Coordination Act.
Sec. 5802. Streamlining Rural Housing Act.
Sec. 5803. Improving self-sufficiency of families in HUD-subsidized housing.

TITLE I—IMPROVING FINANCIAL LITERACY

SEC. 5101. REFORMS TO HOUSING COUNSELING AND FINANCIAL LITERACY PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 106 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (12 U.S.C. 1701x) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(4)(C), by striking ''adequate distribution'' and all that follows through ''foreclosure rates'' and inserting ''that the recipients are geographically diverse and include organizations that serve urban or rural areas'';

(2) in subsection (e), by adding at the end the following:

''(6) PERFORMANCE REVIEW.—The Secretary—

''(A) may conduct periodic on-site reviews; and

''(B) shall conduct performance reviews of all participating agencies that—

''(i) consists of a review of the participating agency's compliance with all program requirements; and

''(ii) may take into account the agency's aggregate counselor performance under paragraph (7)(B).

''(7) CONSIDERATIONS.—

''(A) COVERED MORTGAGE LOAN DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term 'covered mortgage

loan' means any loan which is secured by a first or subordinate lien on residential real property (including individual units of condominiums and cooperatives) designed principally for the occupancy of between 1 and 4 families that is—

''(i) insured by the Federal Housing Administration under title II of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1707 et seq.); or

''(ii) guaranteed under section 184 or 184A of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 1715z–13a, 1715z–13b).

''(B) COMPARISON.—For each counselor employed by an organization receiving assistance under this section for pre-purchase housing counseling, the Secretary may consider the performance of the counselor compared to the default rate of all counseled borrowers of a covered mortgage loan in comparable markets and such other factors as the Secretary determines appropriate to further the purposes of this section.

''(8) CERTIFICATION.—If, based on the comparison required under paragraph (7)(B), the Secretary determines that a counselor lacks competence to provide counseling in the areas described in subsection (e)(2) and such action will not create a significant loss of capacity for housing counseling services in the service area, the Secretary may—

''(A) require continued education coupled with successful completion of a probationary period;

''(B) require retesting if the counselor continues to demonstrate a lack of competence under paragraph (7)(B); and

''(C) permanently suspend an individual certification if a counselor fails to demonstrate competence after not fewer than 2 retesting opportunities under subparagraph (B).'';

(3) in subsection (i)—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

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

''(3) TERMINATION OF ASSISTANCE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may deny renewal of covered assistance to an organization or entity receiving covered assistance if the Secretary determines that the organization or entity, or the individual through which the organization or entity provides counseling, is not in compliance with program requirements—

''(i) based on the performance review described in subsection (e)(6); and

''(ii) in accordance with regulations issued by the Secretary.

''(B) NOTICE.—The Secretary shall give an organization or entity receiving covered assistance not less than 60 days prior written notice of any denial of renewal under this paragraph, and the determination of renewal shall not be finalized until the end of that notice period.

''(C) INFORMAL CONFERENCE.—If requested in writing by the organization or entity within the notice period described in subparagraph (B), the organization or entity shall be entitled to an informal conference with the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Housing Counseling on behalf of the Secretary at which the organization or entity may present for consideration of specific factors that the organization or entity believes were beyond the control of the organization or entity and that caused the failure to comply with program requirements, such as a lack of lender or servicer coordination or communication with housing counseling agencies and individual counselors.''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(j) OFFERING FORECLOSURE MITIGATION COUNSELING.—

''(1) COVERED MORTGAGE LOAN DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term 'covered mortgage loan' means any loan which is secured by a first or subordinate lien on residential real property (including individual units of condominiums) or stock or membership in a cooperative ownership housing corporation designed principally for the occupancy of between 1 and 4 families that is—

''(A) insured by the Federal Housing Administration under title II of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1707 et seq.);

''(B) guaranteed under section 184 or 184A of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 1715z–13a, 1715z–13b);

''(C) made, guaranteed, or insured by the Department of Veterans Affairs; or

''(D) made, guaranteed, or insured by the Department of Agriculture.

''(2) OPPORTUNITY FOR BORROWERS.—A borrower with respect to a covered mortgage loan who is 30 days or more delinquent on payments for the covered mortgage loan shall be given an opportunity to participate in available housing counseling.

''(3) COST.—If the requirements of sections 202(a)(3) and 205(f) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1708(a)(3), 1711(f)) are met, the fair market rate cost of counseling for delinquent borrowers described in paragraph (2) with respect to a covered mortgage loan described in paragraph (1)(A) shall be paid for by the Mutual Mortgage Insurance Fund, as authorized under section 203(r)(4) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1709(r)(4)).''.

TITLE II—BUILDING MORE IN AMERICA

SEC. 5201. RENTAL ASSISTANCE DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.

The language under the heading ''RENTAL ASSISTANCE DEMONSTRATION'' in the Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112–55; 125 Stat. 673) is amended—

(1) in the second proviso, by striking ''until September 30, 2029'' and inserting ''for fiscal year 2012 and each fiscal year thereafter'';

(2) by striking the fourth proviso;

(3) in the twentieth proviso, as so designated before the date of enactment of this Act, by striking ''or other means:'' and inserting ''or other means, including the adoption of a mandatory tenant lease and management plan addendum for a property with assistance converted, if not otherwise covered by another program, under this demonstration:''

(4) by striking the twenty-second proviso, as so designated before the date of enactment of this Act;

(5) in the twenty-seventh, thirtieth, thirty-first, thirty-second, thirty-third, and thirty-forth provisos, as so designated before the date of enactment of this Act, by striking ''Second Component'' each place the term appears and inserting ''First Component''; and

(6) by striking ''vouchers to project-based vouchers.'' and inserting ''vouchers to project-based vouchers: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall annually assess and publish findings regarding the impact of the conversion of assistance under the First Component of the demonstration with respect to the preservation and improvement of public housing, the amount of private sector leveraging resulting from such conversion transactions, the prevalence of pre-conversion residents remaining in or returning to the property following conversion, and the effect of such conversion on tenants, including the impact of such conversion on the rights maintained by tenants as enumerated in regulations and other documents conferring rights upon tenants as developed by the Secretary, and other matters the Secretary may determine appropriate: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may take remediative action or impose civil money penalties or other administrative sanctions for material violations of a requirement under the demonstration: *Provided further*, That nothing in the matter under this heading shall be construed to diminish, impair, or otherwise affect the rights of property owners or tenants as enumerated in current law and regulations: *Provided further*, That all property owner rights, including those related to ownership, management, and contractual obligations, shall continue to apply and be respected following a Rental Assistance Demonstration Program conversion: *Provided further*, That all tenant protections and rights established in current law and regulations shall remain fully in effect for properties converted under the Rental Assistance Demonstration Program.''.

SEC. 5202. INCREASING HOUSING IN OPPORTUNITY ZONES.

(a) COVERED GRANT DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''covered grant'' means any competitive grant relating to the construction, modification, rehabilitation, or preservation of housing, as determined by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(b) PRIORITY.—When awarding a covered grant, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may give additional weight to applicants located in, or that primarily serve, a community that has been designated as a qualified opportunity zone under section 1400Z–1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

SEC. 5203. HOUSING SUPPLY FRAMEWORKS ACT.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The United States is facing a housing supply shortage. This housing supply shortage has resulted in a record number of cost-burdened households across regions and spanning the large and small cities, towns, and coastal and rural communities of the United States.

(2) Several factors contribute to the undersupply of housing in the United States, particularly workforce housing, including rising costs of construction, a shortage of labor, supply chain disruptions, and a lack of reliable funding sources.

(3) Regulatory barriers at the State and local levels, such as zoning and land use regulations, also inhibit the creation of new housing to meet local and regional housing needs.

(4) State and local governments are proactively exploring solutions for reforming regulatory barriers, but additional resources, data, and models can help adequately address these challenges.

(5) While land use regulation is the responsibility of State and local governments, there is Federal support for necessary reforms, and there is an opportunity for the Federal Government to provide support and assistance to State and local governments that wish to undertake necessary reforms in a manner that fits their communities' needs.

(6) Therefore, zoning ordinances or systems of land use regulation that have the intent or effect of restricting housing opportunities based on economic status or income without interests that are substantial, legitimate, nondiscriminatory and that outweigh the regional need for housing are contrary to the regional and national interest.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AFFORDABLE HOUSING.—The term ''affordable housing'' means housing for which the monthly payment is not more than 30 percent of the monthly income of the household.

(2) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term ''Assistant Secretary'' means the Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(3) LOCAL ZONING FRAMEWORK.—The term ''local zoning framework'' means the local

zoning codes and other ordinances, procedures, and policies governing zoning and land-use at the local level.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(5) STATE ZONING FRAMEWORK.—The term ''State zoning framework'' means the State legislation or State agency and department procedures, or such legislation or procedures in an insular area of the United States, enabling local planning and zoning authorities and establishing and guiding related policies and programs.

(c) GUIDELINES ON STATE AND LOCAL ZONING FRAMEWORKS.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary shall publish documents outlining guidelines and best practices to support production of adequate housing to meet the needs of communities and provide housing opportunities for individuals at every income level across communities with respect to—

(A) State zoning frameworks; and

(B) local zoning frameworks.

(2) CONSULTATION; PUBLIC COMMENT.—During the 2-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, in developing the guidelines and best practices required under paragraph (1), the Assistant Secretary shall—

(A) publish draft guidelines in the Federal Register for public comment; and

(B) establish a task force for the purpose of providing consultation to draft guidelines published under subparagraph (A), the members of which shall include—

(i) planners and architects;

(ii) housing developers, including affordable and market-rate housing developers, manufactured housing developers, and other business interests;

(iii) community engagement experts and community members impacted by zoning decisions;

(iv) public housing authorities and transit authorities;

(v) members of local zoning and planning boards and local and regional transportation planning organizations;

(vi) State officials responsible for housing or land use, including members of State zoning boards of appeals;

(vii) academic researchers; and

(viii) home builders.

(3) CONTENTS.—The guidelines and best practices required under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) with respect to State zoning frameworks, outline potential models for updated State enabling legislation or State agency and department procedures;

(B) include recommendations regarding—

(i) the reduction or elimination of parking minimums;

(ii) the increase in maximum floor area ratio requirements and maximum building heights and the reduction in minimum lot sizes and set-back requirements;

(iii) the elimination of restrictions against accessory dwelling units;

(iv) increasing by-right uses, including duplex, triplex, or quadplex buildings, across cities or metropolitan areas;

(v) mechanisms, including proximity to transit, to determine the appropriate scope for rezoning and ensure development that does not disproportionately burden residents of economically distressed areas;

(vi) provisions regarding review of by-right development proposals to streamline review and reduce uncertainty, including—

(I) nondiscretionary, ministerial review; and

(II) entitlement and design review processes;

(vii) the reduction of obstacles, regulatory or otherwise, to a range of housing types at all levels of affordability, including manufactured and modular housing;

(viii) State model zoning regulations for directing local reforms, including mechanisms to encourage adoption;

(ix) provisions to encourage transit-oriented development, including increased permissible units per structure and reduced minimum lot sizes near existing or planned public transit stations;

(x) potential reforms to strengthen the public engagement process;

(xi) reforms to protest petition statutes;

(xii) the standardization, reduction, or elimination of impact fees;

(xiii) cost effective and appropriate building codes;

(xiv) models for community benefit agreements;

(xv) mechanisms to preserve affordability, limit disruption of low-income communities, and prevent displacement of existing residents;

(xvi) with respect to State zoning frameworks—

(I) State model codes for directing local reforms, including mechanisms to encourage adoption;

(II) a model for a State zoning appeals process, which would—

(aa) create a process for developers or builders requesting a variance, conditional use, special permit, zoning district change, similar discretionary permit, or otherwise petitioning a local zoning or planning board for a project including a State-defined amount of affordable housing to appeal a rejection to a State body or regional body empowered by the State; and

(bb) establish qualifications for communities to be exempted from the appeals process based on their available stock of affordable housing; and

(III) streamlining of State environmental review policies;

(xvii) with respect to local zoning frameworks—

(I) the simplification and standardization of existing zoning codes;

(II) maximum review timelines;

(III) best practices for the disposition of land owned by local governments for affordable housing development;

(IV) differentiations between best practices for rural, suburban, and urban communities, and communities with different levels of density or population distribution; and

(V) streamlining of local environmental review policies; and

(xviii) other land use measures that promote access to new housing opportunities identified by the Secretary; and

(C) consider—

(i) the effects of adopting any recommendation on eligibility for Federal discretionary grants and tax credits for the purpose of housing or community development;

(ii) coordination between infrastructure investments and housing planning;

(iii) local housing needs, including ways to set and measure housing goals and targets;

(iv) a range of affordability for rental units, with a prioritization of units attainable to extremely low-, low-, and moderate-income residents;

(v) a range of affordability for homeownership;

(vi) accountability measures;

(vii) the long-term cost to residents and businesses if more housing is not constructed;

(viii) barriers to individuals seeking to access affordable housing in growing communities and communities with economic opportunity;

(ix) with respect to State zoning frameworks—

(I) distinctions between States providing constitutional or statutory home rule authority to municipalities and States operating under the Dillon Rule, as articulated in Hunter v. Pittsburgh, 207 U.S. 161 (1907); and

(II) Statewide mechanisms to preserve existing affordability over the long term, including support for land banks and community land trusts;

(x) public comments elicited under paragraph (2)(A); and

(xi) other considerations, as identified by the Secretary.

(d) ABOLISHMENT OF THE REGULATORY BARRIERS CLEARINGHOUSE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Regulatory Barriers Clearinghouse established pursuant to section 1205 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 12705d) is abolished.

(2) REPEAL.—Section 1205 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 12705d) is repealed.

(e) REPORTING.—

(1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 5 years after the date on which the Assistant Secretary publishes the guidelines and best practices for State and local zoning frameworks, the Assistant Secretary shall submit to Congress a report describing—

(A) the States that have adopted recommendations from the guidelines and best practices, pursuant to subsection (c);

(B) a summary of the localities that have adopted recommendations from the guidelines and best practices, pursuant to subsection (c);

(C) a list of States that adopted a State zoning framework;

(D) a summary of the modifications that each State has made in their State zoning framework;

(E) a general summary of the types of updates localities have made to their local zoning framework;

(F) of the States that have adopted a State zoning framework or recommendations from the guidelines and best practices, the effect of such adoptions; and

(G) a summary of recommendations that were routinely not adopted by States or by localities.

(2) MONITORING.—Two years after the date which the Assistant Secretary submits to Congress the initial report required under paragraph (1), and biennially thereafter, the Secretary shall—

(A) publish a report that—

(i) provides the latest information regarding the information described in subparagraphs (A) through (G) of that paragraph;

(ii) identifies, to the greatest extent practicable, the adoption rates by States and localities of each guideline and best practice established under subsection (c);

(iii) requests and establishes a public comment period on the guidelines and best practices established under subsection (c) that are routinely not adopted or adopted at significantly lower rates by States and localities; and

(iv) includes other relevant information and criteria, as determined by the Secretary; and

(B) review and consider all public feedback to the report required under subparagraph (A) for the purpose of improving the guidelines or best practices under subsection (c) to further achieve the zoning goals stated in subsection (a).

(f) GAO REPORT ON HOUSING SUPPLY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of

the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives a report that investigates barriers to housing supply, which shall include an assessment of—

(1) the current state of—

(A) the rental and homeowner housing supply shortage;

(B) geographic patterns of that shortage;

(C) shortages in housing at various levels of affordability; and

(D) shortages in housing appropriate for seniors, families with children, and people with disabilities;

(2) the key drivers of the shortages described in paragraph (1);

(3) regulatory, administrative, or procedural barriers that exist in Federal housing programs that inhibit housing development, and policy actions that can be taken to address those barriers;

(4) the extent to which jurisdictions have successfully implemented zoning or other policy reforms to increase housing production and supply; and

(5) opportunities for increasing coordination between the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Federal Housing Finance Agency, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of the Treasury, and other agencies to address housing supply.

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030.

(h) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to permit the Department of Housing and Urban Development to take an adverse action against or fail to provide otherwise offered actions or services for any State or locality if the State or locality declines to adopt a guideline or best practice under subsection (c).

SEC. 5204. WHOLE-HOME REPAIRS ACT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AFFORDABLE UNIT.—The term ''affordable unit'' means a unit for which the monthly rental payment is not more than 30 percent of the gross income of an individual earning at or below 80 percent of the area median income, as defined by the Secretary.

(2) ASSISTED UNIT.—The term ''assisted unit'' means a unit that undergoes repair or rehabilitation work through a whole-home repairs program administered by an implementing organization under this section.

(3) ELIGIBLE HOMEOWNER.—The term ''eligible homeowner'' means a homeowner—

(A) with a household income that—

(i) is not more than 80 percent of the area median income; or

(ii) meets the income eligibility requirements for receiving assistance or benefits under a specified program, as defined in paragraph (11); and

(B) who is—

(i) an owner of record as evidenced by a publicly recorded deed and occupies the home on which repairs are to be conducted as their principal residence;

(ii) an owner-occupant of the manufactured home on which repairs are to be conducted; or

(iii) an owner who can demonstrate an ownership interest in the property on which repairs are to be conducted, including a person who has inherited an interest in that property.

(4) ELIGIBLE LANDLORD.—The term ''eligible landlord'' means an individual—

(A) who owns, as determined by the relevant implementing organization, fewer than 10 eligible rental properties, with a majority of affordable units and not more than 50 total units, operated as primary residences in which a majority ownership interest is held by the individual, the spouse of the individual, or the dependent children of the individual, or any closely held legal entity controlled by the individual, the spouse of the individual, or the dependent children of the individual, either individually or collectively; and

(B) who agrees to the provisions described in subsection (b)(3).

(5) ELIGIBLE RENTAL PROPERTY.—The term ''eligible rental property'' means a residential property that—

(A) is leased, or offered exclusively for lease, as a primary residence by an eligible landlord; and

(B) includes affordable units.

(6) FORGIVABLE LOAN.—The term ''forgivable loan'' means a loan—

(A) made to an eligible landlord;

(B) that is secured by a lien recorded against a residential property; and

(C) that may be forgiven by the implementing organization not later than the date that is 3 years after the completion of the repairs if the eligible landlord has maintained compliance with the loan agreement described in subsection (b)(3).

(7) IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION.—The term ''implementing organization''—

(A) means a unit of general local government or a State that—

(i) will administer a whole-home repairs program through an agency, department, or other entity; or

(ii) enter into agreements with 1 or more local governments, municipal authorities, other governmental authorities, including a tribally designated housing entity, or qualified nonprofit organizations, to administer a whole-home repairs program as a subrecipient; and

(B) does not include a redundant entity in a jurisdiction already served by a grantee under subsection (b).

(8) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ''Indian tribe'' has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103).

(9) QUALIFIED NONPROFIT.—The term ''qualified nonprofit'' means a nonprofit organization that—

(A) has received funding, as a recipient or subrecipient, through—

(i) the Community Development Block Grant program under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.);

(ii) the HOME Investment Partnerships program under subtitle A of title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12741 et seq.);

(iii) the Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction grant program under section 1011 of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 4852) or a grant under the Healthy Homes Initiative administered by the Secretary pursuant to sections 501 and 502 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1970 (12 U.S.C. 1701z–1, 1701z–2);

(iv) the Self-Help and Assisted Homeownership Opportunity program authorized under section 11 of the Housing Opportunity Program Extension Act of 1996 (42 U.S.C. 12805 note);

(v) a rural housing program under title V of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1471 et seq.); or

(vi) the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation established under the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation Act (42 U.S.C. 8101 et seq.);

(B) has coordinated, performed, or otherwise been engaged in weatherization, lead remediation, or home-repair work for not less than 2 years;

(C) has been certified by the Environmental Protection Agency, or by a State authorized by the Environmental Protection Agency to administer a certification program, as—

(i) eligible to carry out activities under the lead renovation, repair and painting program; or

(ii) a Home Certification Organization under the Energy Star program established by section 324A of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6294a) or the WaterSense program under section 324B of that Act (42 U.S.C. 6294b), or recognized or otherwise approved by the Environmental Protection Agency as a Home Certification Organization under either of those programs; or

(D) is a community development financial institution, as defined in section 103 of the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4702).

(10) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(11) SPECIFIED PROGRAM.—For purposes of paragraph (3)(A)(ii), the term ''specified program'' means any of the following:

(A) The Medicaid program established under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.).

(B) The State Children's Health Insurance Program established under title XXI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397aa et seq.).

(C) The supplemental security income benefits program established under title XVI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.).

(D) The supplemental nutrition assistance program established under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.).

(E) The temporary assistance for needy families program established under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.).

(12) STATE.—The term ''State'' means—

(A) each State of the United States;

(B) the District of Columbia;

(C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

(D) any territory or possession of the United States; and

(E) an Indian tribe.

(13) TRIBALLY DESIGNATED HOUSING ENTITY.—The term ''tribally designated housing entity'' has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103).

(14) WHOLE-HOME REPAIRS.—The term ''whole-home repairs'' means modifications, repairs, or updates to homeowner or renter-occupied units to address—

(A) physical and sensory accessibility for individuals with disabilities and older adults, such as bathroom and kitchen modifications, installation of grab bars and handrails, guards and guardrails, lifting devices, ramp additions or repairs, sidewalk addition or repair, or doorway or hallway widening;

(B) habitability and safety concerns, such as repairs needed to ensure residential units are fit for human habitation and free from defective conditions or health and safety hazards; or

(C) energy and water efficiency, resilience, and weatherization.

(b) PILOT PROGRAM.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a pilot program to provide grants to implementing organizations to administer a whole-home repairs program for eligible homeowners and eligible landlords.

(2) USE OF FUNDS.—An implementing organization that receives a grant under this subsection—

(A) shall provide grants to eligible homeowners to implement whole-home repairs not covered by other Federal home repair programs and up to a maximum amount per unit, which maximum amount should—

(i) reflect local construction costs and the level of repairs needed in each unit; and

(ii) be calculated and approved by the Secretary;

(B) shall provide loans, which may be forgivable, to eligible landlords to implement whole-home repairs not covered by other Federal home repair programs for individual affordable units, public and common use areas within the property, and common structural elements up to a maximum amount per unit, area, or element, as applicable, which maximum amount should—

(i) reflect local construction costs; and

(ii) be calculated and approved by the Secretary;

(C) shall evaluate, or provide assistance to eligible homeowners and eligible landlords to evaluate, whole-home repair program funds provided under this subsection with Federal, State, and local home repair programs to provide the greatest benefit to the greatest number of eligible landlords and eligible homeowners and avoid duplication of benefits and redundancies;

(D) shall ensure that—

(i) all repairs funded or facilitated through an award under this subsection have been completed;

(ii) if repairs are not completed and the plan for whole-home repairs is not updated to reflect the new scope of work, that the loan or grant is repaid on a prorated basis based on completed work; and

(iii) any unused grant or loan balance is returned to the implementing organization, and is reused by the implementing organization for a new whole-home repair grant or loan under this subsection;

(E) may use not more than 5 percent of the awarded funds to carry out related functions, including workforce training for home repair professions, which shall be related to efforts to increase the number of home repairs performed and approved by the Secretary;

(F) may use not more than 10 percent of the awarded funds for administrative expenses; and

(G) shall comply with Federal accessibility requirements and standards under applicable Federal fair housing and civil rights laws and regulations, including section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794).

(3) LOAN AGREEMENT.—In a loan agreement with an eligible landlord under this subsection, an implementing organization shall include provisions establishing that the eligible landlord shall, for each eligible rental property for which a loan is used to fund repairs under this subsection—

(A) comply with Federal accessibility requirements and standards under applicable Federal fair housing and civil rights laws and regulations, including section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794); and

(B)(i) if the landlord is renting the assisted units available in the eligible rental property to tenants receiving tenant-based rental assistance under section 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)), under another tenant-based rental assistance program administered by the Secretary or the Secretary of Agriculture, or under a tenant-based rental subsidy provided by a State or local government, comply with the program requirements under the relevant tenant-based rental assistance program; or

(ii) if the eligible landlord is not renting to tenants receiving rental-based assistance as described in clause (i)—

(I)(aa) offer to extend the lease of current tenants on current terms, other than the terms described in subclause (iv) for not less than 3 years beginning after the completion of the repairs, unless the lease is terminated due to failure to pay rent, performance of an illegal act within the rental unit, or a violation of an obligation of tenancy that the tenants failed to correct after notice; and

(bb) if the tenant of an assisted unit moves out of the assisted unit at any point in the 3-year period following the loan agreement, maintain the unit as an affordable unit for the remainder of the 3-year period;

(II) provide documentation verifying that the property, upon completion of approved renovations, has met all applicable State and local housing and building codes;

(III) attest that the landlord has no known serious violations of renter protections that have resulted in fines, penalties, or judgments during the preceding 10 years; and

(IV) cap annual rent increases for each assisted unit at 5 percent of base rent or inflation, whichever is lower, for not less than 3 years beginning after the completion of the repairs.

(4) APPLICATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An implementing organization desiring an award under this subsection shall submit to the Secretary an application that includes—

(i) the geographic scope of the whole-home repairs program to be administered by the implementing organization, including the plan to address need in any rural, suburban, or urban area within a jurisdiction;

(ii) a plan for selecting subrecipients, if applicable;

(iii) how the implementing organization plans to execute the coordination of Federal, State, and local home repair programs, including programs administered by the Department of Energy or the Department of Agriculture, to increase efficiency and reduce redundancy;

(iv) available data on the need for affordable and quality housing within the geographic scope of the whole-home repairs program, and any plans to preserve affordability through the term of the award;

(v) how the implementing organization plans to process and verify applications for grants from eligible homeowners and applications for loans from eligible landlords; and

(vi) such other information as the Secretary requires to determine the ability of an applicant to carry out a program under this subsection.

(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In making awards under this subsection, the Secretary shall—

(i) with respect to applications submitted by States other than the District of Columbia and the territories of the United States, prioritize those applications with a demonstrated plan to—

(I) make a good faith effort to implement the pilot program in every jurisdiction; and

(II) provide non-metropolitan areas, or subrecipients serving non-metropolitan areas if applicable, with a share of total funds commensurate to their population;

(ii) aim to select applicants so that the awardees collectively span diverse geographies, with an intent to understand the impact of the pilot program under this subsection in urban, suburban, rural, and Tribal settings; and

(iii) not disqualify implementing organizations that were awarded grants under the pilot program in prior application cycles.

(5) PROGRAM INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall make available to grant recipients under this subsection information regarding existing Federal programs for which grant recipients may coordinate or provide assistance in coordinating applications for those programs in accordance with paragraph (2)(C).

(6) GRANT NUMBER.—In each year in which an award is made under this subsection, the Secretary shall award assistance to—

(A) not less than 2, and not more than 10, implementing organizations, as application numbers and funding permit; and

(B) not more than 1 implementing organization in any State.

(7) LOANS THAT ARE NOT FORGIVEN.—If a loan made by an implementing organization under paragraph (2)(B) is not forgiven, the loan repayment funds shall be reused by the implementing organization for a new whole-home repair grant or loan under this subsection.

(8) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—Amounts awarded under this subsection to implementing organizations shall supplement, not supplant, other Federal, State, and local funds made available to those entities.

(9) STREAMLINING PROGRAM DELIVERY AND ENSURING EFFICIENCY.—To the extent possible, in carrying out the pilot program under this subsection, the Secretary shall—

(A) endeavor to improve efficiency of service delivery, as well as the experience of and impact on the taxpayer, by encouraging programmatic collaboration and information sharing across Federal, State, and local programs for home repair or improvement, including programs administered by the Department of the Agriculture; and

(B) enhance collaboration and cross-agency streamlining efforts that reduce the burdens of multiple income verification processes and applications on the eligible homeowner, the eligible landlord, the implementing organization, and the Federal Government, including by establishing assistance application procedures for income eligibility under this subsection that recognize income eligibility determinations for assistance using any of the criteria under subsection (a)(3)(A) that have been used for assistance applications during the 1-year period preceding the date on which an eligible homeowner or eligible landlord applies for assistance under this subsection.

(10) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) ANNUAL REPORT.—An implementing organization that receives a grant under this subsection shall submit to the Secretary an annual report on initial funding that includes—

(i) the number of units served, including reporting on both homeownership and rental units, as well as accessible units;

(ii) the average cost per unit for modifications or repairs and the nature of those modifications or repairs, including reporting on accessibility and both homeownership and rental units;

(iii) the number of applications received, served, denied, or not completed, disaggregated by geographic area;

(iv) the aggregated demographic data of grant recipients, which may include data on income range, urban, suburban, and rural residency, age, and racial and ethnic identity;

(v) the aggregated demographic data of loan recipients, which may include data on income range, urban, suburban, and rural residency, age, and racial and ethnic identity;

(vi) an affirmation that the implementation organization has complied with the applicable regulations, including compliance with Federal accessibility requirements;

(vii) in the first year of receiving a grant, and as certified in subsequent reports, a comprehensive plan to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse in the administration of the pilot program, which shall include, at a minimum—

(I) a policy enacted and enforced by the implementing organization to monitor ongoing expenditures under this subsection and

ensure compliance with applicable regulations;

(II) a policy enacted and enforced by the implementing organization to detect and deter fraudulent activity, including fraud occurring in individual projects and patterns of fraud by parties involved in the expenditure of funds under this subsection;

(III) a statement setting forth any violations detected by the implementing organization during the previous calendar year, including details about steps taken to achieve compliance and any remedial measures; and

(IV) a certification by the chief executive or most senior compliance officer of the organization that the organization maintains sufficient staff and resources to effectively carry out the above-mentioned policies; and

(viii) such other information as the Secretary may require.

(B) REPORTING REQUIREMENT ALIGNMENT.—To limit the costs of implementing the pilot program under this subsection, the Secretary shall endeavor, to the extent possible, to structure reporting requirements such that they align with the data reporting requirements in place for funding streams that implementing organizations are likely to use in partnership with funding from this subsection, including the reporting requirements under—

(i) the Community Development Block Grant program under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.);

(ii) the HOME Investment Partnerships program under subtitle A of title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12741 et seq.);

(iii) the Weatherization Assistance Program for low-income persons established under part A of title IV of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6861 et seq.); and

(iv) the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4101 et seq.).

(C) PILOT PROGRAM PERIOD REPORTS.—Not less frequently than twice during the period in which the pilot program established under this subsection operates, the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Housing and Urban Development shall complete an assessment of the implementation of measures to ensure the fair and legitimate use of the pilot program.

(D) SUMMARY TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives an annual report providing a summary of the data provided under subparagraphs (A) and (C) during the 1-year period preceding the report and all data previously provided under those subparagraphs.

(11) FUNDING.—The Secretary—

(A) is authorized to use up to $30,000,000 of funds made available as provided in appropriations Acts for programs administered by the Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes to carry out the pilot program under this subsection; and

(B) shall submit to the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives a report on the appropriations accounts from which the Secretary will derive the funding under subparagraph (A).

(12) ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW.—A grant under this subsection shall be—

(A) treated as assistance for a special project for purposes of section 305(c) of the Multifamily Housing Property Disposition Reform Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 3547); and

(B) subject to the regulations promulgated by the Secretary to implement such section.

(13) TERMINATION.—The pilot program established under this subsection shall terminate on October 1, 2031.

SEC. 5205. COMMUNITY INVESTMENT AND PROSPERITY ACT.

(a) REVISED STATUTES.—The paragraph designated as the ''Eleventh'' of section 5136 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (12 U.S.C. 24) is amended, in the fifth sentence, by striking ''15'' each place the term appears and inserting ''20''.

(b) FEDERAL RESERVE ACT.—Section 9(23) of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 338a) is amended, in the fifth sentence, by striking ''15'' each place the term appears and inserting ''20''.

SEC. 5206. BUILD NOW ACT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED RECIPIENT.—The term ''covered recipient'' means a metropolitan city or urban county, as those terms are defined in section 102 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5302), that receives funds under section 106.

(2) CURRENT ANNUAL GROWTH RATE.—The term ''current annual growth rate'', with respect to an eligible recipient and a fiscal year, means the average annual percentage increase in the number of housing units in the jurisdiction of the eligible recipient, as calculated by the Secretary, during the period—

(A) beginning with the third quarter of the sixth preceding fiscal year; and

(B) ending with the third quarter of the preceding fiscal year.

(3) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—The term ''eligible recipient'' means any covered recipient unless—

(A)(i) the median Small Area Fair Market Rent in the jurisdiction of the covered recipient is at or below the 60th percentile of median Small Area Fair Market Rents in the jurisdictions of all covered recipients; and

(ii) the median home value in the jurisdiction of the covered recipient is below the median home value for the United States;

(B) the annual natural rental vacancy rate in the jurisdiction of the covered recipient is greater than the national annual natural rental vacancy rate for the most recent year available, as published by the Bureau of the Census;

(C) during the 1-year period preceding the date on which the Secretary allocates funds under section 106, the jurisdiction of the covered recipient has been the subject of a major disaster or emergency declaration under section 401 or 501, respectively, of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170, 5191); or

(D) the covered recipient lacks the legal authority to enact or update zoning and permitting ordinances.

(4) EXTREMELY HIGH-GROWTH RECIPIENT.—The term ''extremely high-growth recipient'' means an eligible recipient for which the current annual growth rate is at or above 4 percent.

(5) HOUSING GROWTH IMPROVEMENT RATE.—The term ''housing growth improvement rate'', with respect to an eligible recipient and a fiscal year, means the quotient of—

(A) the current annual growth rate of the eligible recipient; and

(B) the prior annual growth rate of the eligible recipient.

(6) PRIOR ANNUAL GROWTH RATE.—The term ''prior annual growth rate'', with respect to an eligible recipient and a fiscal year, means the average annual percentage increase in the number of housing units in the jurisdiction of the eligible recipient, as calculated by the Secretary, during the period—

(A) beginning with the third quarter of the 11th preceding fiscal year; and

(B) ending with the third quarter of the sixth preceding fiscal year.

(7) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(8) SECTION 106.—The term ''section 106'' means section 106 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5306).

(b) ADJUSTMENTS TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ALLOCATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In allocating amounts to an eligible recipient under section 106 for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall adjust the allocation based on the housing growth improvement rate of the eligible recipient, in accordance with paragraph (2) of this subsection.

(2) ADJUSTMENTS.—

(A) HOUSING GROWTH IMPROVEMENT RATE AT OR ABOVE MEDIAN; EXTREMELY HIGH-GROWTH RECIPIENTS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—If, with respect to a fiscal year for which the allocation under section 106 is being determined, the housing growth improvement rate for an eligible recipient is at or above the median housing growth improvement rate for all eligible recipients other than extremely high-growth recipients, or if an eligible recipient is an extremely high-growth recipient, the Secretary shall allocate to the eligible recipient for that fiscal year, in addition to the amount that would otherwise be allocated to the eligible recipient under section 106, a bonus amount, as determined under clause (ii) of this subparagraph.

(ii) BONUS AMOUNT.—For purposes of clause (i), the bonus amount for an eligible recipient for a fiscal year shall be equal to the product of—

(I) the aggregate amount by which allocations to eligible recipients are decreased under subparagraph (B) for that fiscal year; and

(II) the quotient of—

(aa) the number of housing units, as of the third quarter of the preceding fiscal year, in the jurisdiction of the eligible recipient, as calculated by the Secretary; and

(bb) the number of housing units, as of the third quarter of the preceding fiscal year, in the jurisdictions of all eligible recipients that receive a bonus amount under this paragraph, as calculated by the Secretary.

(B) HOUSING GROWTH IMPROVEMENT RATE BELOW MEDIAN.—If, with respect to a fiscal year for which the allocation under section 106 is being determined, the housing growth improvement rate for an eligible recipient is below the median housing growth improvement rate for all eligible recipients other than high-growth outliers, the Secretary shall decrease the amount that would otherwise be allocated to the eligible recipient under section 106 for that fiscal year by 10 percent.

(c) CALCULATION OF HOUSING UNITS.—

(1) HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS.—In calculating the number of housing units in the jurisdiction of an eligible recipient under any provision of this section, the Secretary shall—

(A) use the Current Address Count Listing Files and other data products, as needed, of the Bureau of the Census tabulated from the Master Address File; and

(B) make calculations at the block level, using boundaries that reflect the most current boundaries.

(2) CENSUS BUREAU AND POSTAL SERVICE REQUIREMENTS.—The Bureau of the Census and the United States Postal Service shall provide any relevant data to the Secretary upon request to assist the Secretary in making a calculation described in paragraph (1).

(3) ADJUSTMENT OF CALCULATION PERIODS.—The Secretary may adjust the calculation

periods under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (a)(2), subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (a)(6), and items (aa) and (bb) of subsection (b)(2)(A)(ii)(II) by not more than 2 months to achieve alignment with the data provided by the Bureau of the Census.

(d) ANNUAL REPORT ON HOUSING GROWTH IMPROVEMENT RATE.—Before allocating funds under section 106 for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall publish a report that—

(1) includes the housing growth improvement rate for each eligible recipient; and

(2) lists, for the most recent fiscal year for which allocations were made under section 106—

(A) the eligible recipients that received a bonus amount under subsection (b)(2)(A); and

(B) the eligible recipients for which the allocation under section 106 was decreased under subsection (b)(2)(B) of this section.

(e) NOTIFICATION; IMPLEMENTATION DATES.—

(1) NOTIFICATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall notify each eligible recipient of the recipient's housing growth improvement rate and whether that housing growth improvement rate is above, at, or below the median housing growth improvement rate for all eligible recipients other than extremely high-growth recipients.

(B) GUIDANCE.—As part of the notification under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall share guidance, including resources developed by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, on best practices and recommendations on policies to reduce regulatory barriers to housing and increase housing supply.

(2) IMPLEMENTATION DATES.—Subsection (b) shall take effect beginning with the second full fiscal year after the date of enactment of this Act and remain in effect through fiscal year 2042.

SEC. 5207. BETTER USE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT (BUILD) HOUSING ACT.

(a) DESIGNATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCEDURE.—The Department of Housing and Urban Development Act (42 U.S.C. 3531 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 12 (42 U.S.C. 3537a) the following:

''SEC. 13. DESIGNATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCEDURE.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), the Secretary may, for purposes of environmental review, decision making, and action pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), and other provisions of law that further the purposes of such Act, designate the treatment of assistance administered by the Secretary as funds for a special project for purposes of section 305(c) of the Multifamily Housing Property Disposition Reform Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 3547).

''(b) EXCEPTION.—The designation described in subsection (a) shall not apply to assistance for which a procedure for carrying out the responsibilities of the Secretary under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), and other provisions of law that further the purposes of such Act, is otherwise specified in law.''.

(b) TRIBAL ASSUMPTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OBLIGATIONS.—Section 305(c) of the Multifamily Housing Property Disposition Reform Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 3547) is amended—

(1) by striking ''State or unit of general local government'' each place it appears and inserting ''State, Indian tribe, or unit of general local government'';

(2) in paragraph (1)(C), in the heading, by striking ''STATE OR UNIT OF GENERAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT'' and inserting ''STATE, INDIAN TRIBE, OR UNIT OF GENERAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) DEFINITION OF INDIAN TRIBE.—For purposes of this subsection, the term 'Indian tribe' means a federally recognized tribe, as defined in section 4(13)(B) of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103(13)(B)).''.

SEC. 5208. UNLOCKING HOUSING SUPPLY THROUGH STREAMLINED AND MODERNIZED REVIEWS ACT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) INFILL PROJECT.—The term ''infill project'' means a project that—

(A) occurs within the geographic limits of a municipality;

(B) is adequately served by existing utilities and public services as required under applicable law;

(C) is located on a site of previously disturbed land of not more than 5 acres and substantially surrounded by residential or commercial development;

(D) will repurpose a vacant or underutilized parcel of land, or a dilapidated or abandoned structure; and

(E) will serve a residential or commercial purpose.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(b) NEPA STREAMLINING FOR HUD HOUSING-RELATED ACTIVITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code, and section 103 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4333), expand and reclassify housing-related activities under the necessary administrative regulations as follows:

(A) The following housing-related activities shall be subject to regulations equivalent or substantially similar to the regulations entitled ''exempt activities'' as set forth in section 58.34 of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on January 1, 2025:

(i) Tenant-based rental assistance.

(ii) Supportive services, including health care, housing services, permanent housing placement, day care, nutritional services, short-term payments for rent, mortgage, or utility costs, and assistance in gaining access to Federal Government and State and local government benefits and services.

(iii) Operating costs, including maintenance, security, operation, utilities, furnishings, equipment, supplies, staff training, and recruitment and other incidental costs.

(iv) Economic development activities, including equipment purchases, inventory financing, interest subsidies, operating expenses, and similar costs not associated with construction or expansion of existing operations.

(v) Activities to assist homebuyers to purchase existing dwelling units or dwelling units under construction, including closing costs and down payment assistance, interest rate buydowns, and similar activities that result in the transfer of title.

(vi) Affordable housing pre-development costs related to obtaining site options, project financing, administrative costs and fees for loan commitment, zoning approvals, and other related activities that do not have a physical impact.

(vii) Approval of supplemental assistance, including insurance or guarantee, to a project previously approved by the Secretary.

(viii) Emergency homeowner or renter assistance for HVAC, hot water heaters, and other necessary uses of existing utilities required under applicable law.

(B) The following housing-related activities shall be subject to regulations equivalent or substantially similar to the regulations entitled, (i) ''categorical exclusions not subject to section 58.5'' and (ii) ''categorical exclusions not subject to the Federal laws and authorities cited in sections 50.4'' in section 58.35(b) and section 50.19, respectively of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on January 1, 2025, if such activities do not materially alter environmental conditions and do not materially exceed the original scope of the project:

(i) Acquisition, repair, improvement, reconstruction, or rehabilitation of public facilities and improvements (other than buildings) if the facilities and improvements are in place and will be retained in the same use without change in size or capacity of more than 20 percent, including replacement of water or sewer lines, reconstruction of curbs and sidewalks, and repaving of streets.

(ii) Rehabilitation of 1-to-4 unit residential buildings, and existing housing-related infrastructure, such as repairs or rehabilitation of existing wells, septics, or utility lines that connect to that housing.

(iii) New construction, development, demolition, acquisition, or disposition on up to 4 scattered site existing dwelling units where there is a maximum of 4 units on any 1 site.

(iv) Acquisitions (including leasing) or disposition of, or equity loans on an existing structure, or acquisition (including leasing) of vacant land if the structure or land acquired, financed, or disposed of will be retained for the same use.

(C) The following housing-related activities shall be subject to regulations equivalent or substantially similar to the regulations entitled, (i) ''categorical exclusions subject to section 58.5'' and (ii) ''categorical exclusions subject to the Federal laws and authorities cited in sections 50.4'' in section 58.35(a) and section 50.20, respectively, of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on January 1, 2025, if such activities do not materially alter environmental conditions and do not materially exceed the original scope of the project:

(i) Acquisitions of open space or residential property, where such property will be retained for the same use or will be converted to open space to help residents relocate out of an area designated as a high-risk area by the Secretary.

(ii) Conversion of existing office buildings into residential development, subject to—

(I) a maximum number of units to be determined by the Secretary; and

(II) a limitation on the change in building size of not more than 20 percent.

(iii) New construction, development, demolition, acquisition, or disposition on 5 to 15 dwelling units where there is a maximum of fifteen units on any 1 site. The units can be 15 1-unit buildings or 1 15-unit building, or any combination in between.

(iv) New construction, development, demolition, acquisition, or disposition on 15 or more housing units developed on scattered sites when there are not more than 15 housing units on any 1 site, and the sites are more than a set number of feet apart as determined by the Secretary.

(v) Rehabilitation of buildings and improvements in the case of a building for residential use with 5 to 15 units, if the density is not increased beyond 15 units and the land use is not changed.

(vi) Infill projects consisting of new construction, rehabilitation, or development of residential housing units.

(vii) The voluntary acquisition of properties—

(I) located in a—

(aa) floodway;

(bb) floodplain; or

(cc) other area, clearly delineated by the grantee; and

(II) that have been impacted by a predictable environmental threat to the safety and well-being of program beneficiaries caused or exacerbated by a federally declared disaster.

(c) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives an annual report during the 5-year period beginning on the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act that provides a summary of findings of reductions in review times and administrative cost reduction, with a particular focus on the affordable housing sector, as a result of the actions set forth in this section, and any recommendations of the Secretary for future congressional action with respect to revising categorical exclusions or exemptions under title 24, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 5209. INNOVATION FUND.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ATTAINABLE HOUSING.—The term ''attainable housing'' means housing that—

(A) serves—

(i) a majority of households with income not greater than 80 percent of area median income; and

(ii) households with income not greater than 100 percent of area median income; or

(B) serves—

(i) a majority of households with income not greater than 60 percent of area median income; and

(ii) households with income not greater than 120 percent of area median income.

(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ''eligible entity'' means—

(A) a metropolitan city or urban county, as those terms are defined in section 102 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5302), that has demonstrated an objective improvement in housing supply growth, as determined by the Secretary, whose methodology for determining such growth is published in the Federal Register to allow for public comment not less than 90 days before date on which the notice of funding opportunity is made available; or

(B) a unit of general local government or Indian tribe, as those terms are defined in section 102 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5302), that has demonstrated an objective improvement in housing supply growth, as determined by the Secretary, whose methodology for determining such improvement is published in the Federal Register to allow for public comment not less than 90 days before the date on which the notice of funding opportunity is made available.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF A GRANT PROGRAM.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a program to award grants on a competitive basis to eligible entities that have increased their local housing supply.

(2) LIST OF ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The Secretary shall make a list of eligible entities publicly available on the website of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(3) ELIGIBLE PURPOSES.—An eligible entity receiving a grant under this section may use funds to—

(A) carry out any of the activities described in section 105 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5305);

(B) carry out any of the activities permitted under the Local and Regional Project Assistance Program established under section 6702 of title 49, United States Code;

(C) serve as matching funds under a State revolving fund program related to a clean water or drinking water program administered by the Environmental Protection Agency in which the eligible entity is the grantee under that program, unless otherwise determined by the Secretary; and

(D) carry out initiatives of the eligible entity that facilitate the expansion of the supply of attainable housing and that supplement initiatives the eligible entity has carried out, or is in the process of carrying out, as specified in the application submitted under paragraph (4).

(4) APPLICATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity seeking a grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary an application that provides—

(i) a description of each purpose for which the eligible entity will use the grant, and an attestation that the grant will be used only for 1 or more eligible purposes described in paragraph (3);

(ii) data on characteristics of increased housing supply during the 3-year period ending on the date on which the application is submitted, which may include whether such housing—

(I) serves households at a range of income levels; and

(II) has improved the quality and affordability of housing in the jurisdiction of the eligible entity;

(iii) a description of how each eligible purpose described in clause (i) may address a community need or advance an objective, or an aspect of an objective, included in the comprehensive housing affordability strategy and community development plan of the eligible entity under part 91 of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation (commonly referred to as a ''consolidated plan''); and

(iv) a description of how the eligible entity has carried out, or is in the process of carrying out, initiatives that facilitate the expansion of the supply of housing.

(B) INITIATIVES.—Initiatives that meet the criteria described in paragraph (3)(D) include—

(i) increasing by-right uses, including duplex, triplex, quadplex, and multifamily buildings, in areas of opportunity;

(ii) revising or eliminating off-street parking requirements to reduce the cost of housing production;

(iii) revising minimum lot size requirements, floor area ratio requirements, setback requirements, building heights, and bans or limits on construction to allow for denser and more affordable development;

(iv) instituting incentives to promote dense development;

(v) passing zoning overlays or other ordinances that enable the development of mixed-income housing;

(vi) streamlining regulatory requirements and shortening processes, increasing code enforcement and permitting capacity, reforming zoning codes, or other initiatives that reduce barriers to increasing housing supply and affordability;

(vii) eliminating restrictions against accessory dwelling units and expanding their by-right use;

(viii) using local tax incentives or public financing to promote development of attainable housing;

(ix) streamlining environmental regulations;

(x) eliminating unnecessary manufactured-housing regulations and restrictions;

(xi) minimizing the impact of overburdensome energy and water efficiency standards on housing costs; and

(xii) other activities that reduce cost of construction, as determined by the Secretary.

(5) GRANTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make not fewer than 25 grants on an annual basis (unless amounts appropriated to provide grant amounts consistent with subsection (b) are insufficient, in which case fewer grants may be awarded), with strong consideration of different geographical areas and a relatively even spread of rural, suburban, and urban communities.

(B) LIMITATIONS ON AWARDS.—No grant awarded under this paragraph may be—

(i) more than $10,000,000; or

(ii) less than $250,000.

(C) PRIORITY.—When awarding grants under this paragraph, the Secretary shall give priority to an eligible entity that has—

(i) demonstrated the use of innovative policies, interventions, or programs for increasing housing supply, including adoption of any of the frameworks developed under section 203; and

(ii) demonstrated a marked improvement in housing supply growth.

(c) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed—

(1) to authorize the Secretary to mandate, supersede, or preempt any local zoning or land use policy; or

(2) to affect the requirements of section 105(c)(1) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12705(c)(1)).

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $200,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

(2) ADJUSTMENT.—The amount authorized to be appropriated under paragraph (1) shall be adjusted for inflation based on the Consumer Price Index.

SEC. 5210. ACCELERATING HOME BUILDING ACT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AFFORDABLE HOUSING.—The term ''affordable housing'' means housing for which the total monthly housing cost payment is not more than 30 percent of the monthly household income for a household earning not more than 80 percent of the area median income.

(2) COVERED STRUCTURE.—The term ''covered structure'' means—

(A) a low-rise or mid-rise structure with not more than 25 dwelling units; and

(B) includes—

(i) an accessory dwelling unit;

(ii) infill development;

(iii) a duplex;

(iv) a triplex;

(v) a fourplex;

(vi) a cottage court;

(vii) a courtyard building;

(viii) a townhouse;

(ix) a multiplex; and

(x) any other structure with not less than 2 dwelling units that the Secretary considers appropriate.

(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ''eligible entity'' means—

(A) a unit of general local government, as defined in section 102(a) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5302(a));

(B) a municipal membership organization; and

(C) an Indian tribe, as defined in section 102(a) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5302(a)).

(4) HIGH OPPORTUNITY AREA.—The term ''high opportunity area'' has the meaning given the term in section 1282.1 of title 12, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

(5) INFILL DEVELOPMENT.—The term ''infill development'' means residential development on small parcels in previously established areas for replacement by new or refurbished housing that utilizes existing utilities and infrastructure.

(6) MIXED-INCOME HOUSING.—The term ''mixed-income housing'' means a housing development that is comprised of housing units that promote differing levels of affordability in the community.

(7) PRE-REVIEWED DESIGNS.—The term ''pre-reviewed designs'', also known as pattern books, means sets of construction plans that are assessed and approved by localities for compliance with local building and permitting standards to streamline and expedite approval pathways for housing construction.

(8) RURAL AREA.—The term ''rural area'' means any area other than a city or town that has a population of less than 50,000 inhabitants.

(9) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(b) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may award grants to eligible entities to select pre-reviewed designs of covered structures of mixed-income housing for use in the jurisdiction of the eligible entity.

(c) CONSIDERATIONS.—In reviewing applications submitted by eligible entities for a grant under this section, the Secretary shall consider—

(1) the need for affordable housing by the eligible entity;

(2) the presence of high opportunity areas in the jurisdiction of the eligible entity;

(3) coordination between the eligible entity and a State agency; and

(4) coordination between the eligible entity and State, local, and regional transportation planning authorities.

(d) SET-ASIDE FOR RURAL AREAS.—Of the amount made available in each fiscal year for grants under this section, the Secretary shall ensure that not less than 10 percent shall be used for grants to eligible entities that are located in rural areas.

(e) REPORTS.—The Secretary shall require eligible entities receiving grants under this section to report on—

(1) the impacts of the activities carried out using the grant amounts in improving the production and supply of affordable housing;

(2) the pre-reviewed designs selected using the grant amounts in their communities;

(3) the number of permits issued for housing development utilizing pre-reviewed designs; and

(4) the number of housing units produced in developments utilizing the pre-reviewed designs.

(f) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall—

(1) to the extent possible, encourage localities to make publicly available through a website information on the pre-reviewed designs selected and submitted to the Secretary by eligible entities receiving grants under this section, including information on the benefits of use of those designs; and

(2) collect, identify, and disseminate best practices regarding such designs and make such information publicly available on the website of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(g) DESIGN ADOPTION AND REPAYMENT.—The Secretary may require an eligible entity to return to the Secretary any grant funds received under this section if the selected pre-reviewed designs submitted under this section have not been adopted during the 5-year period following receipt of the grant, unless that period is extended by the Secretary.

(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

(2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may set aside not more than 5 percent of amounts appropriated under paragraph (1) in a fiscal year to provide technical assistance to grant recipients under this section and pre-grant technical assistance for prospective applicants.

SEC. 5211. BUILD MORE HOUSING NEAR TRANSIT ACT.

Section 5309 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (7); and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (5) the following:

''(6) PRO-HOUSING POLICY.—The term 'pro-housing policy'—

''(A) means any adopted State or local policy that will remove regulatory barriers to the construction or preservation of housing units, including affordable housing units; and

''(B) shall include any adopted State or local policy that—

''(i) reduces or eliminates parking minimums;

''(ii) establishes a by-right approval process for housing under which land use development approval is limited to determining that the development meets objective zoning and design standards that—

''(I) involve no subjective judgment by a public official;

''(II) are uniformly verifiable by reference to an external and uniform benchmark or criterion available to both the land use developer and the public official prior to submission; and

''(III) include only such standards as are published and adopted by ordinance or resolution by a jurisdiction before submission of a development application;

''(iii) reduces or eliminates minimum lot sizes;

''(iv) eliminates or raises residential property height limits or increases the number of dwelling units permitted to be constructed under a by-right approval process; or

''(v) carries out other policies as determined by the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.'';

(2) in subsection (g)(2), by adding at the end the following:

''(D) ELIGIBILITY FOR ADJUSTMENT OF RATING FOR PROJECT JUSTIFICATION CRITERIA FOR PRO-HOUSING POLICIES; CONSIDERATIONS.—In evaluating and rating a project as a whole for project justification under subparagraph (A), the Secretary—

''(i) may increase 1 point on the 5-point scale (high, medium-high, medium, medium-low, or low) the rating of a project if the applicant submits documented evidence of pro-housing policies for areas accessible to transit facilities along the project route; and

''(ii) should consider whether the pro-housing policies documented by the applicant will result, through new production and preservation, in an amount of housing units, including housing units affordable below the area median income, that is appropriate to expected housing demand in the project area.

''(E) CONSULTATION.—In developing the evaluation process that could lead to the increased rating described in subparagraph (D)(i), the Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.'';

(3) in subsection (h)(6), by adding at the end the following:

''(C) ELIGIBILITY FOR ADJUSTMENT OF RATING FOR PROJECT JUSTIFICATION CRITERIA FOR PRO-HOUSING POLICIES; CONSIDERATIONS.—In evaluating and rating the benefits of a project under subparagraph (A), the Secretary—

''(i) may increase the rating of a project if the applicant submits documented evidence of pro-housing policies for areas accessible to transit facilities along the project route; and

''(ii) should consider whether the pro-housing policies documented by the applicant will result, through new production and preservation, in an amount of housing units, including housing units affordable below the area median income, that is appropriate to expected housing demand in the project area.

''(D) CONSULTATION.—In developing the evaluation process that could lead to the increased rating described in subparagraph (C)(i), the Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.''; and

(4) in subsection (o)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(D) information concerning projects for which the applicant submitted pro-housing policies under subsection (g)(2)(D) or subsection (h)(6) and received an adjustment of rating for project justification.''.

SEC. 5212. REVITALIZING EMPTY STRUCTURES INTO DESIRABLE ENVIRONMENTS (RESIDE) ACT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ATTAINABLE HOUSING.—The term ''attainable housing'' means housing that—

(A) serves households earning not more than 100 percent of the area median income, if a majority of the housing units are affordable to households earning not more than 80 percent of the area median income; or

(B) serves households earning not more than 120 percent of the area median income, if the majority of the housing units are affordable to households earning not more than 60 percent of the area median income.

(2) CONVERTED HOUSING UNIT.—The term ''converted housing unit'' means a housing unit that is created using a covered grant.

(3) COVERED GRANT.—The term ''covered grant'' means a grant awarded under the Pilot Program.

(4) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ''eligible entity'' means a participating jurisdiction, as defined in section 104 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12704).

(5) HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM.—The term ''HOME Investment Partnerships Program'' means the program under subtitle A of title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12741 et seq.).

(6) PILOT PROGRAM.—The term ''Pilot Program'' means the Blighted Building to Housing Conversion Program carried out under subsection (b).

(7) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(8) VACANT AND ABANDONED BUILDING.—The term ''vacant and abandoned building'' means a property—

(A) that was constructed for use as a warehouse, factory, mall, strip mall, or hotel, or for another industrial or commercial use; and

(B)(i) with respect to which—

(I) a code enforcement inspection has determined that the property is not safe; and

(II) not less than 90 days have elapsed since the owner was notified of the deficiencies in the property and the owner has taken no corrective action; or

(ii) that is subject to a court-ordered receivership or nuisance abatement related to abandonment pursuant to State or local law or otherwise meets the definition of an abandoned property under State law.

(b) GRANT PROGRAM.—For each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031, if the amounts made available to carry out the HOME Investment Partnerships Program exceed $1,350,000,000, the Secretary may use not more than $100,000,000 of the excess amounts to carry out a pilot program, to be known as the ''Blighted Building to Housing Conversion Program'', under which the Secretary awards grants on a competitive basis to eligible entities to convert vacant and abandoned buildings into attainable housing.

(c) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For any fiscal year for which $100,000,000 is available to carry out the Pilot Program pursuant to subsection (b), the amount of a covered grant shall be not less than $1,000,000 and not more than $10,000,000.

(2) FISCAL YEARS WITH LOWER FUNDING.—For any fiscal year for which less than $100,000,000 is available to carry out the Pilot Program pursuant to subsection (b), the Secretary shall seek to maximize the number of covered grants awarded.

(d) RELATION TO HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM FORMULA ALLOCATION.—A covered grant awarded to an eligible entity shall be in addition to, and shall not affect, the formula allocation for the eligible entity under the HOME Investment Partnerships Program.

(e) PRIORITY.—In awarding covered grants, the Secretary shall give priority to an eligible entity that—

(1) will use the covered grant in a community that is experiencing economic distress;

(2) will use the covered grant in a qualified opportunity zone (as defined in section 1400Z–1(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986);

(3) will use the covered grant to construct housing that will serve a need identified in the comprehensive housing affordability strategy and community development plan of the eligible entity under part 91 of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation (commonly referred to as a ''consolidated plan''); or

(4) has enacted ordinances to reduce regulatory barriers to conversion of vacant and abandoned buildings to housing, which shall not include any alteration of an ordinance that governs safety and habitability.

(f) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity may use a covered grant for—

(1) property acquisition;

(2) demolition;

(3) health hazard remediation;

(4) site preparation;

(5) construction, renovation, or rehabilitation; or

(6) the establishment, maintenance, or expansion of community land trusts.

(g) APPLICABILITY OF HOME REQUIREMENTS.—The requirements for rental, sale, and resale of housing under the HOME Investment Partnerships Program shall apply to rental, sale, and resale of converted housing units under the Pilot Program.

(h) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—In administering covered grants, the Secretary may waive, or specify alternative requirements for, any statute or regulation that the Secretary administers in connection with the obligation by the Secretary or the use by eligible entities of covered grant funds (except for requirements related to fair housing, nondiscrimination, labor standards, or the environment) if the Secretary makes a public finding that good cause exists for the waiver or alternative requirement.

(i) STUDY; REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the termination of the Pilot Program, the Secretary shall study and submit a report to Congress on the impact of the Pilot Program on—

(1) improving the tax base of local communities;

(2) increasing access to affordable housing, especially for elderly individuals, disabled individuals, and veterans;

(3) increasing homeownership; and

(4) removing blight.

SEC. 5213. HOUSING AFFORDABILITY ACT.

(a) MULTIFAMILY LOAN LIMIT STUDY.—The Commissioner of the Federal Housing Administration, in consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, shall conduct a study to assess—

(1) whether current multifamily loan limits for each multifamily mortgage insurance program are set at appropriate amounts, including to cover the cost of land and construction;

(2) whether the Commissioner has sufficient authority to set loan limits for each multifamily mortgage insurance program at appropriate amounts, including to cover the cost of land and construction;

(3) the potential impacts of altering the calculation of annual adjustments under section 206A of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1712a) using the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers to instead use the percentage change in the Price Deflator Index of Multifamily Residential Units Under Construction released by the Bureau of the Census from March of the previous year to March of the year in which the adjustment is made, or a combination thereof, including—

(A) the impact on the General Insurance and Special Risk Insurance Fund;

(B) the availability of multifamily purchase and construction lending;

(C) the impact on prices, including rental prices, within the multifamily housing market; and

(D) the impact on housing supply.

(b) REPORT.—The Commissioner of the Federal Housing Administration shall submit a report to Congress within 180 days of enactment of this Act summarizing its findings under the study in subsection (a).

(c) RULEMAKING.—The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may, in consultation with the Commissioner of the Federal Housing Administration, conduct notice and comment rulemaking to increase multifamily loan limits in a manner that would not exceed the following:

(1) With respect to insurance under section 207 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1713)—

(A) for projects that do not consist of elevator-type structures—

(i) $83,655 per family unit without a bedroom;

(ii) $92,664 per family unit with one bedroom;

(iii) $110,682 per family unit with two bedrooms;

(iv) $136,422 per family unit with three bedrooms; and

(v) $154,440 per family unit with four or more bedrooms; and

(B) for projects that consist of elevator-type structures—

(i) $96,525 per family unit without a bedroom;

(ii) $108,108 per family unit with one bedroom;

(iii) $132,561 per family unit with two bedrooms;

(iv) $166,023 per family unit with three bedrooms; and

(v) $187,721.50 per family unit with four or more bedrooms.

(2) With respect to insurance under section 213 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715e)—

(A) for projects that do not consist of elevator-type structures—

(i) $90,665.50 per family unit without a bedroom;

(ii) $104,524 per family unit with one bedroom;

(iii) $126,060 per family unit with two bedrooms;

(iv) $161,354.50 per family unit with three bedrooms; and

(v) $179,757.50 per family unit with four or more bedrooms; and

(B) for projects that consist of elevator-type structures—

(i) $96,525 per family unit without a bedroom;

(ii) $109,362 per family unit with one bedroom;

(iii) $132,981 per family unit with two bedrooms;

(iv) $172,033.50 per family unit with three bedrooms; and

(v) $188,839 per family unit with four or more bedrooms.

(3) With respect to insurance under section 220 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715k)—

(A) for projects that do not consist of elevator-type structures—

(i) $83,655 per family unit without a bedroom;

(ii) $92,664 per family unit with one bedroom;

(iii) $110,682 per family unit with two bedrooms;

(iv) $136,422 per family unit with three bedrooms; and

(v) $154,440 per family unit with four or more bedrooms; and

(B) for projects that consist of elevator-type structures—

(i) $96,525 per family unit without a bedroom;

(ii) $108,108 per family unit with one bedroom;

(iii) $132,561 per family unit with two bedrooms;

(iv) $161,023 per family unit with three bedrooms; and

(v) $187,721.50 per family unit with four or more bedrooms.

(4) With respect to insurance under section 221 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715l)—

(A) for projects that do not consist of elevator-type structures—

(i) $83,254.50 per family unit without a bedroom;

(ii) $94,498.50 per family unit with one bedroom;

(iii) $114,224 per family unit with two bedrooms;

(iv) $143,372 per family unit with three bedrooms; and

(v) $162,461 per family unit with four or more bedrooms; and

(B) for projects that consist of elevator-type structures—

(i) $89,927 per family unit without a bedroom;

(ii) $103,090 per family unit with one bedroom;

(iii) $125,354 per family unit with two bedrooms;

(iv) $162,162 per family unit with three bedrooms; and

(v) $178,008.50 per family unit with four or more bedrooms.

(5) With respect to insurance under section 231 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715v)—

(A) for projects that do not consist of elevator-type structures—

(i) $83,254.50 per family unit without a bedroom;

(ii) $94,498.50 per family unit with one bedroom;

(iii) $114,224 per family unit with two bedrooms;

(iv) $143,372 per family unit with three bedrooms; and

(v) $162,461 per family unit with four or more bedrooms; and

(B) for projects that consist of elevator-type structures—

(i) $89,927 per family unit without a bedroom;

(ii) $103,090 per family unit with one bedroom;

(iii) $125,354 per family unit with two bedrooms;

(iv) $162,162 per family unit with three bedrooms; and

(v) $178,008.50 per family unit with four or more bedrooms.

(6) With respect to insurance under section 234 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715y)—

(A) for projects that do not consist of elevator-type structures—

(i) $92,505.50 per family unit without a bedroom;

(ii) $106,658 per family unit with one bedroom;

(iii) $128,631.50 per family unit with two bedrooms;

(iv) $164,648 per family unit with three bedrooms; and

(v) $183,425 per family unit with four or more bedrooms; and

(B) for projects that consist of elevator-type structures—

(i) $97,350 per family unit without a bedroom;

(ii) $111,593 per family unit with one bedroom;

(iii) $135,696 per family unit with two bedrooms;

(iv) $175,544.50 per family unit with three bedrooms; and

(v) $192,693.50 per family unit with four or more bedrooms.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section or the amendment made by this section shall be construed to limit the authority of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to revise the statutory exceptions for high-cost percentage and high-cost areas annual indexing.

TITLE III—MANUFACTURED HOUSING FOR AMERICA

SEC. 5301. HOUSING SUPPLY EXPANSION ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 603(6) of the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5402(6)) is amended by striking ''on a permanent chassis'' and inserting ''with or without a permanent chassis''.

(b) MANUFACTURED HOME CERTIFICATIONS.—Section 604 of the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5403) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(i) MANUFACTURED HOME CERTIFICATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—

''(A) INITIAL CERTIFICATION.—Subject to subparagraph (B), not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Renewing Opportunity in the American Dream to Housing Act of 2025, a State shall submit to the Secretary an initial certification that the laws and regulations of the State—

''(i) treat any manufactured home in parity with a manufactured home (as defined and regulated by the State); and

''(ii) subject a manufactured home without a permanent chassis to the same laws and regulations of the State as a manufactured home built on a permanent chassis, including with respect to financing, title, insurance, manufacture, sale, taxes, transportation, installation, and other areas as the Secretary determines, after consultation with and approval by the consensus committee, are necessary to give effect to the purpose of this section.

''(B) STATE PLAN SUBMISSION.—Any State plan submitted under subparagraph (C) shall contain the required State certification under subparagraph (A) and, if contained therein, no additional or State certification under subparagraph (A) or paragraph (3).

''(C) EXTENDED DEADLINE.—With respect to a State with a legislature that meets biennially, the deadline for the submission of the initial certification required under subparagraph (A) shall be 2 years after the date of enactment of the Renewing Opportunity in the American Dream to Housing Act of 2025.

''(D) LATE CERTIFICATION.—

''(i) NO WAIVER.—The Secretary may not waive the prohibition described in paragraph (5)(B) with respect to a certification submitted after the deadline under subparagraph (A) or paragraph (3) unless the Secretary approves the late certification.

''(ii) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prevent a State from submitting the initial certification required under subparagraph (A) after the required deadline under that subparagraph.

''(2) FORM OF STATE CERTIFICATION NOT PRESENTED IN A STATE PLAN.—The initial certification required under paragraph (1)(A), if not submitted with a State plan under paragraph (1)(B), shall contain, in a form prescribed by the Secretary, an attestation by an official that the State has taken the steps necessary to ensure the veracity of the certification required under paragraph (1)(A), including, as necessary, by—

''(A) amending the definition of 'manufactured home' in the laws and regulations of the State; and

''(B) directing State agencies to amend the definition of 'manufactured home' in regulations.

''(3) ANNUAL RECERTIFICATION.—Not later than a date to be determined by the Secretary each year, a State shall submit to the Secretary an additional certification that—

''(A) confirms the accuracy of the initial certification submitted under subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (1); and

''(B) certifies that any new laws or regulations enacted or adopted by the State since the date of the previous certification does not change the veracity of the initial certification submitted under paragraph (1)(A).

''(4) LIST.—The Secretary shall publish and maintain in the Federal Register and on the website of the Department of Housing and Urban Development a list of States that are up-to-date with the submission of initial and subsequent certifications required under this subsection.

''(5) PROHIBITION.—

''(A) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the term 'covered manufactured home' means a home that is—

''(i) not considered a manufactured home under the laws and regulations of a State because the home is constructed without a permanent chassis;

''(ii) considered a manufactured home under the definition of the term in section 603; and

''(iii) constructed after the date of enactment of the Renewing Opportunity in the American Dream to Housing Act of 2025.

''(B) BUILDING, INSTALLATION, AND SALE.—If a State does not submit a certification under paragraph (1)(A) or (3) by the date on which those certifications are required to be submitted—

''(i) with respect to a State in which the State administers the installation of manufactured homes, the State shall prohibit the manufacture, installation, or sale of a covered manufactured home within the State; and

''(ii) with respect to a State in which the Secretary administers the installation of manufactured homes, the State and the Secretary shall prohibit the manufacture, installation, or sale of a covered manufactured home within the State.''.

(c) OTHER FEDERAL LAWS REGULATING MANUFACTURED HOMES.—The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may coordinate with the heads of other Federal agencies to ensure that Federal agencies treat a manufactured home (as defined in Federal laws and regulations other than section 603 of the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5402)) in the same manner as a manufactured home (as defined in section 603 of the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5402), as amended by this Act).

(d) ASSISTANCE TO STATES.—Section 609 of the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5408) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) model guidance to support the submission of the certification required under section 604(i).''.

(e) PREEMPTION.—Nothing in this section or the amendments made by this section shall be construed as limiting the scope of Federal preemption under section 604(d) of the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5403(d)).

SEC. 5302. MODULAR HOUSING PRODUCTION ACT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) MANUFACTURED HOME.—The term ''manufactured home'' has the meaning given the term in section 603 of the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5402).

(2) MODULAR HOME.—The term ''modular home'' means a home that is constructed in a factory in 1 or more modules, each of which meet applicable State and local building codes of the area in which the home will be located, and that are transported to the home building site, installed on foundations, and completed.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(b) FHA CONSTRUCTION FINANCING PROGRAMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a review of Federal Housing Administration construction financing programs to identify barriers to the use of modular home methods.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In conducting the review under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) identify and evaluate regulatory and programmatic features that restrict participation in construction financing programs by modular home developers, including construction draw schedules; and

(B) identify administrative measures authorized under section 525 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1735f–3) to facilitate program utilization by modular home developers.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall publish a report that describes the results of the review conducted under paragraph (1), which shall include a description of programmatic and policy changes that the Secretary recommends to reduce or eliminate identified barriers to the use of modular home methods in Federal Housing Administration construction financing programs.

(4) RULEMAKING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date on which the Secretary publishes the report under paragraph (3), the

Secretary shall initiate a rulemaking to examine an alternative draw schedule for construction financing loans provided to modular and manufactured home developers, which shall include the ability for interested stakeholders to provide robust public comment.

(B) DETERMINATION.—Following the period for public comment under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall—

(i) issue a final rule regarding an alternative draw schedule described in subparagraph (A); or

(ii) provide an explanation as to why the rule shall not become final.

(c) STANDARDIZED UNIFORM COMMERCIAL CODE FOR MODULAR HOMES.—

(1) AWARD.—The Secretary may award a grant to study the design and feasibility of a standardized uniform commercial code for modular homes, which shall evaluate—

(A) the utility of a standardized coding system for serializing and securing modules, streamlining design and construction, and improving modular home innovation; and

(B) a means to coordinate a standardized code with financing incentives.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated such funds as may be necessary to carry out paragraph (1).

SEC. 5303. PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT AND MANUFACTURED HOUSING LOAN MODERNIZATION ACT.

(a) NATIONAL HOUSING ACT AMENDMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 2 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1703) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by inserting ''construction of additional or accessory dwelling units, as defined by the Secretary,'' after ''energy conserving improvements,''; and

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

''(A) $75,000 if made for the purpose of financing alterations, repairs and improvements upon or in connection with an existing single-family structure, including a manufactured home;'';

(II) in subparagraph (B)—

(aa) by striking ''$60,000'' and inserting ''$150,000'';

(bb) by striking ''$12,000'' and inserting ''$37,500''; and

(cc) by striking ''an apartment house or'';

(III) by striking subparagraphs (C) and (D) and inserting the following:

''(C)(i) $106,405 if made for the purpose of financing the purchase of a single-section manufactured home; and

''(ii) $195,322 if made for the purpose of financing the purchase of a multi-section manufactured home;

''(D)(i) $149,782 if made for the purpose of financing the purchase of a single-section manufactured home and a suitably developed lot on which to place the home; and

''(ii) $238,699 if made for the purpose of financing the purchase of a multi-section manufactured home and a suitably developed lot on which to place the home;'';

(IV) in subparagraph (E)—

(aa) by striking ''$23,226'' and inserting ''$43,377''; and

(bb) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(V) in subparagraph (F), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(VI) in subparagraph (G), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(VII) by inserting after subparagraph (G) the following:

''(H) such principal amount as the Secretary may prescribe if made for the purpose of financing the construction of an accessory dwelling unit.'';

(ii) in the matter immediately preceding paragraph (2)—

(I) by striking ''regulation'' and inserting ''notice'';

(II) by striking ''increase'' and inserting ''set'';

(III) by striking ''(A)(ii), (C), (D), and (E)'' and inserting ''(A) through (H)'';

(IV) by inserting '', or as necessary to achieve the goals of the Federal Housing Administration, periodically reset the dollar amount limitations in subparagraphs (A) through (H) based on justification and methodology set forth in advance by regulation'' before the period at the end; and

(V) by adjusting the margins appropriately;

(iii) in paragraph (3), by striking ''exceeds—'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ''exceeds such period of time as determined by the Secretary, not to exceed 30 years.'';

(iv) by striking paragraph (9) and inserting the following:

''(9) ANNUAL INDEXING OF CERTAIN DOLLAR AMOUNT LIMITATIONS.—The Secretary shall develop or choose 1 or more methods of indexing in order to annually set the loan limits established in paragraph (1), based on data the Secretary determines is appropriate for purposes of this section.''; and

(v) in paragraph (11), by striking ''lease—'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ''lease meets the terms and conditions established by the Secretary''.

(2) DEADLINE FOR DEVELOPMENT OR CHOICE OF NEW INDEX; INTERIM INDEX.—

(A) DEADLINE FOR DEVELOPMENT OR CHOICE OF NEW INDEX.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall develop or choose 1 or more methods of indexing as required under section 2(b)(9) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1703(b)(9)), as amended by paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(B) INTERIM INDEX.—During the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the date on which the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development develops or chooses 1 or more methods of indexing as required under section 2(b)(9) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1703(b)(9)), as amended by paragraph (1) of this subsection, the method of indexing established by the Secretary under that subsection before the date of enactment of this Act shall apply.

(b) HUD STUDY OF OFF-SITE CONSTRUCTION.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) OFF-SITE CONSTRUCTION HOUSING.—The term ''off-site construction housing'' includes manufactured homes and modular homes.

(B) MANUFACTURED HOME.—The term ''manufactured home'' means any home constructed in accordance with the construction and safety standards established under the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5401 et seq.).

(C) MODULAR HOME.—The term ''modular home'' means a home that is constructed in a factory in 1 or more modules, each of which meet applicable State and local building codes of the area in which the home will be located, and that are transported to the home building site, installed on foundations, and completed.

(2) STUDY.—The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall conduct a study and submit to Congress a report on the cost effectiveness of off-site construction housing, that includes—

(A) an analysis of the advantages of the impact of centralization in a factory and transportation to a construction site on cost, precision, and materials waste;

(B) the extent to which off-site construction housing meets housing quality standards under the National Standards for the Physical Inspection of Real Estate, or other standards as the Secretary may prescribe, compared to the extent for site-built homes, for such standards;

(C) the expected replacement and maintenance costs over the first 40 years of life of off-site construction homes compared to those costs for site-built homes; and

(D) opportunities for use beyond single-family housing, such as applications in accessory dwelling units, two- to four-unit housing, and large multifamily housing.

SEC. 5304. PRICE ACT.

Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 105(a) (42 U.S.C. 5305(a)), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''Activities'' and inserting ''Unless otherwise authorized under section 123, activities''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 123. PRESERVATION AND REINVESTMENT FOR COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.—The term 'community development financial institution' means an institution that has been certified as a community development financial institution (as defined in section 103 of the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4702)) by the Secretary of the Treasury.

''(2) ELIGIBLE MANUFACTURED HOUSING COMMUNITY.—The term 'eligible manufactured housing community' means a manufactured housing community that—

''(A) is affordable to low- and moderate-income persons, as determined by the Secretary, but not more than 120 percent of the area median income; and

''(B)(i) is owned by the residents of the manufactured housing community through a resident-controlled entity such as a resident-owned cooperative; or

''(ii) will be maintained as such a community, and remain affordable for low- and moderate-income persons, to the maximum extent practicable and for the longest period feasible.

''(3) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—The term 'eligible recipient' means—

''(A) an eligible manufactured housing community;

''(B) a unit of general local government;

''(C) a housing authority;

''(D) a resident-owned community;

''(E) a resident-owned cooperative;

''(F) a nonprofit entity with housing expertise or a consortia of such entities;

''(G) a community development financial institution;

''(H) an Indian tribe;

''(I) a tribally designated housing entity;

''(J) a State; or

''(K) any other entity that is—

''(i) an owner-operator of an eligible manufactured housing community; and

''(ii) working with an eligible manufactured housing community.

''(4) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term 'Indian tribe' has the meaning given the term 'Indian tribe' in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103).

''(5) MANUFACTURED HOUSING COMMUNITY.—The term 'manufactured housing community' means—

''(A) any community, court, park, or other land under unified ownership developed and accommodating or equipped to accommodate

the placement of manufactured homes, where—

''(i) spaces within such community are or will be primarily used for residential occupancy;

''(ii) all homes within the community are used for permanent occupancy; and

''(iii) a majority of such occupied spaces within the community are occupied by manufactured homes, which may include homes constructed prior to enactment of the Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards; or

''(B) any community that meets the definition of manufactured housing community used for programs similar to the program under this section.

''(6) RESIDENT HEALTH, SAFETY, AND ACCESSIBILITY ACTIVITIES.—The term 'resident health, safety, and accessibility activities' means the reconstruction, repair, or replacement of manufactured housing and manufactured housing communities to—

''(A) protect the health and safety of residents;

''(B) address weatherization and reduce utility costs; or

''(C) address accessibility needs for residents with disabilities.

''(7) TRIBALLY DESIGNATED HOUSING ENTITY.—The term 'tribally designated housing entity' has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103).

''(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall, by notice, carry out a competitive grant program to award funds to eligible recipients to carry out eligible projects for development of or improvements in eligible manufactured housing communities.

''(c) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Amounts from grants under this section may be used for—

''(A) community infrastructure, facilities, utilities, and other land improvements in or serving an eligible manufactured housing community;

''(B) reconstruction or repair existing housing within an eligible manufactured housing community;

''(C) replacement of homes within an eligible manufactured housing community;

''(D) planning;

''(E) resident health, safety, and accessibility activities in homes in an eligible manufactured housing community;

''(F) land and site acquisition and infrastructure for expansion or construction of an eligible manufactured housing community;

''(G) resident and community services, including relocation assistance, eviction prevention, and down payment assistance; and

''(H) any other activity that—

''(i) is approved by the Secretary consistent with the requirements under this section;

''(ii) improves the overall living conditions of an eligible manufactured housing community, which may include the addition or enhancement of shared spaces such as community centers, recreational areas, or other facilities that support resident well-being and community engagement; and

''(iii) is necessary to protect the health and safety of the residents of the eligible manufactured housing community and the long-term affordability and sustainability of the community.

''(2) REPLACEMENT.—For purposes of subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (1), grants under this section—

''(A) may not be used for rehabilitation or modernization of units that were built before June 15, 1976; and

''(B) may only be used for disposition and replacement of units described in subparagraph (A), provided that any replacement housing complies with the Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards or is another allowed home, as determined by the Secretary.

''(d) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall prioritize applicants that will carry out activities that primarily benefit low- and moderate-income residents and preserve long-term housing affordability for residents of eligible manufactured housing communities.

''(e) WAIVERS.—The Secretary may waive or specify alternative requirements for any provision of law or regulation that the Secretary administers in connection with use of amounts made available under this section other than requirements related to fair housing, nondiscrimination, labor standards, and the environment, upon a finding that the waiver or alternative requirement is not inconsistent with the overall purposes of this section and that the waiver or alternative requirement is necessary to facilitate the use of amounts made available under this section.

''(f) IMPLEMENTATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Any grant made under this section shall be made pursuant to criteria for selection of recipients of such grants that the Secretary shall by regulation establish and publish together with any notification of availability of amounts under this section.

''(2) SET ASIDE OF GRANT AMOUNTS.—The Secretary may set aside amounts provided under this section for grants to Indian tribes and tribally designated housing entities.

''(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.''.

TITLE IV—ACCESSING THE AMERICAN DREAM

SEC. 5401. CREATING INCENTIVES FOR SMALL DOLLAR LOAN ORIGINATORS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DIRECTOR.—The term ''Director'' means the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection.

(2) SMALL DOLLAR MORTGAGE.—The term ''small dollar mortgage'' means a mortgage loan having an original principal obligation of not more than $100,000 that is—

(A) secured by real property designed for the occupancy of between 1 and 4 families; and

(B)(i) insured by the Federal Housing Administration under title II of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1707 et seq.);

(ii) made, guaranteed, or insured by the Department of Veterans Affairs;

(iii) made, guaranteed, or insured by the Department of Agriculture; or

(iv) eligible to be purchased or securitized by the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation or the Federal National Mortgage Association.

(b) REQUIREMENT REGARDING LOAN ORIGINATOR COMPENSATION PRACTICES.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall submit to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives a report on loan originator compensation practices throughout the residential mortgage market, including the relative frequency of loan originators being compensated—

(1) with a salary;

(2) with a commission reflecting a fixed percentage of the amount of credit extended;

(3) with a commission based on a factor other than a fixed percentage of the amount of credit extended;

(4) with a combination of salary and commission;

(5) on a loan volume basis;

(6) with a commission reflecting a percentage of the amount of credit extended, for which a minimum or maximum compensation amount is set; and

(7) by any other mechanism that the Director may find to be a practice for compensating mortgage loan originators, including any mechanism that provides a loan originator with compensation in such a way that the loan originator does not necessarily receive a lower level of compensation for originating a small dollar mortgage than the loan originator would receive for originating a mortgage loan that is not a small dollar mortgage.

(c) CONTENTS.—The report required under subsection (b) shall include—

(1) data and other analysis regarding the effect of the approaches to loan originator compensation described in subsection (b) on the availability of small dollar mortgage loans; and

(2) analysis and discussion regarding other potential barriers to small dollar mortgage lending.

(d) RULEMAKING.—Following the issuance of the report required under subsection (b), the Director may issue regulations to clarify the forms of compensation a lender may use to compensate a loan originator that—

(1) are permissible pursuant to section 129B(c) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1639b(c)); and

(2) would result in the loan originator receiving compensation for originating a small dollar mortgage that is not less than the compensation the loan originator would receive for originating a mortgage loan that is not a small dollar mortgage.

SEC. 5402. SMALL DOLLAR MORTGAGE POINTS AND FEES.

(a) SMALL DOLLAR MORTGAGE DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''small dollar mortgage'' means a mortgage with an original principal obligation of less than $100,000.

(b) AMENDMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, shall evaluate the impact of the existing thresholds under section 1026.43 of title 12, Code of Federal Regulations, on small dollar mortgage originations.

(2) RULEMAKING.—Following the evaluation required under paragraph (1), the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection may initiate rulemaking to amend the limitations with respect to points and fees under section 1026.43 of title 12, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation, to encourage additional lending for small dollar mortgages.

SEC. 5403. APPRAISAL INDUSTRY IMPROVEMENT ACT.

(a) APPRAISAL STANDARDS.—

(1) CERTIFICATION OR LICENSING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 202(g)(5) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1708(g)(5)) is amended—

(i) by moving the paragraph two ems to the left; and

(ii) by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

''(A) be certified or licensed by the State in which the property to be appraised is located, except that a Federal employee who has as their primary duty conducting appraisal-related activities and who chooses to become a State-licensed or certified real estate appraiser need only to be licensed or certified in 1 State or territory to perform appraisals on mortgages insured by the Federal Housing Administration in all States and territories;

''(B) meet the requirements under the competency rule set forth in the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice before accepting an assignment; and

''(C) have demonstrated verifiable education in the appraisal requirements established by the Federal Housing Administration under this subsection, which shall include the completion of a course or seminar that educates appraisers on those appraisal requirements, which shall be provided by—

''(i) the Federal Housing Administration; or

''(ii) a third party, so long as the course is approved by the Secretary or a State appraiser certifying or licensing agency.''.

(B) APPLICATION.—Subparagraph (C) of section 202(g)(5) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1708(g)(5)), as added by subparagraph (A), shall not apply with respect to any certified appraiser approved by the Federal Housing Administration to conduct appraisals on property securing a mortgage to be insured by the Federal Housing Administration on or before the effective date under paragraph (3)(C).

(2) COMPLIANCE WITH VERIFIABLE EDUCATION AND COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS.—On and after the effective date under paragraph (3)(C), no appraiser may conduct an appraisal on a property securing a mortgage to be insured by the Federal Housing Administration unless—

(A) the appraiser is in compliance with the requirements under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 202(g)(5) of such Act (12 U.S.C. 1708(g)(5)), as amended by paragraph (1); and

(B) if the appraiser was not approved by the Federal Housing Administration to conduct appraisals on mortgages insured by the Federal Housing Administration before the date on which the mortgagee letter or guidance take effect under paragraph (3)(C), the appraiser is in compliance with subparagraph (C) of such section 202(g)(5).

(3) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than the 240 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall issue a mortgagee letter or guidance that shall—

(A) implement the amendments made by paragraph (1);

(B) clearly set forth all of the specific requirements under section 202(g)(5) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1708(g)(5)), as amended by paragraph (1), for approval to conduct appraisals on property secured by a mortgage to be insured by the Federal Housing Administration, which shall include—

(i) providing that, before the effective date of the mortgagee letter or guidance, compliance with the requirements under subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of such section 202(g)(5), as amended by paragraph (1), shall be considered to fulfill the requirements under such subparagraphs; and

(ii) providing a method for appraisers to demonstrate such prior compliance; and

(C) take effect not later than the date that is 180 days after the date on which the Secretary issues the mortgagee letter or guidance.

(b) ANNUAL REGISTRY FEES FOR APPRAISAL MANAGEMENT COMPANIES.—Section 1109(a) of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (12 U.S.C. 3338(a)) is amended, in the matter following clause (ii) of paragraph (4)(B), by adding at the end the following: ''Subject to the approval of the Council, the Appraisal Subcommittee may adjust fees established under clause (i) or (ii) to carry out its functions under this Act.''.

(c) STATE CREDENTIALED TRAINEES.—

(1) MAINTENANCE ON NATIONAL REGISTRY.—Section 1103(a) of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (12 U.S.C. 3332(a)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by inserting ''and State credentialed trainee appraisers'' after ''licensed appraisers''; and

(ii) by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) by striking paragraph (4);

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (5) and (6) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively; and

(D) in paragraph (4), as so redesignated—

(i) by striking ''year. The report shall also detail'' and inserting ''year, details'';

(ii) by striking ''provide'' and inserting ''provides''; and

(iii) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''.

(2) ANNUAL REGISTRY FEES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 1109 of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (12 U.S.C. 3338) is amended—

(i) in the section heading, by striking ''**OR LICENSED**'' and inserting ''**, LICENSED, AND CREDENTIALED TRAINEE**''; and

(ii) in subsection (a)—

(I) in paragraph (1), by inserting '', and in the case of a State with a supervisory or trainee program, a roster listing individuals who have received a State trainee credential'' after ''this title''; and

(II) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) transmit reports on the issuance and renewal of licenses, certifications, credentials, sanctions, and disciplinary actions, including license, credential, and certification revocations, on a timely basis to the national registry of the Appraisal Subcommittee;''.

(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in the amendments made by subparagraph (A) shall require a State to establish or operate a program for State credentialed trainee appraisers, as defined in paragraph (12) of section 1121 of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989, as added by paragraph (4) of this subsection.

(3) TRANSACTIONS REQUIRING THE SERVICES OF A STATE CERTIFIED APPRAISER.—Section 1113 of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (12 U.S.C. 3342) is amended—

(A) by striking ''In determining'' and inserting ''(a) IN GENERAL.—In determining''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) USE OF STATE CREDENTIALED TRAINEE APPRAISERS.—In performing an appraisal under this section, a State certified appraiser may use the assistance of a State credentialed trainee appraiser or an unlicensed trainee appraiser, except that a State certified appraiser assisted by a trainee shall be liable for final work.''.

(4) DEFINITION.—Section 1121 of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (12 U.S.C. 3350) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(12) STATE CREDENTIALED TRAINEE APPRAISER.—The term 'State credentialed trainee appraiser' means an individual who—

''(A) meets the minimum criteria established by the Appraiser Qualification Board for a trainee appraiser credential; and

''(B) is credentialed by a State appraiser certifying and licensing agency.''.

(d) GRANTS FOR WORKFORCE AND TRAINING.—Section 1109(b) of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (12 U.S.C. 3338(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5)(B), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (6), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(7) to make grants to State appraiser certifying and licensing agencies, nonprofit organizations, and institutions of higher education to support the carrying out of education and training activities or other activities related to addressing appraiser industry workforce needs, including recruiting and retaining workforce talent, such as through scholarship assistance and career pipeline development.''.

(e) APPRAISAL SUBCOMMITTEE.—Section 1011 of the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council Act of 1978 (12 U.S.C. 3310) is amended, in the first sentence, by inserting ''the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Rural Housing Service of the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Housing and Urban Development,'' after ''Financial Protection,''.

SEC. 5404. HELPING MORE FAMILIES SAVE ACT.

Section 23 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437u) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(p) ESCROW EXPANSION PILOT PROGRAM.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) COVERED FAMILY.—The term 'covered family' means a family that receives assistance under section 8 or 9 of this Act and is enrolled in the pilot program.

''(B) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity' means an entity described in subsection (c)(2).

''(C) PILOT PROGRAM.—The term 'pilot program' means the pilot program established under paragraph (2).

''(D) WELFARE ASSISTANCE.—The term 'welfare assistance' has the meaning given the term in section 984.103 of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

''(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a pilot program under which the Secretary shall select not more than 25 eligible entities to establish and manage escrow accounts for not more than 5,000 covered families, in accordance with this subsection.

''(3) ESCROW ACCOUNTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity selected to participate in the pilot program—

''(i) shall establish an interest-bearing escrow account and place into the account an amount equal to any increase in the amount of rent paid by each covered family in accordance with the provisions of section 3, 8(o), or 8(y), as applicable, that is attributable to increases in earned income by the covered families during the participation of each covered family in the pilot program; and

''(ii) notwithstanding any other provision of law, may use funds it controls under section 8 or 9 for purposes of making the escrow deposit for covered families assisted under, or residing in units assisted under, section 8 or 9, respectively, provided such funds are offset by the increase in the amount of rent paid by the covered family.

''(B) INCOME LIMITATION.—An eligible entity may not escrow any amounts for any covered family whose adjusted income exceeds 80 percent of the area median income at the time of enrollment.

''(C) WITHDRAWALS.—A covered family shall be able to withdraw funds, including interest earned, from an escrow account established by an eligible entity under the pilot program—

''(i) after the covered family ceases to receive welfare assistance; and

''(ii)(I) not earlier than the date that is 5 years after the date on which the eligible entity establishes the escrow account under this subsection;

''(II) not later than the date that is 7 years after the date on which the eligible entity establishes the escrow account under this subsection, if the covered family chooses to continue to participate in the pilot program after the date that is 5 years after the date on which the eligible entity establishes the escrow account;

''(III) on the date the covered family ceases to receive housing assistance under section 8 or 9, if such date is earlier than 5 years after the date on which the eligible entity establishes the escrow account;

''(IV) earlier than 5 years after the date on which the eligible entity establishes the escrow account, if the covered family is using the funds to advance a self-sufficiency goal as approved by the eligible entity; or

''(V) under other circumstances in which the Secretary determines an exemption for good cause is warranted.

''(D) INTERIM RECERTIFICATION.—For purposes of the pilot program, a covered family may recertify the income of the covered family multiple times per year, as determined by the Secretary, and not fewer than once per year.

''(E) CONTRACT OR PLAN.—A covered family is not required to complete a standard contract of participation or an individual training and services plan in order to participate in the pilot program.

''(4) EFFECT OF INCREASES IN FAMILY INCOME.—Any increase in the earned income of a covered family during the enrollment of the family in the pilot program may not be considered as income or a resource for purposes of eligibility of the family for other benefits, or amount of benefits payable to the family, under any program administered by the Secretary.

''(5) APPLICATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity seeking to participate in the pilot program shall submit to the Secretary an application—

''(i) at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require by notice; and

''(ii) that includes the number of proposed covered families to be served by the eligible entity under this subsection.

''(B) GEOGRAPHIC AND ENTITY VARIETY.—The Secretary shall ensure that eligible entities selected to participate in the pilot program—

''(i) are located across various States and in both urban and rural areas; and

''(ii) vary by size and type, including both public housing agencies and private owners of projects receiving project-based rental assistance under section 8.

''(6) NOTIFICATION AND OPT-OUT.—An eligible entity participating in the pilot program shall—

''(A) notify covered families of their enrollment in the pilot program;

''(B) provide covered families with a detailed description of the pilot program, including how the pilot program will impact their rent and finances;

''(C) inform covered families that the families cannot simultaneously participate in the pilot program and the Family Self-Sufficiency program under this section; and

''(D) provide covered families with the ability to elect not to participate in the pilot program—

''(i) not less than 2 weeks before the date on which the escrow account is established under paragraph (3); and

''(ii) at any point during the duration of the pilot program.

''(7) MAXIMUM RENTS.—During the term of participation by a covered family in the pilot program, the amount of rent paid by the covered family shall be calculated under the rental provisions of section 3 or 8(o), as applicable.

''(8) PILOT PROGRAM TIMELINE.—

''(A) AWARDS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall select the eligible entities to participate in the pilot program.

''(B) ESTABLISHMENT AND TERM OF ACCOUNTS.—An eligible entity selected to participate in the pilot program shall—

''(i) not later than 6 months after selection, establish escrow accounts under paragraph (3) for covered families; and

''(ii) maintain those escrow accounts for not less than 5 years, or until the date the family ceases to receive assistance under section 8 or 9, and, at the discretion of the covered family, not more than 7 years after the date on which the escrow account is established.

''(9) NONPARTICIPATION AND HOUSING ASSISTANCE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Assistance under section 8 or 9 for a family that elects not to participate in the pilot program shall not be delayed or denied by reason of such election.

''(B) NO TERMINATION.—Housing assistance may not be terminated as a consequence of participating, or not participating, in the pilot program under this subsection for any period of time.

''(10) STUDY.—Not later than 8 years after the date the Secretary selects eligible entities to participate in the pilot program under this subsection, the Secretary shall conduct a study and submit to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives a report on outcomes for covered families under the pilot program, which shall evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot program in assisting families to achieve economic independence and self-sufficiency, and the impact coaching and supportive services, or the lack thereof, had on individual incomes.

''(11) WAIVERS.—To allow selected eligible entities to effectively administer the pilot program and make the required escrow account deposits under this subsection, the Secretary may waive requirements under this section.

''(12) TERMINATION.—The pilot program under this subsection shall terminate on the date that is 10 years after the date of enactment of this subsection.

''(13) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for fiscal year 2026 such sums as may be necessary—

''(i) for technical assistance related to implementation of the pilot program; and

''(ii) to carry out an evaluation of the pilot program under paragraph (10).

''(B) AVAILABILITY.—Any amounts appropriated under this subsection shall remain available until expended.''.

SEC. 5405. CHOICE IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING ACT.

(a) SATISFACTION OF INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN OTHER HOUSING PROGRAMS.—Section 8(o)(8) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(8)), as amended by section 101(a) of the Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–201; 130 Stat. 783), is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(I) SATISFACTION OF INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN OTHER HOUSING PROGRAMS.—

''(i) LOW-INCOME HOUSING TAX CREDIT-FINANCED BUILDINGS.—A dwelling unit shall be deemed to meet the inspection requirements under this paragraph if—

''(I) the dwelling unit is in a building, the acquisition, rehabilitation, or construction of which was financed by a person who received a low-income housing tax credit under section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 in exchange for that financing;

''(II) the dwelling unit was physically inspected and passed inspection as part of the low-income housing tax credit program described in subclause (I) during the preceding 12-month period; and

''(III) the applicable public housing agency is able to obtain the results of the inspection described in subclause (II).

''(ii) HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM.—A dwelling shall be deemed to meet the inspection requirements under this paragraph if—

''(I) the dwelling unit is assisted under the HOME Investment Partnerships Program under title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12721 et seq.);

''(II) the dwelling unit was physically inspected and passed inspection as part of the program described in subclause (I) during the preceding 12-month period; and

''(III) the applicable public housing agency is able to obtain the results of the inspection described in subclause (II).

''(iii) RURAL HOUSING SERVICE.—A dwelling unit shall be deemed to meet the inspection requirements under this paragraph if—

''(I) the dwelling unit is assisted by the Rural Housing Service of the Department of Agriculture;

''(II) the dwelling unit was physically inspected and passed inspection in connection with the assistance described in subclause (I) during the preceding 12-month period; and

''(III) the applicable public housing agency is able to obtain the results of the inspection described in subclause (II).

''(iv) REMOTE OR VIDEO INSPECTIONS.—When complying with inspection requirements for a housing unit located in a rural or small area using assistance under this subtitle, the Secretary may allow a grantee to conduct a remote or video inspection of a unit.

''(v) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in clause (i), (ii), (iii), or (iv) shall be construed to affect the operation of a housing program described in, or authorized under a provision of law described in, that clause.''.

(b) PRE-APPROVAL OF UNITS.—Section 8(o)(8)(A) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(8)(A)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(iv) INITIAL INSPECTION PRIOR TO LEASE AGREEMENT.—

''(I) DEFINITION.—In this clause, the term 'new landlord' means an owner of a dwelling unit who has not previously entered into a housing assistance payment contract with a public housing agency under this subsection for any dwelling unit.

''(II) EARLY INSPECTION.—Upon the request of a new landlord, a public housing agency may inspect the dwelling unit owned by the new landlord to determine whether the unit meets the housing quality standards under subparagraph (B) before the unit is selected by a tenant assisted under this subsection.

''(III) EFFECT.—An inspection conducted under subclause (II) that determines that the dwelling unit meets the housing quality standards under subparagraph (B) shall satisfy this subparagraph and subparagraph (C) if the new landlord enters into a lease agreement with a tenant assisted under this subsection not later than 60 days after the date of the inspection.

''(IV) INFORMATION WHEN FAMILY IS SELECTED.—When a public housing agency selects a family to participate in the tenant-based assistance program under this subsection, the public housing agency shall include in the information provided to the family a list of dwelling units that have been inspected under subclause (II) and determined to meet the housing quality standards under subparagraph (B).''.

TITLE V—PROGRAM REFORM

SEC. 5501. REFORMING DISASTER RECOVERY ACT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DEPARTMENT.—The term ''Department'' means the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(2) FUND.—The term ''Fund'' means the Long-Term Disaster Recovery Fund established under subsection (c).

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(b) DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The offices and officers of the Department shall be responsible for—

(A) leading and coordinating the disaster-related responsibilities of the Department under the National Response Framework, the National Disaster Recovery Framework, and the National Mitigation Framework;

(B) coordinating and administering programs, policies, and activities of the Department related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, resiliency, and mitigation, including disaster recovery assistance under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.);

(C) supporting disaster-impacted communities as those communities specifically assess, plan for, and address the housing stock and housing needs in the transition from emergency shelters and interim housing to permanent housing of those displaced, especially among vulnerable populations and extremely low-, low-, and moderate-income households;

(D) collaborating with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Small Business Administration and across the Department to align disaster-related regulations and policies, including incorporation of consensus-based codes and standards and insurance purchase requirements, and ensuring coordination and reducing duplication among other Federal disaster recovery programs;

(E) promoting best practices in mitigation and resilient land use planning;

(F) coordinating technical assistance, including mitigation, resiliency, and recovery training and information on all relevant legal and regulatory requirements, to entities that receive disaster recovery assistance under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) that demonstrate capacity constraints; and

(G) supporting State, Tribal, and local governments in developing, coordinating, and maintaining their capacity for disaster resilience and recovery and developing pre-disaster recovery and hazard mitigation plans, in coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and other Federal agencies.

(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OFFICE OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND RESILIENCY.—Section 4 of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act (42 U.S.C. 3533) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(i) OFFICE OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND RESILIENCY.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established, in the Office of the Secretary, the Office of Disaster Management and Resiliency.

''(2) DUTIES.—The Office of Disaster Management and Resiliency shall—

''(A) be responsible for oversight and coordination of all departmental disaster preparedness and response responsibilities; and

''(B) coordinate with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Small Business Administration, and the Office of Community Planning and Development and other offices of the Department in supporting recovery and resilience activities to provide a comprehensive approach in working with communities.''.

(c) LONG-TERM DISASTER RECOVERY FUND.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States an account to be known as the Long-Term Disaster Recovery Fund.

(2) DEPOSITS, TRANSFERS, AND CREDIT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Fund shall consist of amounts appropriated, transferred, and credited to the Fund.

(B) TRANSFERS.—The following may be transferred to the Fund:

(i) Amounts made available through section 106(c)(4) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5306(c)(4)) as a result of actions taken under section 104(e), 111, or 124(j) of such Act.

(ii) Any unobligated balances available until expended remaining or subsequently recaptured from amounts appropriated for any disaster and related purposes under the heading ''Community Development Fund'' in any Act prior to the establishment of the Fund.

(C) USE OF TRANSFERRED AMOUNTS.—Amounts transferred to the Fund shall be used for the eligible uses described in paragraph (3).

(3) ELIGIBLE USES OF FUND.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Amounts in the Fund shall be available—

(i) to provide assistance in the form of grants under section 124 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as added by subsection (d); and

(ii) for activities of the Department that support the provision of such assistance, including necessary salaries and expenses, information technology, and capacity building, technical assistance, and pre-disaster readiness.

(B) SET ASIDE.—Of each amount appropriated for or transferred to the Fund, 3 percent shall be made available for activities described in subparagraph (A)(ii), which shall be in addition to other amounts made available for those activities.

(C) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—With respect to amounts made available for use in accordance with subparagraph (B)—

(i) amounts may be transferred to the account under the heading for ''Program Offices—Salaries and Expenses—Community Planning and Development'', or any successor account, for the Department to carry out activities described in paragraph (1)(B); and

(ii) amounts may be used for the activities described in subparagraph (A)(ii) and for the administrative costs of administering any funds appropriated to the Department under the heading ''Community Planning and Development—Community Development Fund'' for any major disaster declared under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) in any Act before the establishment of the Fund.

(D) INSPECTOR GENERAL.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Not less than one-tenth of 1 percent of each series of awards the Secretary makes from the Fund shall be transferred to the account under the heading ''Office of Inspector General'' for the Department of Housing and Urban Development to support audit activities and to investigate grantee noncompliance with program requirements and waste, fraud, and abuse as a result of appropriations made available through the Fund.

(ii) AVAILABILITY.—Funding under clause (i) shall not be made available to the Office of Inspector General until 90 days after the date on which the grantee plan or supplemental plan for the grantee is approved by the Secretary under subsection (c) or (f)(3)(C) of section 124 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as added by subsection (d), is approved by the Secretary.

(4) INTERCHANGEABILITY OF PRIOR ADMINISTRATIVE AMOUNTS.—Any amounts appropriated in any Act prior to the establishment of the Fund and transferred to the account under the heading ''Program Offices—Salaries and Expenses—Community Planning and Development'', or any predecessor account, for the Department for the costs of administering funds appropriated to the Department under the heading ''Community Planning and Development—Community Development Fund'' for any major disaster declared under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) shall be available for the costs of administering any such funds provided by any prior or future Act, notwithstanding the purposes for which those amounts were appropriated and in addition to any amount provided for the same purposes in other appropriations Acts.

(5) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.—Amounts appropriated, transferred, and credited to the Fund shall remain available until expended.

(6) FORMULA ALLOCATION.—Use of amounts in the Fund for grants shall be made by formula allocation in accordance with the requirements of section 124(a) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as added by subsection (d).

(7) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Fund such sums as may be necessary to respond to current or future major disasters declared under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5179) for grants under section 124 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as added by subsection (d).

(d) ESTABLISHMENT OF CDBG DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM.—Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.), as amended by this Act, is amended—

(1) in section 102(a) (42 U.S.C. 5302(a))—

(A) in paragraph (20)—

(i) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C);

(ii) in subparagraph (C), as so redesignated, by inserting ''or (B)'' after ''subparagraph (A)''; and

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

''(B) The term 'persons of extremely low income' means families and individuals whose income levels do not exceed household income levels determined by the Secretary under section 3(b)(2) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)(2)(C)), except that the Secretary may provide alternative definitions for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the United States Virgin Islands, and American Samoa.''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(25) The term 'major disaster' has the meaning given the term in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122).'';

(2) in section 106(c)(4) (42 U.S.C. 5306(c)(4))—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking ''declared by the President under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act'';

(ii) inserting ''States for use in nonentitlement areas and to'' before ''metropolitan cities''; and

(iii) inserting ''major'' after ''affected by the'';

(B) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) by striking ''metropolitan city or'' and inserting ''State, metropolitan city, or'';

(ii) by striking ''city or county'' and inserting ''State, city, or county''; and

(iii) by inserting ''major'' before ''disaster'';

(C) in subparagraph (D), by striking ''metropolitan cities and'' and inserting ''States, metropolitan cities, and'';

(D) in subparagraph (F)—

(i) by striking ''metropolitan city or'' and inserting ''State, metropolitan city, or''; and

(ii) by inserting ''major'' before ''disaster''; and

(E) in subparagraph (G), by striking ''metropolitan city or'' and inserting ''State, metropolitan city, or'';

(3) in section 122 (42 U.S.C. 5321), by striking ''disaster under title IV of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act'' and inserting ''major disaster''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 124. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM.

''(a) AUTHORIZATION, FORMULA, AND ALLOCATION.—

''(1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary is authorized to make community development block grant disaster recovery grants from the Long-Term Disaster Recovery Fund established under section 501(c) of the Renewing Opportunity in the American Dream to Housing Act of 2025 (hereinafter referred to as the 'Fund') for necessary expenses for activities authorized under subsection (f)(1) related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of housing and infrastructure, economic revitalization, and mitigation in the most impacted and distressed areas resulting from a catastrophic major disaster.

''(2) GRANT AWARDS.—Grants shall be awarded under this section to States, units of general local government, and Indian tribes based on capacity and the concentration of damage, as determined by the Secretary, to support the efficient and effective administration of funds.

''(3) SECTION 106 ALLOCATIONS.—Grants under this section shall not be considered relevant to the formula allocations made pursuant to section 106.

''(4) FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall issue a notice in the Federal Register containing the latest formula allocation methodologies used to determine the total estimate of unmet needs related to housing, economic revitalization, and infrastructure in the most impacted and distressed areas resulting from a catastrophic major disaster.

''(B) PUBLIC COMMENT.—If the Secretary has not already requested public comment on the formula described in the notice required by subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall solicit public comments on—

''(i) the methodologies described in subparagraph (A) and seek alternative methods for formula allocation within a similar total amount of funding;

''(ii) the impact of formula methodologies on rural areas and Tribal areas;

''(iii) adjustments to improve targeting to the most serious needs;

''(iv) objective criteria for grantee capacity and concentration of damage to inform grantee determinations and minimum allocation thresholds; and

''(v) research and data to inform an additional amount to be provided for mitigation depending on type of disaster, which shall be up to 18 percent of the total estimate of unmet needs.

''(5) REGULATIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, by regulation, establish a formula to allocate assistance from the Fund to the most impacted and distressed areas resulting from a catastrophic major disaster.

''(B) FORMULA REQUIREMENTS.—The formula established under subparagraph (A) shall—

''(i) set forth criteria to determine that a major disaster is catastrophic, which criteria shall consider the presence of a high concentration of damaged housing or businesses that individual, State, Tribal, and local resources could not reasonably be expected to address without additional Federal assistance or other nationally encompassing data that the Secretary determines are adequate to assess relative impact and distress across geographic areas;

''(ii) include a methodology for identifying most impacted and distressed areas, which shall consider unmet serious needs related to housing, economic revitalization, and infrastructure;

''(iii) include an allocation calculation that considers the unmet serious needs resulting from the catastrophic major disaster and an additional amount up to 18 percent for activities to reduce risks of loss resulting from other natural disasters in the most impacted and distressed area, primarily for the benefit of low- and moderate-income persons, with particular focus on activities that reduce repetitive loss of property and critical infrastructure; and

''(iv) establish objective criteria for periodic review and updates to the formula to reflect changes in available data.

''(C) MINIMUM ALLOCATION THRESHOLD.—The Secretary shall, by regulation, establish a minimum allocation threshold.

''(D) INTERIM ALLOCATION.—Until such time that the Secretary issues final regulations under this paragraph, the Secretary shall—

''(i) allocate assistance from the Fund using the formula allocation methodology published in accordance with paragraph (4); and

''(ii) include an additional amount for mitigation of up to 18 percent of the total estimate of unmet need.

''(6) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

''(i) except as provided in clause (ii), not later than 90 days after the President declares a major disaster, use best available data to determine whether the major disaster is catastrophic and qualifies for assistance under the formula described in paragraph (4) or (5), unless data is insufficient to make this determination; and

''(ii) if the best available data is insufficient to make the determination required under clause (i) within the 90-day period described in that clause, the Secretary shall determine whether the major disaster qualifies when sufficient data becomes available, but in no case shall the Secretary make the determination later than 120 days after the declaration of the major disaster.

''(B) ANNOUNCEMENT OF ALLOCATION.—If amounts are available in the Fund at the time the Secretary determines that the major disaster is catastrophic and qualifies for assistance under the formula described in paragraph (4) or (5), the Secretary shall immediately announce an allocation for a grant under this section.

''(C) ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS.—If additional amounts are appropriated to the Fund after amounts are allocated under subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall announce an allocation or additional allocation (if a prior allocation under subparagraph (B) was less than the formula calculation) within 15 days of any such appropriation.

''(7) PRELIMINARY FUNDING.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—To speed recovery, the Secretary is authorized to allocate and award preliminary grants from the Fund before making a determination under paragraph (6)(A) if the Secretary projects, based on a preliminary assessment of impact and distress, that a major disaster is catastrophic and would likely qualify for funding under the formula described in paragraph (4) or (5).

''(B) AMOUNT.—

''(i) MAXIMUM.—The Secretary may award preliminary funding under subparagraph (A) in an amount that is not more than $5,000,000.

''(ii) SLIDING SCALE.—The Secretary shall, by regulation, establish a sliding scale for preliminary funding awarded under subparagraph (A) based on the size of the preliminary assessment of impact and distress.

''(C) USE OF FUNDS.—The uses of preliminary funding awarded under subparagraph (A) shall be limited to eligible activities that—

''(i) in the determination of the Secretary, will support faster recovery, improve the ability of the grantee to assess unmet recovery needs, plan for the prevention of improper payments, and reduce fraud, waste, and abuse; and

''(ii) may include evaluating the interim housing, permanent housing, and supportive service needs of the disaster impacted community, with special attention to vulnerable populations, such as homeless and low- to moderate-income households, to inform the grantee action plan required under subsection (c).

''(D) CONSIDERATION OF FUNDING.—Preliminary funding awarded under subparagraph (A)—

''(i) is not subject to the certification requirements of subsection (h)(1); and

''(ii) shall not be considered when calculating the amount of the grant used for administrative costs, technical assistance, and planning activities that are subject to the requirements under subsection (f)(2).

''(E) WAIVER.—To expedite the use of preliminary funding for activities described in this paragraph, the Secretary may waive or specify alternative requirements to the requirements of this section in accordance with subsection (i).

''(F) AMENDED AWARD.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—An award for preliminary funding under subparagraph (A) may be amended to add any subsequent amount awarded because of a determination by the Secretary that a major disaster is catastrophic and qualifies for assistance under the formula.

''(ii) APPLICABILITY.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (D), amounts provided by an amendment under clause (i) are subject to the requirements under subsections (f)(1) and (h)(1) and other requirements on grant funds under this section.

''(G) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Concurrent with the allocation of any preliminary funding awarded under this paragraph, the Secretary shall assign or provide technical assistance to the recipient of the grant.

''(b) INTERCHANGEABILITY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to approve the use of grants under this section to be used interchangeably and without limitation for the same activities in the most impacted and distressed areas resulting from a declaration of another catastrophic major disaster that qualifies for assistance under the formula established under paragraph (4) or (5) of subsection (a) or a major disaster for which the Secretary allocated funds made available under the heading 'Community Development Fund' in any Act prior to the establishment of the Fund.

''(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall establish requirements to expedite the use of grants under this section for the purpose described in paragraph (1).

''(3) EMERGENCY DESIGNATION.—Amounts repurposed pursuant to this subsection that were previously designated by Congress as an

emergency requirement pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or a concurrent resolution on the budget are designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4001(a)(1) of S. Con. Res. 14 (117th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2022, and to legislation establishing fiscal year 2026 budget enforcement in the House of Representatives.

''(c) GRANTEE PLANS.—

''(1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Secretary announces a grant allocation under this section, unless an extension is granted by the Secretary, the grantee shall submit to the Secretary a plan for approval describing—

''(A) the activities the grantee will carry out with the grant under this section;

''(B) the criteria of the grantee for awarding assistance and selecting activities;

''(C) how the use of the grant under this section will address disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of housing and infrastructure, economic revitalization, and mitigation in the most impacted and distressed areas;

''(D) how the use of the grant funds for mitigation is consistent with hazard mitigation plans submitted to the Federal Emergency Management Agency under section 322 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5165);

''(E) the estimated amount proposed to be used for activities that will benefit persons of low and moderate income;

''(F) how the use of grant funds will repair and replace existing housing stock for vulnerable populations, including low- to moderate-income households;

''(G) how the grantee will address the priorities described in paragraph (5);

''(H) how uses of funds are proportional to unmet needs, as required under paragraph (6);

''(I) for State grantees that plan to distribute grant amounts to units of general local government, a description of the method of distribution; and

''(J) such other information as may be determined by the Secretary in regulation.

''(2) PUBLIC CONSULTATION.—To permit public examination and appraisal of the plan described in paragraph (1), to enhance the public accountability of grantee, and to facilitate coordination of activities with different levels of government, when developing the plan or substantial amendments proposed to the plan required under paragraph (1), a grantee shall—

''(A) publish the plan before adoption;

''(B) provide citizens, affected units of general local government, and other interested parties with reasonable notice of, and opportunity to comment on, the plan, with a public comment period of not less than 14 days;

''(C) consider comments received before submission to the Secretary;

''(D) follow a citizen participation plan for disaster assistance adopted by the grantee that, at a minimum, provides for participation of residents of the most impacted and distressed area affected by the major disaster that resulted in the grant under this section and other considerations established by the Secretary; and

''(E) undertake any consultation with interested parties as may be determined by the Secretary in regulation.

''(3) APPROVAL.—The Secretary shall—

''(A) by regulation, specify criteria for the approval, partial approval, or disapproval of a plan submitted under paragraph (1), including approval of substantial amendments to the plan;

''(B) review a plan submitted under paragraph (1) upon receipt of the plan;

''(C) allow a grantee to revise and resubmit a plan or substantial amendment to a plan under paragraph (1) that the Secretary disapproves;

''(D) by regulation, specify criteria for when the grantee shall be required to provide the required revisions to a disapproved plan or substantial amendment under paragraph (1) for public comment prior to resubmission of the plan or substantial amendment to the Secretary; and

''(E) approve, partially approve, or disapprove a plan or substantial amendment under paragraph (1) not later than 60 days after the date on which the plan or substantial amendment is received by the Secretary.

''(4) LOW- AND MODERATE-INCOME OVERALL BENEFIT.—

''(A) USE OF FUNDS.—Not less than 70 percent of a grant made under this section shall be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income unless the Secretary—

''(i) specifically finds that—

''(I) there is compelling need to reduce the percentage for the grant; and

''(II) the housing needs of low- and moderate-income persons have been addressed; and

''(ii) issues a waiver and alternative requirement specific to the grant pursuant to subsection (i) to lower the percentage.

''(B) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall, by regulation, establish protocols that reflect the required use of funds under subparagraph (A), including persons with extremely and very low incomes.

''(5) PRIORITIZATION.—The grantee shall prioritize activities that—

''(A) assist persons with extremely low-, low-, and moderate-incomes and other vulnerable populations to better recover from and withstand future disasters;

''(B) address housing needs arising from a disaster, or those needs present prior to a disaster, including the needs of both renters and homeowners;

''(C) prolong the life of housing and infrastructure;

''(D) use cost-effective means of preventing harm to people and property and incorporate protective features and redundancies; and

''(E) other measures that will assure the continuation of critical services during future disasters.

''(6) PROPORTIONAL ALLOCATION.—For each specific disaster, a grantee under this section shall allocate grant funds proportional to unmet needs between housing activities for renters and homeowners, economic revitalization, and infrastructure unless the Secretary specifically finds that—

''(A) there is a compelling need for a disproportional allocation among those unmet needs; and

''(B) the disproportional allocation described in subparagraph (A) is not inconsistent with the requirements under paragraph (4).

''(7) DISASTER RISK MITIGATION.—

''(A) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the term 'hazard-prone areas'—

''(i) means areas identified by the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, at risk from natural hazards that threaten property damage or health, safety, and welfare, such as floods, wildfires (including Wildland-Urban Interface areas), earthquakes, lava inundation, tornados, and high winds; and

''(ii) includes areas having special flood hazards as identified under the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4002 et seq.) or the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.).

''(B) HAZARD-PRONE AREAS.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, shall establish minimum construction standards, insurance purchase requirements, and other requirements for the use of grant funds in hazard-prone areas.

''(C) SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARDS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—For the areas described in subparagraph (A)(ii), the insurance purchase requirements established under subparagraph (B) shall meet or exceed the requirements under section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4012a(a)).

''(ii) TREATMENT AS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—All grants under this section shall be treated as financial assistance for purposes of section 3(a)(3) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4003(a)(3)).

''(D) CONSIDERATION OF FUTURE RISKS.—The Secretary may consider future risks to protecting property and health, safety, and general welfare, and the likelihood of those risks, when making the determination of or modification to hazard-prone areas under this paragraph.

''(8) RELOCATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. 4601 et seq.) shall apply to activities assisted under this section to the extent determined by the Secretary in regulation, or as provided in waivers or alternative requirements authorized in accordance with subsection (i).

''(B) POLICY.—Each grantee under this section shall establish a relocation assistance policy that—

''(i) minimizes displacement and describes the benefits available to persons displaced as a direct result of acquisition, rehabilitation, or demolition in connection with an activity that is assisted by a grant under this section; and

''(ii) includes any appeal rights or other requirements that the Secretary establishes by regulation.

''(d) CERTIFICATIONS.—Any grant under this section shall be made only if the grantee certifies to the satisfaction of the Secretary that—

''(1) the grantee is in full compliance with the requirements under subsection (c)(2);

''(2) for grants other than grants to Indian tribes, the grant will be conducted and administered in conformity with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000a et seq.) and the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.);

''(3) the projected use of funds has been developed so as to give maximum feasible priority to activities that will benefit recipients described in subsection (c)(4)(A) and activities described in subsection (c)(5), and may also include activities that are designed to aid in the prevention or elimination of slum and blight to support disaster recovery, meet other community development needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community where other financial resources are not available to meet such needs, and alleviate future threats to human populations, critical natural resources, and property that an analysis of hazards shows are likely to result from natural disasters in the future;

''(4) the grant funds shall principally benefit persons of low- and moderate-income as described in subsection (c)(4)(A);

''(5) for grants other than grants to Indian tribes, within 24 months of receiving a grant or at the time of its 3- or 5-year update, whichever is sooner, the grantee will review and make modifications to its non-disaster housing and community development plans and strategies required by subsections (c) and (m) of section 104 to reflect the disaster recovery needs identified by the grantee and

consistency with the plan under subsection (c)(1);

''(6) the grantee will not attempt to recover any capital costs of public improvements assisted in whole or part under this section by assessing any amount against properties owned and occupied by persons of low and moderate income, including any fee charged or assessment made as a condition of obtaining access to such public improvements, unless—

''(A) funds received under this section are used to pay the proportion of such fee or assessment that relates to the capital costs of such public improvements that are financed from revenue sources other than under this chapter; or

''(B) for purposes of assessing any amount against properties owned and occupied by persons of moderate income, the grantee certifies to the Secretary that the grantee lacks sufficient funds received under this section to comply with the requirements of subparagraph (A);

''(7) the grantee will comply with the other provisions of this title that apply to assistance under this section and with other applicable laws;

''(8) the grantee will follow a relocation assistance policy that includes any minimum requirements identified by the Secretary; and

''(9) the grantee will adhere to construction standards, insurance purchase requirements, and other requirements for development in hazard-prone areas described in subsection (c)(7).

''(e) PERFORMANCE REVIEWS AND REPORTING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, on not less frequently than an annual basis until the closeout of a particular grant allocation, make such reviews and audits as may be necessary or appropriate to determine whether a grantee under this section has—

''(A) carried out activities using grant funds in a timely manner;

''(B) met the performance targets established by paragraph (2);

''(C) carried out activities using grant funds in accordance with the requirements of this section, the other provisions of this title that apply to assistance under this section, and other applicable laws; and

''(D) a continuing capacity to carry out activities in a timely manner.

''(2) PERFORMANCE TARGETS.—The Secretary shall develop and make publicly available critical performance targets for review, which shall include spending thresholds for each year from the date on which funds are obligated by the Secretary to the grantee until such time all funds have been expended.

''(3) FAILURE TO MEET TARGETS.—

''(A) SUSPENSION.—If a grantee under this section fails to meet 1 or more critical performance targets under paragraph (2), the Secretary may temporarily suspend the grant.

''(B) PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN.—If the Secretary suspends a grant under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall provide to the grantee a performance improvement plan with the specific requirements needed to lift the suspension within a defined time period.

''(C) REPORT.—If a grantee fails to meet the spending thresholds established under paragraph (2), the grantee shall submit to the Secretary, the appropriate committees of Congress, and each member of Congress who represents a district or State of the grantee a written report identifying technical capacity, funding, or other Federal or State impediments affecting the ability of the grantee to meet the spending thresholds.

''(4) COLLECTION OF INFORMATION AND REPORTING.—

''(A) REQUIREMENT TO REPORT.—A grantee under this section shall provide to the Secretary such information as the Secretary may determine necessary for adequate oversight of the grant program under this section.

''(B) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Subject to subparagraph (D), the Secretary shall make information submitted under subparagraph (A) available to the public and to the Inspector General for the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

''(C) SUMMARY STATUS REPORTS.—To increase transparency and accountability of the grant program under this section the Secretary shall, on not less frequently than an annual basis, post on a public facing dashboard summary status reports for all active grants under this section that includes—

''(i) the status of funds by activity;

''(ii) the percentages of funds allocated and expended to benefit low- and moderate-income communities;

''(iii) performance targets, spending thresholds, and accomplishments; and

''(iv) other information the Secretary determines to be relevant for transparency.

''(D) CONSIDERATIONS.—In carrying out this paragraph, the Secretary shall take such actions as may be necessary to ensure that personally identifiable information regarding applicants for assistance provided from funds made available under this section is not made publicly available.

''(E) RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may, upon a formal request from researchers, make disaggregated information available to the requestor that is specific and relevant to the research being conducted, and for the purposes of researching program impact and efficacy.

''(ii) PRIVACY PROTECTIONS.—In making information available under clause (i), the Secretary shall protect personally identifiable information as required under section 552a of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the 'Privacy Act of 1974').

''(f) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Activities assisted under this section—

''(A) may include activities permitted under section 105 or other activities permitted by the Secretary by waiver or alternative requirement pursuant to subsection (i); and

''(B) shall be related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of housing and infrastructure, economic revitalization, and mitigation in the most impacted and distressed areas resulting from the major disaster for which the grant was awarded.

''(2) PROHIBITION.—Grant funds under this section may not be used for costs reimbursable by, or for which funds have been made available by, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

''(3) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND PLANNING.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish in regulation the maximum grant amounts a grantee may use for administrative costs, technical assistance and planning activities, taking into consideration size of grant, complexity of recovery, and other factors as determined by the Secretary, but not to exceed 8 percent for administration and 20 percent in total.

''(B) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts available for administrative costs for a grant under this section shall be available for eligible administrative costs of the grantee for any grant made under this section, without regard to a particular disaster.

''(C) SUPPLEMENTAL PLAN.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Grantees may submit to the Secretary an optional supplemental plan to the grantee plan required under this title specifically for administrative costs, which shall include a description of the use of all grant funds for administrative costs, including for any eligible pre-award program administrative costs, and how such uses will prepare the grantee to more effectively and expeditiously administer funds provided under the full plan.

''(ii) USE OF FUNDS.—If a supplemental plan is approved under clause (i), a grantee may draw down the aforementioned administrative funds before the full grantee plan is approved.

''(iii) WAIVERS.—In carrying out this subparagraph, the Secretary may include any waivers or alternative requirements in accordance with subsection (i).

''(4) PROGRAM INCOME.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any grantee under this section may retain program income that is realized from grants made by the Secretary under this section if the grantee agrees that the grantee will utilize the program income in accordance with the requirements for grants under this section, except that the Secretary may—

''(A) by regulation, exclude from consideration as program income any amounts determined to be so small that compliance with this paragraph creates an unreasonable administrative burden on the grantee; or

''(B) permit the grantee to transfer remaining program income to the other grants of the grantee under this title upon closeout of the grant.

''(5) PROHIBITION ON USE OF ASSISTANCE FOR EMPLOYMENT RELOCATION ACTIVITIES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Grants under this section may not be used to assist directly in the relocation of any industrial or commercial plant, facility, or operation, from one area to another area, if the relocation is likely to result in a significant loss of employment in the labor market area from which the relocation occurs.

''(B) APPLICABILITY.—The prohibition under subparagraph (A) shall not apply to a business that was operating in the disaster-declared labor market area before the incident date of the applicable disaster and has since moved, in whole or in part, from the affected area to another State or to a labor market area within the same State to continue business.

''(6) REQUIREMENTS.—Grants under this section are subject to the requirements of this section, the other provisions of this title that apply to assistance under this section, and other applicable laws, unless modified by waivers or alternative requirements in accordance with subsection (i).

''(g) ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW.—

''(1) ADOPTION.—A recipient of funds provided under this section that uses the funds to supplement Federal assistance provided under section 203, 402, 403, 404, 406, 407, 408(c)(4), 428, or 502 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170a, 5170b, 5170c, 5172, 5173, 5174(c)(4), 5189f, 5192) may adopt, without review or public comment, any environmental review, approval, or permit performed by a Federal agency, and such adoption shall satisfy the responsibilities of the recipient with respect to such environmental review, approval, or permit under section 104(g)(1), so long as the actions covered by the existing environmental review, approval, or permit and the actions proposed for these supplemental funds are substantially the same.

''(2) APPROVAL OF RELEASE OF FUNDS.—Notwithstanding section 104(g)(2), the Secretary or a State may, upon receipt of a request for release of funds and certification, immediately approve the release of funds for an activity or project to be assisted under this

section if the recipient has adopted an environmental review, approval, or permit under paragraph (1) or the activity or project is categorically excluded from review under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

''(3) UNITS OF GENERAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The provisions of section 104(g)(4) shall apply to assistance under this section that a State distributes to a unit of general local government.

''(h) FINANCIAL CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop requirements and procedures to demonstrate that a grantee under this section—

''(A) has adequate financial controls and procurement processes;

''(B) has adequate procedures to detect and prevent fraud, waste, abuse, and duplication of benefit; and

''(C) maintains a comprehensive and publicly accessible website.

''(2) CERTIFICATION.—Before making a grant under this section, the Secretary shall certify that the grantee has in place proficient processes and procedures to comply with the requirements developed under paragraph (1), as determined by the Secretary.

''(3) COMPLIANCE BEFORE ALLOCATION.—The Secretary may permit a State, unit of general local government, or Indian tribe to demonstrate compliance with the requirements for adequate financial controls developed under paragraph (1) before a disaster occurs and before receiving an allocation for a grant under this section.

''(4) DUPLICATION OF BENEFITS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Funds made available under this section shall be used in accordance with section 312 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5155), as amended by section 1210 of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 (division D of Public Law 115–254), and such rules as may be prescribed under such section 312.

''(B) PENALTIES.—In any case in which the use of grant funds under this section results in a prohibited duplication of benefits, the grantee shall—

''(i) apply an amount equal to the identified duplication to any allowable costs of the award consistent with actual, immediate cash requirement;

''(ii) remit any excess amounts to the Secretary to be credited to the obligated, undisbursed balance of the grant consistent with requirements on Federal payments applicable to such grantee; and

''(iii) if excess amounts under clause (ii) are identified after the period of performance or after the closeout of the award, remit such amounts to the Secretary to be credited to the Fund.

''(C) FAILURE TO COMPLY.—Any grantee provided funds under this section or from prior Appropriations Acts under the heading 'Community Development Fund' for purposes related to major disasters that fails to comply with section 312 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5155) or fails to satisfy penalties to resolve a duplication of benefits shall be subject to remedies for noncompliance under section 111, unless the Secretary publishes a determination in the Federal Register that it is not in the best interest of the Federal Government to pursue remedial actions.

''(i) WAIVERS AND ALTERNATIVE REQUIREMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In administering grants under this section, the Secretary may waive, or specify alternative requirements for, any provision of any statute or regulation that the Secretary administers in connection with the obligation by the Secretary or the use by the grantee of those funds (except for requirements related to fair housing, nondiscrimination, labor standards, the environment, and the requirements of this section that do not expressly authorize modifications by waiver or alternative requirement), if the Secretary makes a public finding that good cause exists for the waiver or alternative requirement.

''(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—A waiver or alternative requirement described in paragraph (1) shall not take effect before the date that is 5 days after the date of publication of the waiver or alternative requirement on the website of the Department of Housing and Urban Development or the effective date for any regulation published in the Federal Register.

''(3) PUBLIC NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall notify the public of all waivers or alternative requirements described in paragraph (1) in accordance with the requirements of section 7(q)(3) of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act (42 U.S.C. 3535(q)(3)).

''(j) UNUSED AMOUNTS.—

''(1) DEADLINE TO USE AMOUNTS.—A grantee under this section shall use an amount equal to the grant within 6 years beginning on the date on which the Secretary obligates the amounts to the grantee, as such period may be extended under paragraph (4).

''(2) RECAPTURE.—The Secretary shall recapture and credit to the Fund any amount that is unused by a grantee under this section upon the earlier of—

''(A) the date on which the grantee notifies the Secretary that the grantee has completed all activities identified in the disaster grantee's plan under subsection (c); or

''(B) the expiration of the 6-year period described in paragraph (1), as such period may be extended under paragraph (4).

''(3) RETENTION OF FUNDS.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the Secretary—

''(A) shall allow a grantee under this section to retain amounts needed to close out grants; and

''(B) may allow a grantee under this section to retain up to 10 percent of the remaining funds to support maintenance of the minimal capacity to launch a new program in the event of a future disaster and to support pre-disaster long-term recovery and mitigation planning.

''(4) EXTENSION OF PERIOD FOR USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary may extend the 6-year period described in paragraph (1) by not more than 4 years, or not more than 6 years for mitigation activities, if—

''(A) the grantee submits to the Secretary—

''(i) written documentation of the exigent circumstances impacting the ability of the grantee to expend funds that could not be anticipated; or

''(ii) a justification that such request is necessary due to the nature and complexity of the program and projects; and

''(B) the Secretary submits a written justification for the extension to the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives that specifies the period of that extension.

''(k) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term 'Indian tribe' has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103).''.

(e) REGULATIONS.—

(1) PROPOSED RULES.—Following consultation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Small Business Administration, and other Federal agencies, not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue proposed rules to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act and shall provide a 90-day period for submission of public comments on those proposed rules.

(2) FINAL RULES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue final regulations to carry out section 124 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as added by subsection (d).

(f) COORDINATION OF DISASTER RECOVERY ASSISTANCE, BENEFITS, AND DATA WITH OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

(1) COORDINATION OF DISASTER RECOVERY ASSISTANCE.—In order to ensure a comprehensive approach to Federal disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of housing and infrastructure, economic revitalization, and mitigation in the most impacted and distressed areas resulting from a catastrophic major disaster, the Secretary shall coordinate with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, to the greatest extent practicable, in the implementation of assistance authorized under section 124 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as added by subsection (d).

(2) DATA SHARING AGREEMENTS.—To support the coordination of data to prevent duplication of benefits with other Federal disaster recovery programs while also expediting recovery and reducing burden on disaster survivors, the Department shall establish data sharing agreements that safeguard privacy with relevant Federal agencies to ensure disaster benefits effectively and efficiently reach intended beneficiaries, while using effective means of preventing harm to people and property.

(3) DATA TRANSFER FROM FEMA AND SBA TO HUD.—As permitted and deemed necessary for efficient program execution, and consistent with a computer matching agreement entered into under paragraph (6)(A), the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall provide data on disaster applicants to the Department, including, when necessary, personally identifiable information, disaster recovery needs, and resources determined eligible for, and amounts expended, to the Secretary for all major disasters declared by the President pursuant to section 401 of Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) for the purpose of providing additional assistance to disaster survivors and prevent duplication of benefits.

(4) DATA TRANSFERS FROM HUD TO HUD GRANTEES.—The Secretary is authorized to provide to grantees under section 124 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as added by subsection (d), offices of the Department, technical assistance providers, and lenders information that in the determination of the Secretary is reasonably available and appropriate to inform the provision of assistance after a major disaster, including information provided to the Secretary by the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, or other Federal agencies.

(5) DATA TRANSFERS FROM HUD GRANTEES TO HUD, FEMA, AND SBA.—

(A) REPORTING.—Grantees under section 124 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as added by subsection (d), shall report information requested by the Secretary on households, businesses, and other entities assisted and the type of assistance provided.

(B) SHARING INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall share information collected under subparagraph (A) with the Federal Emergency

Management Agency, the Small Business Administration, and other Federal agencies to support the planning and delivery of disaster recovery and mitigation assistance and other related purposes.

(6) PRIVACY PROTECTION.—The Secretary may make and receive data transfers authorized under this subsection, including the use and retention of that data for computer matching programs, to inform the provision of assistance, assess disaster recovery needs, and prevent the duplication of benefits and other waste, fraud, and abuse, provided that—

(A) the Secretary enters an information sharing agreement or a computer matching agreement, when required by section 522a of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Privacy Act of 1974''), with the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, or other Federal agencies covering the transfer of data;

(B) the Secretary publishes intent to disclose data in the Federal Register;

(C) notwithstanding subparagraphs (A) and (B), section 552a of title 5, United States Code, or any other law, the Secretary is authorized to share data with an entity identified in paragraph (4), and the entity is authorized to use the data as described in this section, if the Secretary enters a data sharing agreement with the entity before sharing or receiving any information under transfers authorized by this section, which data sharing agreement shall—

(i) in the determination of the Secretary, include measures adequate to safeguard the privacy and personally identifiable information of individuals; and

(ii) include provisions that describe how the personally identifiable information of an individual will be adequately safeguarded and protected, which requires consultation with the Secretary and the head of each Federal agency the data of which is being shared subject to the agreement.

SEC. 5502. HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS REAUTHORIZATION AND IMPROVEMENT ACT.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Section 205 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12724) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 205. AUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAM.

''The HOME Investment Partnerships Program under subtitle A is hereby authorized. There is authorized such sums as may be necessary to carry out subtitle A.''.

(b) INCREASE IN PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION RESOURCES.—Subtitle A of title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12741 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 212(c) (42 U.S.C. 12742(c)), by striking ''10 percent'' and inserting ''15 percent''; and

(2) in section 220(b) (42 U.S.C. 12750(b))—

(A) by striking ''RECOGNITION.—'' and all that follows through ''A contribution'' and inserting the following: ''RECOGNITION.—A contribution''; and

(B) by striking paragraph (2).

(c) MODIFICATION OF JURISDICTIONS ELIGIBLE FOR REALLOCATIONS.—Section 217(d)(3) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12747(d)(3)) is amended by striking ''LIMITATION.—Unless otherwise specified'' and inserting the following: ″LIMITATIONS.— ''

''(A) REMOVAL OF PARTICIPATING JURISDICTIONS FROM REALLOCATION.—The Secretary may, upon a finding that such jurisdiction has failed to meet or comply with the requirements of this title, remove a participating jurisdiction from participation in reallocations of funds made available under this title.

''(B) REALLOCATION TO SAME TYPE OF ENTITY.—Unless otherwise specified''.

(d) AMENDMENTS TO QUALIFICATION AS AFFORDABLE HOUSING.—Section 215 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12745) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(E), by striking all that follows ''purposes of this Act,'' and inserting the following: ''except upon a foreclosure by a lender (or upon other transfer in lieu of foreclosure) if such action—

''(i) recognizes any contractual or legal rights of public agencies, nonprofit sponsors, or others to take actions that would avoid termination of low-income affordability in the case of foreclosure or transfer in lieu of foreclosure; and

''(ii) is not for the purpose of avoiding low-income affordability restrictions, as determined by the Secretary; and''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(7) SMALL-SCALE HOUSING.—

''(A) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the term 'small-scale housing' means housing with not more than 4 rental units.

''(B) ALTERNATIVE REQUIREMENTS.—Small-scale housing shall qualify as affordable housing under this title if—

''(i) the housing bears rents that comply with paragraph (1)(A);

''(ii) each unit is occupied by a household that qualifies as a low-income family;

''(iii) the housing complies with paragraph (1)(D);

''(iv) the housing meets the requirements under paragraph (1)(E); and

''(v) the participating jurisdiction monitors ongoing compliance of the housing with requirements of this title in a manner consistent with the purposes of section 226(b), as determined by the Secretary.''; and

(2) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting ''(defined as the amount borrowed by the homebuyer to purchase the home, or estimated value after rehabilitation, which may be adjusted to account for the limits on future value imposed by the resale restriction)'' after ''purchase price''.

(e) ELIMINATION OF COMMITMENT DEADLINE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 218 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12748) is amended—

(A) by striking subsection (g); and

(B) by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (g).

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 218(c) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12748(c)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by adding ''and'' at the end;

(B) by striking paragraph (2);

(C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2); and

(D) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated, by striking ''section 224'' and inserting ''section 223''.

(f) REFORM OF HOMEOWNERSHIP RESALE RESTRICTIONS.—Section 215 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12745), as amended by this section, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by redesignating subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) as clauses (i), (ii), and (iii), respectively, and adjusting the margins accordingly;

(B) by striking paragraph (3);

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) as subparagraphs (A), (B), and (D), respectively, and adjusting the margins accordingly;

(D) by inserting after subparagraph (B), as so redesignated, the following:

''(C) is subject to restrictions that are established by the participating jurisdiction and determined by the Secretary to be appropriate, including with respect to the useful life of the property, to—

''(i) require that any subsequent purchase of the property be—

''(I) only by a person who meets the qualifications specified under subparagraph (B); and

''(II) at a price that is determined by a formula or method established by the participating jurisdiction that provides the owner with a reasonable return on investment, which may include a percentage of the cost of any improvements; or

''(ii) recapture the investment provided under this title in order to assist other persons in accordance with the requirements of this title, except where there are no net proceeds or where the net proceeds are insufficient to repay the full amount of the assistance; and'';

(E) by striking ''Housing that is for homeownership'' and inserting the following:

''(1) QUALIFICATION.—Housing that is for homeownership''; and

(F) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) PURCHASE BY COMMUNITY LAND TRUST.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (C)(i) of paragraph (1) and under terms determined by the Secretary, the Secretary may permit a participating jurisdiction to allow a community land trust that used assistance provided under this subtitle for the development of housing that meets the criteria under paragraph (1), to acquire the housing—

''(A) in accordance with the terms of the preemptive purchase option, lease, covenant on the land, or other similar legal instrument of the community land trust when the terms and rights in the preemptive purchase option, lease, covenant, or legal instrument are and remain subject to the requirements of this title;

''(B) when the purchase is for—

''(i) the purpose of—

''(I) entering into the chain of title;

''(II) enabling a purchase by a person who meets the qualifications specified under paragraph (1)(B) and is on a waitlist maintained by the community land trust, subject to enforcement by the participating jurisdiction of all applicable requirements of this subtitle, as determined by the Secretary;

''(III) performing necessary rehabilitation and improvements; or

''(IV) adding a subsidy to preserve affordability, which may be from Federal or non-Federal sources; or

''(ii) another purpose determined appropriate by the Secretary; and

''(C) if, within a reasonable period of time after the applicable purpose under subparagraph (B) of this paragraph is fulfilled, as determined by the Secretary, the housing is then sold to a person who meets the qualifications specified under paragraph (1)(B).

''(3) SUSPENSION OR WAIVER OF REQUIREMENTS FOR MILITARY MEMBERS.—A participating jurisdiction, in accordance with terms established by the Secretary, may suspend or waive a requirement under paragraph (1)(B) with respect to housing that otherwise meets the criteria under paragraph (1) if the owner of the housing—

''(A) is a member of a regular component of the armed forces or a member of the National Guard on full-time National Guard duty, active Guard and Reserve duty, or inactive-duty training (as those terms are defined in section 101(d) of title 10, United States Code); and

''(B) has received—

''(i) temporary duty orders to deploy with a military unit or military orders to deploy as an individual acting in support of a military operation, to a location that is not

within a reasonable distance from the housing, as determined by the Secretary, for a period of not less than 90 days; or

''(ii) orders for a permanent change of station.

''(4) SUSPENSION OR WAIVER OF REQUIREMENTS FOR HEIR OR BENEFICIARY OF DECEASED OWNER.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (C) of paragraph (1), housing that meets the criteria under that paragraph prior to the death of an owner may continue to qualify as affordable housing if—

''(A) the housing is the principal residence of an heir or beneficiary of the deceased owner, as defined by the Secretary; and

''(B) the heir or beneficiary, in accordance with terms established by the Secretary, assumes the duties and obligations of the deceased owner with respect to funds provided under this title.''.

(g) HOME PROPERTY INSPECTIONS.—Section 226(b) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12756(b)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''Each participating jurisdiction'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Each participating jurisdiction''; and

(2) by striking ''Such review shall include'' and all that follows and inserting the following:

''(2) ON-SITE INSPECTIONS.—

''(A) INSPECTIONS BY UNITS OF GENERAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—A review conducted under paragraph (1) by a participating jurisdiction that is a unit of general local government shall include an on-site inspection to determine compliance with housing codes and other applicable regulations.

''(B) INSPECTIONS BY STATES.—A review conducted under paragraph (1) by a participating jurisdiction that is a State shall include an on-site inspection to determine compliance with a national standard as determined by the Secretary.

''(3) INCLUSION IN PERFORMANCE REPORT AND PUBLICATION.—A participating jurisdiction shall include in the performance report of the participating jurisdiction submitted to the Secretary under section 108(a), and make available to the public, the results of each review conducted under paragraph (1).''.

(h) REVISIONS TO STRENGTHEN ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES FOR NONCOMPLIANCE.—Section 223 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12753) is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking ''**PENALTIES FOR MISUSE OF FUNDS**'' and inserting ''**PROGRAM ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES FOR NONCOMPLIANCE**'';

(2) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting after ''any provision of this subtitle'' the following: '', including any provision applicable throughout the period required by section 215(a)(1)(E) and applicable regulations,'';

(3) in paragraph (2), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(4) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) reduce payments to the participating jurisdiction under this subtitle by an amount equal to the amount of such payments which were not expended in accordance with this title.''.

(i) TENANT AND PARTICIPANT PROTECTIONS FOR SMALL-SCALE AFFORDABLE HOUSING.—Section 225 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12755) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) TENANT SELECTION FOR SMALL-SCALE HOUSING.—Paragraphs (2) through (4) of subsection (d) shall not apply to the owner of small-scale housing (as defined in section 215(a)(7)).''.

(j) MODIFICATION OF RULES RELATED TO COMMUNITY HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS.—

(1) DEFINITIONS OF COMMUNITY HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION AND COMMUNITY LAND TRUST.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 104 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12704) is amended—

(i) in paragraph (6)(B)—

(I) by striking ''significant''; and

(II) by striking ''and otherwise'' and inserting ''or as otherwise determined acceptable by the Secretary''; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

''(26) The term 'community land trust' means a nonprofit entity or a State or local government or instrumentality thereof that—

''(A) is not managed by, or an affiliate of, a for-profit organization;

''(B) has as a primary purpose acquiring, developing, or holding land to provide housing that is permanently affordable to low- and moderate-income persons, and monitors properties to ensure affordability is preserved;

''(C) provides housing described in subparagraph (B) using a ground lease, deed covenant, or other similar legally enforceable measure, as determined by the Secretary, that—

''(i) keeps the housing affordable to low- and moderate-income persons for not less than 30 years; and

''(ii) enables low- and moderate-income persons to rent or purchase the housing for homeownership; and

''(D) maintains preemptive purchase options to purchase the property so the housing remains affordable to low-and moderate-income persons.''.

(B) ELIMINATION OF EXISTING DEFINITION OF COMMUNITY LAND TRUST.—Section 233 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12773) is amended by striking subsection (f).

(2) SET-ASIDE FOR COMMUNITY HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS.—Section 231 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12771) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking ''to be developed, sponsored, or owned by community housing development organizations'' and inserting ''when a community housing development organization materially participates in the ownership or development of such housing, as determined by the Secretary'';

(B) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

''(b) RECAPTURE AND REUSE.—If any funds reserved under subsection (a) remain uninvested for a period of 24 months, then the Secretary shall make such funds available to the participating jurisdiction for any eligible activities under this title without regard to whether a community housing development organization materially participates in the use of the funds.''; and

(C) by striking subsection (c).

(k) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.—The Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12701 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 104 (42 U.S.C. 12704)—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (23) (relating to the definition of the term ''to demonstrate to the Secretary'') as paragraph (22); and

(B) by redesignating paragraph (24) (relating to the definition of the term ''insular area'', as added by section 2(2) of Public Law 102–230) as paragraph (23);

(2) in section 105(b) (42 U.S.C. 12705(b))—

(A) in paragraph (7), by striking ''Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act'' and inserting ''McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act''; and

(B) in paragraph (8), by striking ''subparagraphs'' and inserting ''paragraphs'';

(3) in section 106 (42 U.S.C. 12706), by striking ''Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act'' and inserting ''McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act'';

(4) in section 108(a)(1) (42 U.S.C. 12708(a)(1)), by striking ''section 105(b)(15)'' and inserting ''section 105(b)(18)'';

(5) in section 212 (42 U.S.C. 12742)—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in paragraph (3)(A)(ii), by inserting ''United States'' before ''Housing Act''; and

(ii) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (4);

(B) in subsection (d)(5), by inserting ''United States'' before ''Housing Act''; and

(C) in subsection (e)(1)—

(i) by striking ''section 221(d)(3)(ii)'' and inserting ''section 221(d)(4)''; and

(ii) by striking ''not to exceed 140 percent'' and inserting ''as determined by the Secretary'';

(6) in section 215(a)(6)(B) (42 U.S.C. 20 12745(a)(6)(B)), by striking ''grand children'' and inserting ''grandchildren'';

(7) in section 217 (42 U.S.C. 12747)—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking ''(3)'' and inserting ''(2)'';

(ii) by striking paragraph (3), as added by section 211(a)(2)(D) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (Public Law 102–550; 106 Stat. 3756); and

(iii) by redesignating the remaining paragraph (3), as added by the matter under the heading ''HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM'' under the heading ''HOUSING PROGRAMS'' in title II of the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1993 (Public Law 102–389; 106 Stat. 1581), as paragraph (2); and

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) in the first sentence of subparagraph (A)—

(aa) by striking ''in regulation'' and inserting '', by regulation,''; and

(bb) by striking ''eligible jurisdiction'' and inserting ''eligible jurisdictions''; and

(II) in subparagraph (F)—

(aa) in the first sentence—

(AA) in clause (i), by striking ''Subcommittee on Housing and Urban Affairs'' and inserting ''Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development''; and

(BB) in clause (ii), by striking ''Subcommittee on Housing and Community Development of the Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs'' and inserting ''Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance of the Committee on Financial Services''; and

(bb) in the second sentence, by striking ''the Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs of the House of Representatives'' and inserting ''the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives'';

(ii) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking ''$500,000'' each place that term appears and inserting ''$750,000'';

(iii) in paragraph (3)—

(I) by striking ''$500,000'' each place that term appears and inserting ''$750,000''; and

(II) by striking '', except as provided in paragraph (4)''; and

(iv) by striking paragraph (4);

(8) in section 220(c) (42 U.S.C. 12750(c))—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking ''Secretary'' and all that follows and inserting ''Secretary;'';

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking ''under this title'' and all that follows and inserting ''under this title;''; and

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (6), (7), and (8) as paragraphs (5), (6), and (7), respectively;

(9) in section 225(d)(4)(B) (42 U.S.C. 12755(d)(4)(B)), by striking ''for'' the first place that term appears; and

(10) in section 283 (42 U.S.C. 12833)—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking ''Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs'' and inserting ''Financial Services''; and

(B) in subsection (b), by striking ''General Accounting Office'' each place that term appears and inserting ''Government Accountability Office''.

SEC. 5503. RURAL HOUSING SERVICE REFORM ACT.

(a) APPLICATION OF MULTIFAMILY MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE PROCEDURES TO MULTIFAMILY MORTGAGES HELD BY THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE AND PRESERVATION OF THE RENTAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT UPON FORECLOSURE.—

(1) MULTIFAMILY MORTGAGE PROCEDURES.—Section 363(2) of the Multifamily Mortgage Foreclosure Act of 1981 (12 U.S.C. 3702(2)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (D), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(F) section 514, 515, or 538 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1484, 1485, 1490p).''.

(2) PRESERVATION OF CONTRACT.—Section 521(d) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490a(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(3) Notwithstanding any other provision of law in managing and disposing of any multifamily property that is owned or has a mortgage held by the Secretary, and during the process of foreclosure on any property with a contract for rental assistance under this section—

''(A) the Secretary shall maintain any rental assistance payments that are attached to any dwelling units in the property; and

''(B) the rental assistance contract may be used to provide further assistance to existing projects under 514, 515, or 516.''.

(b) STUDY ON RURAL HOUSING LOANS FOR HOUSING FOR LOW- AND MODERATE-INCOME FAMILIES.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall conduct a study and submit to Congress a publicly available report on the loan program under section 521 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490a), including—

(1) the total amount provided by the Secretary in subsidies under such section 521 to borrowers with loans made pursuant to section 502 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1472);

(2) how much of the subsidies described in paragraph (1) are being recaptured; and

(3) the amount of time and costs associated with recapturing those subsidies.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR STAFFING AND IT UPGRADES.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Agriculture for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030 such sums as may be necessary for increased staffing needs and information technology upgrades to support all Rural Housing Service programs.

(d) FUNDING FOR TECHNICAL IMPROVEMENTS.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Agriculture such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026 for improvements to the technology of the Rural Housing Service of the Department of Agriculture used to process and manage housing loans.

(2) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to paragraph (1) shall remain available until the date that is 5 years after the date of the appropriation.

(3) TIMELINE.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall make the improvements described in paragraph (1) during the 5-year period beginning on the date on which amounts are appropriated under paragraph (1).

(e) PERMANENT ESTABLISHMENT OF HOUSING PRESERVATION AND REVITALIZATION PROGRAM.—Title V of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1471 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 545. HOUSING PRESERVATION AND REVITALIZATION PROGRAM.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall carry out a program under this section for the preservation and revitalization of multifamily rental housing projects financed under section 514, 515, or 516.

''(b) NOTICE OF MATURING LOANS.—

''(1) TO OWNERS.—On an annual basis, the Secretary shall provide written notice to each owner of a property financed under section 514, 515, or 516 that will mature within the 4-year period beginning upon the provision of the notice, setting forth the options and financial incentives that are available to facilitate the extension of the loan term or the option to decouple a rental assistance contract pursuant to subsection (f).

''(2) TO TENANTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—On an annual basis, for each property financed under section 514, 515, or 516, not later than the date that is 2 years before the date that the loan will mature, the Secretary shall provide written notice to each household residing in the property that informs them of—

''(i) the date of the loan maturity;

''(ii) the possible actions that may happen with respect to the property upon that maturity; and

''(iii) how to protect their right to reside in federally assisted housing, or how to secure housing voucher, after that maturity.

''(B) LANGUAGE.—Notice under this paragraph shall be provided in plain English and shall be translated to other languages in the case of any property located in an area in which a significant number of residents speak such other languages.

''(c) LOAN RESTRUCTURING.—Under the program under this section, in any circumstance in which the Secretary proposes a restructuring to an owner or an owner proposes a restructuring to the Secretary, the Secretary may restructure such existing housing loans, as the Secretary considers appropriate, for the purpose of ensuring that those projects have sufficient resources to preserve the projects to provide safe and affordable housing for low-income residents and farm laborers, by—

''(1) reducing or eliminating interest;

''(2) deferring loan payments;

''(3) subordinating, reducing, or reamortizing loan debt;

''(4) providing other financial assistance, including advances, payments, and incentives (including the ability of owners to obtain reasonable returns on investment) required by the Secretary; and

''(5) permanently removing a portion of the housing units from income restrictions when sustained vacancies have occurred.

''(d) RENEWAL OF RENTAL ASSISTANCE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—When the Secretary proposes to restructure a loan or agrees to the proposal of an owner to restructure a loan pursuant to subsection (c), the Secretary shall offer to renew the rental assistance contract under section 521(a)(2) for a term that is the shorter of 20 years and the term of the restructured loan, subject to annual appropriations, provided that the owner agrees to bring the property up to such standards that will ensure maintenance of the property as decent, safe, and sanitary housing for the full term of the rental assistance contract.

''(2) ADDITIONAL RENTAL ASSISTANCE.—With respect to a project described in paragraph (1), if rental assistance is not available for all households in the project for which the loan is being restructured pursuant to subsection (c), the Secretary may extend such additional rental assistance to unassisted households at that project as is necessary to make the project safe and affordable to low-income households.

''(e) RESTRICTIVE USE AGREEMENTS.—

''(1) REQUIREMENT.—As part of the preservation and revitalization agreement for a project, the Secretary shall obtain a restrictive use agreement that is recorded and obligates the owner to operate the project in accordance with this title.

''(2) TERM.—

''(A) NO EXTENSION OF RENTAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT.—Except when the Secretary enters into a 20-year extension of the rental assistance contract for a project, the term of the restrictive use agreement for the project shall be consistent with the term of the restructured loan for the project.

''(B) EXTENSION OF RENTAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT.—If the Secretary enters into a 20-year extension of the rental assistance contract for a project, the term of the restrictive use agreement for the project shall be for the longer of—

''(i) 20 years; or

''(ii) the remaining term of the loan for that project.

''(C) TERMINATION.—The Secretary may terminate the 20-year use restrictive use agreement for a project before the end of the term of the agreement if the 20-year rental assistance contract for the project with the owner is terminated at any time for reasons outside the control of the owner.

''(f) DECOUPLING OF RENTAL ASSISTANCE.—

''(1) RENEWAL OF RENTAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT.—If the Secretary determines that a loan maturing during the 4-year period beginning upon the provision of the notice required under subsection (b)(1) for a project cannot reasonably be restructured in accordance with subsection (c) because it is not financially feasible or the owner does not agree with the proposed restructuring, and the project was operating with rental assistance under section 521 and the recipient is a borrower under section 514 or 515, the Secretary may renew the rental assistance contract, notwithstanding any requirement under section 521 that the recipient be a current borrower under section 514 or 515, for a term of 20 years, subject to annual appropriations.

''(2) ADDITIONAL RENTAL ASSISTANCE.—With respect to a project described in paragraph (1), if rental assistance is not available for all households in the project for which the loan is being restructured pursuant to subsection (c), the Secretary may extend such additional rental assistance to unassisted households at that project as is necessary to make the project safe and affordable to low-income households.

''(3) RENTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Any agreement to extend the term of the rental assistance contract under section 521 for a project shall obligate the owner to continue to maintain the project as decent, safe, and sanitary housing and to operate the development as affordable housing in a manner that meets the goals of this title.

''(B) RENT AMOUNTS.—Subject to subparagraph (C), in setting rents, the Secretary—

''(i) shall determine the maximum initial rent based on current fair market rents established under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f); and

''(ii) may annually adjust the rent determined under clause (i) by the operating cost

adjustment factor as provided under section 524 of the Multifamily Assisted Housing Reform and Affordability Act of 1997 (42 U.S.C. 1437f note).

''(C) HIGHER RENT.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (B) shall not apply if the Secretary determines that the budget-based needs of a project require a higher rent than the rent described in subparagraph (B).

''(ii) RENT.—If the Secretary makes a positive determination under clause (i), the Secretary may approve a budget-based rent level for the project.

''(4) CONDITIONS FOR APPROVAL.—Before the approval of a rental assistance contract authorized under this section, the Secretary shall require, through an annual notice in the Federal Register, the owner to submit to the Secretary a plan that identifies financing sources and a timetable for renovations and improvements determined to be necessary by the Secretary to maintain and preserve the project.

''(g) MULTIFAMILY HOUSING TRANSFER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Under the program under this section, the Secretary may provide grants to qualified nonprofit organizations and public housing agencies to provide technical assistance, including financial and legal services, to borrowers under loans under this title for multifamily housing to facilitate the acquisition or preservation of such multifamily housing properties in areas where the Secretary determines there is a risk of loss of affordable housing.

''(h) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Of any amounts made available for the program under this section for any fiscal year, the Secretary may use not more than $1,000,000 for administrative expenses for carrying out such program.

''(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated for the program under this section such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030.

''(j) RULEMAKING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Renewing Opportunity in the American Dream to Housing Act of 2025, the Secretary shall—

''(A) publish an advance notice of proposed rulemaking; and

''(B) consult with appropriate stakeholders.

''(2) INTERIM FINAL RULE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Renewing Opportunity in the American Dream to Housing Act of 2025, the Secretary shall publish an interim final rule to carry out this section.''.

(f) RENTAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—Section 521(d) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490a(d)), as amended by this section, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (C) and (D), respectively;

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

''(B) upon request of an owner of a project financed under section 514 or 515, the Secretary is authorized to enter into renewal of such agreements for a period of 20 years or the term of the loan, whichever is shorter, subject to amounts made available in appropriations Acts;'';

(C) in subparagraph (C), as so redesignated, by striking ''subparagraph (A)'' and inserting ''subparagraphs (A) and (B)''; and

(D) in subparagraph (D), as so redesignated, by striking ''subparagraphs (A) and (B)'' and inserting ''subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C)'';

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking ''shall'' and inserting ''may''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) In the case of any rental assistance contract authority that becomes available because of the termination of assistance on behalf of an assisted family—

''(A) at the option of the owner of the rental project, the Secretary shall provide the owner a period of not more than 6 months before unused assistance is made available pursuant to subparagraph (B) during which the owner may use such assistance authority to provide assistance on behalf of an eligible unassisted family that—

''(i) is residing in the same rental project in which the assisted family resided before the termination; or

''(ii) newly occupies a dwelling unit in the rental project during that 6-month period; and

''(B) except for assistance used as provided in subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall use such remaining authority to provide assistance on behalf of eligible families residing in other rental projects originally financed under section 514, 515, or 516.''.

(g) MODIFICATIONS TO LOANS AND GRANTS FOR MINOR IMPROVEMENTS TO FARM HOUSING AND BUILDINGS; INCOME ELIGIBILITY.—Section 504(a) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1474(a)) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence, by inserting ''and may make a loan to an eligible low-income applicant'' after ''applicant'';

(2) by inserting ''Not less than 60 percent of loan funds made available under this section shall be reserved and made available for very low-income applicants.'' after the first sentence; and

(3) by striking ''$7,500'' and inserting ''$15,000''.

(h) RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE.—Subtitle E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 381O. RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity' means—

''(A) a private, nonprofit community-based housing or community development organization;

''(B) a rural community; or

''(C) a federally recognized Indian tribe.

''(2) ELIGIBLE INTERMEDIARY.—The term 'eligible intermediary' means a qualified—

''(A) private, nonprofit organization; or

''(B) public organization.

''(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a Rural Community Development Initiative, under which the Secretary shall provide grants to eligible intermediaries to carry out programs to provide financial and technical assistance to eligible entities to develop the capacity and ability of eligible entities to carry out projects to improve housing, community facilities, and community and economic development projects in rural areas.

''(c) AMOUNT OF GRANTS.—The amount of a grant provided to an eligible intermediary under this section shall be not more than $250,000.

''(d) MATCHING FUNDS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible intermediary receiving a grant under this section shall provide matching funds from other sources, including Federal funds for related activities, in an amount not less than the amount of the grant.

''(2) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive paragraph (1) with respect to a project that would be carried out in a persistently poor rural region, as determined by the Secretary.''.

(i) ANNUAL REPORT ON RURAL HOUSING PROGRAMS.—Title V of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1471 et seq.), as amended by this section, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 546. ANNUAL REPORT.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress and publish on the website of the Department of Agriculture an annual report on rural housing programs carried out under this title, which shall include significant details on the health of Rural Housing Service programs, including—

''(1) raw data sortable by programs and by region regarding loan performance;

''(2) the housing stock of those programs, including information on why properties end participation in those programs, such as for maturation, prepayment, foreclosure, or other servicing issues; and

''(3) risk ratings for properties assisted under those programs.

''(b) PROTECTION OF INFORMATION.—The data included in each report required under subsection (a) may be aggregated or anonymized to protect participant financial or personal information.''.

(j) GAO REPORT ON RURAL HOUSING SERVICE TECHNOLOGY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report that includes—

(1) an analysis of how the outdated technology used by the Rural Housing Service impacts participants in the programs of the Rural Housing Service;

(2) an estimate of the amount of funding that is needed to modernize the technology used by the Rural Housing Service; and

(3) an estimate of the number and type of new employees the Rural Housing Service needs to modernize the technology used by the Rural Housing Service.

(k) ADJUSTMENT TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT VOUCHER AMOUNT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall issue regulations to establish a process for adjusting the voucher amount provided under section 542 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490r) after the issuance of the voucher following an interim or annual review of the amount of the voucher.

(2) INTERIM REVIEW.—The interim review described in paragraph (1) shall, at the request of a tenant, allow for a recalculation of the voucher amount when the tenant experiences a reduction in income, change in family composition, or change in rental rate.

(3) ANNUAL REVIEW.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The annual review described in paragraph (1) shall require tenants to annually recertify the family composition of the household and that the family income of the household does not exceed 80 percent of the area median income at a time determined by the Secretary of Agriculture.

(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—If a tenant does not recertify the family composition and family income of the household within the time frame required under subparagraph (A), the Secretary of Agriculture—

(i) shall consider whether extenuating circumstances caused the delay in recertification; and

(ii) may alter associated consequences for the failure to recertify based on those circumstances.

(C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Following the annual review of a voucher under paragraph (1), the updated voucher amount shall be effective on the 1st day of the month following the expiration of the voucher.

(4) DEADLINE.—The process established under paragraph (1) shall require the Secretary of Agriculture to review and update the voucher amount described in paragraph

(1) for a tenant not later than 60 days before the end of the voucher term.

(l) ELIGIBILITY FOR RURAL HOUSING VOUCHERS.—Section 542 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490r) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(c) ELIGIBILITY OF HOUSEHOLDS IN SECTIONS 514, 515, AND 516 PROJECTS.—The Secretary may provide rural housing vouchers under this section for any low-income household (including those not receiving rental assistance) residing for a term longer than the remaining term of their lease that is in effect on the date of prepayment, foreclosure, or mortgage maturity, in a property financed with a loan under section 514 or 515 or a grant under section 516 that has—

''(1) been prepaid with or without restrictions imposed by the Secretary pursuant to section 502(c)(5)(G)(ii)(I);

''(2) been foreclosed; or

''(3) matured after September 30, 2005.''.

(m) AMOUNT OF VOUCHER ASSISTANCE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in the case of any rural housing voucher provided pursuant to section 542 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490r), the amount of the monthly assistance payment for the household on whose behalf the assistance is provided shall be determined as provided in subsection (a) of such section 542, including providing for interim and annual review of the voucher amount in the event of a change in household composition or income or rental rate.

(n) TRANSFER OF MULTIFAMILY RURAL HOUSING PROJECTS.—Section 515 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1485) is amended—

(1) in subsection (h), by adding at the end the following:

''(3) TRANSFER TO NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.—A nonprofit or public body purchaser, including a limited partnership with a general partner with the principal purpose of providing affordable housing, may purchase a property for which a loan is made or insured under this section that has received a market value appraisal, without addressing rehabilitation needs at the time of purchase, if the purchaser—

''(A) makes a commitment to address rehabilitation needs during ownership and long-term use restrictions on the property; and

''(B) at the time of purchase, accepts long-term use restrictions on the property.''; and

(2) in subsection (w)(1), in the first sentence in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''9 percent'' and inserting ''25 percent''.

(o) EXTENSION OF LOAN TERM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 502(a)(2) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1472(a)(2)) is amended—

(A) by inserting ''(A)'' before ''The Secretary'';

(B) in subparagraph (A), as so designated, by striking ''paragraph'' and inserting ''subparagraph''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) The Secretary may refinance or modify the period of any loan, including any refinanced loan, made under this section in accordance with terms and conditions as the Secretary shall prescribe, but in no event shall the total term of the loan from the date of the refinance or modification exceed 40 years.''.

(2) APPLICATION.—The amendment made under paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to loans made under section 502 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1472) before, on, or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(p) RELEASE OF LIABILITY FOR SECTION 502 GUARANTEED BORROWER UPON ASSUMPTION OF ORIGINAL LOAN BY NEW BORROWER.—Section 502(h)(10) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1472(h)(10)) is amended to read as follows:

''(10) TRANSFER AND ASSUMPTION.—Upon the transfer of property for which a guaranteed loan under this subsection was made and the assumption of the guaranteed loan by an approved eligible borrower, the original borrower of a guaranteed loan under this subsection shall be relieved of liability with respect to the loan.''.

(q) DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE LOAN RESTRICTIONS.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the terms ''State'' and ''Tribal organization'' have the meanings given those terms in section 658P of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858n).

(2) REVISION.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall revise section 3555.102(c) of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, to exclude from the restriction under that section—

(A) a home-based business that is a licensed, registered, or regulated child care provider under State law or by a Tribal organization; and

(B) an applicant that has applied to become a licensed, registered or regulated child care provider under State law or by a Tribal organization.

(r) LOAN GUARANTEES.—Section 502(h)(4) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1472(h)(4)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) as clauses (i), (ii), and (iii), respectively;

(2) by striking ''Loans may be guaranteed'' and inserting the following:

''(A) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the term 'accessory dwelling unit' means a single, habitable living unit—

''(i) with means of separate ingress and egress;

''(ii) that is usually subordinate in size;

''(iii) that can be added to, created within, or detached from a primary 1-unit, single-family dwelling; and

''(iv) in combination with a primary 1-unit, single family dwelling, constitutes a single interest in real estate.

''(B) SINGLE FAMILY REQUIREMENT.—Loans may be guaranteed''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to prohibit the leasing of an accessory dwelling unit or the use of rental income derived from such a lease to qualify for a loan guaranteed under this subsection—

''(i) after the date of enactment of the Renewing Opportunity in the American Dream to Housing Act of 2025; and

''(ii) if the property that is the subject of the loan was constructed before the date of enactment of the Renewing Opportunity in the American Dream to Housing Act of 2025.''.

(s) APPLICATION REVIEW.—

(1) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress, not later than 90 days after the date on which the Secretary of Agriculture receives an application for a loan, grant, or combined loan and grant under section 502 or 504 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1472, 1474), the Secretary of Agriculture should—

(A) review the application;

(B) complete the underwriting;

(C) make a determination of eligibility with respect to the application; and

(D) notify the applicant of determination.

(2) REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter until the date described in subparagraph (B), the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives a report—

(i) detailing the timeliness of eligibility determinations and final determinations with respect to applications under sections 502 and 504 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1472, 1474), including justifications for any eligibility determinations taking longer than 90 days; and

(ii) that includes recommendations to shorten the timeline for notifications of eligibility determinations described in clause (i) to not more than 90 days.

(B) DATE DESCRIBED.—The date described in this subparagraph is the date on which, during the preceding 5-year period, the Secretary of Agriculture provides each eligibility determination described in subparagraph (A) during the 90-day period beginning on the date on which each application is received.

SEC. 5504. NEW MOVING TO WORK COHORT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) MOVING TO WORK DEMONSTRATION.—The term ''Moving to Work demonstration'' means the Moving to Work demonstration authorized under section 204 of the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996 (42 U.S.C. 1437f note).

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—After the completion of the initial report required under subsection (h)(2), the Secretary may add up to an additional 25 public housing agencies that are designated as high performing agencies under the Public Housing Assessment System or the Section 8 Management Assessment Program to participate in a new cohort as part of the Moving to Work demonstration.

(2) NAME.—The new cohort authorized under paragraph (1) shall be entitled the ''Economic Opportunity and Pathways to Independence Cohort''.

(c) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the authority of the Secretary to grant waivers to agencies admitted to the Moving to Work demonstration under this section or to designate policy changes as part of a cohort design under this section shall be limited to the waivers codified as of January 2025 in Appendix I of the document of the Department of Housing and Urban Development entitled ''Operations Notice for the Expansion of the Moving to Work Demonstration Program'' (FR–5994–N–05) published in the Federal Register on August 28, 2020, as amended by the notice entitled ''Operations Notice for Expansion of the Moving to Work Demonstration Program Technical Revisions'' (FR–5994–N–06) published in the Federal Register on March 20, 2025.

(2) EXCEPTIONS.—Under paragraph (1), the Secretary may not grant waivers 1c, 1d, 1e, 1f, 1k, 1l, 1o, 1p, 1q, 6, 7, 9a, 9h, or 12 in the document described in paragraph (1), including modifications of or safe harbor requirement waivers for such waivers.

(3) POLICY OPTIONS.—In carrying out the Moving to Work demonstration cohort established under this section, the Secretary may consider policy options to provide opt-out savings or escrow accounts and report positive rental payments to consumer reporting agencies (as defined in section 603 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681a)) with resident consent.

(d) FUNDING AND USE OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Public housing agencies in the cohort authorized under this section may expend not more than 5 percent of the amounts those public housing agencies receive in any fiscal year for housing assistance payments under section 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C.

1437f(o)) for purposes other than such housing assistance payments.

(2) OTHER USES.—Such other uses of amounts described in paragraph (1) shall comply with all other applicable requirements.

(3) FORMULA.—

(A) RENEWAL.—The amount of funding public housing agencies receive for renewal of housing assistance payments under section 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)) shall be determined according to the same funding formula applicable to public housing agencies that do not participate in the Moving to Work demonstration, except that the Secretary shall provide public housing agencies funding to renew any funds expended under this subsection, with an adjustment for inflation.

(B) ADMINISTRATIVE FEES.—The amount of funding public housing agencies receive for administrative fees under section 8(q) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(q)), public housing operating subsidies under section 9(e) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g(e)), and public housing capital funding under section 9(d) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g(d)) shall be determined according to the same funding formula applicable to public housing agencies that do not participate in the Moving to Work demonstration.

(e) SELECTION REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall select public housing agencies designated under this section through a competitive process, as determined by the Secretary, with the following parameters:

(1) No public housing agency shall be granted this designation under this section that administers more than 27,000 aggregate housing vouchers and public housing units.

(2) Of the public housing agencies selected under this section, not more than 10 shall administer 1,000 or fewer aggregate housing vouchers and public housing units, not more than 6 shall administer between 1,001 and 6,000 aggregate housing vouchers and public housing units, and not more than 4 shall administer between 6,001 and 27,000 aggregate housing vouchers and public housing units.

(3) Selection of public housing agencies under this section shall be based on ensuring the geographic diversity of Moving to Work demonstration public housing agencies.

(4) Within the requirements under paragraphs (1) through (3), the Secretary shall prioritize selecting public housing agencies that serve families with children and youth aging out of foster care at a rate above the national average.

(f) REQUIREMENTS FOR SELECTED PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCIES.—Consistent with section 204(c)(3) of the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996 (42 U.S.C. 1437f note), public housing agencies selected for the Moving to Work demonstration under this section shall—

(1) ensure that not less than 75 percent of the families assisted are very low-income families, as defined in section 3(b)(2)(B) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)(2)(B));

(2) establish a reasonable rent policy, which shall be designed to encourage employment and self-sufficiency by participating families, consistent with the purpose of the Moving to Work demonstration, such as by excluding some or all of a family's earned income for purposes of determining rent;

(3) continue to assist substantially the same total number of eligible low-income families as would have been served had the amounts not been combined;

(4) maintain a comparable mix of families (by family size) as would have been provided had the amounts not been used under the Moving to Work demonstration; and

(5) assure that housing assisted under the Moving to Work demonstration meets housing quality standards established or approved by the Secretary.

(g) NONCOMPLIANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary finds that a public housing agency participating in the cohort authorized under this section is not in compliance with the requirements under this section, the Secretary shall make a determination of noncompliance.

(2) COMPLIANCE.—Upon making a determination under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall develop a process to bring the public housing agency into compliance.

(3) REMOVAL.—If a public housing agency cannot be brought into compliance under the process developed under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall remove the participating public housing agency from the cohort and replace it with a similarly qualified public housing agency currently not in the cohort chosen in the manner described in subsection (e).

(4) NOTIFICATION.—Upon removing a public housing agency under paragraph (3), the Secretary shall immediately submit to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives—

(A) a notification of the removal; and

(B) a report on the active steps the Secretary is taking to replace the public housing agency with a new public housing agency.

(h) COMPREHENSIVE MOVING TO WORK REPORTING AND OVERSIGHT REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) COHORT RESEARCH.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall continue ongoing research investigations commenced as part of the assessment of the cohorts established under section 239 of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2016 (42 U.S.C. 1437f note; Public Law 114–113), make public all products completed as part of those investigations, and keep such products online for at least 5 years.

(B) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall coordinate with the advisory committee established under section 239 of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2016 (42 U.S.C. 1437f note; Public Law 114–113) to establish a research program to evaluate the outcomes and efficacy of the following for all Moving to Work demonstration agencies designated under the authority under such section and this section:

(i) The waivers granted to each cohort and whether those waivers accomplish the goals of achieving greater cost effectiveness and administrative capacity, incentivizing families to become economically self-sufficient, and increasing housing choice.

(ii) The additional flexibilities granted to individual public housing agencies under each cohort.

(iii) How the flexibilities described in clause (ii) were used for local, non-traditional activities.

(2) COMPREHENSIVE REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives a report that contains the following for each Moving to Work demonstration cohort under section 204 of the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996 (42 U.S.C. 1437f note), section 239 of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2016 (42 U.S.C. 1437f note; Public Law 114–113), and this section:

(A) The annual administrative plans of each Moving to Work demonstration public housing agency.

(B) Assessments of longitudinal data, including data on units, households, and outcomes, which shall be evaluated to compare changes in the following trends before and after Moving to Work demonstration designation:

(i) Impacts on tenants based on the following, disaggregated by the public housing program and the housing choice voucher program:

(I) Eviction rates.

(II) Hardship policy usage.

(III) Share of rent covered by a household.

(IV) Turnover, including the number of household moves with or without continued assistance.

(V) Reasons for exit from the program.

(VI) The number and characteristics of households served, including households with a non-elderly family member with a disability, 3 or more minors, homelessness status at the time of admission, and average and median income as a percent of area median income.

(ii) Impacts on public housing agency operations based on the following:

(I) The number of units, broken down by type.

(II) The size, including the number of bedrooms per unit, accessibility, affordability, and quality of units.

(III) The length of each waitlist maintained and average wait times.

(IV) Changes in capital backlog needs and surplus fund and reserve levels.

(V) The number of public housing units undergoing a conversion under the rental assistance demonstration program authorized under the Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112–55; 125 Stat. 673) or demolition or disposition projects under section 18 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437p), including the number of units lost and the location of any replacement housing resulting from demolition or disposition.

(VI) The share of project-based vouchers compared to tenant-based vouchers.

(VII) The following annual housing choice voucher data:

(aa) Voucher unit utilization rates.

(bb) Voucher budget utilization rates.

(cc) Annualized voucher success rate.

(dd) Demographic composition of households issued vouchers compared to utilized vouchers.

(ee) Average time to lease-up.

(ff) Average cost per voucher.

(gg) Average cost per landlord incentive.

(hh) Ratio of the proportion of voucher households living in concentrated low-income areas to the proportion of renter-occupied units in concentrated low-income areas.

(ii) Characteristics of census tracts where voucher recipients reside.

(VIII) How the public housing agency met each of the statutory requirements in section 204(c)(3) of the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996 (42 U.S.C. 1437f note).

(iii) Impacts on public housing staffing and capacity, including the average public housing agency operating, administrative, and housing assistance payment expenditures per household per month.

(C) Legislative recommendations for flexibilities that could be expanded to all public housing agencies and how each flexibility enhances housing choice, affordability, and administrative capacity and efficiency for public housing agencies.

(3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall maintain all reports submitted pursuant to this section in a manner that is publicly available, accessible, and searchable on the website of the Department of Housing and Urban Development for not less than 5 years.

(B) OTHER INFORMATION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Annually, the Secretary shall make the annual plan of the Moving to Work demonstration, the Section 8 administrative plan, and the admission and continued occupancy policy publicly available in 1 location on the website of the Department of Housing and Urban Development for not less than 5 years.

(ii) DATABASE.—The Secretary may establish a searchable database on the website of the Department of Housing and Urban Development to track the types of flexibilities into which Moving to Work demonstration public housing agencies have opted or for which a waiver was approved by the Secretary, disaggregated by year such flexibilities were adopted or approved.

SEC. 5505. REDUCING HOMELESSNESS THROUGH PROGRAM REFORM ACT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives.

(2) AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS.—The term ''at risk of homelessness'' has the meaning given the term in section 401 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11360).

(3) DEPARTMENT.—The term ''Department'' means the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(4) HOMELESS.—The term ''homeless'' has the meaning given the term in section 103 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11302).

(5) PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCY.—The term ''public housing agency'' has the meaning given the term in section 3(b) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)).

(6) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'', except as otherwise provided, means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(b) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS FOR THE EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANTS PROGRAM.—Section 418 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11378) is amended by striking ''7.5 percent'' and inserting ''10 percent''.

(c) AMENDMENTS TO THE CONTINUUM OF CARE PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle C of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11381 et seq.) is amended—

(A) in section 402(g) (42 U.S.C. 11360a(g))—

(i) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(ii) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

''(2) TIME LIMIT ON DESIGNATION.—The Secretary—

''(A) shall accept applications for designation as a unified funding agency annually or biennially, which designation shall be effective for not more than 2 years; and

''(B) may, on an annual or biennial basis, renew any designation under subparagraph (A).'';

(B) in section 422 (42 U.S.C. 11382)—

(i) in subsection (b)—

(I) by striking ''The Secretary'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary''; and

(II) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) 2-YEAR NOTIFICATION.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary may issue a notification of funding availability for grants awarded under this subtitle that provides funding for 2 successive fiscal years, which shall—

''(A) award funds for the second year of projects, including adjustments under subsection (f), unless the project is underperforming, as determined by the collaborative applicant, and the collaborative applicant applies to replace the project with a new project; and

''(B) include—

''(i) the method for applying for and awarding projects to replace underperforming projects in year 2;

''(ii) the method for applying for and awarding renewals of expiring grants for projects that were not eligible for renewal in the first fiscal year;

''(iii) the method for allocating any amounts in the second fiscal year that are in excess of the amount needed to fund the second fiscal year of all grants awarded in the first fiscal year;

''(iv) the method of applying for and awarding grants, which are 1-year transition grants awarded by the Secretary to project sponsors for activities under this subtitle to transition from 1 eligible activity to another eligible activity if the recipient—

''(I) has the consent of the continuum of care; and

''(II) meets standards determined by the Secretary;

''(C) announce by notice the award of second fiscal year funding and awards for new and renewal projects; and

''(D) identify the process by which the Secretary may approve replacement of a collaborative applicant that is not a unified funding agency to receive the award in the second fiscal year.'';

(ii) in subsection (c)(2)—

(I) by striking ''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Secretary'' and inserting ''The Secretary''; and

(II) by striking subparagraph (B); and

(iii) in subsection (e), by striking ''1 year'' and inserting ''2 years'';

(C) in section 423(a) (42 U.S.C. 11383)—

(i) in paragraph (4), in the third sentence—

(I) by striking '', at the discretion of the applicant and the project sponsor,''; and

(II) by inserting ''not more than'' before ''15 years'';

(ii) in paragraph (7), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting ''payment of not more than 6 months of arrears for rent and utility expenses,'' after ''moving costs,''; and

(iii) in paragraph (10), by striking ''3 percent'' and inserting ''the greater of either $70,000 or 5 percent'';

(D) in section 425 (42 U.S.C. 11385), by adding at the end the following:

''(f) ADJUSTMENT OF COSTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, and on a biennial basis thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States—

''(1) shall study the hiring, retention, and compensation levels of the workforce providing the services described in subsection (c), including executive directors, case managers, and frontline staff, and examine whether low compensation is undermining program effectiveness;

''(2) shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on any findings, and to the Secretary any recommendations, as the Comptroller General considers appropriate regarding funding levels for the cost of the supportive services and the staffing to provide the services described in subsection (c); and

''(3) in carrying out the study under paragraph (1), may reference the Consumer Price Index or other similar surveys.'';

(E) in section 426 (42 U.S.C. 11386), by adding at the end the following:

''(h) INSPECTIONS.—When complying with inspection requirements for a housing unit provided to a homeless individual or family using assistance under this subtitle, the Secretary may allow a grantee to—

''(1) conduct a pre-inspection not more than 60 days before leasing the unit;

''(2) if the unit is located in a rural or small area, conduct a remote or video inspection of a unit; and

''(3) allow the unit to be leased prior to completion of an inspection if the unit passed an alternative Federal inspection within the preceding 12-month period, so long as the unit is inspected not later than 15 days after the start of the lease.''; and

(F) in section 430 (42 U.S.C. 11386d), by adding at the end the following:

''(d) COSTS PAID BY PROGRAM INCOME.—With respect to grant amounts awarded under this subtitle, costs paid by the program income of a grant recipient may count toward the contributions required under subsection (a) if the costs—

''(1) are eligible expenses under this subtitle;

''(2) meet standards determined by the Secretary; and

''(3) supplement activities carried out by the recipient under this subtitle.''.

(2) OTHER MODIFICATIONS.—

(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph—

(i) the terms ''collaborative applicant'' and ''eligible entity'' have the meanings given those terms in section 401 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11360); and

(ii) the terms ''Indian tribe'' and ''tribally designated housing entity'' have the meanings given those terms in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103).

(B) NONAPPLICATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS.—With respect to the funds made available for the Continuum of Care program authorized under subtitle C of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11381 et seq.) under the heading ''Homeless Assistance Grants'' in the Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260) and under section 231 of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2020 (42 U.S.C. 11364a), title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.) and title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.) shall not apply to applications by or awards for projects to be carried out—

(i) on or off reservation or trust lands for awards made to Indian tribes or tribally designated housing entities; or

(ii) on reservation or trust lands for awards made to eligible entities.

(C) CERTIFICATION.—With respect to funds made available for the Continuum of Care program authorized under subtitle C of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11381 et seq.) under the heading ''Homeless Assistance Grants'' under section 231 of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2020 (42 U.S.C. 11364a)—

(i) applications for projects to be carried out on reservations or trust land shall contain a certification of consistency with an approved Indian housing plan developed under section 102 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (25 U.S.C. 4112), notwithstanding section 106 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12706) and section 403 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11361);

(ii) Indian tribes and tribally designated housing entities that are recipients of

awards for projects on reservations or trust land shall certify that they are following an approved housing plan developed under section 102 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (25 U.S.C. 4112); and

(iii) a collaborative applicant for a Continuum of Care whose geographic area includes only reservation and trust land is not required to meet the requirement in section 402(f)(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11360a(f)(2)).

(d) AMENDMENTS TO THE HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM.—Section 8(o)(5) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(5)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(C) EXCEPTIONS.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A)—

''(i) a public housing agency may accept a third party income calculation and verification of family income for purposes of this subsection if—

''(I) the calculation and verification was completed for determination of income eligibility for a Federal program or service during the preceding 12-month period; and

''(II) there has been no change in income or family composition since the calculation and verification under clause (i); and

''(ii) when using prior year income under section 3(a)(7)(B), a public housing agency shall use the income of the family as determined by the agency or owner for the prior calendar year or another 12-month period ending during the preceding 12 months, taking into consideration any redetermination of income between the start of such prior calendar year or other 12-month period and the date of the annual review.'';

(e) IMPROVING COORDINATION BETWEEN HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary shall seek to enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to conduct and submit to the appropriate congressional committees an evidence-based, nonpartisan analysis that—

(1) reviews the research on linkages between access to affordable health care and homelessness and analyzes the effect of greater coordination and partnerships between health care organizations, mental health and substance use disorder and substance use disorder service providers, and housing service providers, including possible cost-savings from providing greater access to health services, recovery housing, or housing-related supportive services for individuals experiencing chronic homelessness and other types of homelessness; and

(2) includes policy and program recommendations for improving access to health care and housing, health care and housing outcomes, possible cost-savings and efficiencies, and best practices.

(f) DEMONSTRATION AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11360 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 409. DEMONSTRATION AUTHORITY.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term 'appropriate congressional committees' means—

''(A) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate; and

''(B) the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives.

''(2) HEALTH CARE ORGANIZATION.—The term 'health care organization' means an entity providing medical or mental and behavioral health care, including—

''(A) a hospital (as defined in section 1861(e) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(e)));

''(B) a Federally-qualified health center (as defined in section 1905(l)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(l)(2))) or another community health center eligible to receive a grant under section 330 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b); and

''(C) a licensed or certified provider of evidence-based substance use disorder services or mental health services providing such services pursuant to funding under a block grant for substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery services or a block grant for community mental health services under subpart II or subpart I, respectively, of part B of title XIX of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300x et seq.).

''(3) HOUSING PROVIDER.—The term 'housing provider' means an entity, including a grant recipient under subtitle B or C of this title, a public housing agency (as defined in section 3 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a)), or a federally funded organization or a nonprofit organization, that administers a program to provide housing services to individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness, including rapid rehousing, transitional housing, housing choice vouchers, and housing-related supportive services.

''(b) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may establish demonstration projects or partnerships that involve collaboration between housing providers and healthcare organizations to provide housing-related supportive services, including—

''(1) assistance in coordinating data systems in a manner that is compliant with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (Public Law 104–191); and

''(2) projects or partnerships that are aimed at serving individuals—

''(A) who are homeless, chronically homeless, or at risk of homelessness; and

''(B) with—

''(i) a high-use of emergency services or emergency departments;

''(ii) chronic disabilities, including physical health or mental health conditions;

''(iii) substance use disorders;

''(iv) serious mental illness; or

''(v) other severe service needs.

''(c) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 4 years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on each demonstration project or partnership established under this section.''.

(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 101(b) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11301 note) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 408 the following:

''Sec. 409. Demonstration authority.''.

(g) STREAMLINING COORDINATED ENTRY.—

(1) AUDIT BY THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(A) conduct a multi-community evaluation of the operations of coordinated assessment systems by the Continuum of Care Program under subtitle C of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11381 et seq.) program to examine the efficiency, accuracy, and outcomes of those operations; and

(B) submit to the appropriate congressional committees on any findings and to the Secretary on any recommendations, as the Comptroller General considers appropriate, for a more effective and efficient coordinated entry process.

(2) ASSESSMENTS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(A) evaluate the coordinated assessment processes under the Continuum of Care Program under subtitle C of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11381 et seq.), which shall include—

(i) a request for information from continuums of care about coordinated entry tools, processes, barriers, documentation barriers, and necessary guidance;

(ii) incorporation of findings from relevant reports and demonstrations of the Department, including the report described in paragraph (1); and

(iii) consultation with organizations with expertise in providing health care to people experiencing homelessness on best practices in assessment tools for prioritizing resources and characterizing chronic homelessness and people experiencing homelessness with high-service needs;

(B) issue an updated notice, which shall include guidance—

(i) on effective assessment processes that remove barriers, streamline access, allow for coordination with public housing agencies, include trauma-informed data collection practices, improve accuracy, address needs for underserved groups, and successfully rehouse homeless individuals;

(ii) that includes all key populations and subpopulations, including consideration for age, family status, health status, or other factors, access points, prioritization, and programs and systems serving individuals experiencing homelessness; and

(iii) that allows for local flexibility and tailoring based on the needs and resources within the specific community; and

(C) establish a timely, periodic procedure to request feedback on coordinated assessment and update the guidance, which may include conducting a request for information not less frequently than once every 5 years.

(h) IMPROVING TARGETED DATA COLLECTION, FUNDING, AND COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall—

(1) issue not less than 1 request for information on—

(A) improving data collection, including through the use of the Homeless Management Information System or other data systems;

(B) coordination and use of data between housing and homelessness providers and physical, mental, and behavioral health organizations, substance use treatment providers, and the Department of Veterans Affairs for implementation of programs to provide services for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, including the chronically homeless; and

(C) the potential benefits and risks of using artificial intelligence models for the purpose of improving program coordination and effectiveness and assessing the effectiveness of interventions to house individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness, including by sub-populations;

(2) consider providing incentives to improve data collection, enhance the use of the Homeless Management Information System, implement community information exchanges, and strengthen the coordination of data from physical, mental, and behavioral health organizations with housing and homelessness providers, in order to target resources for housing, outreach, homelessness prevention, and housing-related supportive services for homeless individuals, or chronically homeless individuals; and

(3) coordinate with the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs to improve coordination between data systems for vouchers provided under section 8(o)(19) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42

U.S.C. 1437f(o)(19)), the Homeless Management Information System, and any other applicable homeless program supported by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(i) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.— Nothing in this section or the amendments made by this section shall be construed to limit the authority of the Secretary to provide flexibility under housing laws in effect as of the date of enactment of this Act. The flexibilities and waivers authorized under this section and the amendments made by this section shall not replace or result in the termination of other flexibilities and waivers that the Secretary is authorized to exercise.

SEC. 5506. INCENTIVIZING LOCAL SOLUTIONS TO HOMELESSNESS.

Section 414 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11373) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) FUNDING CAP WAIVER AUTHORITY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law or regulation, a recipient may request a waiver of the spending cap established pursuant to section 415(b) for amounts provided between fiscal years 2026 through 2029.

''(2) WAIVER REQUEST.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A recipient seeking a waiver described in paragraph (1) shall submit to the Secretary a waiver request that includes not more than the following:

''(i) A demonstration of local needs and circumstances that necessitate a waiver.

''(ii) A detailed plan for how the recipient intends to use funds.

''(iii) A justification for how the proposed use of funds supports the most recent Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report of the recipient.

''(iv) Any public input solicited under subparagraph (B)(ii).

''(B) NOTIFICATION.—Each recipient shall—

''(i) notify all subrecipients, including local continuums of care, of the availability of waivers under this subsection; and

''(ii) prior to the submission of a waiver request under subparagraph (A)), solicit public input regarding the potential need for and proposed uses of such waiver.

''(C) APPROVAL; PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall—

''(i) make all waiver requests submitted under subparagraph (A) publicly available on the website of the Department of Housing and Urban Development;

''(ii) not later than 60 days after the date on which the Secretary receives a waiver request under subparagraph (A), approve or deny the request; and

''(iii) deny any waiver submitted under subparagraph (A) by a recipient that relocates or threaten to relocates individuals or their property without providing emergency shelter, rapid rehousing, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, or other permanent housing options.

''(3) REVOCATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A waiver approved under this subsection shall remain in effect for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2029 unless the recipient notifies the Secretary in writing that the recipient wishes to revoke the waiver.

''(B) NOTIFICATION.—If a recipient revokes a waiver under subparagraph (A), the recipient shall solicit input from subrecipients regarding the revocation and provide a justification for the revocation.

''(C) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall publish any revocation of a waiver under subparagraph (A) and the justification of the recipient for the waiver on the website of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.''.

TITLE VI—VETERANS AND HOUSING

SEC. 5601. VA HOME LOAN AWARENESS ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart A of part 2 of the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 4541 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 1329. UNIFORM RESIDENTIAL LOAN APPLICATION.

''Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this section, the Director shall, by regulation or order, require each enterprise to include a disclaimer below the military service question on the form known as the Uniform Residential Loan Application stating, 'If yes, you may qualify for a VA Home Loan. Consult your lender regarding eligibility.'.''.

(b) GAO STUDY.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study and submit to Congress a report on whether not less than 80 percent of lenders using the Uniform Residential Loan Application have included on that form the disclaimer required under section 1329 of the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992, as added by subsection (a).

SEC. 5602. VETERANS AFFAIRS LOAN INFORMED DISCLOSURE (VALID) ACT.

(a) FHA INFORMED CONSUMER CHOICE DISCLOSURE.—

(1) INCLUSION OF INFORMATION RELATING TO VA LOANS.—Subparagraph (A) of section 203(f)(2) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1709(f)(2)(A)) is amended—

(A) by inserting ''(i)'' after ''loan-to-value ratio''; and

(B) by inserting before the semicolon the following: '', and (ii) in connection with a loan guaranteed or insured under chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code, assuming prevailing interest rates''.

(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in the amendments made by paragraph (1) shall be construed to require an original lender to determine whether a prospective borrower is eligible for any loan included in the notice required under section 203(f) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1709(f)).

(b) MILITARY SERVICE QUESTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subpart A of part 2 of subtitle A of the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 4541 et seq.), as amended by section 601(a) of this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 1330. UNIFORM RESIDENTIAL LOAN APPLICATION.

''Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this section, the Director shall require each enterprise to—

''(1) include a military service question on the form known as the Uniform Residential Loan Application; and

''(2) position the question described in paragraph (1) above the signature line of the Uniform Residential Loan Application.''.

(2) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency shall issue a rule to carry out the amendment made by this section.

SEC. 5603. HOUSING UNHOUSED DISABLED VETERANS ACT.

(a) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN DISABILITY BENEFITS.—Section 3(b)(4)(B) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)(4)(B)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating clauses (iv) and (v) as clauses (vi) and (vii), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after clause (iii) the following:

''(iv) for the purpose of determining income eligibility with respect to the supported housing program under section 8(o)(19), any disability benefits received under chapter 11 or chapter 15 of title 38, United States Code, received by a veteran, except that this exclusion shall not apply to the income in the definition of adjusted income;

''(v) for the purpose of determining income eligibility with respect to any household receiving rental assistance under the supported housing program under section 8(o)(19) as it relates to eligibility for other types of housing assistance, any disability benefits received under chapter 11 or chapter 15 of title 38, United States Code, received by a veteran, except that this exclusion shall not apply to income in the definition of adjusted income;''.

(b) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN DISABILITY BENEFITS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—When determining the eligibility of a veteran to rent a residential dwelling unit constructed on Department property on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, for which assistance is provided as part of a housing assistance program administered by the Secretary, the Secretary shall exclude from income any disability benefits received under chapter 11 or chapter 15 of title 38, United States Code by such person.

(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(B) DEPARTMENT PROPERTY.—The term ''Department property'' has the meaning given the term in section 901 of title 38, United States Code.

TITLE VII—OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

SEC. 5701. REQUIRING ANNUAL TESTIMONY AND OVERSIGHT FROM HOUSING REGULATORS.

(a) HUD PROGRAMS.—The Department of Housing and Urban Development Act (42 U.S.C. 3531 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 15. ANNUAL TESTIMONY.

''The Secretary shall, on an annual basis, testify before the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives on the status of all programs carried out by the Department, at the request of the relevant committee.''.

(b) GOVERNMENT GUARANTEED OR INSURED MORTGAGES.—On an annual basis, the following individuals shall testify before the appropriate committees of Congress with respect to mortgage loans made, guaranteed, or insured by the Federal Government:

(1) The President of the Government National Mortgage Association.

(2) The Federal Housing Commissioner.

(3) The Administrator of the Rural Housing Service.

(4) The Executive Director of the Loan Guaranty Service of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(5) The Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency.

(c) MORTGAGEE REVIEW BOARD.—Section 202(c)(8) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1708(c)(8)) is amended—

(1) by striking '', in consultation with the Federal Housing Administration Advisory Board,''; and

(2) by inserting ''and to Congress'' after ''the Secretary''.

SEC. 5702. FHA REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ON SAFETY AND SOUNDNESS.

(a) MONTHLY REPORTING ON MUTUAL MORTGAGE INSURANCE FUND CAPITAL RATIO.—Section 202(a) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1708(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(8) OTHER REQUIRED REPORTING.—The Secretary shall—

''(A) submit to Congress monthly reports on the capital ratio required under section 205(f)(2); and

''(B) notify Congress as soon as practicable after the Fund falls below the capital ratio required under section 205(f)(2).''.

(b) ANNUAL INDEPENDENT ACTUARIAL STUDY.—Section 202(a)(4) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1708(a)(4)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''The Secretary'' and inserting the following:

''(A) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the term 'first-time homebuyer' means a borrower for whom no consumer report (as defined in section 603 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681a)) indicates that the borrower has or had a loan with a consumer purpose that is secured by a 1- to 4-unit residential real property.

''(B) STUDY AND REPORT.—The Secretary''; and

(2) in subparagraph (B), as so designated, by striking ''also'' and inserting ''detail how many loans were originated in each census tract to first-time homebuyers, as well as''.

(c) ANNUAL REPORT.—Section 203(w)(2) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1709(w)(2)) is amended by inserting ''and first-time homebuyers (as defined in section 202(a)(4)(A))'' after ''minority borrowers''.

(d) GAO STUDY ON SUSTAINABLE HOMEOWNERSHIP.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study and submit to Congress a report on—

(1) the value for the Federal Housing Administration of defining what is sustainable homeownership in a way that considers borrower default, refinancing of a mortgage that is not insured by the Federal Housing Administration, the Department of Veterans Affairs, or Rural Housing Service, paying off a mortgage loan and transitioning back to renting, and other factors that demonstrate whether insurance provided under title II of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1707 et seq.) has successfully served a borrower, including for first-time homebuyers for whom no consumer report (as defined in section 603 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681a)) indicates that the borrower has or had a loan with a consumer purpose that is secured by a 1- to 4-unit residential real property; and

(2) the feasibility of the Federal Housing Administration developing a scorecard using the metrics described in paragraph (1) to measure borrower performance and reporting the scorecard data to Congress.

SEC. 5703. UNITED STATES INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS OVERSIGHT.

Section 203(a) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11313(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking ''Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009'' and inserting ''Renewing Opportunity in the American Dream to Housing Act''; and

(B) by striking ''update such plan annually'' and inserting the following: ″submit to the President and Congress a report every year thereafter that includes— ''

''(A) the status of completion of the plan; and

''(B) any modifications that were made to the plan and the reasons for those modifications;'';

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (10) through (13) as paragraphs (11) through (14), respectively;

(3) by redesignating the second paragraph (9) (relating to collecting and disseminating information) as paragraph (10);

(4) in paragraph (13), as so redesignated, by striking ''and'' at the end;

(5) in paragraph (14), as so redesignated, by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and

(6) by adding at the end the following:

''(15) testify annually before Congress.''.

SEC. 5704. NEIGHBORWORKS ACCOUNTABILITY ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 415(a)(1)(A) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation,'' after ''the Postal Regulatory Commission,''.

(b) DUTIES AND AUDITS.—The Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation Act (42 U.S.C. 8101 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 606 (42 U.S.C. 8105), by adding at the end the following:

''(e)(1) There is authorized to be appropriated to the Office of Inspector General of the corporation established under section 415 of title 5, United States Code, such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

''(2) There shall not be transferred to the Office of Inspector General of the corporation any program operating responsibilities of the corporation, including the organizational assessments work and grantee oversight function of the corporation.''.

(c) INDEPENDENT AUDIT.—Section 607 of the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation Act (42 U.S.C. 8106) is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting following:

''(b)(1) The accounts of the corporation shall be audited annually by an independent external auditor.

''(2) Notwithstanding any other audit work performed by the Office of Inspector General of the corporation, the audits required under paragraph (1) shall be conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards by independent certified public accountants who are certified by a regulatory authority of the jurisdiction in which the audit is undertaken.''.

SEC. 5705. APPRAISAL MODERNIZATION ACT.

(a) RECONSIDERATION OF VALUE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 129E of the Truth In Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1639e) is amended—

(A) by redesignating subsections (j) and (k) as subsections (k) and (l), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subsection (i) the following:

''(j) CONSUMER RIGHT TO RECONSIDERATION OF VALUE OR SUBSEQUENT APPRAISAL.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(A) UNACCEPTABLE APPRAISAL PRACTICE.—The term 'unacceptable appraisal practice' means an appraisal report that—

''(i) uses unsupported or subjective terms to assess or rate the property without providing a foundation for analysis and contextual information;

''(ii) uses inaccurate or incomplete data about the subject property, the neighborhood, the market area, or any comparable property;

''(iii) includes references, statements or comparisons about crime rates or crime statistics, whether objective or subjective;

''(iv) relies in the appraisal analysis on comparable properties that were not personally inspected by the appraiser when required by the appraisal's scope of work;

''(v) relies in the appraisal analysis on inappropriate comparable properties;

''(vi) fails to use comparable properties that are more similar, or nearer, to the subject property without adequate explanation;

''(vii) uses comparable property data provided by any interested party to the transaction without verification by a disinterested party;

''(viii) uses inappropriate adjustments for differences between the subject property and the comparable properties that do not reflect the market's reaction to such differences; or

''(ix) fails to make proper adjustments, including time adjustments for differences between the subject property and the comparable properties when necessary.

''(B) UNSUPPORTED.—The term 'unsupported' means, with respect to an appraisal report or an appraiser's opinion of value, that the appraisal report or the opinion of value is not supported by relevant evidence and logic.

''(2) REVIEW.—In connection with a consumer credit transaction secured by a consumer's principal dwelling, a creditor shall have a review and resolution procedure for a consumer-initiated reconsideration of value or subsequent appraisal that complies with the following requirements:

''(A) The creditor shall complete its own appraisal review before delivering the appraisal to the consumer.

''(B) The creditor shall have policies and procedures that provide the consumer with a process to submit 1 request for a reconsideration of value and subsequent appraisal prior to the loan closing or within 60 calendar days of denial of a credit application if the consumer believes the appraisal report may be unsupported, may be deficient due to an unacceptable appraisal practice, or may reflect discrimination.

''(C) At the time of application and upon delivery of the appraisal report to the consumer, the creditor shall provide a written disclosure to the consumer describing the process for requesting a reconsideration of value or subsequent appraisal, which written disclosure shall include a standardized format for the consumer to submit the request for a reconsideration of value, including—

''(i) the name of the borrower;

''(ii) the property address;

''(iii) the effective date of the appraisal;

''(iv) the appraiser's name;

''(v) the date of the request;

''(vi) a description of why the consumer believes the appraisal report may be unsupported, may be deficient due to an unacceptable appraisal practice, or may reflect discrimination;

''(vii) any additional information, data, including not more than 5 alternative comparable properties and the related data sources that the consumer would like the appraiser to consider; and

''(viii) an explanation of why the new information, data, or comparable properties support the reconsideration of value.

''(D) The creditor shall obtain the necessary information from the consumer if the consumer's request for reconsideration of value or subsequent appraisal is unclear or requires more information.

''(E) The creditor shall have a standardized format to communicate the reconsideration of value to the appraiser, which format shall include—

''(i) the name of the borrower;

''(ii) the property address;

''(iii) the effective date of the appraisal;

''(iv) the appraiser's name;

''(v) the date of the request;

''(vi) a description of any area of the appraisal report that may be unsupported, may be deficient due to an unacceptable appraisal practice, or may reflect discrimination;

''(vii) any additional information, data, including not more than 5 alternative comparable properties and the related data sources that the consumer would like the appraiser to consider;

''(viii) an explanation of why the new information, data, or comparable properties support the reconsideration of value;

''(ix) a definition of turn-time expectations for the appraiser to communicate the reconsideration of value results back to the creditor;

''(x) instructions for delivering the reconsideration of value response as part of a revised appraisal report that includes commentary on conclusions regardless of the outcome; and

''(xi) a reference for appraisers on how to correct minor appraisal issues or non-material errors not related to the reconsideration of value process.

''(3) SUBSEQUENT APPRAISAL AND REFERRAL.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If the creditor identifies material deficiencies in the appraisal report that are not corrected or addressed by the appraiser upon request of the creditor, including through a consumer-initiated reconsideration of value, or if there is evidence of unsupported or unacceptable appraisal practices, the creditor shall—

''(i) at the request of the consumer, order a subsequent appraisal at the creditor's own expense; and

''(ii) forward the appraisal report and the creditor's summary of findings to the appropriate appraisal licensing agency or regulatory board.

''(B) DISCRIMINATION.—If the creditor has reason to believe that an appraisal report reflects discrimination, the creditor shall—

''(i) order a subsequent appraisal, at the creditor's own expense;

''(ii) forward the appraisal report and the creditor's summary of findings to the appropriate local, State, or Federal enforcement agency; and

''(iii) upon a final determination of discrimination by the appropriate local, State, or Federal enforcement agency, receive a reimbursement from the appraiser covering the cost of the subsequent appraisal ordered by the creditor.

''(C) DEFINITION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), in this paragraph, the term 'reason to believe' means that the creditor has reviewed the applicable law and available evidence and determined that a potential violation of Federal or state antidiscrimination law exists. The available evidence may include the appraisal report, loan files, written communications, credible observations by persons with direct knowledge, statistical analysis, and the appraiser's response to the request for a reconsideration of value.

''(ii) EXCEPTION.—The term 'reason to believe' does not mean that there is a final legal determination of discrimination.

''(4) DOCUMENT RETENTION.—The creditor shall retain all documentation and written communications related to the request for reconsideration of value or subsequent appraisal in the loan file during the 7-year period beginning on the date on which the consumer submitted the credit application.

''(5) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—This subsection is consistent with the exceptions to the appraiser independence requirements found in subsection (c). Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require a creditor to submit a reconsideration of value to the original appraiser before ordering a subsequent appraisal from a subsequent appraiser.''.

(2) RULES AND INTERPRETATIVE GUIDELINES.—Section 129E(g) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1639e(g)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''paragraph (2), the Board'' and inserting ''paragraphs (2) and (3), the Bureau''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) FINAL RULE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Federal Housing Finance Agency shall issue a final rule after notice and comment and issue such guidance as may be necessary to carry out and enforce subsection (j).''.

(b) PUBLIC APPRAISAL DATABASE.——

(1) COVERED AGENCIES DEFINED.—The term ''covered agencies'' means—

(A) the Federal Housing Finance Agency, on behalf of the Federal National Mortgage Association and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation;

(B) the Department of Housing and Urban Development, including the Federal Housing Administration;

(C) the Department of Agriculture; and

(D) the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(2) FEASIBILITY REPORT.—No later than 240 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall issue a public report to Congress assessing the feasibility of creating a publicly available appraisal database that consists of a searchable and downloadable appraisal-level public use file that consolidates appraisal data held or aggregated by covered agencies, which shall include—

(A) the costs and benefits associated with establishing and maintaining the public database;

(B) the benefits and risks associated with either the Federal Housing Finance Agency or the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection being responsible for the public database and whether there is another Federal agency best suited for implementing and administering such database;

(C) any safety and soundness, antitrust, or consumer privacy-related risks associated with making certain appraisal data factors publicly available, including whether–

(i) there are any existing legal requirements, including under the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act of 1974 (12 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.) and section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Freedom of Information Act''), or additional actions Federal agencies could take to mitigate such risks, such as modifying or aggregating data, or eliminating personally identifiable information; and

(ii) there are any data factors that, if made public, may violate conduct, ethics, or other professional standards as they relate to appraisals and appraisal or valuation professionals;

(D) the feasibility of consolidating or matching appraisal data held by covered agencies with corresponding data that is required and made public under the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act of 1974 (12 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.);

(E) whether the publication of any appraisal data factors may pose unfair business advantages within the valuation industry;

(F) the feasibility of including all valuation data held by covered agencies, including data produced by automated valuation models;

(G) the feasibility and benefits of making the full appraisal dataset, including any modified fields, available to—

(i) Federal agencies, including for purposes related to enforcement and supervision responsibilities;

(ii) relevant State licensing, supervision, and enforcement agencies and State attorneys general;

(iii) approved researchers, including academics and nonprofit organizations that, in connection with their mission, work to ensure the fairness and consistency of home valuations, including appraisals; and

(iv) any other entities identified by the Comptroller General as having a compelling use for disaggregated data;

(H) what appraisal data is already available in the public domain; and

(I) the feasibility of incorporating legacy data held by covered agencies during the period beginning on January 1, 2017 and ending on the date of enactment of this Act, and whether there are specific data points not easily consolidated or matched, as described in subparagraph (D), with more recent data.

(3) PURPOSE.—The database described in paragraph (2) shall be used to provide the public, the Federal Government, and State governments with residential real estate appraisal data to help determine whether financial institutions, appraisal management companies, appraisers, valuation technologies, such as automated valuation models, 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.

(4) CONSULTATION.—As part of the information used in the report required under paragraph (2), the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct interviews with—

(A) relevant Federal agencies;

(B) relevant State licensing, supervision, and enforcement agencies and State attorneys general;

(C) appraisers and other home valuation industry professionals;

(D) mortgage lending institutions;

(E) fair housing and fair lending experts; and

(F) any other relevant stakeholders as determined by the Comptroller General.

(5) HEARING.—Upon the completion of the report under paragraph (2), the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives shall each hold a hearing on the findings of the report and the feasibility of establishing a public appraisal-level appraisal database.

TITLE VIII—COORDINATION, STUDIES, AND REPORTING

SEC. 5801. HUD-USDA-VA INTERAGENCY COORDINATION ACT.

(a) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish a memorandum of understanding, or other appropriate interagency agreement, to share relevant housing-related research and market data that facilitates evidence-based policymaking.

(b) INTERAGENCY REPORT.—

(1) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly submit to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Finance of the House of Representatives a report containing—

(A) a description of opportunities for increased collaboration between the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to reduce inefficiencies in housing programs;

(B) a list of Federal laws and regulations that adversely affect the availability and affordability of new construction of assisted housing and single family and multifamily residential housing subject to mortgages insured under title II of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1707 et seq.), insured, guaranteed, or made by the Secretary of Agriculture under title V of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1471 et seq.), or insured, guaranteed, or made by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code; and

(C) recommendations for Congress regarding the Federal laws and regulations described in subparagraph (B).

(2) PUBLICATION.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall, prior to submission under that subsection, be published in

the Federal Register and open for comment for a period of 30 days.

SEC. 5802. STREAMLINING RURAL HOUSING ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the Secretary of Agriculture shall enter into a memorandum of understanding to—

(1) evaluate categorical exclusions under the environmental review process for housing projects funded by amounts from the Department of the Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Agriculture;

(2) develop a process to designate a lead agency and streamline adoption of Environmental Impact Statements and Environmental Assessments approved by the other Department to construct housing projects funded by both agencies;

(3) maintain compliance with environmental regulations under part 58 of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on January 1, 2025, except as required to amend, add, or remove categorical exclusions identified under sections 58.35 of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations, through standard rulemaking procedures; and

(4) evaluate the feasibility of a joint physical inspection process for housing projects funded by amounts from the Department of the Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Agriculture.

(b) ADVISORY WORKING GROUP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the Secretary of Agriculture shall establish an advisory working group for the purpose of consulting on the memorandum of understanding entered into under subsection (a).

(2) MEMBERS.—The advisory working group established under paragraph (1) shall consist of representatives of—

(A) affordable housing nonprofit organizations;

(B) State housing agencies;

(C) nonprofit and for-profit home builders and housing developers;

(D) property management companies;

(E) public housing agencies;

(F) residents in housing assisted by the Department of Housing and Urban Development or the Department of Agriculture and representatives of those residents; and

(G) housing contract administrators.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives a report that includes recommendations for legislative, regulatory, or administrative actions—

(1) to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of housing projects funded by amounts from the Department of the Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Agriculture; and

(2) that do not materially, with respect to residents of housing projects described in paragraph (1)—

(A) reduce the safety of those residents;

(B) shift long-term costs onto those residents; or

(C) undermine the environmental standards of those residents.

SEC. 5803. IMPROVING SELF-SUFFICIENCY OF FAMILIES IN HUD-SUBSIDIZED HOUSING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) STUDY.—Subject to subsection (b), the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall conduct a study on the implementation of work requirements implemented prior to the date of enactment of this Act by public housing agencies described in paragraph (4) participating in the Moving to Work demonstration authorized under section 204 of the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996 (42 U.S.C. 1437f note).

(2) SCOPE.—The study required under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) consider the short-, medium-, and long-term benefits and challenges of work requirements on public housing agencies described in paragraph (4) and on program participants who are subject to such requirements, including the effects work requirements have on homelessness rates, poverty rates, asset building, earnings growth, job attainment and retention, and public housing agencies' administrative capacity; and

(B) include quantitative and qualitative evidence, including interviews with program participants described in subparagraph (A) and their respective resident councils.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall report the initial findings of the study required under paragraph (1) to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives.

(4) PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCIES DESCRIBED.—The public housing agencies described in this paragraph are public housing agencies that, as part of an application to participate in the program under section 204 of the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996 (42 U.S.C. 1437f note), submit a proposal identifying work requirements as an innovative proposal.

(b) DETERMINATION.—The requirement under subsection (a) shall apply if the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development determines that—

(1) there are a sufficient number of public housing agencies described in subsection (a)(4) such that the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development can rigorously evaluate the impact of the implementation of work requirements described in that subsection; and

(2) the study would not negatively impact low-income families receiving assistance through a public housing agency described in subsection (a)(4).

SA 3504. Mrs. BLACKBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN NON-APPROPRIATED FUND RETAIL AGREEMENTS.

The Secretary of Defense may not enter into, renew, or extend any contract, lease, or other agreement of five years or more in duration with a retailer operating through a nonappropriated fund instrumentality (including the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, the Navy Exchange, or the Marine Corps Exchange) if the retailer is owned or controlled by the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, or the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

SA 3505. Mr. BANKS 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 division A, add the following:

TITLE XVII—EXPORT CONTROLS FOR ADVANCED ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE CHIPS

SEC. 1701. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Guaranteeing Access and Innovation for National Artificial Intelligence Act of 2025'' or the ''GAIN AI Act of 2025''.

SEC. 1702. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) artificial intelligence is a transformative technology and United States policy should ensure that United States persons, including small businesses, startups, and universities, are in the best position to innovate and harness the potential of artificial intelligence;

(2) the demand for advanced artificial intelligence chips far exceeds the supply, and United States persons are forced to wait many months, if not longer, to acquire the latest chips;

(3) at the same time, United States chip developers are selling advanced artificial intelligence chips to entities in countries that are subject to a United States arms embargo or countries that have a close relationship with such countries, so that United States persons are unable to acquire such chips;

(4) the production of such chips for sale to entities in countries described in paragraph (3) is taking up production capacity that would otherwise be used to fabricate chips for United States persons; and

(5) it should be the policy of the United States and the Department of Commerce—

(A) to deny licenses for the export of the most powerful artificial intelligence chips, including such chips with a total processing power of 4,800 or above; and

(B) to restrict the export of advanced artificial intelligence chips to foreign entities so long as United States entities are waiting and unable to acquire those same chips.

SEC. 1703. PROHIBITION ON PRIORITIZING COUNTRIES OF CONCERN OVER UNITED STATES CUSTOMERS FOR EXPORTS OF ADVANCED INTEGRATED CIRCUITS.

Part I of Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4811 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 1758 the following:

''SEC. 1758A. CONTROL OF EXPORTS OF ADVANCED INTEGRATED CIRCUITS.

''(a) LICENSE REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall require a license for the export, reexport, or in-country transfer of an advanced integrated circuit or a product containing an advanced integrated circuit.

''(b) CERTIFICATION OF PRIORITY FOR UNITED STATES CUSTOMERS FOR ADVANCED INTEGRATED CIRCUITS.—

''(1) CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall require a person submitting an application for a license to export, reexport, or in-country transfer an advanced integrated circuit or a product containing an advanced integrated circuit to or in a country of concern to certify in the application that—

''(A) United States persons had a right-of-first-refusal for the circuit or product to which the application relates; and

''(B) the person applying for the license—

''(i) has no current backlog of requests from United States persons for the circuit or product;

''(ii) cannot foresee the export, re-export, or in-country transfer of the circuit or product resulting in such a backlog or a reduction in the capacity of production lines for the production of the circuit or product for United States persons; and

''(iii) is not providing advantageous pricing or terms for the circuit or product to foreign persons that the person is not providing to United States persons; and

''(C) the circuit or product will not be used by foreign persons to compete with United States persons outside of the domestic home market of the foreign persons.

''(2) DENIAL OF APPLICATIONS WITHOUT CERTIFICATION.—If a certification described in paragraph (1) is not submitted with an application for a license described in that paragraph, the Secretary shall deny the application.

''(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(1) ADVANCED INTEGRATED CIRCUIT.—The term 'advanced integrated circuit' means is an integrated circuit (as defined in the Commerce Control List) that has one or more digital processing units with—

''(A) a total processing performance of 2400 or more and a performance density of 1.6 or more;

''(B) a total processing performance of 1600 or more and a performance density of 3.2 or more; or

''(C) a total DRAM bandwidth of 1,400 gigabytes per second or more, interconnect bandwidth of 1,100 gigabytes per second or more, or a sum of DRAM bandwidth and interconnect bandwidth of 1,700 gigabytes per second or more.

''(2) COUNTRY OF CONCERN.—The term 'country of concern' means—

''(A) a country subject to a comprehensive United States arms embargo; or

''(B) a country that the Director of National Intelligence assesses is hosting, or has the intention of hosting, a military or intelligence facility associated with a country described in subparagraph (A).''.

SA 3506. Mr. BANKS 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. POST-EMPLOYMENT REPORTING FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE-FUNDED RESEARCHERS IN EXPORT-CONTROLLED AREAS OF RESEARCH.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security shall establish a reporting process pursuant to which any covered individual, and any institution of higher education that has employed a covered individual, shall report to the Under Secretary on any activities by the covered individual with covered entities conducted after the termination of the employment of the covered individual with the institution of higher education.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The Under Secretary shall include the following elements in the reporting process required by subsection (a):

(1) A requirement for an institution of higher education to provide data and risk assessments to the Under Secretary that identify covered individuals employed by the institution and describe the nature of the covered research of those individuals.

(2) A process for an institution of higher education to track the activities of covered individuals who are no longer employed by the institution of higher education.

(3) A requirement for a covered individual to report the post-employment activities of the individual to the Under Secretary and to any institution of higher education at which the individual previously conducted covered research.

(4) A specified length of time after termination of employment during which the Under Secretary deems it appropriate to require such reporting.

(5) The frequency of the reporting required.

(6) A requirement for an institution of higher education employing covered individuals to provide to the Under Secretary annual metrics specifically identifying instances of covered entities engaging in covered research.

(7) A requirement for an institution of higher education to describe any mitigation measures the institution establishes to implement this section.

(8) A process for an institution of higher education to notify the Under Secretary that the institution is unable to provide satisfactory reporting with respect to a covered individual because the individual has refused to provide the institution with the necessary information on post-employment activities.

(c) UPDATED GUIDANCE.—Not later than September 30, 2026, the Under Secretary shall issue revised guidance related to research security, including its risk assessment matrix for research security and updated resources for export control officers at institutions of higher education, that integrates the reporting process required by subsection (a).

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED ENTITY.—The term ''covered entity'' means—

(A) the government of a covered nation (as defined in section 4872(f) of title 10, United States Code); or

(B) a foreign entity of concern.

(2) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—The term ''covered individual'' means any individual that—

(A) is or was employed by an institution of higher education; and

(B) carries out or has carried out covered research for the Department of Defense, either as a principal investigator or as a member of a team receiving a Department of Defense grant for covered research.

(3) COVERED RESEARCH.—The term ''covered research'' means any research relating to an item subject to controls imposed under the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4801 et seq.).

(4) FOREIGN ENTITY OF CONCERN.—The term ''foreign entity of concern'' means an entity on—

(A) the Entity List maintained by the Bureau of Industry and Security of the Department of Commerce and set forth in Supplement No. 4 to part 744 of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations, or a successor list;

(B) the most recent list of Chinese military companies operating in the United States submitted under section 1260H(b)(1) of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116–283;10 U.S.C. 113 note); or

(C) the list developed under section 1286(c)(9)(A) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law 115–232;10 U.S.C. 4001 note).

(5) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term ''institution of higher education'' has the meaning given that term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

SA 3507. Mr. LEE (for himself and Mr. CURTIS) 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. CONFIRMATION OF USE OF CERTAIN NON-FEDERAL LAND IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, FOR VALID PUBLIC PURPOSES.

(a) CONFIRMATION OF USES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The use by the University of Utah of the land described in subsection (b) as a University research park, as approved by the letter from the Secretary of the Interior to the University of Utah dated December 10, 1970, and any modifications of the approved plan of development and management approved by the Department of the Interior prior to the date of enactment of this Act, is confirmed as a valid public purpose consistent with the requirements of the Act of June 14, 1926 (commonly known as the ''Recreation and Public Purposes Act'') (44 Stat. 741, chapter 578; 43 U.S.C. 869 et seq.), subject to the terms and conditions included in the letter and approvals.

(2) OTHER USES.—Any other uses of the land described in subsection (b) by the University of Utah that are consistent with use as a University research park and related university purposes (including development of student housing and a transit hub) are confirmed as valid public purposes consistent with the requirements of the Act of June 14, 1926 (commonly known as the ''Recreation and Public Purposes Act'') (44 Stat. 741, chapter 578; 43 U.S.C. 869 et seq.).

(b) DESCRIPTION OF NON-FEDERAL LAND.—The land referred to in subsection (a) is the approximately 593.54 acres of land conveyed to the University of Utah under the Act of June 14, 1926 (commonly known as the ''Recreation and Public Purposes Act'') (44 Stat. 741, chapter 578; 43 U.S.C. 869 et seq.), by patent numbered 43–99–0012 and dated October 18, 1968, and more particularly described as tracts D (excluding parcels numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5), G, and J, T. 1 S., R. 1 E., Salt Lake Meridian.

SA 3508. Ms. LUMMIS (for herself and Mr. TUBERVILLE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 10____. REPORT ON THE STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS OF BITCOIN FOR UNITED STATES NATIONAL AND ECONOMIC SECURITY.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) Bitcoin is emerging as a strategically significant monetary asset, with a fixed supply, increasing adoption, and growing relevance in sovereign reserve policy—posing

both opportunities and risks to United States national economic security and the international financial system anchored by the dollar;

(2) adversarial and allied nation-states are accelerating efforts to accumulate Bitcoin—directly and through affiliated entities—raising the possibility of long-term geoeconomic and game-theoretic competition over strategic access to a scarce monetary resource, with implications for deterrence, financial sovereignty, and the credibility of United States economic power; and

(3) a comprehensive Department of Defense assessment is necessary to evaluate the strategic implications of global Bitcoin accumulation, identify potential risks and opportunities for integrated United States statecraft, and inform future interagency actions to preserve national and economic security in the digital asset era.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives a report on Bitcoin's strategic implications for the United States and recommended courses of action.

(2) SCOPE.—The report submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall, at a minimum, include the following:

(A) GLOBAL ACCUMULATION ANALYSIS.—A detailed assessment of the current and planned accumulation of Bitcoin by nation states and nation state-affiliated entities, including sovereign wealth funds, state-owned enterprises, and individual national leaders, as well as related policy and adoption trends.

(B) COMPARATIVE UNITED STATES POSITION.—An analysis of present and planned United States Government Bitcoin holdings compared both to other nations' holdings of Bitcoin and to nation state holdings of gold.

(C) NET ASSESSMENT.—An evaluation of the strategic advantages and disadvantages for United States national and economic security of holding a greater share of Bitcoin than any other nation.

(D) GAME THEORETIC DYNAMICS.—An examination of the competitive dynamics likely to emerge as nation states increase Bitcoin accumulation as a sovereign reserve asset.

(E) LEGAL AND POLICY REVIEW.—A review of Department of Defense authorities, policies, regulations, and contractual rules that govern or constrain any Department of Defense component or contractor in receiving, holding, acquiring, disposing, transacting, or otherwise lawfully using Bitcoin.

(F) INTEGRATED STATECRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS.—Concrete recommendations for leveraging Bitcoin across diplomatic, informational, military, economic, financial, intelligence, and law enforcement (DIME FIL) instruments of national power.

(c) COORDINATION AND CONTRIBUTORS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In preparing the report required by subsection (b)(1), the Secretary shall coordinate through the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) and shall incorporate input from—

(A) combatant commands;

(B) Department organizations with economic security or financial warfare responsibilities and expertise, including the Office of Strategic Capital and the Office of Expanded Competition; and

(C) the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security.

(2) CONSULTATION.—In preparing the report required by subsection (b)(1), the Secretary shall consult, as the Secretary considers appropriate, with—

(A) the Executive Director of the President's Working Group on Digital Asset Markets;

(B) the Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers; and

(C) other interagency partners with relevant expertise.

(3) SOLICITATION OF DATA, ANALYSIS, AND ASSESSMENT SUPPORT.—The Secretary may solicit data, analysis, and assessment support from nongovernmental organizations, academia, and industry consistent with applicable procurement and security regulations.

(d) FORM OF REPORT.—The report required by subsection (b)(1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex to address sensitive intelligence, operational plans, or proprietary data.

(e) DEFINITION OF BITCOIN.—In this section, the term ''Bitcoin'' means the cryptographically secured digital asset native to the Bitcoin public blockchain network, identified by the ticker symbol ''BTC''. Such term does not include any fork or derivative network that is not in consensus with the canonical Bitcoin blockchain.

SA 3509. Mr. DAINES 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 III, add the following:

SEC. 320A. EXCLUSION FROM COMPLIANCE WITH NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT OF 1969 OF SENTINEL PROGRAM OR GROUND-BASED STRATEGIC DETERRENT PROGRAM.

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 109 the following:

''SEC. 109A. EXEMPTION OF ACTIONS RELATING TO SENTINEL PROGRAM OR GROUND-BASED STRATEGIC DETERRENT PROGRAM.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense, after conferring with the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of the Interior, or both, as appropriate, may exempt any action or category of actions undertaken by the Department of Defense or any component of the Department of Defense relating to the Sentinel program or the ground-based strategic deterrent program, or successor similar program, from compliance with any requirement of this Act if the Secretary determines that it is critical to national security.

''(b) ADDITIONAL EXEMPTIONS.—The Secretary of Defense may issue additional exemptions under this section for the same action or category of actions after—

''(1) conferring with the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of the Interior, or both as appropriate; and

''(2) making a new determination that the additional exemption is necessary for national defense.

''(c) EFFECT.—An exemption granted under subsection (a) or (b)—

''(1) subject to paragraph (2), shall be effective for a period specified by the Secretary of Defense; and

''(2) shall not be effective for more than 2 years.

''(d) NOTICE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after issuing an exemption under subsection (a) or (b), the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives notice describing the exemption and the reasons therefor.

''(2) FORM.—Notice under paragraph (1) may be provided in classified form if the Secretary of Defense determines that use of the classified form is necessary for reasons of national security.''.

SA 3510. Mr. DAINES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1230B. SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO MINING INDUSTRY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

(a) SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO PRODUCTION AND EXPORTATION OF CERTAIN MINERALS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date that is 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (c) with respect to each Russian entity that the President determines produces or exports minerals specified in paragraph (2).

(2) MINERALS SPECIFIED.—The minerals specified in this paragraph are the following:

(A) Platinum, unwrought or in semimanufactured forms, classified under heading 7110 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (in this Act, referred to as the ''HTS''), including—

(i) palladium;

(ii) braggite;

(iii) rhodium; and

(iv) ruthenium.

(B) Nickel classified under heading 2604 of the HTS.

(C) Copper, ores and concentrates, classified under heading 2603 of the HTS, including zinc.

(3) TERMINATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The requirement to impose sanctions under paragraph (1) shall, subject to subparagraph (B), terminate on the date that is one year after the President certifies to Congress that the Government of the Russian Federation has ended all hostilities against Ukraine.

(B) PROBATIONARY PERIOD.—If, at any time during the 3-year period after the President submits a certification described in subparagraph (A), the President certifies to Congress that the Government of the Russian Federation has resumed hostilities against Ukraine, the requirement to impose sanctions under paragraph (1) shall—

(i) resume effect;

(ii) remain in effect until the President submits to Congress another certification described in subparagraph (A); and

(iii) after the President submits such a certification, be subject to resumption as described in this subparagraph.

(b) SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO SPECIFIC ENTITIES.—

(1) NORNICKEL.—Not later than 15 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 90 days thereafter, the President shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (c) with respect to—

(A) any directors of, officers of, and shareholders with an interest in, Nornickel or any subsidiary or successor entity of Nornickel; and

(B) any foreign government or foreign person that has knowingly sold, supplied, transferred, or purchased nickel originally sourced from the Russian Federation, Nornickel, or any subsidiary or successor entity of Nornickel.

(2) MINING ENTITIES OWNED BY SANCTIONED PERSONS.—Not later than 15 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 90 days thereafter, the President shall—

(A) impose the sanctions described in subsection (c) with respect to any entity in the mining industry a majority of the ownership interest in which is held by a person, or a group of persons, subject to sanctions under this Act or other sanctions imposed by the United States with respect to the Russian Federation on or before the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(B) prohibit any United States person from engaging in any transaction with an entity described in subparagraph (A).

(c) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions described in this subsection to be imposed with respect to a person described in subsection (a) or (b) are the following:

(1) BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The President shall exercise all of the powers granted by the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of the person if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(B) INAPPLICABILITY OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY REQUIREMENT.—The requirements of section 202 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701) shall not apply for purposes of this section.

(2) INELIGIBILITY FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—

(A) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—An alien described in subsection (a) or (b) shall be—

(i) inadmissible to the United States;

(ii) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and

(iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(B) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The visa or other entry documentation of an alien described in subsection (a) or (b) shall be revoked, regardless of when such visa or other entry documentation is or was issued.

(ii) IMMEDIATE EFFECT.—A revocation under clause (i) shall—

(I) take effect immediately; and

(II) automatically cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the possession of the alien.

(d) EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.—This section shall not apply with respect to the provision of humanitarian assistance (including medical assistance) to the people of the Russian Federation.

(2) EXCEPTION FOR INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.—This section shall not apply with respect to activities subject to the reporting requirements under title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.) or any authorized intelligence activities of the United States.

(3) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS.—Sanctions under this section shall not apply to the admission of an alien if the admission of that alien is necessary to comply with United States obligations under the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, under the Convention on Consular Relations, done at Vienna April 24, 1963, and entered into force March 19, 1967, or under other international agreements.

(4) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The authorities and requirements to impose sanctions authorized under this section shall not include the authority or requirement to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(B) GOOD DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term ''good'' means any article, natural or manmade substance, material, supply or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment, and excluding technical data.

(e) IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.—

(1) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may exercise all authorities provided under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out this section.

(2) PENALTIES.—A person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of this section or any regulation, license, or order issued to carry out this section shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMISSION; ADMITTED; ALIEN.—The terms ''admission'', ''admitted'', and ''alien'' have the meanings given those terms in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

(2) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term ''foreign person'' means an individual or entity that is not a United States person.

(3) KNOWINGLY; KNOWS.—The terms ''knowingly'' and ''knows'', with respect to conduct, a circumstance, or a result, means that a person had actual knowledge, or should have known, of the conduct, the circumstance, or the result.

(4) RUSSIAN ENTITY.—The term ''Russian entity'' means an entity that is organized under the laws of, or otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of, the Russian Federation.

(5) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term ''United States person'' means—

(A) a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States; or

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity.

SA 3511. Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 724. PILOT PROGRAM ON SECURE, MOBILE PERSONAL HEALTH RECORD FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES PARTICIPATING IN THE TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

(a) PILOT PROGRAM.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall commence carrying out a pilot program under which members of the Armed Forces who are serving on active duty and receiving benefits or services under the Transition Assistance Program are able to use a covered health record platform to collect their medical records before separating from active duty.

(b) SELECTION OF ARMED FORCES.—The Secretary shall select not less than one Armed Force in which to carry out the pilot program under subsection (a).

(c) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall seek to enter into a contract using competitive procedures with an appropriate entity, as determined by the Secretary, for the provision of the covered health record platform under the pilot program under subsection (a).

(2) NOTICE OF COMPETITION.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue a request for proposals for the contract described in paragraph (1). Such request shall be full and open to any contractor that has an existing covered health record platform.

(3) SELECTION.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall award a contract to an appropriate entity pursuant to the request for proposals under paragraph (2) if at least one acceptable offer from such an entity is submitted.

(d) DURATION OF PILOT PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out the pilot program under subsection (a) for a period of not less than one year.

(2) TERMINATION OR EXTENSION OF PROGRAM.—At the end of the one-year period specified in paragraph (1), the Secretary may—

(A) terminate the pilot program under subsection (a);

(B) continue the pilot program;

(C) expand the pilot program; or

(D) implement the use of a covered health record platform in the Transition Assistance Program throughout the Armed Forces.

(e) PROHIBITION ON NEW APPROPRIATIONS.—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the requirements of this section. Such requirements shall be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term ''covered health record platform'' means a secure personal health record platform that meets the following requirements:

(A) Has web-based and native mobile phone app capabilities.

(B) Has the capability to store and share records with the Department of Veterans Affairs or any other designated care provider.

(C) Has the capability to store records in the cloud.

(D) Does not have a requirement for integration to receive or share records.

(E) Has the capability to instantly share data based on a combination of access key and personal identifier.

(F) Has the capability to provide secure data storage and records transfer upon separation of a member of the Armed Forces from active duty.

(G) Does not require a business associate agreement with any parties.

(H) Has secure data isolation with access controls.

(I) Has, at a minimum, data security that would require separate encryption for each document, relying on AES256 or better algorithm with keys encryption using RSA2048 or better algorithm, or any successor similar algorithm.

(2) The term ''Transition Assistance Program'' means the program of the Department of Defense for preparation counseling,

employment assistance, and other transitional services provided under sections 1142 and 1144 of title 10, United States Code.

SA 3512. Mr. DAINES (for himself and 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 C of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1230B. AUTHORITY TO TERMINATE APPLICATION OF JACKSON-VANIK AMENDMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 402 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2432) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) TERMINATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided by paragraph (2), the President may terminate the application of subsection (a) and (b) with respect to a country if the President—

''(A) determines that the government of the country is no longer in violation of paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of subsection (a); and

''(B) submits to the appropriate congressional committees a report on that determination.

''(2) REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN COUNTRIES.—The President may not terminate the application of subsection (a) and (b) with respect to a country that is designated as a state sponsor of terrorism or subject to an embargo imposed by the United States until the designation or embargo, as the case may be, is revoked.

''(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term 'appropriate congressional committees' means—

''(i) the Committee on Finance and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

''(ii) the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

''(B) STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM.—The term 'state sponsor of terrorism' means a country the government of which the Secretary of State has determined has repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism for purposes of—

''(i) section 1754(c)(1)(A)(i) of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4813(c)(1)(A)(i));

''(ii) section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371);

''(iii) section 40(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2780(d)); or

''(iv) any other provision of law.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 402(a) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2432(a)) is amended, in the flush text following paragraph (3), by inserting '', subject to subsection (f),'' after ''ending''.

SA 3513. Mr. DAINES 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 II, insert the following:

SEC. 2___. EVALUATION OF THE MOUNTAIN-DESERT CORRIDOR TO TEST HYPERSONIC AND LONG-RANGE WEAPONS.

(a) EVALUATION OF SITES.—The Secretary of Defense shall, acting through the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering and the Director of the Test Resource Management Center, evaluate the following sites for the purposes of testing and training for long range and hypersonic systems:

(1) Launch locations, including the following:

(A) The Bearpaw Air Traffic Control Assigned Airspace.

(B) The Mountain Home Range Complex.

(C) The Fallon Range Training Complex.

(D) The Utah Test and Training Range.

(E) The Nevada Test and Training Range.

(F) The Green River Test Complex.

(2) Impact areas within the White Sands Missile Range.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term ''impact area'' means the point at which a test terminates.

(2) The term ''launch location'' means the point from which a test is initiated.

SA 3514. Mr. DAINES 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. FUNERAL HONORS FOR MONTANA VETERANS PROVIDED BY VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Adjutant General of the Montana National Guard may enter into memoranda of understanding with veterans service organizations under which such organizations may provide funeral honors available to veterans under section 1491 of title 10, United States Code.

(b) VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''veterans service organization'' means an organization recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under section 5902 of title 38, United States Code.

SA 3515. Mr. DAINES 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___. IMPROVED PROTECTION OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FACILITIES AND ASSETS FROM UNMANNED AIRCRAFT THREATS.

(a) EXPANSION OF AUTHORITY.—Subsection (a) of section 130i of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting '', and contractors,'' after ''and civilian employees''.

(b) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SHARING.—Subsection (e)(4) of such section is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by inserting a comma after ''civilian law enforcement agency'';

(2) by striking ''; or'' and inserting a semicolon;

(3) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (D); and

(4) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following new subparagraph (C):

''(C) would support another department or agency of the Federal Government with authority to mitigate the threat of unmanned aircraft or unmanned aircraft systems in mitigating such threats; or''.

(c) EXEMPTION FROM DISCLOSURE.—Such section is further amended—

(1) by striking subsection (g); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (f) the following new subsection (g):

''(g) EXEMPTION FROM DISCLOSURE.—Information pertaining to the technology, procedures, and protocols used to carry out this section, including any regulations or guidance issued to carry out this section, shall be exempt from disclosure—

''(1) under section 552(b)(3) of title 5; and

''(2) under any State or local law requiring the disclosure of information.''.

(d) REPEAL OF PARTIAL TERMINATION.—Such section is further amended by striking subsection (i).

(e) ADDITIONAL COVERED MISSIONS.—Subsection (j) of such section is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (1);

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (6) as paragraphs (1) through (5), respectively; and

(3) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated—

(A) in subparagraph (C), by redesignating clauses (i) through (ix) as subclauses (II) through (X), respectively, and indenting such subclauses two ems to the right;

(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (C) as clauses (i) through (iii), respectively, and indenting such clauses two ems to the right;

(C) in the matter before clause (i), as redesignated by subparagraph (B), by striking ''means any facility or asset'' and inserting ''means—

''(A) any facility, asset, or vessel'';

(D) in subparagraph (A), as designated by subparagraph (C)—

(i) in clause (ii), as redesignated by subparagraph (B), by striking ''and possessions'' and inserting '', possessions, and territorial waters''; and

(ii) in clause (iii), as so redesignated—

(I) by inserting before subclause (II), as redesignated by subparagraph (A), the following new subclause (I):

''(I) protection of the buildings, grounds, and property to which the public are not permitted regular, unrestricted access and that are under the jurisdiction, custody, or control of the Department of Defense and the persons on that property pursuant to section 2672 of this title;'';

(II) in subclause (VI), as so redesignated, by inserting ''and territorial integrity'' after ''air sovereignty'';

(III) in subclause (IX), as so redesignated, by striking ''; or'' and inserting a semicolon;

(IV) in subclause (X), as so redesignated, by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(V) by adding at the end the following new subclauses:

''(XI) assistance to Federal, State, or local officials in responding to incidents involving nuclear, radiological, biological, or chemical weapons, or high-yield explosives, or related materials or technologies, including pursuant to section 282 of this title and the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq);

''(XII) emergency response that is limited to a specified timeframe and location; or

''(XIII) intelligence or counterintelligence; and''; and

(E) by inserting after subparagraph (A), as designated by subparagraph (C), the following new subparagraph (B):

''(B) any personnel associated with a facility, asset, or vessel identified under subparagraph (A) engaged in direct support of a mission of the Department of Defense specified in clause (iii) of such subparagraph.''.

SA 3516. Mr. TILLIS (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XII, add the following:

Subtitle F—Western Balkans Democracy and Prosperity

SECTION 1271. SHORT TITLE.—

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Western Balkans Democracy and Prosperity Act''.

SEC. 1272. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The Western Balkans countries (the Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Kosovo, Montenegro, the Republic of North Macedonia and the Republic of Serbia) form a pluralistic, multi-ethnic region in the heart of Europe that is critical to the peace, stability, and prosperity of that continent.

(2) Continued peace, stability, and prosperity in the Western Balkans is directly tied to the opportunities for democratic and economic advancement available to the citizens and residents of those seven countries.

(3) It is in the mutual interest of the United States and the seven countries of the Western Balkans to promote stable and sustainable economic growth and development in the region.

(4) The reforms and integration with the European Union pursued by countries in the Western Balkans have led to significant democratic and economic progress in the region.

(5) Despite economic progress, rates of poverty and unemployment in the Western Balkans remain higher than in neighboring European Union countries.

(6) Out-migration, particularly of youth, is affecting demographics in each Western Balkans country, resulting in population decline in all seven countries.

(7) Implementing critical economic and governance reforms could help enable investment and employment opportunities in the Western Balkans, especially for youth, and can provide powerful tools for economic development and for encouraging broader participation in a political process that increases trade and prosperity for all.

(8) Existing regional economic efforts, such as the Common Regional Market, the Berlin Process, and the Open Balkan Initiative, could have the potential to improve the economic conditions in the Western Balkans, while promoting inclusion and transparency.

(9) The Department of Commerce, through its Foreign Commercial Service, plays an important role in promoting and facilitating opportunities for United States trade and investment.

(10) Corruption, including among key political leaders, continues to plague the Western Balkans and represents one of the greatest impediments to further economic and political development in the region.

(11) Disinformation campaigns targeting the Western Balkans undermine the credibility of its democratic institutions, including the integrity of its elections.

(12) Vulnerability to cyberattacks or attacks on information and communication technology infrastructure increases risks to the functioning of government and the delivery of public services.

(13) United States Cyber Command, the Department of State, and other Federal agencies play a critical role in defending the national security interests of the United States, including by deploying cyber hunt forward teams at the request of partner nations to reinforce their cyber defenses.

(14) Securing domestic and international cyber networks and ICT infrastructure is a national security priority for the United States, which is exemplified by offices and programs across the Federal Government that support cybersecurity.

(15) Corruption and disinformation proliferate in political environments marked by autocratic control or partisan conflict.

(16) Dependence on Russian sources of fossil fuels and natural gas for the countries of the Western Balkans ties their economies and politics to the Russian Federation and inhibits their aspirations for European integration.

(17) Reducing the reliance of the Western Balkans on Russian natural gas supplies and fossil fuels is in the national interest of the United States.

(18) The growing influence of China in the Western Balkans could also have a deleterious impact on strategic competition, democracy, and economic integration with Europe.

(19) In March 2022, President Biden launched the European Democratic Resilience Initiative to bolster democratic resilience, advance anti-corruption efforts, and defend human rights in Ukraine and its neighbors in response to Russia's war of aggression.

(20) The parliamentary and local elections held in Serbia on December 17, 2023, and their immediate aftermath are cause for deep concern about the state of Serbia's democracy, including due to the final report of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, which—

(A) found ''unjust conditions'' for the election;

(B) found ''numerous procedural deficiencies, including inconsistent application of safeguards during voting and counting, frequent instances of overcrowding, breaches in secrecy of the vote, and numerous instances of group voting''; and

(C) asserted that ''voting must be repeated'' in certain polling stations.

(21) The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe also noted that Serbian officials accused primarily peaceful protestors, opposition parties, and civil society of ''attempting to destabilize the government'', a concerning allegation that threatens the safety of important elements of Serbian society.

(22) Democratic countries whose values are in alignment with the United States make for stronger and more durable partnerships.

SEC. 1273. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is a sense of Congress that the United States should—

(1) encourage increased trade and investment between the United States and allies and partners in the Western Balkans;

(2) expand United States assistance to regional integration efforts in the Western Balkans;

(3) strengthen and expand regional economic integration in the Western Balkans, especially enterprises owned by and employing women and youth;

(4) work with allies and partners committed to improving the rule of law, energy resource diversification, democratic and economic reform, and the reduction of poverty in the Western Balkans;

(5) increase United States trade and investment with the Western Balkans, particularly in ways that support countries' efforts—

(A) to decrease dependence on Russian energy sources and fossil fuels;

(B) to increase energy diversification, efficiency, and conservation; and

(C) to facilitate the transition to cleaner and more reliable sources of energy, including renewables, as appropriate;

(6) continue to assist in the development, within the Western Balkans, of—

(A) strong civil societies;

(B) public-private partnerships;

(C) independent media;

(D) transparent, accountable, citizen-responsive governance, including equal representation for women, youth, and people with disabilities;

(E) political stability; and

(F) modern, free-market based economies.

(7) support the expeditious accession of those Western Balkans countries that are not already members to the European Union and to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (referred to in this section as ''NATO'') for countries that desire, are eligible for, and are support by all NATO Allies to proceed with an invitation for, such membership;

(8) support—

(A) maintaining the full European Union Force (EUFOR) mandate in Bosnia and Herzegovina as being in the national security interests of the United States;

(B) encouraging NATO and the European Union to review their mission mandates and posture in Bosnia and Herzegovina to ensure they are playing a proactive role in establishing a safe and secure environment, particularly in the realm of defense;

(C) working within NATO to encourage contingency planning for an international military force to maintain a safe and secure environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina, especially if Russia blocks reauthorization of the mission in the United Nations; and

(D) a strengthened NATO headquarters in Sarajevo;

(9) continue to support the European Union membership aspirations of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia by supporting meeting the benchmarks required for their accession;

(10) continue to support the cultural heritage, and recognize the languages, of the Western Balkans;

(11) coordinate closely with the European Union, the United Kingdom, and other allies and partners on sanctions designations in Western Balkans countries and work to align efforts as much as possible to demonstrate a clear commitment to upholding democratic values;

(12) expand bilateral security cooperation with non-NATO member Western Balkans countries, particularly efforts focused on regional integration and cooperation, including through the Adriatic Charter, which was launched at Tirana on May 2, 2003;

(13) increase efforts to combat Russian malign influence campaigns and any other destabilizing or disruptive activities targeting the Western Balkans through engagement with government institutions, political stakeholders, journalists, civil society organizations, and industry leaders;

(14) develop a series of cyber resilience standards, consistent with the Enhanced Cyber Defence Policy and Readiness Action Plan endorsed at the 2014 Wales Summit of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to expand cooperation with partners and allies,

including in the Western Balkans, on cyber security and ICT infrastructure;

(15) articulate clearly and unambiguously the United States commitment to supporting democratic values and respect for international law as the sole path forward for the countries of the Western Balkans; and

(16) prioritize partnerships and programming with Western Balkan countries that demonstrate commitment toward strengthening their democracies and show respect for human rights.

SEC. 1274. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) ICT.—The term ''ICT'' means information and communication technology.

(3) WESTERN BALKANS.—The term ''Western Balkans'' means the region comprised of the following countries:

(A) The Republic of Albania.

(B) Bosnia and Herzegovina.

(C) The Republic of Kosovo.

(D) Montenegro.

(E) The Republic of North Macedonia.

(F) The Republic of Serbia.

(4) WESTERN BALKANS COUNTRY.—The term ''Western Balkans country'' means any country listed in subparagraphs (A) through (G) of paragraph (3).

SEC. 1275. CODIFICATION OF SANCTIONS RELATING TO THE WESTERN BALKANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Each person listed or designated for the imposition of sanctions under an executive order described in subsection (c) as of the date of the enactment of this Act shall remain so designated, except as provided in subsections (d) and (e).

(b) CONTINUATION OF SANCTIONS AUTHORITIES.—Each authority to impose sanctions provided for under an executive order described in subsection (c) shall remain in effect.

(c) EXECUTIVE ORDERS SPECIFIED.—The executive orders specified in this subsection are—

(1) Executive Order 13219, as amended by Executive Order 13304 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property of persons who threaten international stabilization efforts in the Western Balkans); and

(2) Executive Order 14140 (90 Fed. Reg. 2589; relating to taking additional steps with respect to the situation in the Western Balkans), as in effect on such date of enactment.

(d) TERMINATION OF SANCTIONS.—The President may terminate the application of a sanction authorized under Executive Order 14140 (90 Fed. Reg. 2589; relating to taking additional steps with respect to the situation in the Western Balkans) with respect to a person if the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that—

(1) the person is not engaging in the activity that was the basis for the sanctions or has taken significant verifiable steps toward stopping the activity; and

(2) the President has received reliable assurances that the person will not knowingly engage in an activity subject to sanctions referred to in subsection (c) in the future.

(e) WAIVER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may waive the application of sanctions under this section for renewable periods not to exceed 180 days if the President—

(A) determines that such a waiver is in the national security interests of the United States; and

(B) not less than 15 days before the granting of the waiver, submits to the appropriate congressional committees a notice of and justification for the waiver.

(2) FORM.—The waiver described in paragraph (1) may be transmitted in classified form.

(f) EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.—Sanctions under this subtitle shall not apply to—

(A) the conduct or facilitation of a transaction for the provision of agricultural commodities, food, medicine, medical devices, humanitarian assistance, or for humanitarian purposes; or

(B) transactions that are necessary for, or ordinarily incident to, the activities described in subparagraph (A).

(2) COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.—Sanctions under this subtitle shall not apply with respect to an alien if admitting or paroling such alien is necessary—

(A) to comply with United States obligations under—

(i) the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947;

(ii) the Convention on Consular Relations, done at Vienna April 24, 1963, and entered into force March 19, 1967; or

(iii) any other international agreement; or

(B) to carry out or assist law enforcement activity in the United States.

(3) EXCEPTION FOR INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.—Sanctions under this subtitle shall not apply to—

(A) any activity subject to the reporting requirements under title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.); or

(B) any authorized intelligence activities of the United States.

(4) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The requirement to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property under this subtitle shall not include the authority or a requirement to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(B) DEFINED TERM.—In this paragraph, the term ''good'' means any article, natural or manmade substance, material, supply or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment, and excluding technical data.

(g) RULEMAKING.—The President is authorized to promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section (which may include regulatory exceptions), including under section 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1704)).

(h) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

(1) Nothing in subsection (d) may be construed to modify the delisting procedures used by the Department of the Treasury with respect to sanctions authorized under Executive Order 13219, as amended by Executive Order 13304 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property of persons who threaten international stabilization efforts in the Western Balkans).

(2) Nothing in this section may be construed to limit the authorities of the President under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

(i) SUNSET.—This section shall cease to have force or effect beginning on the date that is 8 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 1276. DEMOCRATIC AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PROSPERITY INITIATIVES.

(a) ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE.—The Secretary of State, through ongoing and new programs, shall develop an initiative that—

(1) seeks to expand technical assistance in each Western Balkans country, taking into account local conditions and contingent on the agreement of the host country government to develop new national anti-corruption strategies;

(2) seeks to share best practices with, and provide training to, including through the use of embedded advisors, civilian law enforcement agencies and judicial institutions, and other relevant administrative bodies, of the Western Balkans countries, to improve the efficiency, transparency, and accountability of such agencies and institutions;

(3) strengthens existing national anti-corruption strategies—

(A) to combat political corruption, particularly in the judiciary, independent election oversight bodies, and public procurement processes; and

(B) to strengthen regulatory and legislative oversight of critical governance areas, such as freedom of information and public procurement, including by strengthening cyber defenses and ICT infrastructure networks;

(4) includes the Western Balkans countries in the European Democratic Resilience Initiative of the Department of State, or any equivalent successor initiative, and considers the Western Balkans as a recipient of anti-corruption funding for such initiative; and

(5) seeks to promote the important role of an independent media in countering corruption through engagements with governments of Western Balkan countries and providing training opportunities for journalists on investigative reporting.

(b) PRIORITIZING CYBER RESILIENCE, REGIONAL TRADE, AND ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS.—

(1) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(A) promoting stronger economic, civic, and political relationships among Western Balkans countries will enable countries to better utilize existing resources and maximize their economic security and democratic resilience by reinforcing cyber defenses and increasing trade in goods and services among other countries in the region; and

(B) United States private investments in and assistance toward creating a more integrated region ensures political stability and security for the region.

(2) 5-YEAR strategy for economic development and democratic resilience in western balkans.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, in coordination with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a regional economic development and democratic resilience strategy for the Western Balkans that complements the efforts of the European Union, European nations, and other multilateral financing institutions—

(A) to consider the full set of tools and resources available from the relevant agencies;

(B) to include efforts to ensure coordination with multilateral and bilateral partners, such as the European Union, the World Bank, and other relevant assistance frameworks;

(C) to include an initial public assessment of—

(i) economic opportunities for which United States businesses, or those of other

like-minded partner countries, would be competitive;

(ii) legal, economic, governance, infrastructural, or other barriers limiting United States trade and investment in the Western Balkans;

(iii) the effectiveness of all existing regional cooperation initiatives, such as the Open Balkan initiative and the Western Balkans Common Regional Market; and

(iv) ways to increase United States trade and investment within the Western Balkans;

(D) to develop human and institutional capacity and infrastructure across multiple sectors of economies, including clean energy, energy efficiency, agriculture, small and medium-sized enterprise development, health, and cyber-security;

(E) to assist with the development and implementation of regional and international trade agreements;

(F) to support small- and medium-sized businesses, including women-owned enterprises;

(G) to promote government and civil society policies and programs that combat corruption and encourage transparency (including by supporting independent media by promoting the safety and security of journalists), free and fair competition, sound governance, judicial reform, environmental stewardship, and business environments conducive to sustainable and inclusive economic growth; and

(H) to include a public diplomacy strategy that describes the actions that will be taken by relevant agencies to increase support for the United States relationship by citizens of Western Balkans countries.

(3) BRIEFING.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall provide a briefing to the appropriate congressional committees that describes the progress made towards developing the strategy required under paragraph (2).

(c) REGIONAL TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, in coordination with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, may coordinate a regional trade and development initiative for the region comprised of each Western Balkans country and any European Union member country that shares a border with a Western Balkans country (referred to in this subsection as the ''Western Balkans region'') in accordance with this subsection.

(2) INITIATIVE ELEMENTS.—The initiative authorized under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) promote private sector growth and competitiveness and increase the capacity of businesses, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, in the Western Balkans region;

(B) aim to increase intraregional exports to countries in the Balkans and European Union member states;

(C) aim to increase United States exports to, and investments in, countries in the Balkans;

(D) support startup companies, including companies led by youth or women, in the Western Balkans region by—

(i) providing training in business skills and leadership; and

(ii) providing opportunities to connect to sources of capital;

(E) encourage and promote inward and outward trade and investment through engagement with the Western Balkans diaspora communities in the United States and abroad;

(F) provide assistance to the governments and civil society organizations of Western Balkans countries to develop—

(i) regulations to ensure fair and effective investment; and

(ii) screening tools to identify and deter malign investments and other coercive economic practices;

(G) identify areas where application of additional resources could expand successful programs to 1 or more countries in the Western Balkans region by building on the existing experience and program architecture;

(H) compare existing single-country sector analyses to determine areas of focus that would benefit from a regional approach with respect to the Western Balkans region; and

(I) promote intraregional trade throughout the Western Balkans region through—

(i) programming, including grants, cooperative agreements, and other forms of assistance;

(ii) expanding awareness of the availability of loans and other financial instruments from the United States Government; and

(iii) coordinating access to existing trade instruments available through allies and partners in the Western Balkans region, including the European Union and international financial institutions.

(3) SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS.—The initiative authorized under paragraph (1) should facilitate and prioritize support for regional infrastructure projects, including—

(A) transportation projects that build roads, bridges, railways and other physical infrastructure to facilitate travel of goods and people throughout the Western Balkans region;

(B) technical support and investments needed to meet United States and European Union standards for air travel, including screening and information sharing;

(C) the development of telecommunications networks with trusted providers;

(D) infrastructure projects that connect Western Balkans countries to each other and to countries with which they share a border;

(E) information exchange on effective tender procedures and transparent procurement processes;

(F) investment transparency programs that will help countries in the Western Balkans analyze gaps and establish institutional and regulatory reforms necessary—

(i) to create an enabling environment for trade and investment; and

(ii) to strengthen protections against suspect investments through public procurement and privatization and through foreign direct investments;

(G) sharing best practices learned from the United States and other international partners to ensure that institutional and regulatory mechanisms for addressing these issues are fair, nonarbitrary, effective, and free from corruption;

(H) projects that support regional energy security and reduce dependence on Russian energy;

(I) technical assistance and generating private investment in projects that promote connectivity and energy-sharing in the Western Balkans region;

(J) technical assistance to support regional collaboration on environmental protection that includes governmental, political, civic, and business stakeholders; and

(K) technical assistance to develop financing options and help create linkages with potential financing institutions and investors.

(4) REQUIREMENTS.—All programming under the initiative authorized under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) be open to the participation of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia;

(B) be consistent with European Union accession requirements;

(C) be focused on retaining talent within the Western Balkans;

(D) promote government policies in Western Balkans countries that encourage free and fair competition, sound governance, environmental protection, and business environments that are conducive to sustainable and inclusive economic growth; and

(E) include a public diplomacy strategy to inform local and regional audiences in the Western Balkans region about the initiative, including specific programs and projects.

(d) UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION.—

(1) APPOINTMENTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, subject to the availability of appropriations, the Chief Executive Officer of the United States International Development Finance Corporation, in collaboration with the Secretary of State, should consider including a regional office with responsibilities for the Western Balkans within the Corporation's plans to open new regional offices.

(2) JOINT REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chief Executive Officer of the United States International Development Finance Corporation, the Secretary of State, and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall submit a joint report to the appropriate congressional committees that shall include—

(A) an assessment of the benefits of providing sovereign loan guarantees to countries in the Western Balkans to support infrastructure and energy diversification projects;

(B) an outline of additional resources, such as tools, funding, and personnel, which may be required to offer sovereign loan guarantees in the Western Balkans; and

(C) an assessment of how the United States International Development Finance Corporation, in coordination with the United States Trade and Development Agency and the Export-Import Bank of the United States, can deploy its insurance products in support of bonds or other instruments issued to raise capital through United States financial markets in the Western Balkans.

SEC. 1277. PROMOTING CROSS-CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL ENGAGEMENT.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) promoting partnerships between United States universities and universities in the Western Balkans, particularly universities in traditionally under-served communities, advances United States foreign policy goals and requires a whole-of-government approach, including the utilization of public-private partnerships;

(2) such university partnerships—

(A) would provide opportunities for exchanging academic ideas, technical expertise, research, and cultural understanding for the benefit of the United States; and

(B) may provide additional beneficial opportunities for cooperation in the private sector; and

(3) the seven countries in the Western Balkans meet the requirements under section 105(c)(4) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151c(c)(4)).

(b) UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS.—The President, working through the Secretary of State, is authorized to provide assistance, consistent with section 105 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151c), to promote the establishment of partnerships between United States universities and universities in the Western Balkans, including—

(1) supporting research and analysis on cyber resilience;

(2) working with partner governments to reform policies, improve curricula, strengthen data systems, train teachers and students, including English language teaching, and to provide quality, inclusive learning materials;

(3) encouraging knowledge exchanges to help provide individuals, particularly at-risk youth, women, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable, marginalized, or underserved communities, with relevant education, training, and skills for meaningful employment;

(4) promoting teaching and research exchanges between institutions of higher education in the Western Balkans and in the United States; and

(5) encouraging alliances and exchanges with like-minded institutions of education within the Western Balkans and the larger European continent.

SEC. 1278. YOUNG BALKAN LEADERS INITIATIVE.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that regular people-to-people exchange programs that bring religious leaders, journalists, civil society members, politicians, and other individuals from the Western Balkans to the United States will strengthen existing relationships and advance United States interests and shared values in the Western Balkans region.

(b) BOLD LEADERSHIP PROGRAM FOR YOUNG BALKANS LEADERS.—

(1) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—The Department of State, through BOLD, a leadership program for young leaders in certain Western Balkans countries, plays an important role to develop young leaders in improving civic engagement and economic development in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, and Montenegro.

(2) EXPANSION.—BOLD should be expanded, subject to the availability of appropriations, to the entire Western Balkans region.

(c) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary of State should further develop and implement BOLD, which shall hereafter be known as the ''Young Balkan Leaders Initiative'', to promote educational and professional development for young adult leaders and professionals in the Western Balkans who have demonstrated a passion to contribute to the continued development of the Western Balkans region.

(d) CONDUCT OF INITIATIVE.—The goals of the Young Balkan Leaders Initiative shall be—

(1) to further build the capacity of young Balkan leaders in the Western Balkans in the areas of business and information technology, cyber security and digitization, agriculture, civic engagement, and public administration;

(2) to support young Balkan leaders by offering professional development, training, and networking opportunities, particularly in the areas of leadership, innovation, civic engagement, elections, human rights, entrepreneurship, good governance, public administration, and journalism;

(3) to support young political, parliamentary, and civic Balkan leaders in collaboration on regional initiatives related to good governance, environmental protection, government ethics, and minority inclusion;

(4) to provide increased economic and technical assistance to young Balkan leaders to promote economic growth and strengthen ties between businesses, investors, and entrepreneurs in the United States and in Western Balkans countries;

(5) to tailor such assistance and exchanges to advance the particular objectives of each United States mission in the Western Balkans within the framework outlined in this subsection; and

(6) to secure funding for such assistance and exchanges from existing funds available to each United States Mission in the Western Balkans.

(e) FELLOWSHIPS.—Under the Young Balkan Leaders Initiative, the Secretary of State shall award fellowships to young leaders from the Western Balkans who—

(1) are between 18 and 35 years of age;

(2) have demonstrated strong capabilities in entrepreneurship, innovation, public service, and leadership;

(3) have had a positive impact in their communities, organizations, or institutions, including by promoting cross-regional and multiethnic cooperation; and

(4) represent a cross-section of geographic, gender, political, and cultural diversity.

(f) PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP CENTER.—Under the Young Balkan Leaders Initiative, the Secretary of State shall take advantage of existing and future public diplomacy facilities (commonly known as ''American Spaces'') to hire staff and develop programming for the establishment of a flagship public engagement and leadership center in the Western Balkans that seeks—

(1) to counter disinformation and malign influence;

(2) to promote cross-cultural engagement;

(3) to provide training for young leaders from Western Balkans countries described in subsection (e);

(4) to harmonize the efforts of existing venues throughout Western Balkans countries established by the Office of American Spaces; and

(5) to annually bring together participants from the Young Balkans Leaders Initiative to provide platforms for regional networking.

(g) BRIEFING ON CERTAIN EXCHANGE PROGRAMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall provide a briefing to the appropriate congressional committees that describes the status of exchange programs involving the Western Balkans region.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The briefing required under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) assess the factors constraining the number and frequency of participants from Western Balkans countries in the International Visitor Leadership Program of the Department of State;

(B) identify the resources that are necessary to address the factors described in subparagraph (A); and

(C) describe a strategy for connecting alumni and participants of professional development exchange programs of the Department of State in the Western Balkans with alumni and participants from other countries in Europe, to enhance inter-region and intra-region people-to-people ties.

SEC. 1279. SUPPORTING CYBERSECURITY AND CYBER RESILIENCE IN THE WESTERN BALKANS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) United States support for cybersecurity, cyber resilience, and secure ICT infrastructure in Western Balkans countries will strengthen the region's ability to defend itself from and respond to malicious cyber activity conducted by nonstate and foreign actors, including foreign governments, that seek to influence the region;

(2) insecure ICT networks that are vulnerable to manipulation can increase opportunities for—

(A) the compromise of cyber infrastructure, including data networks, electronic infrastructure, and software systems; and

(B) the use of online information operations by adversaries and malign actors to undermine United States allies and interests; and

(3) it is in the national security interest of the United States to support the cybersecurity and cyber resilience of Western Balkans countries.

(b) INTERAGENCY REPORT ON CYBERSECURITY AND THE DIGITAL INFORMATION ENVIRONMENT IN WESTERN BALKANS COUNTRIES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that contains—

(1) an overview of interagency efforts to strengthen cybersecurity and cyber resilience in Western Balkans countries;

(2) a review of the information environment in each Western Balkans country;

(3) a review of existing United States Government cyber and digital initiatives that—

(A) counter influence operations and safeguard elections and democratic processes in Western Balkans countries;

(B) strengthen ICT infrastructure, digital accessibility, and cybersecurity capacity in the Western Balkans;

(C) support democracy and internet freedom in Western Balkans countries; and

(D) build cyber capacity of governments who are allies or partners of the United States;

(4) an assessment of cyber threat information sharing between the United States and Western Balkans countries;

(5) an assessment of—

(A) options for the United States to better support cybersecurity and cyber resilience in Western Balkans countries through changes to current assistance authorities; and

(B) the advantages or limitations, such as funding or office space, of posting cyber professionals from other Federal departments and agencies to United States diplomatic posts in Western Balkans countries and providing relevant training to Foreign Service Officers; and

(6) any additional support needed from the United States for the cybersecurity and cyber resilience of the following NATO Allies: Albania, Montenegro, and North Macedonia.

SEC. 1280. RELATIONS BETWEEN KOSOVO AND SERBIA.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Agreement on the Path to Normalization of Relations, which was agreed to by Kosovo and Serbia on February 27, 2023, with the facilitation of the European Union, is a positive step forward in advancing normalization between the two countries;

(2) Serbia and Kosovo should seek to make immediate progress on the Implementation Annex to the agreement referred to in paragraph (1);

(3) once sufficient progress has been made on the Implementation Annex, the United States should consider advancing initiatives to strengthen bilateral relations with both countries, which could include—

(A) establishing bilateral strategic dialogues with Kosovo and Serbia; and

(B) advancing concrete initiatives to deepen trade and investment with both countries; and

(4) the United States should continue to support a comprehensive final agreement between Kosovo and Serbia based on mutual recognition.

(b) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States Government that—

(1) it shall not pursue any policy that advocates for land swaps, partition, or other forms of redrawing borders along ethnic lines in the Western Balkans as a means to settle disputes between nation states in the region; and

(2) it should support pluralistic democracies in countries in the Western Balkans as a means to prevent a return to the ethnic strife that once characterized the region.

SEC. 1280A. REPORTS ON RUSSIAN AND CHINESE MALIGN INFLUENCE OPERATIONS AND CAMPAIGNS IN THE WESTERN BALKANS.

(a) REPORTS REQUIRED..—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every two years thereafter, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, the Director of National Intelligence, and the heads of other Federal departments or agencies, as appropriate, shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees regarding Russian and Chinese malign influence operations and campaigns carried out with respect to Balkan countries that seek—

(1) to undermine democratic institutions;

(2) to promote political instability; and

(3) to harm the interests of the United States and North Atlantic Treaty Organization member and partner states in the Western Balkans.

(b) ELEMENTS.—Each report submitted pursuant to subsection (a) shall include—

(1) an assessment of the objectives of the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China regarding malign influence operations and campaigns carried out with respect to Western Balkans countries—

(A) to undermine democratic institutions, including the planning and execution of democratic elections;

(B) to promote political instability; and

(C) to manipulate the information environment;

(2) the activities and roles of the Department of State and other relevant Federal agencies in countering Russian and Chinese malign influence operations and campaigns;

(3) an assessment of—

(A) each network, entity and individual, to the extent such information is available, of Russia, China, or any other country with which Russia or China may cooperate, that is supporting such Russian or Chinese malign influence operations or campaigns, including the provision of financial or operational support to activities in a Western Balkans country that may limit freedom of speech or create barriers of access to democratic processes, including exercising the right to vote in a free and fair election; and

(B) the role of each such entity in providing such support;

(4) the identification of the tactics, techniques, and procedures used in Russian or Chinese malign influence operations and campaigns in Western Balkans countries;

(5) an assessment of the effect of previous Russian or Chinese malign influence operations and campaigns that targeted alliances and partnerships of the United States Armed Forces in the Western Balkans, including the effectiveness of such operations and campaigns in achieving the objectives of Russia and China, respectively;

(6) the identification of each Western Balkans country with respect to which Russia or China has conducted or attempted to conduct a malign influence operation or campaign;

(7) an assessment of the capacity and efforts of NATO and of each individual Western Balkans country to counter Russian or Chinese malign influence operations and campaigns carried out with respect to Western Balkans countries;

(8) the efforts by the United States to combat such malign influence operations in the Western Balkans, including through the Countering Russian Influence Fund and the Countering People's Republic of China Malign Influence Fund;

(9) an assessment of the tactics, techniques, and procedures that the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence and the Secretary of Defense, determines are likely to be used in future Russian or Chinese malign influence operations and campaigns carried out with respect to Western Balkans countries; and

(10) activities the Department of State and other relevant Federal agencies could carry out to increase the United States Government's capacity to counter Russian and Chinese malign influence operations and campaigns in Western Balkans countries.

(c) FORM.—Each report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

SA 3517. Mr. TILLIS 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. _____. UNITED STATES SENATE NATO OBSERVER GROUP.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the Senate a group of Senators to address and advise on matters relating to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, to be known as the ''Senate NATO Observer Group''.

(b) FUNCTIONS.—The Senate NATO Observer Group shall—

(1) serve as a forum for addressing matters relating to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization that fall within the jurisdictions of 2 or more committees of the Senate;

(2) advise the Senate on issues relating to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, including North Atlantic Treaty Organization enlargement; and

(3) with respect to any matter involving the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the United States Government, particularly during negotiations on North Atlantic Treaty Organization enlargement, engage in close interactions between and among the executive branch, the Senate, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, any other member country of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and any country that is a candidate for membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

(c) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS.—

(1) 119TH CONGRESS.—During the 119th Congress, the Senate NATO Observer Group shall exist in the manner established by the majority leader and the minority leader of the Senate in the Congressional Record at the beginning of first session of the 119th Congress.

(2) SUBSEQUENT CONGRESSES.—

(A) APPOINTMENT.—Beginning in the 120th Congress, not later than 60 days after the date on which of the first session of each Congress convenes, the majority leader and the minority leader of the Senate shall each appoint to the Senate NATO Observer Group not more than 7 Senators.

(B) CO-CHAIRS.—Of the members appointed under subparagraph (A), the majority leader and the minority leader of the Senate shall each appoint 1 co-chairperson of the Senate NATO Observer Group.

(d) FOREIGN TRAVEL.—Each co-chair of the Senate NATO Observer Group and 1 designated staff member may engage in foreign travel for official purposes if such travel is authorized by the other co-chair of the Senate NATO Observer Group.

(e) INTERPARLIAMENTARY SERVICES.—The Office of Interparliamentary Services of the Senate shall be designated to provide administrative support and protocol functions to the Senate NATO Observer Group, and for special delegations or travel authorized by the majority leader or the minority leader of the Senate.

(f) USE OF FOREIGN CURRENCIES.—Beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the co-chairs of the Senate NATO Observer Group are authorized to use funds in accordance with the provisions of law relating to foreign currencies, as codified in section 1754 of title 22, United States Code, for activities critical to carrying out the functions of the Senate NATO Observer Group.

(g) REPORT.—Not less frequently than annually, the Senate NATO Observer Group shall submit to the majority leader and minority leader of the Senate and the chairperson and ranking member of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report on the activities undertaken by the Senate NATO Observer Group during the preceding fiscal year, including with respect to travel, legislative efforts, and public diplomacy initiatives.

SA 3518. Mr. TILLIS (for himself and Mr. JUSTICE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. _____. SENSE OF CONGRESS WITH RESPECT TO NATO DEFENSE SPENDING.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPLICABLE DEFENSE INVESTMENT BENCHMARKS.—The term ''applicable defense investment benchmarks'' means—

(A) the defense spending commitment of 2 percent of GDP for fiscal years prior to January 1, 2030;

(B) the defense spending commitment of 3.5 percent of GDP for fiscal years 2030 through 2034;

(C) the defense spending commitment of 5 percent of GDP for fiscal year 2035 and beyond; and

(D) any alternative defense investment benchmarks adopted unanimously by the North Atlantic Council that are consistent with NATO defense investment commitments.

(2) NATO DEFENSE INVESTMENT COMMITMENTS.—The term ''NATO defense investment commitments'' means the commitments agreed to by the Head of State and Government of each member country of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (referred to in this section as ''NATO'') in the Hague Summit Declaration of June 25, 2025, including the target of investing 5 percent of gross domestic product (referred to in this section as ''GDP'') to defense spending by 2035 and related implementation and accountability measures.

(b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) In 2014, the Heads of State and Government of each member country of NATO renewed their earlier commitment to invest 2 percent of their national GDP to defense spending to help ensure the continued military readiness of NATO.

(2) NATO considers the 2 percent commitment as a floor and not a ceiling for what member countries of NATO have committed to invest in their national defense efforts.

(3) The current global security environment has caused the current leadership of NATO and the United States to consider raising this commitment even higher.

(4) In 2024, 23 of the 31 member countries spent at least 2 percent of their GDP on national defense.

(5) Since the year 2000, NATO has lost almost $2,000,000,000,000 in mutual defense spending capability from member countries not meeting the commitment of 2 percent of their GDP towards defense.

(6) On June 25, 2025, at the NATO Summit in The Hague, the Head of State and Government of each member country of NATO adopted an ambitious new defense investment schedule and commitment to increase total national defense and security-related spending to 5 percent of GDP by 2035.

(7) The NATO defense investment commitments adopted at the NATO Summit in The Hague in June 2025 comprise 2 essential categories of investment, which are the following:

(A) At least 3.5 percent of GDP annually by 2035 will be allocated, based on the agreed NATO definition, to resource core defense requirements and meet NATO capability targets; and

(B) One and one-half percent of GDP annually may be allocated to protect critical infrastructure, defend cyber and digital networks, ensure civil preparedness and resilience, unleash innovation, and strengthen defense industrial capacity.

(8) The NATO defense investment commitments adopted at the NATO Summit in The Hague in June 2025 require member countries—

(A) to submit annual national plans showing a credible, incremental path to meet the spending commitments;

(B) to conduct, in 2029, a review to assess the trajectory and balance of spending in light of evolving strategic conditions and updated NATO capability targets; and

(C) to reaffirm sovereign commitments to the defense of Ukraine, including direct contribution to the armed forces and industrial base of Ukraine, which may be counted toward the defense spending total of each member country.

(c) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) a citizen of a member country of NATO that has not met the applicable defense investment benchmarks should not be eligible to serve in senior leadership positions of NATO, including—

(A) the Secretary General of NATO;

(B) the Deputy Secretary General of NATO;

(C) any Assistant Secretaries General of NATO;

(D) the NATO Spokesperson; and

(E) any uniformed command billet at or above the OF-7 level (2-star equivalent); and

(2) any member country of NATO that does not met the applicable defense investment benchmarks in the preceding fiscal year should not be permitted to host any high-profile NATO events, including—

(A) NATO Summits;

(B) meetings of NATO Foreign or Defense Ministers;

(C) NATO Parliamentary Assembly sessions;

(D) NATO Youth Summits; and

(E) other formal gatherings of ministerial or strategic significance that confer prestige or economic benefit.

(3) any member country of NATO that fails to demonstrate measurable annual progress toward NATO defense investment commitments should be subject to the same restrictions described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

(d) DIPLOMATIC ENGAGEMENT.—The President shall direct the United States Permanent Representative to NATO to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States at NATO—

(1) to advocate for full integration of the NATO defense investment commitments into the personnel and venue selection processes of NATO;

(2) to withhold support of the United States for any nomination or appointment to a senior leadership position of NATO submitted by a country that is not in compliance with applicable defense investment benchmarks; and

(3) to oppose proposals to host NATO Summits or other ministerial events in countries that have failed to meet the applicable defense investment benchmarks in the preceding fiscal year.

SA 3519. Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. PETERS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 881. AGENCY USE OF IT PRODUCTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AUTHORIZED RESELLER.—The term ''authorized reseller'' means a reseller, after market manufacturer, supplier, or distributor of a covered product with a direct or prime contractual arrangement with, or the express written authority of, the original equipment manufacturer of the covered product to manufacture, buy, stock, repackage, sell, resell, repair, service, otherwise support, or distribute the covered product.

(2) COVERED PRODUCT.—The term ''covered product''—

(A) means an information and communications technology end-use hardware product or component, including software and firmware that comprise the end-use hardware product or component; and

(B) does not include—

(i) other software; or

(ii) an end-use hardware product—

(I) in which there is embedded information and communications technology; and

(II) the principal function of which is not the creation, manipulation, storage, display, receipt, or transmission of electronic data and information.

(3) END-USE PRODUCT.—The term ''end-use product'' means a product ready for use by the maintainer, integrator, or end user of the product.

(4) INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY.—The term ''information and communications technology''—

(A) has the meaning given the term in section 4713 of title 41, United States Code; and

(B) includes information and communications technologies covered by definitions contained in the Federal Acquisition Regulation, including definitions added after the date of the enactment of this Act by the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council pursuant to notice and comment.

(5) ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURER.—The term ''original equipment manufacturer'' means a company that manufactures a covered product that the company—

(A) designed from self-sourced or purchased components; and

(B) sells under the name of the company.

(b) PROHIBITION ON PROCUREMENT AND USE.—Subject to subsection (c) and notwithstanding sections 1905 through 1907 of title 41, United States Code, the Secretary of Defense may not procure or obtain, renew a contract to procure or obtain, or use a covered product that is procured from an entity other than—

(1) an original equipment manufacturer; or

(2) an authorized reseller.

(c) WAIVER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Upon notice to congressional defense committees, the Secretary of Defense may waive the prohibition under subsection (b) with respect to a covered product if the Secretary determines that procuring, obtaining, or using the covered product is necessary—

(A) for the purpose of scientifically valid research (as defined in section 102 the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C. 9501)); or

(B) to avoid jeopardizing the performance of mission critical functions.

(2) NOTICE.—The notice described in paragraph (1)—

(A) shall—

(i) specify, with respect to the waiver under paragraph (1)—

(I) the justification for the waiver;

(II) any security mitigations that have been implemented; and

(III) with respect to a waiver that necessitates a security mitigation, the plan of action and milestones to avoid future waivers for subsequent similar purchases; and

(ii) provide a declaration that covered product is not being purchased from an entity that is under the influence or control of a foreign adversary; and

(iii) be submitted in an unclassified form; and

(B) may include a classified annex.

(3) DURATION.—With respect to a waiver for the purpose of research, as described in paragraph (1)(A), the waiver shall be effective for the duration of the research identified in the waiver.

(d) VENDOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of Defense shall establish procurement guidance to provide assistance to entities that are not eligible for procurements of covered products due to the prohibition under subsection (b) on the process of becoming an authorized reseller for covered products.

(e) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter until the date that is 6 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives a report that provides—

(A) the number and types of covered products for which a waiver under subsection (c)(1) was granted during the 1-year period preceding the date of the submission of the report;

(B) the legal authority under which each waiver described in subparagraph (A) was granted, such as whether the waiver was granted pursuant to subparagraph (A) or (B) of subsection (c)(1); and

(C) any actions taken by the Secretary to reduce the number of waivers issued by the Department of Defense under subsection (c)(1) with the goal of achieving full compliance with the prohibition under subsection (b).

(2) CLASSIFICATION OF REPORT.—Each report submitted under this subsection—

(A) shall be submitted in unclassified form; and

(B) may include a classified annex that contains the information described in paragraph (1)(B).

(f) NO NEW FUNDS.—No additional amounts are authorized to be appropriated for the purpose of carrying out this section.

(g) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect on the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 3520. Mr. DAINES 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 II, insert the following:

SEC. 2___. IMPLEMENTATION OF PROPOSAL OF TEST AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CENTER FOR DESERT MOUNTAIN CORRIDOR.

The Secretary of Defense shall proceed with implementation of the proposal of the Test and Resource Management Center for the Desert Mountain Corridor.

SA 3521. Mr. KELLY (for himself and Mr. GALLEGO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title XV, add the following:

SEC. 1508. ENHANCEMENT OF SPACE DOMAIN AWARENESS THROUGH GROUND-BASED SENSOR DEVELOPMENT.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the expansion of space domain awareness infrastructure, including advanced ground-based optical sensing capabilities, is essential to the operational testing and training architecture of the Space Force; and

(2) collaboration with academic institutions is critical to advancing electro-optical sensor research and development in support of national security objectives.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on efforts by the Space Force to expand space domain awareness infrastructure.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include, at a minimum—

(A) a description of current and planned infrastructure, equipment, and capability expansions;

(B) a summary of current and planned engagement with institutions of higher education that possess demonstrated expertise in space domain awareness, including electro-optical sensor development, tasking algorithms, and automation frameworks; and

(C) an assessment of the ability to integrate research and development from academic partners into operational testing and training environments in support of space domain awareness objectives.

SA 3522. Mr. KELLY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title III, add the following:

SEC. 350. CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN AIRCRAFT FROM THE NAVY TO THE NATIONAL NAVAL AVIATION MUSEUM IN PENSACOLA, FLORIDA.

(a) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of the Navy (in this section referred to as the ''Secretary'') may transfer (by sale, gift, or otherwise, including by loan) to the National Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola, Florida (in this section referred to as the ''Museum''), all right, title, and interest of the United States in one or more F–14 Tomcat aircraft currently in the custody of the Department of the Navy or the Department of Defense, on such terms and conditions as the Secretary considers appropriate, which may include requirements for demilitarization and indemnification and may restrict further disposition or use.

(b) AGREEMENTS FOR RESTORATION AND OPERATION.—The Secretary may authorize the Museum to enter into agreements with qualified nonprofit organizations for the purpose of restoring and operating aircraft transferred under subsection (a) for public display, airshows, and commemorative events to preserve naval aviation heritage.

(c) CONVEYANCE AT NO COST TO THE UNITED STATES.—The conveyance of an aircraft under subsection (a) shall be made at no cost to the United States. Any costs associated with such conveyance, costs of determining compliance with terms of the conveyance, and costs of operation and maintenance of the aircraft conveyed shall be borne by the Museum.

SA 3523. Mr. KAINE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1265. SUPPORT FOR AUKUS PARTNERSHIP.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) In September, 2021, the leaders of Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States announced a trilateral security partnership (commonly known as ''AUKUS'') to strengthen the ability of each country to support common security and defense interests and build upon longstanding and ongoing bilateral ties.

(2) For more than a century, the countries of AUKUS have stood shoulder-to-shoulder, along with other allies and partners, to help sustain peace, stability, and prosperity around the world, including in the Indo-Pacific region, and believed in a world that protects freedom and respects human rights, the rule of law, the independence of sovereign states, and the rules-based international order.

(3) The United States has brought into force a mutual defense agreement with Australia, which was modeled on the 1958 bilateral mutual defense agreement with the United Kingdom, for the sole purpose of facilitating the transfer of naval nuclear propulsion technology to Australia.

(4) Congress, on a strong bipartisan basis, endorsed the AUKUS partnership by authorizing the transfer of Virginia-class submarines from the United States under section 1352 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (22 U.S.C. 10431).

(5) As part of the AUKUS partnership, Australia has already contributed $550,000,000 out of a commitment of $3,000,000,000 for the expansion of the submarine industrial base of the United States.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the AUKUS partnership will promote deeper information and technology sharing, foster deeper integration of security and defense-related science and technology, the industrial base, and the supply chains of each country, and significantly deepen cooperation on a range of security and defense capabilities;

(2) the AUKUS partnership is integral to the national security of the United States, will increase the capabilities of the United States and allies in the undersea domain of the Indo-Pacific region, and will lead to the development of cutting-edge military capabilities while the transfer of conventionally armed, nuclear-powered submarines to Australia—

(A) will position the United States and its allies to better deter aggression by the People's Republic of China in the Indo-Pacific region; and

(B) will be safely implemented in accordance with the highest non-proliferation standards in alignment with—

(i) safeguards established by the International Atomic Energy Agency; and

(ii) the Additional Protocol to the Agreement between Australia and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the application of safeguards in connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, done at Vienna September 23, 1997;

(3) working with the United Kingdom and Australia to develop and provide joint advanced military capabilities to promote security and stability in the Indo-Pacific region will have tangible impacts on the effectiveness of the United States military worldwide; and

(4) it is vital to the national security of the United States to expand the capabilities of the submarine industrial base of the United States, and AUKUS is a significant component of the expansion.

(c) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to continue to fully support the AUKUS partnership and the commitment to transfer Virginia-class nuclear-powered submarines to Australia at the earliest practicable opportunity;

(2) to fully support the provision of sufficient and appropriate funds to enhance the domestic submarine industrial base and increase the production of Virginia-class nuclear-powered submarines to meet the goals and objectives of the AUKUS partnership;

(3) for the Department of Defense and the Department of State to continue to engage and consult with the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate before making any decision to change the AUKUS partnership;

(4) for the President to reaffirm the AUKUS partnership in all aspects; and

(5) for the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State to engage in immediate and continuing consultations with the Government of Australia and the Government of the United Kingdom regarding review of any part of the AUKUS partnership by the United States.

SA 3524. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. MAINTENANCE OF LOCATOR SYSTEM FOR ALIENS HELD AT INSTALLATIONS OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) LOCATOR SYSTEM.—With respect to any installation of the Department of Defense at which aliens are held on behalf of the Department of Homeland Security at any location, the Secretary of Defense shall maintain a record locator system, with updates every 24 hours, listing—

(1) the location where each alien is being held;

(2) the date on which the alien was taken into custody; and

(3) the name, age, and gender of the alien.

(b) ALIEN DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''alien'' has the meaning given that term in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

SA 3525. Ms. WARREN 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. ___. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR TRANSPORT OF INDIVIDUALS TO UNITED STATES NAVAL STATION, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA, FOR DETENTION, IMPRISONMENT, OR REMOVAL PURPOSES.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no amounts authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available for the Department of Defense may be used to transfer, or to support the transfer of, any individual from the United States to United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, for the purpose of detention, imprisonment, or removal from the United States.

SA 3526. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. SUBMISSION AND PUBLICATION OF STANDARDS FOR DETENTION AND RULES FOR USE OF FORCE APPLICABLE TO INSTALLATIONS OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE WHERE ALIENS ARE HELD.

(a) SUBMISSION AND PUBLICATION OF STANDARDS.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives any standards for detention and rules for the use of force applicable to installations of the Department of Defense where aliens are held and publish on a publicly available website any unclassified information relating to such standards and rules.

(b) ALIEN DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''alien'' has the meaning given that term in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

SA 3527. Ms. WARREN 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 E of title III, add the following:

SEC. 350. LIMITATION ON USE OF INSTALLATIONS OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO HOLD ALIENS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of a military department may not undertake an operation under which an installation of the Department of Defense under the jurisdiction of the Secretary is made available for holding aliens, regardless of the authority under which the aliens are to be held, unless the Secretary, not later than seven days after commencing the operation—

(1) certifies to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives that the operation does not undermine the budget, readiness, or morale of the Department of Defense;

(2) provides a detailed explanation supporting the certification under paragraph (1), including an explanation of why the installation is involved in the operation; and

(3) makes the certification under paragraph (1) and the explanation under paragraph (2) available to the public.

(b) REQUIREMENTS FOR HOLDING ALIENS.—For any installation of the Department of Defense at which aliens are held at any location, the Secretary of Defense shall—

(1) maintain a record locator system, with updates every 24 hours, listing the location where each alien is being held, the date on which the alien was taken into custody, and the age and gender of the alien;

(2) ensure detention standards applicable to facilities of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement are upheld at the installation, regardless of whether the installation is operated by a contractor, including by having the same or greater access to visitation and phone calls by legal representatives, legal assistants, and family;

(3) arrange inspections, not less frequently than monthly, conducted by the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Defense or another independent watchdog under which the Inspector General, or other independent watchdog, may physically access any portion of the installation where aliens are held, interview aliens, and access official records regarding the aliens; and

(4) train all personnel of the Department of Defense stationed at the installation on—

(A) the Standing Rules for the Use of Force;

(B) restrictions on activities of such personnel related to engagement in civilian law enforcement activities; and

(C) any other restrictions on interactions with aliens held at the installation.

(c) RECOURSE.—Any individual or State harmed by a violation of this section may bring an action in an appropriate district court of the United States to obtain appropriate injunctive relief.

(d) ALIEN DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''alien'' has the meaning given that term in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

SA 3528. Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) 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. PILOT PROGRAM ON DOULA SUPPORT FOR VETERANS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) There are approximately 2,100,000 women within the veteran population in the United States, the fastest growing demographic group of veterans.

(2) By 2020, the proportion of all women veterans using health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs grew to 28 percent from 17 percent in 2010.

(3) During the period of 2010 through 2020, the number of women veterans using health care from the Department nearly doubled, from 316,961 to 556,135.

(4) In 2025, there are more than 600,000 women receiving health care from the Department.

(5) Although prenatal care and delivery is not provided in facilities of the Department, pregnant women seeking care from the Department for other conditions may also need emergency care and require coordination of services through the Veterans Community Care Program under section 1703 of title 38, United States Code.

(6) The number of women veteran patients with obstetric deliveries paid for by the Department increased to more than 5,500 in fiscal year 2019, triple the number of such patients in fiscal year 2009, and 22 times the number from fiscal year 1999.

(7) Notably, a quarter of the deliveries specified in paragraph (5) from fiscal year 2019 were among veterans of advanced maternal age (35 years old or older) and a quarter were among Black or African American veterans, both groups known to experience higher risk of severe maternal morbidity.

(8) A study in 2010 found that veterans returning from Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom who experienced pregnancy were twice as likely to have a diagnosis of depression, anxiety, posttraumatic stress disorder, bipolar disorder, or schizophrenia as those who had not experienced a pregnancy.

(9) The number of women veterans of reproductive age seeking care from the Department continues to grow (more than 228,000 as of fiscal year 2020).

(b) PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act,

the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish a pilot program to furnish doula services to covered veterans through eligible entities by expanding the Whole Health model of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or successor model, to measure the impact that doula support services have on birth and mental health outcomes of pregnant veterans (in this section referred to as the ''pilot program'').

(2) CONSIDERATION.—In carrying out the pilot program, the Secretary shall consider all types of doulas, including traditional and community-based doulas.

(3) CONSULTATION.—In designing and implementing the pilot program, the Secretary shall consult with stakeholders, including—

(A) organizations representing veterans, including veterans that are disproportionately impacted by poor maternal health outcomes;

(B) community-based health care professionals, including doulas, and other stakeholders; and

(C) experts in promoting health equity and combating racial bias in health care settings.

(4) GOALS.—The goals of the pilot program are the following:

(A) To improve—

(i) maternal, mental health, and infant care outcomes;

(ii) integration of doula support services into the Whole Health model of the Department, or successor model; and

(iii) the experience of women receiving maternity care from the Department, including by increasing the ability of a woman to develop and follow her own birthing plan.

(B) To reengage veterans with the Department after giving birth.

(c) LOCATIONS.—The Secretary shall carry out the pilot program in—

(1) the three Veterans Integrated Service Networks of the Department that have the highest percentage of female veterans enrolled in the patient enrollment system of the Department established and operated under section 1705(a) of title 38, United States Code, compared to the total number of enrolled veterans in such Network;

(2) the three Veterans Integrated Service Networks that have the lowest percentage of female veterans enrolled in the patient enrollment system compared to the total number of enrolled veterans in such Network; and

(3) at least one Veterans Integrated Services Network—

(A) located in or serving a Frontier State (as defined in section 1886(d)(3)(E)(iii)(II) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(3)(E)(iii)(II))) where more than ⅓ of the population lives in frontier land; and

(B) serving populations experiencing higher average risk and prevalence for maternal mental health disorders, including American Indian or Alaska Native veterans.

(d) OPEN PARTICIPATION.—The Secretary shall allow any eligible entity or covered veteran interested in participating in the pilot program to participate in the pilot program.

(e) SERVICES PROVIDED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Under the pilot program, a covered veteran shall receive not more than 10 sessions of care from a doula under the Whole Health model of the Department, or successor model, under which a doula works as an advocate for the veteran alongside the medical team for the veteran.

(2) SESSIONS.—Sessions covered under paragraph (1) shall be as follows:

(A) Three or four sessions before labor and delivery.

(B) One session during labor and delivery.

(C) Three or four sessions after postpartum, which may be conducted via the mobile application for VA Video Connect.

(f) ADMINISTRATION OF PILOT PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Office of Women's Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or successor office (in this section referred to as the ''Office''), shall—

(A) coordinate services and activities under the pilot program;

(B) oversee the administration of the pilot program; and

(C) conduct onsite assessments of medical facilities of the Department that are participating in the pilot program.

(2) GUIDELINES FOR VETERAN-SPECIFIC CARE.—The Office shall establish guidelines under the pilot program for training doulas on military sexual trauma and post traumatic stress disorder.

(3) AMOUNTS FOR CARE.—The Office may recommend to the Secretary appropriate payment amounts for care and services provided under the pilot program, which shall not exceed $3,500 per doula per veteran.

(g) DOULA SERVICE COORDINATOR.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Office, shall establish a Doula Service Coordinator within the functions of the Maternity Care Coordinator at each medical facility of the Department that is participating in the pilot program.

(2) DUTIES.—A Doula Service Coordinator established under paragraph (1) at a medical facility shall be responsible for—

(A) working with eligible entities, doulas, and covered veterans participating in the pilot program; and

(B) managing payment between eligible entities and the Department under the pilot program.

(3) TRACKING OF INFORMATION.—A doula providing services under the pilot program shall report to the applicable Doula Service Coordinator after each session conducted under the pilot program.

(4) COORDINATION WITH WOMEN'S PROGRAM MANAGER.—A Doula Service Coordinator for a medical facility of the Department shall coordinate with the women's program manager for that facility in carrying out the duties of the Doula Service Coordinator under the pilot program.

(h) TERM OF PILOT PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall conduct the pilot program for a period of five years.

(i) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall establish a process to provide technical assistance to eligible entities and doulas participating in the pilot program.

(j) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for each year in which the pilot program is carried out, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the pilot program.

(2) FINAL REPORT.—As part of the final report submitted under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall include recommendations on whether the model studied in the pilot program should be continued or more widely adopted by the Department.

(k) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary, for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2031, such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

(l) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED VETERAN.—The term ''covered veteran'' means a pregnant veteran or a formerly pregnant veteran (with respect to sessions post-partum) who is enrolled in the patient enrollment system of the Department of Veterans Affairs established and operated under section 1705(a) of title 38, United States Code.

(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ''eligible entity'' means an entity that provides medically accurate, comprehensive maternity services to covered veterans under the laws administered by the Secretary, including under the Veterans Community Care Program under section 1703 of title 38, United States Code.

(3) VA VIDEO CONNECT.—The term ''VA Video Connect'' means the program of the Department of Veterans Affairs to connect veterans with their health care team from anywhere, using encryption to ensure a secure and private session.

SA 3529. Mr. BOOKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 724. MODIFICATION OF ANNUAL REPORT ON SUICIDE AMONG MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

Section 741(a)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116–92; 133 Stat. 1467), as amended by section 736(2)(B) of the Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 (Public Law 118–159), is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (I) through (M) as subparagraphs (K) through (O), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (H) the following new subparagraphs:

''(I) An of analysis of Defense Organizational Climate Surveys (DEOCSs) and Defense Organizational Climate Pulses (DOCPs) for reporting organizations with suicides identified under subparagraph (A), to identify the percentage of organizations with reported suicidal events that also had one or more unfavorable command climate factor ratings.

''(J) A comparison of the percentage of unfavorable command climate factor ratings in organizations described in subparagraph (I) to the military departments at large.''.

SA 3530. Mr. BOOKER 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. FAIRNESS IN ISSUANCE OF TACTICAL EQUIPMENT TO DIPLOMATIC SECURITY SERVICE PERSONNEL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In any instance when the Diplomatic Security Service of the Department of State issues tactical gear to Special Agents, uniform division officers, or personal service contractors, the Service must, whenever such products are commercially available, provide both men's and women's sizing options.

(b) TACTICAL EQUIPMENT DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''tactical equipment'' includes, among other items, ballistic plates,

ballistic plate carriers, helmets, media jackets, tactical pants, and gloves.

SA 3531. Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. MORAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1230B. MODIFICATION TO WAIVERS OF LIMITATIONS ON TRANSFER OF ARTICLES ON UNITED STATES MUNITIONS LIST TO REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS.

(a) EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN SECURITY AND ENERGY PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 2019.—Section 205(d)(2) of the Eastern Mediterranean Security and Energy Partnership Act of 2019 (Public Law 116–94; 133 Stat. 3052), is amended by striking ''one fiscal year'' and inserting ''three fiscal years''.

(b) NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020.—Section 1250A(d)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (22 U.S.C. 2373 note), is amended by striking ''one fiscal year'' and inserting ''three fiscal years''.

SA 3532. Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. MORAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1230B. MODIFICATION TO WAIVERS OF LIMITATIONS ON TRANSFER OF ARTICLES ON UNITED STATES MUNITIONS LIST TO REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS.

(a) EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN SECURITY AND ENERGY PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 2019.—Section 205(d)(2) of the Eastern Mediterranean Security and Energy Partnership Act of 2019 (Public Law 116–94; 133 Stat. 3052), is amended by striking ''one fiscal year'' and inserting ''five fiscal years''.

(b) NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020.—Section 1250A(d)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (22 U.S.C. 2373 note), is amended by striking ''one fiscal year'' and inserting ''five fiscal years''.

SA 3533. 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 end of subtitle F of title X, insert the following:

SEC. _____. PLAN TO ESTABLISH A MEMORIAL RELATING TO THE MID-AIR COLLISION BETWEEN AMERICAN AIRLINES FLIGHT 5342 AND UNITED STATES ARMY AVIATION BRIGADE PRIORITY AIR TRANSPORT 25 ON JANUARY 29, 2025.

(a) In General.—The Secretary of Transportation (in this section referred to as the ''Secretary'') shall develop a plan to establish a memorial honoring—

(1) the individuals that perished as a result of the mid-air collision between American Airlines Flight 5342 and United States Army Aviation Brigade Priority Air Transport 25 on January 29, 2025; and

(2) the Federal, State, and local agencies who assisted in the rescue, recovery, and post-incident investigation related to such mid-air collision.

(b) Consultation.—In developing the plan under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with—

(1) the Secretary of the Army;

(2) the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority;

(3) representatives from the families of those who perished as a result of the mid-air collision described in subsection (a); and

(4) other individuals or entities determined appropriate by the Secretary.

SA 3534. 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 end of subtitle F of title X, insert the following:

SEC._____. PAYMENTS FOR LEASE OF MEtROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS.

Section 49104(b) of title 49, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(b) Payments.—Under the lease, the Airports Authority must pay to the general fund of the Treasury annually an amount, computed using the GNP Price Deflator—

''(1) during the period from 1987 to 2026, equal to $3,000,000 in 1987 dollars; and

''(2) for 2027 and subsequent years, equal to $15,000,000 in 2027 dollars.''.

SA 3535. Mr. SCOTT of Florida 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. PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT OF INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM AND THE BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 4 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 401—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection,'' after ''National Security Agency,''; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by inserting ''the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System;'' after ''National Security Agency;'';

(2) in section 415—

(A) in subsection (a)(1)(A), by striking ''the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection,'';

(B) in subsection (c), by striking the third and fourth sentences; and

(C) in subsection (g)—

(i) by striking paragraph (3); and

(ii) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (3);

(3) in section 418, by striking ''or 421'' and inserting ''421, or 425''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''§ 425. Special provisions concerning the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Inspector General of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection shall have all of the authorities and responsibilities provided by this chapter—

''(1) with respect to the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, as if the Bureau were part of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; and

''(2) with respect to a Federal reserve bank without the permission of the Federal reserve bank.

''(b) RELATIONSHIP TO DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY.—The provisions of subsection (a) of section 412 of this title (other than the provisions of subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (E) of subsection (a)(1) of section 412 of this title) shall apply to the Inspector General of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection and the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System in the same manner as such provisions apply to the Inspector General of the Department of the Treasury and the Secretary of the Treasury, respectively.''.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 4 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 424 the following:

''425. Special provisions concerning the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on January 31, 2029.

SA 3536. Mr. SCOTT of Florida 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. PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT OF INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM AND THE BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 4 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 401—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection,'' after ''National Security Agency,''; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by inserting ''the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System;'' after ''National Security Agency;'';

(2) in section 415—

(A) in subsection (a)(1)(A), by striking ''the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection,'';

(B) in subsection (c), by striking the third and fourth sentences; and

(C) in subsection (g)—

(i) by striking paragraph (3); and

(ii) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (3);

(3) in section 418, by striking ''or 421'' and inserting ''421, or 425''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''§ 425. Special provisions concerning the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Inspector General of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection shall have all of the authorities and responsibilities provided by this chapter—

''(1) with respect to the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, as if the Bureau were part of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; and

''(2) with respect to a Federal reserve bank without the permission of the Federal reserve bank.

''(b) RELATIONSHIP TO DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY.—The provisions of subsection (a) of section 412 of this title (other than the provisions of subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (E) of subsection (a)(1) of section 412 of this title) shall apply to the Inspector General of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection and the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System in the same manner as such provisions apply to the Inspector General of the Department of the Treasury and the Secretary of the Treasury, respectively.''.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 4 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 424 the following:

''425. Special provisions concerning the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection.''.

SA 3537. Mr. LANKFORD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in subtitle F of title X, insert the following:

SEC. 10____. CUSTOMS ACT.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Creating Uniform Security and Transit Over Migratory Sectors Act'' or the ''CUSTOMS Act''.

(b) PORT MODERNIZATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 411(o) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 211(o)) is amended—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

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

''(3) TRANSFERRING CUSTODY OF ALL LAND PORTS OF ENTRY ALONG INTERNATIONAL BORDERS OF THE UNITED STATES TO U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of the CUSTOMS Act, the Administrator of General Services shall transfer custody of all land ports of entry along United States international borders to the Secretary.

''(B) PROCEDURE FOR TRANSFERAL.—

''(i) SUBMISSION OF SITE INFORMATION TO SECRETARY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the CUSTOMS Act, the Administrator of General Services shall submit to the Secretary—

''(I) detailed information regarding the sites of each land port of entry along any United States international border;

''(II) a current list of the Federal personnel who are stationed at the sites referred to in subclause (I), disaggregated by site and Federal department or agency;

''(III) a current list of the General Services Administration personnel and Federal contractors assigned to each General Services Administration Region containing a site referred to in subclause (I);

''(IV) the performance evaluations of the personnel and contractors referred to in subclause (III), to the extent available, for most recent 3-year period;

''(V) any draft or executed memoranda of understanding with other Federal departments or agencies regarding the maintenance of the sites referred to in subclause (I), or portions of such sites;

''(VI) any draft or executed lease contract and offers of the sites referred to in subclause (I), or portions of such sites; and

''(VII) any planned or ongoing maintenance projects for each site referred to in subclause (I), including the timelines, budgets, memoranda of understanding, scoping documents, technical specifications, contracting actions, and review materials for such projects.

''(ii) SITE TRANSFERAL TIMELINE.—

''(I) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the CUSTOMS Act, the Administrator of General Services and the Secretary shall jointly submit, to the appropriate congressional committees—

''(aa) a timeline for the transferal of each site referred to in clause (i)(I); and

''(bb) the information described in subclauses (II) through (VI) of clause (i).

''(II) PUBLICATION IN FEDERAL REGISTER.—Not later than 3 days after the submission referred to in subclause (I), the Secretary shall publish the timeline referred to in item (aa) of such subclause in the *Federal Register*.

''(iii) JOINT CUSTODY OF SITES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the CUSTOMS Act, the Administrator of General Services and the Secretary shall—

''(I) assume joint custody of the sites referred to in clause (i)(I); and

''(II) jointly publish notice of such joint custody in the *Federal Register*.

''(iv) INTERIM MANAGEMENT.—During the period beginning on the date on which notice is published pursuant to clause (iii)(II) and ending on the date on which the Secretary assumes full custody of all of the sites referred to in clause (i)(I)—

''(I) the Secretary shall have the primary jurisdiction to manage such sites; and

''(II) the Administrator of General Services shall serve as an advisor in the management of such sites for the pendency of the transferal described in this paragraph.

''(v) PROCEDURES; MANAGEMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the CUSTOMS Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator of General Services, shall—

''(I) establish procedures for assuming custody and managing each site referred to in clause (i)(I) to the current standard of the General Services Administration or the industry to prevent U.S. Customs and Border Protection from incurring additional expenses upon transfer of custody;

''(II) establish dispute resolution procedures for any conflict regarding the management of space or personnel at a site referred to in clause (i)(I) in which 2 or more Federal departments or agencies occupy space as tenants;

''(III) establish an office within U.S. Customs and Border Protection for managing relationships and serving as a liaison with any Federal, State, local, tribal, territorial, or international entity with whom the Administrator of General Services previously interacted in carrying out the Administrator's management duties of the sites referred to in clause (i)(I);

''(IV) establish an office within U.S. Customs and Border Protection for managing contracting actions, leasing execution, and title acquisitions regarding such sites, including maintenance and modernization projects; and

''(V) establish interagency agreements with occupying agencies to reimburse U.S. Customs and Border Protection for any direct costs incurred for such occupying agency's presence at land ports of entry that are under the custody and control of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

''(vi) DUTIES OF THE ADMINISTRATOR OF GENERAL SERVICES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the CUSTOMS Act, the Administrator of General Services shall—

''(I) at each port of entry being transferred from the Administrator to the Secretary, develop a list of—

''(aa) the existing environmental contamination at each port of entry, if applicable;

''(bb) the deferred maintenance projects at each port of entry, if applicable;

''(cc) the ongoing land acquisition actions at each port of entry, if applicable;

''(dd) the ongoing construction projects at each port of entry, if applicable;

''(ee) any donation under the Port of Entry donation authority described in section 482 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 301a) that the Administrator had been evaluating based on the criteria described in such section;

''(ff) any other item that could delay the transfer of each port of entry from the Administrator to the Secretary; and

''(gg) all rent charges collected for existing fiscal year as outlined on the GSA rent bill, to include an ongoing modernization funds and reimbursable work authorizations in progress; and

''(II) provide the list developed pursuant to subclause (I) to the Secretary and to the appropriate congressional committees.

''(vii) MONTHLY STATUS REPORTS.—Beginning on the date that is 30 days after the date on which the procedures and offices have been established pursuant to clause (v), the Secretary and the Administrator of General Services shall jointly provide monthly status reports to the appropriate congressional committees regarding the implementation of such procedures and the operations of such offices.

''(viii) NOTICES.—During the period beginning on the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of the CUSTOMS Act and ending on the date that is 5 years after such date of enactment, the Secretary shall

notify the appropriate congressional committees whenever the Secretary assumes sole custody of a site referred to in clause (i)(I) and publish such notice in the *Federal Register*.

''(ix) COMPLETE TRANSFERAL.—Not later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of the CUSTOMS Act, the Secretary shall assume sole custody of every site referred to in clause (i)(I).

''(C) PERSONNEL ACTIONS.—

''(i) DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY.—Subject to clause (ii), during the pendency of the period described in subparagraph (B) and for the following 3 fiscal years, the Secretary, or his or her designee, without regard to the provisions of subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code (other than sections 3303 and 3328 of such chapter), may appoint qualified candidates to any position required—

''(I) to carry out this paragraph; and

''(II) to manage the sites referred to in subparagraph (B)(i)(I).

''(ii) CONDITIONS ON USE OF DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—Before using the direct hire authority described in clause (i), the Secretary, or a designee of the Secretary, shall review and consider existing personnel of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to address staffing requirements prior to exercising the direct hire authority. If gaps still exist, the process shall include interviewing each individual included in the list required under subparagraph (B)(i)(III) who received a pass or exemplary performance review during the period described in such subparagraph.

''(II) APPROPRIATIONS.—The Administrator of General Services may transfer funds appropriated for the General Services Administration to U.S. Customs and Border Protection for salaries and expenses of personnel and contractors of the General Services Administration considered for direct hire authority by the Secretary under this subparagraph.

''(D) EXPEDITED CONTRACTING.—The Secretary shall establish a streamlined approval process for expediting contracts and interagency agreements to carry out this paragraph.

''(E) ASSUMPTION OF CUSTODY BY U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION.—Not later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of the CUSTOMS Act, upon completion of the elements described in subparagraph (B), all sites referred to in subparagraph (B)(i)(I) shall be under the sole authority of the Secretary.

''(F) MODIFICATIONS TO LAND PORTS OF ENTRY REGARDING ALIENS SEEKING ASYLUM.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Upon completion of the transferal required under subparagraph (B) and the assumption of custody described in subparagraph (E), the Secretary shall—

''(I) develop a list that includes not fewer than—

''(aa) 15 land ports of entry along the international border between the United States and Mexico at which a high proportion of aliens are seeking asylum; and

''(bb) 15 land ports of entry along the international border between the United States and Canada at which a high proportion of aliens are seeking asylum;

''(II) to the extent practicable, establish not fewer than 1 dedicated pedestrian lanes and other appropriate facilities at each land port of entry described in clause (i) for the processing of aliens who are seeking asylum in the United States; and

''(III) enter into a memorandum of agreement with the Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to detail an appropriate number of asylum officers to each land port of entry described in subclause (I).

''(ii) MEMORANDUM DESCRIBED.—The memorandum of agreement required under clause (i)(III)—

''(I) should base the number of asylum officers at each land port of entry on the relative number of aliens seeking asylum at such land port of entry; and

''(II) shall allow for changes in the number of asylum officers to be detailed to a particular land port of entry based on new information gathered regarding the migratory flow of aliens seeking asylum.

''(G) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph may be construed to affect the availability of funding from—

''(i) the Federal Buildings Fund established under section 592(a) of title 40, United States Code; or

''(ii) any other applicable statutory authority or appropriation available to implement this paragraph.''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 411(r) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 211(r)) is amended by striking ''section, the terms'' and inserting the following: ″section—

''(1) the term 'appropriate congressional committee' means—

''(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

''(B) the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate;

''(C) the Subcommittee on Homeland Security and the Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

''(D) the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives;

''(E) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives; and

''(F) the Subcommittee on Homeland Security and the Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

''(2) the terms''.

(c) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) DEFINED TERM.—In this subsection, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' has the meaning given such term in section 411(r)(1) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by subsection (b)(2).

(2) ANNUAL REPORT LAND PORTS OF ENTRY REPORT.—Not later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that includes—

(A) an inventory of all of the land ports of entry that are under the custody of the Secretary of Homeland Security;

(B) the Federal departments and agencies that have personnel stationed at any of the sites referred to in section 411(o)(3)(B)(i)(I) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by subsection (b)(1);

(C) a description of any planned or ongoing maintenance projects at such sites, including the timelines, budgets, memoranda of understanding (if applicable), scoping documents, technical specifications, contracting actions, and review materials of such projects;

(D) the personnel actions taken pursuant to section 411(o)(3)(C) of such Act, as added by subsection (b)(1); and

(E) the contracting actions taken in accordance with the streamlined process established pursuant to section 411(o)(3)(D) of such Act, as added by subsection (b)(1).

(3) IMPLEMENTATION REPORT.—Not later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commissioner for U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services shall jointly submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that includes—

(A) a list of the land ports of entry described in section 411(o)(3)(F)(i)(I) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by subsection (b)(1);

(B) the number of pedestrian lanes for asylum seekers at each land port of entry included in the list required under subparagraph (A);

(C) the memorandum of understanding described in section 411(o)(3)(F)(ii) of such Act, as added by subsection (b)(1);

(D) any recommended modifications to any facility located at a land port of entry included in the list required under subparagraph (A) including—

(i) modifications needed to improve the management aliens seeking asylum at such facility;

(ii) any additional personnel that may be needed to manage the flow of aliens seeking asylum at such facility; and

(iii) any technological upgrades that may be needed to manage the flow of aliens seeking asylum at such facility; and

(E) the projected cost for each element described in subparagraph (D).

(4) BIANNUAL PORT OF ENTRY DONATION REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and biannually thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(A) conduct a review of each project for which the Secretary of Homeland Security accepted a donation authorized under section 482 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 301a); and

(B) submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that includes, with respect to the reporting period—

(i) a description of each donation described in subparagraph (A);

(ii) the source of each such donation;

(iii) an estimate of any savings to the Federal Government resulting from each such donation;

(iv) an estimate of any costs incurred by the Federal Government resulting from each such donation; and

(v) any waste, fraud, corruption, or abuse within the Federal Government resulting from each such donation.

(d) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Section 422(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 232(a)) is amended by inserting ''section 411(o)(3),'' after ''Administrator under''.

(2) PORT OF ENTRY DONATION AUTHORITY.—Section 482 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 301a) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking '', in consultation with the Administrator of General Services,'';

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking '', and the Administrator of General Services, as applicable,'';

(ii) by striking paragraph (3);

(iii) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (3); and

(iv) in paragraph (3)(B), as redesignated, by striking ''or the General Services Administration'';

(C) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (2)—

(I) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking '', in consultation with the Administrator of General Services,'';

(II) in subparagraph (B), by striking '', the General Services Administration,''; and

(III) in subparagraph (E), by striking '', and the General Services Administration, as applicable,'';

(ii) in paragraph (3)—

(I) in subparagraph (A), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking '', in consultation with the Administrator of General Services, as applicable,'';

(II) in subparagraph (B)(ix), by striking ''or Administrator''; and

(III) in subparagraph (C)(ii), by striking '', with the concurrence of the Administrator of General Services, as applicable,'';

(iii) by striking paragraph (4);

(iv) by redesignating paragraphs (5), (6), and (7), as paragraphs (4), (5), and (6), respectively;

(v) in paragraph (4), as redesignated, by striking '', or the Administrator of General Services, as applicable,'';

(vi) in paragraph (5), as redesignated—

(I) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''and the Administrator of General Services, as applicable,''; and

(II) in subparagraph (B), in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting an em dash after ''that''; and

(vii) in paragraph (6), as redesignated, by striking '', in collaboration with the Administrator of General Services, as applicable,''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(g) CONSULTATION WITH GSA.—Any requirement under this section to consult or collaborate with the Administrator of General Services applies only to donations with respect to land ports of entry within the Administrator's custody and control, and such requirements cease upon transfer of sole custody to the Secretary.''.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date on which the Secretary of Homeland Security assumes sole custody of each Government-owned land port of entry along any United States international border in accordance with section 411(o)(3)(B)(ix) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as amended by subsection (b)(1).

SA 3538. Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. KING, and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 881. LIMITATION ON PROCUREMENT OF CUT FLOWERS AND CUT GREENS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED ENTITY.—The term ''covered entity'' means—

(A) a foreign government; and

(B) an agent of a foreign principal (as defined section 1 of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended (22 U.S.C. 611)).

(2) CUT FLOWER.—The term ''cut flower'' means a flower removed from a living plant for decorative use.

(3) CUT GREEN.—The term ''cut green'' means a green, foliage, or branch removed from a living plant for decorative use.

(4) QUALIFYING AREA.—The term ''qualifying area'' means—

(A) a State;

(B) the District of Columbia;

(C) a territory or possession of the United States; or

(D) an area subject to the jurisdiction of a federally recognized Indian Tribe.

(b) REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Funds appropriated or otherwise available to the Department of Defense may only be used for the procurement of a cut flower or cut green if the cut flower or cut green is grown in a qualifying area.

(2) APPLICABILITY.—This subsection shall apply to a procurement made or contracted for—

(A) in the United States; and

(B) on or after the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) GIFTS FOR DISPLAY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Department of Defense may only accept a gift of a cut flower or cut green that is not grown in a qualifying area from a covered entity for the purpose of displaying the cut flower or cut green if—

(A) the origin of the cut flower or cut green is clearly displayed at the time of delivery; and

(B) at the time of delivery, the Department of Defense procures an additional cut flower or cut green that is grown in a qualifying area to display during the period of display of the gift.

(2) REQUIREMENT.—If the Department of Defense accepts a gift of a cut flower or cut green from a covered entity under paragraph (1), it shall clearly display the origin of the cut flower or cut green during the period of display of the cut flower or cut green.

SA 3539. Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1265. MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN TEMPORARY AUTHORIZATIONS RELATED TO MUNITIONS REPLACEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1244 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117–263; 136 Stat. 2844) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking ''**AND ISRAEL**'' and inserting ''**ISRAEL, AND THE UNITED STATES DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASE** ''; and

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''or Israel'' each place it appears and inserting ''Israel, or the United States defense industrial base''; and

(B) in paragraph (5), by striking ''or Israel'' each place it appears and inserting ''Israel, or the United States defense industrial base''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) The table of contents at the beginning of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117–263; 136 Stat. 2395) is amended by striking the item relating to section 1244 and inserting the following:

''1244. Temporary authorizations related to Ukraine, Taiwan, Israel, and the United States defense industrial base.''.

(2) The table of contents at the beginning of title XII of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117–263; 136 Stat. 2820) is amended by striking the item relating to section 1244 and inserting the following:

''1244. Temporary authorizations related to Ukraine, Taiwan, Israel, and the United States defense industrial base.''.

SA 3540. Mr. VAN HOLLEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1265. ESTABLISHMENT OF REHIRING AND RECALL RIGHTS FOR SEPARATED DIPLOMATS.

Section 611 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4010a) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(d) PRIORITY REEMPLOYMENT LIST.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a priority reemployment list for career members of the Foreign Service separated pursuant to subsection (a).

''(2) FIRST OPPORTUNITY.—During the 5-year period beginning on the date of a reduction-in-force separation pursuant to subsection (a), a former career member of the Service who applies and is qualified for a Foreign Service position at the same or lower class (grade) and skill code (cone) held on the date of such separation and meets the requirements for worldwide availability or any specific qualifications of the position shall be offered reappointment to such position before any new applicant is appointed.

''(3) SURGE STAFFING REGISTRY.—The Secretary shall establish a surge staffing registry consisting of former members of the Foreign Service included on the list established pursuant to paragraph (1) who are willing to return to the Foreign Service on short notice for temporary assignments, contracting opportunities, or reappoint to the Foreign Service in the event of a sudden surge in the need for experienced diplomats.''.

SA 3541. Mr. VAN HOLLEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1265. ADJUSTMENT OF TIME IN CLASS FOR CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE.

Section 607(d) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4007(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) the time in class of a career member of the Foreign Service who is not eligible for voluntary retirement under section 811 or is not qualified for an immediate annuity under section 609 shall be extended for up to 2 years if needed to attain eligibility for an immediate annuity.''.

SA 3542. Mr. SCHIFF 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:

In section 1046, strike paragraph (2) and insert the following:

(2) the total cost of detention of aliens at installations of the Department of Defense, regardless of location; and

(3) the alien registration numbers of the aliens held at installations of the Department of Defense or installations in which the Department of Defense controls entry and exit of civilians.

SA 3543. Mr. SCHIFF 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:

In section 1035, add at the end the following:

(9) The alien registration numbers of the aliens on the aircraft who are the subjects of removal orders.

SA 3544. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 28___. APPLICATION OF STATE AND LOCAL HOUSING LAWS TO PRIVATIZED MILITARY HOUSING.

Section 2890 of title 10, United States Code is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(g) TREATMENT OF HOUSING LAWS.—State and local laws providing housing protections that apply to tenants of any housing in a jurisdiction surrounding a military installation in the United States apply to tenants residing in housing units acquired or constructed under subchapter IV of this chapter on that military installation, including any military installation that is considered a Federal enclave.''.

SA 3545. Ms. HIRONO 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:

Strike section 849A and insert the following:

SEC. 849A. MODIFICATIONS TO DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASE FUND.

Section 4817 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsections:

''(g) ELIGIBLE USES OF AUTHORITIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may use the authorities provided by this section with respect to upstream, mid-stream, and downstream supply chains, including material, material production, components, subassemblies, and finished products, testing and qualification, infrastructure, facility construction and improvement, and equipment needed directly for the following:

''(A) Castings and forgings.

''(B) Kinetic capabilities, including sensors, targeting systems, and delivery platforms.

''(C) Microelectronics.

''(D) Machine tools, including but not limited to subtractive, additive, convergent, stamping, forging, abrasives, metrology, and other production equipment.

''(E) Critical minerals, materials, and chemicals.

''(F) Workforce for the defense industrial base.

''(G) Advanced manufacturing capacity, including echelon manufacturing forward in the Indo-Pacific Command theater.

''(H) Unmanned vehicles, including subsurface, surface, land, air one-way, attritables, and launch and recovery platforms.

''(I) Manned aircraft.

''(J) Ground systems.

''(K) Power sources.

''(L) Ship and submarine, including assembly and automation technologies and capabilities, new or modernized infrastructure for new construction or maintenance and sustainment and battle damage repair.

''(M) Other materiel solutions required to support Indo-Pacific Command operational plans as required.

''(N) Defense space systems.

''(O) Sourcing strategic and critical materials through recycling of or reclamation from end-of-life equipment.

''(2) PROHIBITION ON USE IN COVERED COUNTRIES.—The Secretary may not use the authorities provided by this section for any activity in a covered country.

''(3) USE OF AUTHORITIES FOR OTHER PURPOSES.—The Secretary may not use the authorities provided by this section for a purpose not described in paragraph (1) unless, not less than 30 days before doing so, the Secretary—

''(A) determines that—

''(i) the use of the authority for that purpose is essential to the national security interests of the United States; and

''(ii) without the use of the authority for that purpose, United States industry cannot reasonably be expected to provide the capability needed in a timely manner; and

''(B) submits to the congressional defense committees a report on the determination that includes appropriate explanatory material.

''(h) GRANTS AND OTHER INCENTIVES FOR DOMESTIC INDUSTRIAL BASE CAPABILITIES.—To create, maintain, protect, expand, or restore domestic industrial base capabilities essential for the national security interests of the United States, the Secretary may make provision for—

''(1) use of contracts, grants, or other transaction authorities, including cooperative agreements;

''(2) incentives for the private sector to develop capabilities in areas of national security interest;

''(3) making awards to third party entities to support investments in small- and medium-sized entities working in areas of national security interest, including debt and equity investments, that would benefit missions of the Department of Defense; and

''(4) subsidies to offset market manipulation or ensure allied and domestic viability of grants made from other market uncertainties.

''(i) DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASE PURCHASE COMMITMENT PROGRAM.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—To create, maintain, protect, expand, or restore industrial base capabilities essential for the national security interests of the United States, the Secretary may make provision for purchase commitments for—

''(A) Federal Government use or resale of an industrial resource or a critical technology item;

''(B) the encouragement of exploration, development, and mining of strategic and critical materials;

''(C) development of other materials and components;

''(D) the development of production capabilities; and

''(E) the increased use of emerging technologies in defense program applications and the rapid transition of emerging technologies—

''(i) from Federal Government-sponsored research and development to commercial applications; and

''(ii) from commercial research and development to national defense applications.

''(2) EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN LIMITATIONS.—

''(A) PURCHASES.—Except as provided by subparagraph (B), purchase commitments under paragraph (1) may be made without regard to the limitations of existing law (other than section 1341 of title 31), for such quantities, and on such terms and conditions, including advance payments, and for such periods, but not extending beyond a date that is not more than 10 years from the date on which such purchase was initially made, as the Secretary deems necessary.

''(B) LIMITATION.—Purchases commitments under paragraph (1) involving higher than established ceiling prices (or if no such established ceiling prices exist, currently prevailing market prices) or that result in an anticipated loss on resale shall not be made, unless it is determined that supply of the materials could not be effectively increased or provisioned at lower prices or on terms more favorable to the Federal Government, or that such purchases are necessary to assure the availability to the United States of overseas supplies.

''(3) FINDINGS OF SECRETARY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may take the actions described in subparagraph (B), if the Secretary finds that—

''(i) under generally fair and equitable ceiling prices, for any raw or nonprocessed material or component, there will result a decrease in supplies from high-cost sources of such material and that the continuation of such supplies is necessary to carry out the objectives of this section; or

''(ii) an increase in cost of transportation is temporary in character and threatens to impair maximum production or supply in any area at stable prices of any materials.

''(B) SUBSIDY PAYMENTS AUTHORIZED.—Upon a finding under subparagraph (A), the Secretary may make provision for subsidy payments on any such produced material from other than covered countries, in such amounts and in such manner (including purchase commitments of such material or component and its resale at a loss, and on such terms and conditions, as the Secretary determines to be necessary to ensure that supplies from such high-cost sources are continued, or that maximum production or supply in such area at stable prices of such materials is maintained, as the case may be.

''(4) INSTALLATION OF EQUIPMENT IN INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES.—If the Secretary determines that such action will aid the national security interests of the United States, the Secretary is authorized—

''(A) to procure and install additional equipment, facilities, processes or improvements to plants, factories, and other industrial facilities owned by the Federal Government;

''(B) to procure and install equipment including owned by the Federal Government in plants, factories, and other industrial facilities owned by private persons;

''(C) to provide for constructing new facilities, the modification, or expansion of privately owned facilities, including the modification or improvement of production processes, when taking actions under this subsection or subsection (h);

''(D) to sell or otherwise transfer equipment owned by the Federal Government and installed under this subsection to the owners of such plants, factories, or other industrial facilities;

''(E) to construct facilities for the purposes described in section subsection (g)(1); and

''(F) to apply contracts, grants, or other transactions authorities.

''(5) EXCESS METALS, MINERALS, MATERIALS, AND COMPONENTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Metals, minerals, materials, and components acquired pursuant to this subsection which, in the judgment of the Secretary, are excess to the needs of programs under this section, shall be transferred to the National Defense Stockpile established by the Strategic and Critical Materials Stock Piling Act (50 U.S.C. 98 et seq.), or other national reserves if available, when the Secretary deems such action to be in the public interest.

''(B) TRANSFERS AT NO CHARGE.—Transfers made pursuant to this paragraph shall be made without charge against or reimbursement from funds appropriated for the purposes of the Strategic and Critical Materials Stock Piling Act (50 U.S.C. 98 et seq.), or other national reserves if available, except that costs incident to such transfer, other than acquisition costs, shall be paid or reimbursed from such funds.

''(6) SUBSTITUTES.—When, in the judgment of the Secretary, it will aid the national security interests of the United States, the Secretary may make provision for the development and qualification a of substitutes for strategic and critical materials, components, critical technology items, and other industrial resources.

''(7) SOURCING OF STRATEGIC AND CRITICAL MATERIALS FROM END-OF-LIFE EQUIPMENT.—The Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, use the authority of this subsection to source strategic and critical materials through recycling of or reclamation from end-of-life equipment.

''(j) STRENGTHENING DOMESTIC PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may provide appropriate incentives to develop, maintain, modernize, restore, and expand the productive capacities of sources for strategic and critical materials, components, critical technology items, and industrial resources essential for the execution of the national security strategy of the United States.

''(2) STRATEGIC AND CRITICAL MATERIALS, COMPONENTS, AND CRITICAL TECHNOLOGY ITEMS.—

''(A) MAINTENANCE OF RELIABLE SOURCES OF SUPPLY.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall take appropriate actions to ensure that strategic and critical materials, components, critical technology items, and industrial resources are available from reliable sources when needed to meet defense requirements during peacetime, graduated mobilization, and national emergency.

''(ii) RECYCLING AND RECLAMATION OF END-OF-LIFE EQUIPMENT.—The Secretary shall take appropriate actions to prioritize, to the maximum extent practicable, the sourcing of strategic and critical materials through recycling of or reclamation from end-of-life equipment.

''(B) APPROPRIATE ACTION.—For purposes of this paragraph, appropriate action may include—

''(i) restricting contract solicitations to reliable sources;

''(ii) stockpiling or placing into reserve strategic and critical materials, components, and critical technology items;

''(iii) planning for necessary long-lead times for acquiring such materials, components, and items;

''(iv) developing innovative methods of recovering strategic and critical materials through recycling of or reclamation from end-of-life equipment; or

''(v) developing and qualifying substitutes for such materials, components, and items.

''(k) ANNUAL REPORT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committee a report evaluating investments made and any other activities carried out using amounts in the Fund during the year preceding submission of the report.

''(2) ELEMENTS.—Each report required by paragraph (1) shall include—

''(A) measures of effectiveness of the investments and activities described in that paragraph in meeting the needs of the Department of Defense and the defense industrial base;

''(B) an evaluation of the return on investment of all ongoing investments from the Fund;

''(C) measures of effectiveness of the investments and activities relating to the development of innovative methods of sourcing strategic and critical materials through recycling of or reclamation from end-of-life equipment; and

''(D) a description of efforts to coordinate activities carried out using amounts in the Fund with activities to support the defense industrial base carried out under other authorities.

''(3) ADVICE.—In preparing a report required by paragraph (1), the Secretary shall take into account the advice of the defense industry and such other individuals as the Secretary considers relevant.

''(l) COORDINATION WITH OTHER DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASE ACTIVITIES.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report detailing how activities carried out under this section will be coordinated with—

''(1) activities carried out using amounts in the Defense Production Act Fund under section 304 of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4534);

''(2) activities of the Office of Strategic Capital; and

''(3) any other efforts designed to enhance the defense industrial base.

''(m) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) CHOKEPOINT.—The term 'chokepoint' means a situation in which—

''(A) components of the munitions supply chains, including all elements of the munitions supply chain such as chemicals, casings, or other materials, are produced by only one reliable source; or

''(B) the increased production of a component would significantly increase total output of munitions.

''(2) COVERED COUNTRY.—The term 'covered country' means—

''(A) the Russian Federation;

''(B) the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

''(C) the Islamic Republic of Iran; and

''(D) the People's Republic of China.

''(3) RELIABLE SOURCE.—The term 'reliable source' means a citizen or business entity organized under the laws of—

''(A) the United States or any territory or possession of the United States;

''(B) a country of the national technology and industrial base, as defined in section 4801; or

''(C) a qualifying country, as defined in section 225.003 of the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement or any successor document.

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

''(5) STRATEGIC AND CRITICAL MATERIALS.—The term 'strategic and critical materials' has the meaning given that term in section 12(1) of the Strategic and Critical Materials Stock Piling Act (50 U.S.C. 98h–3(1)).''.

SA 3546. Ms. HIRONO 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 C of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 724. PILOT PROGRAM TO TEST STANDALONE TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCIES IN SUPPLY-CHAIN MANAGEMENT, MEDICAL READINESS, AND MEDICAL PROCESSES.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, acting through the Director of the Defense Health Agency, shall carry out a pilot program to test and evaluate existing standalone technologies to assess whether such technologies accomplish the following:

(1) Improving efficiencies in medical supply-chain management and in military medical readiness.

(2) Streamlining medical processes.

(3) Improving recordation accuracy.

(4) Reducing rates of needlestick injury.

(5) Enhancing retention rates of health care providers of the Department of Defense.

(b) DURATION.—The Secretary shall carry out the pilot program under subsection (a) for a five-year period.

SA 3547. Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, insert the following:

SEC. ___. FUNDING FOR THE WORLD TRADE CENTER HEALTH PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3351 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300mm–61) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2)(A), by amending clause (xi) to read as follows:

''(xi) for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2090—

''(I) the amount determined under this subparagraph for the previous fiscal year multiplied by 1.07; multiplied by

''(II) the ratio of—

''(aa) the total number of individuals enrolled in the WTC Program on July 1 of such previous fiscal year; to

''(bb) the total number of individuals so enrolled on July 1 of the fiscal year prior to such previous fiscal year; plus''; and

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (4)—

(i) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

''(A) for fiscal year 2025, the amount determined for such fiscal year under this paragraph as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026;'';

(ii) by amending subparagraph (B) to read as follows:

''(B) for fiscal year 2026, the greater of—

''(i) the amount determined for such fiscal year under this paragraph as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026; or

''(ii) the amount expended for the previous fiscal year for the purposes described in this paragraph increased by 25 percent; and''; and

(iii) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''the amount specified under this paragraph for the previous fiscal year'' and inserting ''the amount expended for the previous fiscal year for such purposes''; and

(B) in paragraph (5)—

(i) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

''(A) for fiscal year 2025, the amount determined for such fiscal year under this paragraph as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026;'';

(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C);

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

''(B) for fiscal year 2026, the greater of—

''(i) the amount determined for such fiscal year under this paragraph as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026; or

''(ii) the amount expended for the previous fiscal year for the purpose described in this paragraph increased by 25 percent; and''; and

(iv) in subparagraph (C), as so redesignated, by striking ''the amount specified under this paragraph for the previous fiscal year'' and inserting ''the amount expended for the previous fiscal year for such purpose''.

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—Title XXXIII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300mm et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 3352 (42 U.S.C. 300mm–62), by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

''(d) REMAINING AMOUNTS.—Amounts remaining in the Supplemental Fund shall revert to the Treasury in accordance with section 1552 of title 31, United States Code.'';

(2) in section 3353 (42 U.S.C. 300mm–63), by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

''(d) REMAINING AMOUNTS.—Amounts remaining in the Special Fund shall revert to the Treasury in accordance with section 1552 of title 31, United States Code.''; and

(3) in section 3354 (42 U.S.C. 300mm–64), by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

''(d) REMAINING AMOUNTS.—Amounts remaining in the Pentagon/Shanksville Fund shall revert to the Treasury in accordance with section 1552 of title 31, United States Code.''.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in this section as the ''Secretary'') shall conduct an assessment of anticipated budget authority and outlays of the World Trade Center Health Program (referred to in this section as the ''Program'') through the duration of the Program and submit a report summarizing such assessment to—

(A) the Speaker and minority leader of the House of Representatives;

(B) the majority and minority leaders of the Senate;

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

(D) the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives.

(2) INCLUSIONS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) a projection of Program budgetary needs on a per-fiscal year basis through fiscal year 2090;

(B) a review of Program modeling for each of fiscal years 2017 through the fiscal year prior to the fiscal year in which the report is issued to assess how anticipated budgetary needs compared to actual expenditures;

(C) an assessment of the projected budget authority and expenditures of the Program through fiscal year 2090; and

(D) any recommendations of the Secretary to make changes to the formula under section 3351(a)(2)(A) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300mm–61(a)(2)(A)), as amended by subsection (a)(1), to fully offset anticipated Program expenditures through fiscal year 2090.

SA 3548. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title V, add the following:

SEC. 586. ALIGNMENT OF JOB CORPS WITH THE DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The National Imperative for Industrial Skills program of the Department of Defense (or a successor program) shall maximize the use of and expand on the activities of Job Corps centers to train the skilled industrial workers that are needed in the defense industrial base.

(b) REFERRAL OF MILITARY RECRUITS TO JOB CORPS.—Military recruiters shall make each military recruit who is ineligible to enlist in the military as result of the requirements of section 520 of title 10, United States Code, aware of the opportunity to enroll in Job Corps in order to meet the standards for enlistment or learn skills that can contribute to the defense industrial base.

(c) JOB CORPS TRADE REALIGNMENT.—In order to address shortages of skilled industrial workers in the defense industrial base, the Secretary of Defense may, through the National Imperative for Industrial Skills program (or a successor program) and grants to Job Corps center operators as provided in accordance with section 158(f) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3208(f)), support the change of trades offered at a Job Corps center, including at a Job Corps transition hub at an existing center or at a new site in close proximity to a shipyard or other defense industrial base suppliers, to align with the needs of the defense industrial base, including through investments in curricula development, equipment, and facilities.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

(1) ENROLLEE; JOB CORPS; JOB CORPS CENTER.—The terms ''enrollee'', ''Job Corps'', and ''Job Corps center'' have the meanings given such terms in section 142 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3192).

(2) JOB CORPS CENTER OPERATOR.—The term ''Job Corps center operator'' has the meaning given the term ''operator'' in such section of such Act.

(3) JOB CORPS TRANSITION HUB.—The term ''Job Corps transition hub'' means an advanced career training program under section 148 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3198) that facilitates the onboarding and retention of enrollees into the defense industrial base.

SEC. 587. EXTENSION OF SHIPBUILDING SPECIAL INCENTIVE TO THE JOB CORPS.

Section 8696(b)(2) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(G) The Job Corps program established under section 143 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity (29 U.S.C. 3193) or an individual Job Corps center operator as defined in section 142 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3192).''.

SEC. 588. JOB CORPS CONFORMING REFORMS.

(a) SUCCESS IN MILITARY RECRUITMENT AS A GRADUATE OF JOB CORPS.—Section 142(5) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3192(5)) is amended by inserting ''enlisted in the military with a score on the Armed Forces Qualification Test that is above the thirty-first percentile,'' before ''or completed''.

(b) GRANTS TO JOB CORPS CENTERS.—Section 158(f) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3208(f)) is amended—

(1) by striking the heading and inserting ''EXTERNAL FUNDING'';

(2) by striking ''The Secretary may accept on behalf of the Job Corps or individual Job Corps centers charitable donations of cash'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary (or the Secretary of Agriculture, as appropriate), on behalf of the Job Corps, or a Job Corps center operator, on behalf of such center, may accept grants and charitable donations of cash'';

(3) by inserting ''grants and'' before ''donations are'';

(4) by striking ''available for appropriate use'' and inserting ''used exclusively''; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) TRANSFER OF PROPERTY.—Notwithstanding sections 501(b) and 522 of title 40, United States Code, any property acquired by a Job Corps center shall be directly transferred, on a nonreimbursable basis, to the Secretary.

''(3) PROHIBITION OF OFFSET USING EXTERNAL FUNDING.—An operator that accepts a grant or charitable donation under paragraph (1) may not use the grant or charitable donation to fulfil the cost of any obligation imposed on the operator under an agreement under section 147.''.

(c) LOCAL AUTHORITY TO REALIGN TRADES.—Section 151 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3201) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(d) LOCAL AUTHORITY.—Subject to the limitations of the budget approved by the Secretary for a Job Corps center, the operator of a Job Corps center shall have the authority, without prior approval from the Secretary, to—

''(1) hire staff and provide staff professional development;

''(2) set terms and enter into agreements with Federal, State, or local educational

partners, such as secondary schools, institutions of higher education, child development centers, units of Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps programs established under section 2031 of title 10, United States Code, or employers; and

''(3) engage with and educate stakeholders (including eligible applicants for the Job Corps) about Job Corps operations, selection procedures, and activities.''.

(d) STREAMLINED ENROLLMENT OF VETERANS AND MILITARY RECRUITS INTO THE DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (b) of section 144 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3194) is amended—

(A) in the heading, by inserting ''AND CERTAIN OTHER ARMED FORCES MEMBERS'' after ''VETERANS''; and

(B) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting ''or a member of the Armed Forces eligible for pre-separation counseling of the Transition Assistance Program under section 1142 of title 10, United States Code,'' after ''a veteran''.

(2) BACKGROUND CHECK EXEMPTION.—Section 145(b) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3195(b)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)(C), by inserting ''except with respect to an individual described in paragraph (4),'' before ''the individual''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) INDIVIDUALS EXEMPTED FROM BACKGROUND CHECK.—An individual described in this paragraph is—

''(A) an individual who is—

''(i)(I) a member of the Armed Forces eligible for pre-separation counseling of the Transition Assistance Program under section 1142 of title 10, United States Code; or

''(II) a veteran who left the Armed Forces not more than 90 days before the date on which the veteran applies to enroll in the Job Corps; and

''(ii) not ineligible for retired pay as provided by section 12740 of title 10, United States Code; or

''(B) a military recruit who—

''(i) is ineligible to enlist in the military as result of the requirements of section 520 of title 10, United States Code; and

''(ii) not more than 90 days before the date on which the recruit applies to enroll in the Job Corp, passed a background check as part of the enlistment process.''.

SA 3549. Mr. KELLY 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, insert the following:

SEC. 586. CRIMINAL PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS OF PROHIBITION ON FORMER MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES ACCEPTING EMPLOYMENT WITH CERTAIN FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Members of the Armed Forces gain skills, knowledge, and training through their service that are integral to the mission of the United States military.

(2) The specialized skillsets gained through service in the United States Armed Forces are the product of unique United States Government training.

(3) Public reports have revealed the People's Republic of China has employed, or contracted through intermediaries, former United States military personnel and former military personnel of countries that are allies of the United States to train Chinese military personnel on specialized skills.

(4) The closest allies of the United States, including the United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand, are taking steps to stop their former military personnel from training the armed forces of foreign adversaries, including instituting policy and legal reviews and consideration of criminal penalties to prevent that type of post-military service activity.

(5) Allowing individuals to be employed or engaged in the provision of training to foreign adversaries in specialized skillsets gained through service in the United States Armed Forces poses a significant risk for exploitation by foreign adversaries against United States interests.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that it is in the national security interests of the United States that former members of the Armed Forces be prohibited from taking employment or holding positions that provide substantial support to the military of a foreign government that is an adversary of the United States, such as the Government of the People's Republic of China or the Government of the Russian Federation, to prevent the exploitation of specialized United States military competencies and capabilities by those governments.

(c) CRIMINAL PENALTY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 207 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(m) PROHIBITION ON FORMER MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES ACCEPTING POST-SERVICE EMPLOYMENT WITH CERTAIN FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A covered individual who violates the prohibition under section 989(a) of title 10 by knowingly and willfully occupying a covered post-service position shall be punished as provided in section 216(a)(2) of this title.

''(2) PROOF OF STATE OF MIND.—In prosecution under paragraph (1), the Government is required to prove that the defendant knew, for a period of not less than 30 days before occupying a covered post-service position or, if already occupying such a position, before leaving the position, that—

''(A) the entity with which the defendant occupied the covered post-service position was providing advice or services relating to national security, intelligence, military, or internal security to a foreign government; and

''(B) the foreign government was described in section 989(h)(2)(A) of title 10.

''(3) JURISDICTION.—An offense under paragraph (1) shall be subject to extraterritorial Federal jurisdiction.

''(4) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the terms 'covered individual' and 'covered post-service position' have the meanings given those terms in section 989 of title 10.''.

(2) EFFECTIVE PERIOD.—Subsection (m) of section 207 of title 18, United States Code, as added by paragraph (1), applies with respect to a violation described in that subsection that occurs, in whole or in part—

(A) after the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(B) on or before December 31, 2029.

(d) AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 989 OF TITLE 10.—

(1) WAIVER.—Subsection (b)(1)(B) of section 989 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking ''is necessary'' and all that follows and inserting ''would not result in a detrimental impact to the current or future national security interests of the United States.''.

(2) NOTICE.—Subsection (c)(1) of such section is amended by inserting '', including violations punishable under section 207(m) of title 18'' after ''violations of the prohibition''.

(3) REFERRALS FOR PROSECUTION.—Subsection (d) of such section is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

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

''(3) refer the case to the Attorney General for prosecution under section 207(m) of title 18.''.

SA 3550. Mr. KELLY (for himself and Mr. LANKFORD) 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. COMBATING CARTELS ON SOCIAL MEDIA.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) COVERED OPERATOR.—The term ''covered operator'' means the operator, developer, or publisher of a covered service.

(3) COVERED SERVICE.—The term ''covered service'' means—

(A) a social media platform;

(B) a mobile or desktop service with direct or group messaging capabilities, but not including text messaging services without other substantial social functionalities or electronic mail services, that the Secretary of Homeland Security determines is being or has been used by transnational criminal organizations in connection with matters described in section 3; or

(C) a digital platform, or an electronic application utilizing the digital platform, involving real-time interactive communication between multiple individuals, including multi-player gaming services and immersive technology platforms or applications, that the Secretary of Homeland Security determines is being or has been used by transnational criminal organizations in connection with matters described in subsection (b).

(4) CRIMINAL ENTERPRISE.—The term ''criminal enterprise'' has the meaning given the term ''continuing criminal enterprise'' in section 408 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 848).

(5) ILLICIT ACTIVITIES.—The term ''illicit activities'' means the following criminal activities that transcend national borders:

(A) A violation of section 401 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 841).

(B) Narcotics trafficking, as defined in section 808 of the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act (21 U.S.C. 1907).

(C) Weapons trafficking.

(D) Migrant smuggling, defined as a violation of section 274(a)(1)(A)(ii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324(a)(1)(A)(ii)).

(E) Human trafficking, defined as—

(i) a violation of section 1590, 1591, or 1592 of title 18, United States Code; or

(ii) engaging in severe forms of trafficking in persons, as defined in section 103 of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).

(F) Cyber crime, defined as a violation of section 1030 of title 18, United States Code.

(G) A violation of any provision that is subject to intellectual property enforcement, as defined in section 302 of the Prioritizing Resources and Organization for Intellectual Property Act of 2008 (15 U.S.C. 8112).

(H) Bulk cash smuggling of currency, defined as a violation of section 5332 of title 31, United States Code.

(I) Laundering the proceeds of the criminal activities described in subparagraphs (A) through (H).

(6) TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION.—The term ''transnational criminal organization'' means a group, or network, and associated individuals, that operate transnationally for the purposes of obtaining power, influence, or monetary or commercial gain, wholly or in part by certain unlawful means, while advancing their activities through a pattern of crime, corruption, or violence, and while protecting their unlawful activities through a transnational organizational structure and the exploitation of public corruption or transnational logistics, financial, or communication mechanisms.

(b) ASSESSMENT OF ILLICIT USAGE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a joint assessment describing—

(1) the use of covered services by transnational criminal organizations, or criminal enterprises acting on behalf of transnational criminal organizations, to engage in recruitment efforts, including the recruitment of individuals located in the United States, to engage in or provide support with respect to illicit activities occurring in the United States, Mexico, or otherwise in proximity to an international border of the United States;

(2) the use of covered services by transnational criminal organizations, or criminal enterprises acting on behalf of transnational criminal organizations, to engage in illicit activities or conduct in support of illicit activities, including—

(A) smuggling or trafficking involving narcotics, other controlled substances, precursors thereof, or other items prohibited under the laws of the United States, Mexico, or another relevant jurisdiction, including firearms;

(B) human smuggling or trafficking, with a particular focus on the exploitation of children; and

(C) transportation of bulk currency or monetary instruments in furtherance of smuggling or trafficking; and

(3) the existing efforts of the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, and relevant government and law enforcement entities to counter, monitor, or otherwise respond to the usage of covered services described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

(c) STRATEGY TO COMBAT CARTEL RECRUITMENT ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND ONLINE PLATFORMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a joint strategy, to be known as the ''National Strategy to Combat Illicit Recruitment Activity by Transnational Criminal Organizations on Social Media and Online Platforms'', to combat the use of covered services by transnational criminal organizations, or criminal enterprises acting on behalf of transnational criminal organizations, to recruit individuals located in the United States to engage in or provide support for unlawful activities occurring in the United States, Mexico, or otherwise in proximity to an international border of the United States.

(2) ELEMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The strategy required under paragraph (1) shall, at a minimum, include the following:

(i) A proposal to improve cooperation between the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, and relevant law enforcement entities.

(ii) Recommendations to implement a process for the voluntary reporting of information regarding the recruitment efforts of transnational criminal organizations, or criminal enterprises acting on behalf of transnational criminal organizations, in the United States involving covered services.

(iii) A proposal to improve intragovernmental coordination with respect to the matters described in paragraph (1), including between the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, the Department of State, and State, Tribal, and local governments.

(iv) A proposal to improve coordination within the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, and the Department of State and between the components of those Departments with respect to the matters described in paragraph (1).

(v) Activities to facilitate increased intelligence analysis for law enforcement purposes of efforts of transnational criminal organizations, or criminal enterprises acting on behalf of transnational criminal organizations, to utilize covered services for recruitment to engage in or provide support with respect to illicit activities.

(vi) Activities to foster international partnerships and enhance collaboration with foreign governments and, as applicable, multilateral institutions, with respect to the matters described in paragraph (1).

(vii) Activities to specifically increase engagement and outreach with youth in border communities, including regarding the recruitment tactics of transnational criminal organizations, or criminal enterprises acting on behalf of transnational criminal organizations, and the consequences of participation in illicit activities.

(viii) A detailed description of the measures used to ensure—

(I) law enforcement and intelligence activities focus on the recruitment activities of transitional criminal organizations, or criminal enterprises acting on behalf of transnational criminal organizations, rather than individuals the transnational criminal organizations or enterprises attempt to or successfully recruit; and

(II) the protection of privacy rights, civil rights, and civil liberties in carrying out the activities described in clause (i), with a particular focus on the protections in place to protect minors and constitutionally protected activities.

(B) LIMITATION.—The strategy required under paragraph (1) shall not include legislative recommendations or elements predicated on the passage of legislation that is not enacted as of the date on which the strategy is submitted under paragraph (1).

(3) CONSULTATION.—In drafting and implementing the strategy required under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of State shall, at a minimum, consult and engage with—

(A) the heads of relevant components of the Department of Homeland Security, including—

(i) the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis;

(ii) the Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans;

(iii) the Under Secretary for Science and Technology;

(iv) the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection;

(v) the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement;

(vi) the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties;

(vii) the Privacy Officer; and

(viii) the Assistant Secretary of the Office for State and Local Law Enforcement;

(B) the heads of relevant components of the Department of Justice, including—

(i) the Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division;

(ii) the Assistant Attorney General for National Security;

(iii) the Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division;

(iv) the Chief Privacy and Civil Liberties Officer;

(v) the Director of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces;

(vi) the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and

(vii) the Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives;

(C) the heads of relevant components of the Department of State, including—

(i) the Assistant Secretary for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs;

(ii) the Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs; and

(iii) the Coordinator of the Global Engagement Center;

(D) the Secretary of Health and Human Services;

(E) the Secretary of Education; and

(F) as selected by the Secretary of Homeland Security, or his or her designee in the Office of Public Engagement, representatives of border communities, including representatives of—

(i) State, Tribal, and local governments, including school districts and local law enforcement; and

(ii) nongovernmental experts in the fields of—

(I) civil rights and civil liberties;

(II) online privacy;

(III) humanitarian assistance for migrants; and

(IV) youth outreach and rehabilitation.

(4) IMPLEMENTATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the strategy required under paragraph (1) is submitted to the appropriate congressional committees, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of State shall commence implementation of the strategy.

(B) REPORT.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the strategy required under paragraph (1) is implemented under paragraph (1), and semiannually thereafter for 5 years, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a joint report describing the efforts of the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of State, respectively, to

implement the strategy required under paragraph (1) and the progress of those efforts, which shall include a description of—

(I) the recommendations, and corresponding implementation of those recommendations, with respect to the matters described in paragraph (2)(A)(ii);

(II) the interagency posture with respect to the matters covered by the strategy required under paragraph (1), which shall include a description of collaboration between the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, other Federal entities, State, local, and Tribal entities, foreign governments, and, as applicable, multilateral institutions; and

(III) the threat landscape, including new developments related to the recruitment efforts of transnational criminal organizations, or criminal enterprises acting on behalf of transnational criminal organizations, and the use by such organizations or enterprises of new or emergent covered services and recruitment methods.

(ii) FORM.—Each report required under clause (i) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

(C) CIVIL RIGHTS, CIVIL LIBERTIES, AND PRIVACY ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 2 years after the date on which the strategy required under paragraph (1) is implemented under subparagraph (A), the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties and the Privacy Office of the Department of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division and the Chief Privacy and Civil Liberties Officer of the Department of Justice, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a joint report that includes—

(i) a detailed assessment of the measures used to ensure the protection of civil rights, civil liberties, and privacy rights in carrying out this section; and

(ii) recommendations to improve the implementation of the strategy required under paragraph (1).

(D) RULEMAKING.—Prior to implementation of the strategy required under paragraph (1) at the Department of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall issue rules to carry out this section in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to expand the statutory law enforcement or regulatory authority of the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, or the Department of State.

(e) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated for the purpose of carrying out this section.

SA 3551. Mr. KELLY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title III, add the following:

SEC. 330. DEPOT-LEVEL MAINTENANCE COORDINATION IN MULTINATIONAL EXERCISES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Each year, the Secretary of the Air Force shall incorporate in at least one multinational exercise conducted in the area of operations of the United States Indo-Pacific Command—

(1) depot-level maintenance, repair, and sustainment considerations, including binational or multinational planning sessions with covered nations on—

(A) identifying opportunities to cooperate on depot-level maintenance and repair in ways that minimize transportation requirements in such area of operations and determining the authorities necessary to deliver necessary joint capabilities;

(B) facilitating real-time coordination between the United States and covered nations to maintain munitions stock levels and resupply routes in such area of operations;

(C) mutual recognition of airworthiness and maintenance certification between the United States and covered nations; and

(D) emergency tabletop exercises, such as when an aircraft of a covered nation breaks down in United States territory, and vice versa, in a contested logistics environment.

(2) coordination with the Air Force Sustainment Center, including the participation of representatives of—

(A) the United States Indo-Pacific Command;

(B) the United States Pacific Air Forces;

(C) the United States Air Mobility Command; and

(D) the Air Force Sustainment Center.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force shall submit to Congress a report summarizing the lessons learned from carrying out an exercise in accordance with subsection (a) with respect to the Republic of Korea and the Commonwealth of Australia.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A list of candidate systems for cosustainment with the Republic of Korea and the Commonwealth of Australia.

(B) A list of depot-level repair workload opportunities to undertake with the Republic of Korea and the Commonwealth of Australia, including testing equipment or line replaceable units.

(C) Opportunities to incorporate Korean and Australian industry partners in depot-level maintenance repair activities, including through public-private partnerships.

(D) An identification of any potential logistical challenges that could arise with the host country, including with respect to workforce, housing, and location of workload.

(E) An identification of any potential impediments involving intellectual property or data rights between original equipment manufacturers and the Department of the Air Force or between the Department of the Air Force and the Republic of Korea or the Commonwealth of Australia.

(F) An identification of any potential impediments related to International Traffic in Arms Regulations and related statutes.

(G) Any additional recommendations to Congress that would ease the facilitation of depot-level maintenance repair partnerships with the Republic of Korea and the Commonwealth of Australia, including changes to existing status of forces agreements.

(H) An analysis of current maintenance and repair capabilities and gaps in the organic industrial base of the Republic of Korea and the Commonwealth of Australia.

(I) An assessment of the types of maintenance and repair activities (including depot-level, preventative, and corrective) that may be most appropriate for a partnership with the Republic of Korea or the Commonwealth of Australia.

(J) An assessment of how any such partnership may contribute to allied contingency operations, interoperability, and regional posture resilience in the Indo-Pacific region.

(K) A consideration of planning factors related to the evolving force generation models of the Air Force, future-generation aircraft programs, deployment schedules, statutory maintenance thresholds, and other relevant operational requirements.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED NATION DEFINED.—The term ''covered nation'' means any of the following:

(A) The Commonwealth of Australia.

(B) Canada.

(C) Japan.

(D) New Zealand.

(E) The Republic of Korea.

(F) The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

(G) Any other nation as designated as a covered nation for the purposes of this section by the Secretary of the Air Force.

(2) INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN ARMS REGULATIONS.—The term ''International Traffic in Arms Regulations'' means subchapter M of chapter I of title 22, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

SA 3552. Ms. SLOTKIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. ___. GEO-FENCING MILITARY INSTALLATIONS AGAINST CIVIL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 448 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 44815. Geo-fencing military installations against civil unmanned aircraft systems

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, shall issue a notice of proposed rulemaking to carry out the intent of this legislation, and not later than 1 year following that date, the Administrator shall enact the rule.

''(b) REQUIREMENT TO EQUIP WITH ACTIVE GEO-FENCING TECHNOLOGY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Administrator first issues regulations under subsection (a), a manufacturer or operator shall ensure that all civil unmanned aircraft systems manufactured or operated by such manufacturer or operator are equipped with active geo-fencing technology that meets the requirements of paragraph (2).

''(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In order to meet the requirements of this paragraph, geo-fencing technology shall be—

''(A) configured to automatically restrict a civil unmanned aircraft system from entering a geographic area extending around the perimeter of designated national security sensitive facilities, such as military installations, critical infrastructure, and industrial manufacturing locations as determined by the Department of Defense, the Federal Aviation Administration, and other relevant departments and agencies;

''(B) configured to automatically restrict a civil unmanned aircraft system from entering a geographic area extending around the perimeter of any area restricted in accordance with section 2209 of the FAA Extension, Safety, and Security Act of 2016, as amended; and

''(C) regularly updated to include the latest geographic boundary data of military installations as provided by the Department of

Defense and the Federal Aviation Administration.

''(3) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Administrator first issues regulations under subsection (a), the Administrator shall issue guidance to manufacturers on performance standards for such geo-fencing technology to comply with the requirements of such regulations.

''(4) EXCEPTIONS.—The Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Administrator, shall develop procedures for exceptions to the requirements described in paragraph (2), as necessary, for government-authorized unmanned aircraft system. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the Department of Defense operation of unmanned aircraft systems.

''(c) REQUIREMENT TO REGISTER UAS AT POINT OF SALE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, any retailer of an unmanned aircraft system shall register each unmanned aircraft system at the point of sale to enable identification of unmanned aircraft system operators when necessary.

''(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term 'Administrator' means the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration.

''(2) CIVIL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM.—The term 'civil unmanned aircraft system', means, with respect to an unmanned aircraft system, that the unmanned aircraft is not a public aircraft as defined in section 40102.

''(3) GEO-FENCING.—The term 'geo-fencing' means the use of technology to create virtual geographic boundaries, enabling software to prevent an unmanned aircraft system from entering enter specified airspace as described in subsection (b)(2)(A).

''(4) MANUFACTURER OR OPERATOR.—The term 'manufacturer or operator' means a person who manufactures or operates a civil unmanned aircraft system.

''(5) NATIONAL SECURITY SENSITIVE FACILITIES.—The term 'national security sensitive facilities' refers to facilities that are critical to national defense, intelligence, homeland security, or other sensitive Federal operations and require restrictions to protect such facilities from unauthorized overflight or surveillance.

''(6) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM.—The term 'unmanned aircraft system' has the meaning given that term in section 44801.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 448 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 44814 the following:

''44815. Geo-fencing military installations against unmanned aircraft systems.''.

SA 3553. Mrs. SHAHEEN 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 C of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1230B. ENABLING THE KYIV EMBASSY TO OPERATE AT FULL CAPACITY.

(a) TERMINATION OF PERSONNEL CAP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall terminate all restrictions on the number of United States personnel permitted to be posted at the United States Embassy in Kyiv, Ukraine (in this section referred to as ''Embassy Kyiv'').

(2) RESTORATION OF STAFFING.—The Secretary of State shall take all steps required to return at least the number of personnel at Embassy Kyiv to the level present on January 1, 2025. This level of staffing shall constitute a minimum number of personnel present at Embassy Kyiv, unless the post is put on Authorized or Ordered Departure status pursuant to a request from Embassy Kyiv's Emergency Action Committee.

(3) WAIVER.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State may waive the requirements under paragraphs (1) or (2) if the Secretary submits to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report certifying one of the following conditions:

(i) Russian forces have broken through the line of contact between Ukrainian and Russian forces as it existed in July 2025.

(ii) Russian forces have established air superiority over Ukraine.

(iii) Either of the events described in clauses (i) or (ii) are likely to occur within 30 days time.

(B) FORM.—The report required under subparagraph (A) may be submitted in classified form.

(b) TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION.—All decisions regarding the ability of United States personnel to travel within Ukraine shall rest exclusively with the Chief of Mission at Embassy Kyiv.

(c) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) Embassy Kyiv requires additional capacity and flexibility to carry out the functions expected of our professional diplomats in Ukraine by Congress;

(2) the Ukrainian armed forces have heroically kept Russian forces a safe distance from Kyiv for United States personnel to operate and support our Ukrainian partners; and

(3) the women and men at Embassy Kyiv are brave and committed personnel who understand both the risks of operating in a country at war and the meaningful impact they can impart through advancing the United States mission in Ukraine.

SA 3554. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. SCHATZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1210. PROHIBITION ON THE DESTRUCTION OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PRODUCTS AND COMMODITIES.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Saving Lives and Taxpayer Dollars Act''.

(b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Foreign assistance commodities, including food, medicine, family planning products, and vaccines, provide critical support to people who are recovering from the aftermath of natural disasters, fleeing conflict or war, residing in refugee camps, or living in developing communities with limited access to health care.

(2) United States investments in global health bolster economic growth for partner countries, produce returns on investment for the United States economy, create an estimated 600,000 jobs in the United States, and generated an estimated $104,000,000,000 in economic activity during the 15-year period between 2007 and 2022.

(3) Reliable access to vaccines and medications, including pre-exposure prophylaxis and antiretroviral drugs to prevent the spread of HIV and vaccines to prevent the transmission of communicable diseases such as polio and drug-resistant tuberculosis, make everyone safer.

(4) United States food assistance benefits United States farmers, ranchers, and agribusinesses, while addressing global food insecurity. United States farmers annually supply an estimated 40 percent of all international food assistance, which is valued at approximately $2,000,000,000.

(5) Greater access to family planning products and services has the potential to prevent up to 30 percent of the 295,000 annual maternal deaths and save the lives of approximately 1,400,000 children who are younger than 5 years old.

(6) The voluntary destruction of foreign assistance commodities intended for beneficiaries at risk of food insecurity and famine, sexual violence, maternal and infant death and disease is unethical and contrary to United States interests and moral obligations.

(c) PROHIBITION.—Section 102 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151–1) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the following:

''(18) Perishable and nonperishable foreign assistance commodities and products, including medicine, vaccines, medical devices, food and food commodities that are procured, managed, controlled, or held in warehouses, ships, shipping containers, or any other storage facility, by the United States Government or by a foreign assistance implementing partner of the United States Government shall be made available to intended beneficiaries, including through donation, for their intended purpose and before the date on which such commodities and products spoil or expire.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(d)(1) In this subsection—

''(A) the term 'appropriate congressional committees' means—

''(i) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

''(ii) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

''(iii) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

''(iv) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

''(B) the term 'commodity' means a product or commodity referred to in subsection (b)(18).

''(2) If any commodity is in the possession or control of a foreign assistance implementing partner of the United States, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Agriculture, or the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, as appropriate, shall release such funds as may be necessary, on an expedited basis, to ensure the delivery or donation of the commodity to intended beneficiaries before the applicable spoilage or expiration date.

''(3) No commodity may be destroyed unless every effort has been made to sell, donate, or otherwise make available the commodity, whichever is more likely to ensure the commodity will be received and utilized by its intended beneficiaries, before the applicable spoilage or expiration date.

''(4)(A) Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the Saving Lives and Taxpayer Dollars Act, and annually

thereafter, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development and the Secretary of Agriculture, as appropriate, shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that describes any commodity that expired, spoiled, or was destroyed without delivery to an intended beneficiary.

''(B) The report required under subparagraph (A) shall include, for each expired, spoiled, or destroyed commodity —

''(i) a description of all negotiations, planning, and efforts to make the commodity available to intended beneficiaries;

''(ii) the reason the commodity was not made available to intended beneficiaries;

''(iii) the purpose of the commodity and the geographic locations of all intended beneficiaries of such commodity;

''(iv) the procured and market value of the commodity; and

''(v) the cost incurred to destroy the commodity.''.

SA 3555. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XII, add the following:

Subtitle F—Ending Support of the People's Republic of China for Russian Federation Defense Industrial Base

SEC. 1271. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Severing Technology Transfer Operations and Partnerships between China and Russia Act of 2025'' or the ''STOP China and Russia Act of 2025''.

SEC. 1272. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) ADMISSION; ADMITTED; ALIEN; ETC.—The terms ''admission'', ''admitted'', ''alien'', ''lawfully admitted for permanent residence'', and ''national'' have the meanings given those terms in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives.

(3) PRC PERSON.—The term ''PRC person'' means—

(A) an individual who is a citizen or national of the People's Republic of China; or

(B) an entity that—

(i) is located or headquartered within the People's Republic of China; or

(ii) is organized under the law of, or otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of, the People's Republic of China.

(4) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term ''foreign person'' means any person that is not a United States person.

(5) KNOWINGLY.—The term ''knowingly'', with respect to conduct, a circumstance, or a result, means that a person has actual knowledge, or should have known, of the conduct, the circumstance, or the result (as the case may be).

(6) PERSON.—The term ''person'' means an individual or entity.

(7) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term ''United States person'' means—

(A) a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States; or

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity; or

(C) any person in the United States.

SEC. 1273. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Between June 28, 2022, and January 15, 2025, with strong bipartisan support, the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury and the Department of State designated, for the imposition of sanctions, a wide range of entities and individuals based in the People's Republic of China that have been involved in supplying goods to Russian entities responsible for developing, producing, and supplying items critical to the defense industrial base of the Russian Federation. Those designations targeted, among other entities, producers and exporters of computer numerical control items, electro-optical equipment, radar components, satellite imagery, aviation components, chemical ingredients in Russian explosives, and other defense and dual-use equipment and technology critical to the Russian Federation's defense industrial base.

(2) Entities and individuals based in the People's Republic of China continue to evade United States sanctions to provide material support to the defense industrial base of the Russian Federation.

(3) Under Executive Order 13959 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; related to addressing the threat from securities investments that finance Communist Chinese military companies), the President found that the People's Republic of China ''increases the size of the country's military-industrial complex by compelling civilian Chinese companies to support its military and intelligence activities. Those companies, though remaining ostensibly private and civilian, directly support the PRC's military, intelligence, and security apparatuses and aid in their development and modernization.''.

(4) Ongoing support for the defense industrial base of the Russian Federation by the People's Republic of China requires concerted action by the Department of the Treasury and the Department of State to protect the national security of the United States.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Russian Federation's continued invasion of Ukraine is directly enabled by the ongoing support of the People's Republic of China for the defense industrial base of the Russian Federation; and

(2) in response, and to impede the support of the People's Republic of China for the Russian Federation's war against Ukraine, the President should—

(A) cut off financing avenues for entities in the People's Republic of China that are providing material support to the defense and related sectors of the economy of the Russian Federation;

(B) impose sanctions with respect to entities and individuals in the People's Republic of China involved in the export of weapons and dual-use technology to the Russian Federation;

(C) determine whether the United States should impose sanctions with respect to major arms exporters in the People's Republic of China for aiding the defense industrial base of the Russian Federation; and

(D) develop a strategy to coordinate with allies and partners of the United States to deter and undermine the ongoing support of the People's Republic of China for the Russian Federation's war in Ukraine.

SEC. 1274. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS RELATING TO SUPPORT BY THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA FOR THE DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—On and after the date that is 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to a foreign person the President determines—

(1) is a PRC person or is under the control of a PRC person; and

(2) that knowingly sells, leases, provides, or facilitates selling, leasing, or providing, goods or services to or for the ultimate use by the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation or the defense industrial base of the Russian Federation, including—

(A) computer numerical control tools and associated machinery, software, and maintenance or upgrade services;

(B) lubricant additives;

(C) nitrocellulose, wood cellulose, and associated additives and components necessary for the production of propellant or energetics for munitions;

(D) chemical coatings;

(E) fiber optic cables with military applications and associated technologies needed to manufacture such cables; or

(F) advanced sensors.

(b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—

(1) PROPERTY BLOCKING.—The President shall exercise all of the powers granted by the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of a foreign person described in subsection (a) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(2) ALIENS INADMISSIBLE FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an alien described in subsection (a), the alien is—

(i) inadmissible to the United States;

(ii) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and

(iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(B) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The visa or other entry documentation of an alien described in subsection (a) shall be revoked, regardless of when such visa or other entry documentation is or was issued.

(ii) IMMEDIATE EFFECT.—A revocation under clause (i) shall—

(I) take effect immediately; and

(II) automatically cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the alien's possession.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.—

(1) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may exercise the authorities provided to the President under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to the extent necessary to carry out this subtitle.

(2) REGULATIONS.—The President shall issue such regulations, licenses, and orders as are necessary to carry out this subtitle.

(3) PENALTIES.—The penalties provided for in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) shall apply to any person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of this section, or any license, order, regulation, or

prohibition issued under this section, to the same extent that such penalties apply to a person that commits an unlawful act described in section 206(a) of such Act (50 U.S.C. 1705(a)).

(d) EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) EXCEPTION FOR INTELLIGENCE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS.—Sanctions under this section shall not apply with respect to—

(A) any activity subject to the reporting requirements under title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.); or

(B) any authorized intelligence or law enforcement activities of the United States.

(2) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS.—Sanctions under this section shall not apply to the admission or parole of an alien into the United States if such admission or parole is necessary to comply with United States obligations under the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, or under the Convention on Consular Relations, done at Vienna April 24, 1963, and entered into force March 19, 1967, or other international obligations.

(3) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The authorities and requirements to impose sanctions authorized under this section shall not include the authority or requirement to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(B) GOOD DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term ''good'' means any article, natural or manmade substance, material, supply or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment, and excluding technical data.

(e) WAIVER.—The President may waive the application of sanctions under this section with respect to a foreign person for renewable periods of not more than 90 days each if the President determines and reports to Congress that such a waiver is in the national interests of the United States.

SEC. 1275. DETERMINATION OF SANCTIONS ON ARMS MANUFACTURERS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ENGAGED IN WEAPONS SALES TO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

(a) DETERMINATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall, with respect to each entity specified in subsection (b)—

(1) submit to the appropriate congressional committees a determination of whether the entity engages in activities described in subsection (c); and

(2) if the President determines the entity engages in such activities, impose the sanctions described in section 1274(b) with respect to the entity.

(b) ENTITIES SPECIFIED.—The entities specified in this subsection are the following:

(1) China North Industries Group Corporation.

(2) Aviation Industry Corporation of China.

(3) China Electronics Technology Group Corporation.

(4) China South Industries Group Corporation.

(5) China Aerospace Science and Industry Corporation.

(6) China General Nuclear Power Group.

(7) China National Nuclear Corporation.

(8) China State Shipbuilding Corporation.

(c) ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.—The activities described in this subsection are providing, selling, transporting, or facilitating the sale or transport of—

(1) arms, weapons, weapons systems, or component parts for such arms, weapons, or weapons systems, to any entity in the Russian Federation or for ultimate use by the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation; or

(2) any goods described in section 1274(a)(2).

SEC. 1276. STRATEGY TO COORDINATE WITH ALLIES AND PARTNERS TO DETER AND UNDERMINE ONGOING SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA FOR THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S WAR IN UKRAINE.

(a) STRATEGY REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a strategy to engage with allies and partners of the United States with respect to the development of coordinated diplomatic, sanctions, export control, and other actions to deter and undermine the ongoing support of the People's Republic of China for the defense industrial base of the Russian Federation.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A diplomatic plan entailing regular and intensive United States engagement with allies and partners of the United States, including the European Union and its member states, the United Kingdom, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand, regarding coordinated sanctions and export control actions designed to deter and undermine the ongoing support of the People's Republic of China for the defense industrial base of the Russian Federation.

(B) A plan to engage in concert with allies and partners of the United States, collectively and individually, and, as appropriate, with financial institutions, financial regulators, and private sector entities, regarding compliance with existing and future sanctions and export controls designed to deter and undermine the ongoing support of the People's Republic of China for the defense industrial base of the Russian Federation.

(b) PROGRESS REPORTS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 90 days thereafter, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the progress of implementation of the strategy required by subsection (a) that includes an assessment of the efficacy of the strategy in deterring and undermining the ongoing support of the People's Republic of China for the defense industrial base of the Russian Federation.

(c) FORM.—The strategy required by subsection (a), and each report required by subsection (b), shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

SA 3556. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. RISCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XII, add the following:

Subtitle F—Democracy in Georgia

SEC. 1271. SHORT TITLES.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Mobilizing and Enhancing Georgia's Options for Building Accountability, Resilience, and Independence Act'' or the ''MEGOBARI Act''.

SEC. 1272. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives.

(2) GEORGIA.—The term ''Georgia'' means the country of Georgia.

(3) NATO.—The term ''NATO'' means the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

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

SEC. 1273. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the consolidation of democracy in Georgia is critical for regional stability and United States national interests;

(2) Georgia has seen significant democratic backsliding in recent years, as evidenced by numerous independent assessments and measures;

(3) the current Georgian government is increasingly hostile towards independent domestic civil society, members of the opposition and its chief Euro-Atlantic partners while increasingly embracing enhanced ties with the Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China, and other anti-Western authoritarian regimes;

(4) the United States has an interest in protecting and securing democracy in Georgia; and

(5) the United States's decision to suspend the- United States-Georgia Strategic Partnership Commission on November 30, 2024, should remain in effect until the Government of Georgia takes measures—

(A) to end political repressions against civil society, media organizations and members of the opposition and fully restore the constitutional rights of the Georgian people; and

(B) to uphold its constitutional obligation to advance Euro-Atlantic integration.

SEC. 1274. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to support the constitutionally stated aspirations of Georgia to become a member of the European Union and NATO, which is made clear under Article 78 of the Constitution of Georgia and is supported by the overwhelming majority of the citizens of Georgia;

(2) to continue supporting the capacity of the Government of Georgia to protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity from further Russian aggression or encroachment within its internationally recognized borders;

(3) to emphasize the importance of contributing to international efforts—

(A) to combat Russian aggression, including through restrictions on trade with Russia and the implementation and enforcement of worldwide sanctions on Russia; and

(B) to reduce, rather than increase, trade ties between Georgia and Russia;

(4) to continue supporting the ongoing development of democratic values in Georgia, including free and fair elections, freedom of association, an independent and accountable judiciary, an independent media, public-sector transparency and accountability, the rule of law, countering malign influence, and anti-corruption efforts and to impose swift consequences on individuals who are directly responsible for leading or have directly and knowingly engaged in leading actions of policies that significantly undermine those standards;

(5) to continue to support the Georgian people and civil society organizations that

reflect the aspirations of the Georgian people for democracy and a future with the people of Europe;

(6) to continue supporting the right of the Georgian people to freely engage in peaceful protest, determine their future, and make independent and sovereign choices on foreign and security policy, including regarding Georgia's relationship with other countries and international organizations, without interference, intimidation, or coercion by other countries or those acting on their behalf;

(7) to call on all political parties, elected Members of the Parliament of Georgia, and officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia to respect the freedoms of peaceful assembly, association, and expression, including for the press, and the rule of law, and encourage a vibrant and inclusive civil society;

(8) to call on the Government of Georgia to release all persons detained or imprisoned on politically motivated grounds and drop any pending charges against them;

(9) to call on the Government of Georgia to thoroughly investigate all allegations emerging from the recent national elections, which took place on October 2024, make a determination whether the elections should be judged as illegitimate and hold those responsible for interference in the elections; and

(10) to continue impressing upon the Government of Georgia that the United States is committed to sustaining and deepening bilateral relations and supporting Georgia's Euro-Atlantic aspirations.

SEC. 1275. REPORTS AND BRIEFINGS.

(a) REPORT ON RUSSIAN AND CHINESE INTELLIGENCE ASSETS IN GEORGIA.—

(1) DEFINED TERM.—In this section, the term ''relevant congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(B) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate;

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

(D) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(E) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives; and

(F) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

(2) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Director of National Intelligence and the Secretary of Defense, shall submit a classified report, as appropriate, to the relevant congressional committees that meets the requirements set forth in paragraph (3).

(3) CONTENTS.—The report required under paragraph (2) shall—

(A) be prepared consistent with the protection of sources and methods;

(B) examine the penetration of Russian and Chinese intelligence elements and their assets in Georgia; and

(C) examine the potential intersection of Russian and Chinese influence and cooperation in Georgia.

(b) 5-YEAR UNITED STATES STRATEGY FOR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH GEORGIA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the relevant congressional committees a detailed strategy that—

(A) outlines specific objectives for enhancing bilateral ties which reflect the current domestic political environment in Georgia;

(B) includes a determination of the tools, resources, and funding that should be available to achieve the objectives outlined pursuant to subparagraph (A) and an assessment whether Georgia should remain a top recipient of United States funding in the Europe and Eurasia region;

(C) includes a determination of the extent to which the United States should continue to invest in its partnership with Georgia;

(D) includes a plan for how the United States can continue to support civil society and independent media organizations in Georgia; and

(E) includes a determination whether the Government of Georgia remains committed to expanding trade ties with the United States and Europe and whether the United States Government should continue to invest in Georgian projects.

(2) FORM.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, with a classified annex.

SEC. 1276. SANCTIONS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMISSION; ADMITTED; ALIEN.—The terms ''admission'', ''admitted'', and ''alien'' have the meanings given such terms in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

(2) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term ''foreign person'' means any individual or entity that is not a United States person.

(3) IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS.—The term ''immediate family members'' has the meaning given the term ''immediate relatives'' in section 201(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(b)(2)(A)(i)).

(4) KNOWINGLY.—The term ''knowingly'', with respect to conduct, a circumstance, or a result, means that a person has actual knowledge, or should have known, of the conduct, the circumstance, or the result.

(5) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term ''United States person'' means—

(A) a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States;

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity; or

(C) any person within the United States.

(b) INADMISSIBILITY OF OFFICIALS OF GOVERNMENT OF GEORGIA AND CERTAIN OTHER INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN BLOCKING EURO-ATLANTIC INTEGRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall determine whether each of the following foreign persons has knowingly engaged in significant acts of corruption, or acts of violence or intimidation in relation to the blocking of Euro-Atlantic integration in Georgia:

(A) Any individual who, on or after January 1, 2014, has served as a member of the Parliament of the Government of Georgia or as a current or former senior official of a Georgian political party.

(B) Any individual who is serving as an official in a leadership position working on behalf of the Government of Georgia, including law enforcement, intelligence, judicial, or local or municipal government.

(C) An immediate family member of an official described in subparagraph (A) or a person described in subparagraph (B) who benefitted from the conduct of such official or person.

(2) SANCTIONS.—The President shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (d)(2) with respect to each foreign person with respect to which the President has made an affirmative determination under paragraph (1).

(3) BRIEFING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall brief the appropriate congressional committees with respect to—

(A) any foreign person with respect to which the President has made an affirmative determination under paragraph (1); and

(B) the specific facts that justify each such affirmative determination.

(4) WAIVER.—The President may waive imposition of sanctions under this subsection, on a case-by-case basis, if the President determines and reports to the appropriate congressional committees that—

(A) such waiver would serve national security interests; or

(B) the circumstances which caused the individual to be ineligible have sufficiently changed.

(c) IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO UNDERMINING PEACE, SECURITY, STABILITY, SOVEREIGNTY OR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF GEORGIA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may impose the sanctions described in subsection (d)(1) and shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (d)(2) with respect to each foreign person the President determines, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act—

(A) is responsible for, complicit in, or has directly or indirectly engaged in or attempted to engage in, actions or policies, including ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing acts that are intended to undermine the peace, security, stability, sovereignty, or territorial integrity of Georgia;

(B) is or has been a leader or official of an entity that has, or whose members have, engaged in any activity described in subparagraph (A); or

(C) is an immediate family member of a person subject to sanctions for conduct described in subparagraph (A) or (B) and benefitted from the conduct of such person.

(2) BRIEF AND WRITTEN NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 10 days after imposing sanctions on a foreign person or persons pursuant to this subsection, the President shall brief and provide written notification to the appropriate congressional committees regarding the imposition of such sanctions, which shall describe—

(A) the foreign person or persons subject to the imposition of such sanctions;

(B) the activity justifying the imposition of such sanctions; and

(C) the specific sanctions imposed on such foreign person or persons.

(3) WAIVER.—The President may waive the application of sanctions under this subsection with respect to a foreign person for renewable periods not to exceed 180 days if, not later than 15 days before the date on which such waiver is to take effect, the President submits to the appropriate congressional committees a written determination and justification that the waiver is in the national security interests of the United States.

(d) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions described in this subsection are the following with respect to a foreign person described in subsection (b) or (c), as applicable:

(1) BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.—Notwithstanding the requirements under section 202 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701), the President shall exercise all authorities granted under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in property and interests in property of the foreign person if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(2) INELIGIBILITY FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—

(A) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—A foreign person that is an alien shall be—

(i) inadmissible to the United States;

(ii) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and

(iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(B) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—The foreign person shall be subject to the following:

(i) Revocation of any visa or other entry documentation regardless of when the visa or other entry documentation is or was issued.

(ii) A revocation under clause (i) shall take effect immediately and automatically cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the foreign person's possession.

(e) IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.—

(1) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may exercise all authorities provided under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out this section.

(2) PENALTIES.—A person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of subsection (d)(2)(A) or any regulation, license, or order issued under that subsection shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subtitle, or any amendment made by this subtitle, may be construed to limit the authority of the President to designate or sanction persons pursuant to an applicable Executive order or otherwise pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

(f) RULEMAKING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall prescribe such regulations as are necessary for the implementation of this section.

(2) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 10 days before prescribing regulations pursuant to paragraph (1), the President shall notify the appropriate congressional committees of the proposed regulations and the provisions of this section that the regulations are implementing.

(g) SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO BROADER CORRUPTION IN GEORGIA.—

(1) DETERMINATION.—The President shall determine whether there are foreign persons who, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, have knowingly engaged in significant corruption in Georgia or acts that are intended to undermine the peace, security, stability, sovereignty, or territorial integrity of Georgia for the purposes of potential imposition of sanctions pursuant to powers granted to the President under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

(2) REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that—

(i) identifies all foreign persons the President has determined, pursuant to this subsection, have engaged in significant corruption in Georgia or committed acts that are intended to undermine the peace, security, stability, sovereignty, or territorial integrity of Georgia;

(ii) the dates on which sanctions were imposed; and

(iii) the reasons for imposing such sanctions.

(B) FORM.—The report required under subparagraph (A) shall be provided in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(h) TERMINATION OF SANCTIONS.—The President may terminate the application of a sanction authorized under this Act with respect to a person if the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that—

(1) the person is no longer engaging in the activity that was the basis for the sanctions or has taken significant verifiable steps toward ceasing the activity; and

(2) the President has received reliable assurances that the person will not knowingly engage in the sanctionable activity described in paragraph (1) in the future.

(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING DELISTING PROCEDURES RELATING TO SANCTIONS AUTHORIZED UNDER OTHER PROVISIONS OF LAW.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed to modify the delisting procedures used by the Department of the Treasury with respect to sanctions authorized under any other executive order or provision of law.

(i) EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY.—The term ''agricultural commodity'' has the meaning given such term in section 102 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5602).

(B) GOOD.—The term ''good'' means any article, natural or man-made substance, material, supply, or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment and excluding technical data.

(C) MEDICAL DEVICE.—The term ''medical device'' has the meaning given the term ''device'' in section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321).

(D) MEDICINE.—The term ''medicine'' has the meaning given the term ''drug'' in section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321).

(2) EXCEPTIONS.—

(A) EXCEPTION FOR INTELLIGENCE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.—Sanctions under this section apply with respect to activities subject to the reporting requirements under title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.) or to carry out or assist any authorized intelligence or law enforcement activities of the United States.

(B) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS.—Sanctions under this section shall not apply with respect to a foreign person if admitting or paroling the person into the United States is necessary to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations.

(C) HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.—Sanctions under this section shall not apply to—

(i) the conduct or facilitation of a transaction for the provision of agricultural commodities, food, medicine, medical devices, or humanitarian assistance, or for humanitarian purposes; or

(ii) transactions that are necessary for, or related to, the activities described in paragraph (1).

(j) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.—The requirement to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property under this section shall not include the authority or a requirement to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

SEC. 1277. ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE WITH RESPECT TO GEORGIA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Upon submission to Congress of the certification described in subsection (c)—

(1) the Secretary of State should seek to further enhance people-to-people contacts, academic, law enforcement, and technical assistance between the United States and Georgia; and

(2) the President, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State, should maintain military co-operation with Georgia if it is in the national security interests of the United States.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that, after the submission of the certification described in subsection (c), if the Government of Georgia takes steps to realign itself with its Euro-Atlantic agenda, including significant changes to the foreign influence law and related laws, the end of harassment of civil society and independent media, and the release of all political prisoners, the President should take steps to improve the bilateral relationship between the United States and Georgia, including actions to bolster Georgia's ability to deter threats from Russia and other malign actors.

(c) CERTIFICATION DESCRIBED.—The certification described in this subsection is a certification submitted by the President to the appropriate congressional committees, the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives that Georgia has shown significant and sustained progress towards reinvigorating its democracy and advancing its Euro-Atlantic integration.

SEC. 1278. SUNSET.

The provisions of this subtitle shall cease to have any force or effect beginning on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 3557. Ms. SLOTKIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 16___. AUDIT AND UPDATED GUIDANCE TO REDUCE, MITIGATE, OR ELIMINATE RISK FROM CLOUD COMPUTING CONTRACTS WITH FOREIGN EXPOSURE.

(a) REVIEW OF FOREIGN EXPOSURE FROM DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CLOUD COMPUTING CONTRACTS.—

(1) AUDIT REQUIRED.—The Inspector General of the Department of Defense shall conduct an audit of cloud computing contracts for the Department of Defense to assess the risk of exposure of sensitive information, including data, systems architecture details, procedures, or other controlled unclassified information, as a result of policies that may have allowed computer scientists or engineers from foreign countries of concern to access proposed software updates to underlying cloud computing infrastructure or operating systems.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The audit conducted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall cover the following:

(A) Determination of how many cloud computing contracts the Department has that may be or have been supported by employees located in foreign countries of concern or are citizens of foreign countries of concern.

(B) Identification of policies or clauses in such cloud computing contracts that allow for the use of so called ''digital escorts'', computer scientists, or engineers from foreign countries of concern.

(C) Assessment of agreements in place that use so called ''digital escorts'' to provide oversight to employees from foreign countries of concern, including identification of instances in which such authorities were used during the period beginning on January 1, 2022, and ending on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(D) Assessment of the national security risks that stem from cloud computing contracts that use labor from foreign countries of concern.

(E) Recommendations on ways to reduce, mitigate, or eliminate risk from initiatives such as so called ''digital escorting'', or the use of computer scientists or engineers from foreign countries of concern.

(3) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than July 1, 2026, the Inspector General shall submit to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives a report setting forth the findings of the Inspector General with respect to the audit conducted pursuant to paragraph (1).

(b) GUIDANCE TO REDUCE, MITIGATE, OR ELIMINATE RISK.—

(1) GUIDANCE.—Based on the audit conducted under subsection (a), the Secretary shall issue new guidance to reduce, mitigate, or eliminate risk to Department data or cloud computing infrastructure from foreign countries of concern.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The guidance issued pursuant to paragraph (1) shall—

(A) restrict the use of personnel from foreign countries of concern to support Department information technology systems; and

(B) require disclosure to the congressional defense committees if the Secretary finds a Department information technology system is maintained by personnel from a foreign country of concern.

(3) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive any guidance issued under paragraph (1) in any case in which the Secretary certifies in writing that such waiver—

(A) does not pose a risk to national security; and

(B) is necessary in the interest of national security.

(c) DEFINITION OF FOREIGN COUNTRY OF CONCERN.—In this section, the term ''foreign country of concern'' has the meaning given that term in section 9901 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (15 U.S.C. 4651).

SA 3558. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 12____. HAITI CRIMINAL COLLUSION TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2025.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Haiti Criminal Collusion Transparency Act of 2025''.

(b) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 5 years, the Secretary of State, in coordination with other Federal agencies as the Secretary determines appropriate, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the connections between criminal gangs and political elites and economic elites in Haiti.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) a list identifying prominent criminal gangs in Haiti, including—

(i) the leaders of each gang;

(ii) a description of the criminal activities of each gang, including coercive recruitment; and

(iii) the primary geographic area of operations for each gang;

(B) a list of political elites and economic elites in Haiti who knowingly have direct and significant links to criminal gangs and any organizations or entities controlled by such political elites and economic elites;

(C) a detailed description of the relationship between the political elites and economic elites listed pursuant to subparagraph (B) and the criminal gangs identified pursuant to subparagraph (A);

(D) a detailed description of how political elites and economic elites in Haiti use relationships with criminal gangs to advance political and economic interests and agendas;

(E) a list of each criminal organization assessed to be trafficking Haitians and other individuals to the United States border;

(F) an assessment of connections between political elites and economic elites, criminal gangs in Haiti, and transnational criminal organizations;

(G) an assessment of how the nature and extent of collusion between political elites and economic elites and criminal gangs threatens the people of Haiti and the national interests and activities of the United States in Haiti; and

(H) an assessment of potential actions that the Government of the United States and the Government of Haiti could take to address the findings made pursuant to subparagraph (F).

(3) FORM OF REPORT.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(c) SANCTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date the report required by section 2 is submitted to the appropriate congressional committees, the President shall impose sanctions described in paragraph (2) with respect to each foreign person identified pursuant to subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (b)(2).

(2) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions described in this subsection are the following:

(A) PROPERTY BLOCKING.—Notwithstanding the requirements of section 202 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701), the President may exercise of all powers granted to the President by that Act to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of any foreign person described in paragraph (1) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(B) ALIENS INADMISSIBLE FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—An alien who the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Homeland Security (or a designee of one of such Secretaries) knows, or has reason to believe, is described in paragraph (1) is—

(I) inadmissible to the United States;

(II) ineligible for a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and

(III) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(ii) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—The issuing consular officer, the Secretary of State, or the Secretary of Homeland Security (or a designee of one of such Secretaries) shall, in accordance with section 221(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(i)), revoke any visa or other entry documentation issued to an alien described in paragraph (1) regardless of when the visa or other entry documentation was issued.

(II) EFFECT OF REVOCATION.—A revocation under subclause (I)—

(aa) shall take effect immediately; and

(bb) shall automatically cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the possession of the alien.

(3) EXCEPTIONS.—

(A) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS.—Sanctions under paragraph (2)(B) shall not apply with respect to the admission of an alien if admitting or paroling the alien into the United States is necessary to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations of the United States.

(B) EXCEPTION RELATING TO THE PROVISION OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.—Sanctions under this section may not be imposed with respect to transactions or the facilitation of transactions for—

(i) the sale of agricultural commodities, food, medicine, or medical devices to Haiti;

(ii) the provision of humanitarian assistance to the people of Haiti;

(iii) financial transactions relating to humanitarian assistance or for humanitarian purposes in Haiti; or

(iv) transporting goods or services that are necessary to carry out operations relating to humanitarian assistance or humanitarian purposes in Haiti.

(4) IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.—

(A) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may exercise all authorities provided to the President under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out this section.

(B) PENALTIES.—The penalties provided for in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) shall apply to any person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of any prohibition of this section, or an order or regulation prescribed under this section, to the same extent that such penalties apply to a person that commits an unlawful act described in section 206(a) of such Act (50 U.S.C. 1705(a)).

(5) WAIVER.—The President may waive the application of sanctions imposed with respect to a foreign person under this section if the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees, not later than 15 days before such waiver takes effect, that the waiver is vital to the national security interests of the United States.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMITTED; ALIEN; LAWFULLY ADMITTED FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE.—The terms ''admitted'', ''alien'', and ''lawfully admitted for permanent residence'' have the meanings given those terms in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives.

(3) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term ''foreign person'' means an individual or entity that is not a United States person.

(4) ECONOMIC ELITE.—The term ''economic elite'' means a board member, officer, or executive of a group, committee, corporation, or other entity that exerts substantial influence or control over the economy, infrastructure, or a particular industry of Haiti.

(5) POLITICAL ELITE.—The term ''political elite'' means a current or former government official, or the high-level staff of any such government official, a political party leader, or a political committee leader of Haiti.

(6) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term ''United States person'' means—

(A) a United States citizen;

(B) a permanent resident alien of the United States; or

(C) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or of any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity.

(e) SUNSET.—This section shall cease to have any force or effect beginning on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 3559. Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in subtitle F of title 10, insert the following:

SEC. 10_____. PROHIBITIONS ON PLACEMENT OF UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN WITH CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS.

Section 235(c)(2) of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1232(c)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), in the first sentence, by striking ''Subject to'' and inserting ''Except as provided in subparagraph (C), and subject to''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) PROHIBITIONS ON PLACEMENT OF UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN WITH CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS.—

''(i) INDIVIDUALS WITH CRIMINAL HISTORY.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall not place an unaccompanied alien child in the custody of any individual has been charged with or convicted of (or any adult living in the household of any individual who has been charged with, or convicted of)—

''(I) a sex offense (as defined in section 111(5) of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (34 U.S.C. 20911(5)));

''(II) a crime involving severe forms of trafficking in persons (as defined in section 103(11) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102(11)));

''(III) a crime of domestic violence (as defined in section 40002(a)(12) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(12)));

''(IV) a crime of child abuse and neglect (as defined in section 3 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (Public Law 93–247; 42 U.S.C. 5101 note));

''(V) murder, manslaughter, or an attempt to commit murder or manslaughter (as defined in sections 1111, 1112, and 1113 of title 18, United States Code); or

''(VI) a crime involving sexual exploitation and other abuse of children (as described in sections 2251, 2251A, 2252, 2252A, 2252B, and 2252C of title 18, United States Code).

''(ii) INFORMATION ABOUT INDIVIDUALS WITH WHOM CHILDREN ARE PLACED.—Before placing a child with any individual, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall require each individual with whom the child will be placed and all adult residents who are or will be living in such individual's household to be fingerprinted, and shall conduct background checks based on the biographic and biometric data for each such individual or adult resident.''.

SA 3560. Mr. CORNYN 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. MODIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS FOR SPONSOR'S AFFIDAVIT OF SUPPORT.

Section 213A of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1183a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''No'' and all that follows through ''excludable'' and inserting ''The Secretary of Homeland Security, Attorney General, or any consular officer shall not accept an affidavit of support to establish that an alien is not inadmissible''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''125 percent'' and inserting ''150 percent'';

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''shall be'' and all that follows through ''earlier,'' and inserting ''shall remain enforceable with respect to benefits provided an alien until'';

(C) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

''(3) TERMINATION OF AFFIDAVIT.—An affidavit of support is no longer enforceable, and the obligations of the sponsor terminate automatically by operation of law on the date on which any of the following occurs:

''(A) The sponsored alien becomes a United States citizen.

''(B) The sponsored alien is deceased.

''(C) The sponsored alien—

''(i) ceases to hold the status of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence;

''(ii) departs the United States; and

''(iii) is determined by a consular officer or immigration judge through removal proceedings to have abandoned his or her status while abroad.

''(D) The sponsored alien obtains, in a removal proceeding, a new grant of adjustment of status as relief from removal, in which case if the sponsored alien is still subject to the affidavit of support requirement under this section, any individual who signed an affidavit of support or an affidavit of support attachment in relation to the new adjustment application will be subject to the obligations of this section, rather than the individual who signed an affidavit of support or an affidavit of support attachment in relation to an earlier grant of admission as an immigrant or of adjustment of status.

''(E) The sponsored alien has a final order of removal, or is subject to reinstatement of a final order of removal, under this Act.

''(F)(i) The sponsored alien has worked, or can be credited with, 40 qualifying quarters of coverage (as defined under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.)) and did not receive any Federal means-tested public benefit (as provided in section 403 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1613)) during any qualifying quarter creditable for such period.

''(ii) For purposes of this section, in determining the number of qualifying quarters of coverage under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) an alien shall be credited with—

''(I) all of the qualifying quarters of coverage as defined under title II of the Social Security Act worked by a parent of such alien while the alien was under age 18, and

''(II) all of the qualifying quarters worked by a spouse of such alien during their marriage and the alien remains married to such spouse or such spouse is deceased.

''(iii) No such qualifying quarter of coverage that is creditable under title II of the Social Security Act for any period may be credited to an alien under clause (i) or (ii) if the parent or spouse (as the case may be) of such alien received any Federal means-tested public benefit (as provided under section 1613 of this title) during the period for which such qualifying quarter of coverage is so credited.

''(G) The sponsored alien has been charged with or is convicted of any of the following crimes in which the sponsor or the sponsor's child is a victim and the sponsor has not aided or abetted:

''(i) A sex offense (as defined in section 111(5) of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (34 U.S.C. 20911(5))).

''(ii) A crime involving severe forms of trafficking in persons (as defined in section 103(11) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102(11))).

''(iii) A crime of child abuse and neglect (as defined in section 3 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (Public Law 93–247; 42 U.S.C. 5101 note)).

''(iv) Murder, manslaughter, or an attempt to commit murder or manslaughter (as defined in sections 1111, 1112, and 1113 of title 18, United States Code).

''(v) A crime involving sexual exploitation and other abuse of children (as described in sections 2251, 2251A, 2252, 2252A, 2252B, and 2252C of title 18, United States Code).''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO SAVE SYSTEM.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure that appropriate information regarding the application of this paragraph is provided to the system for alien verification of eligibility (SAVE) described in section 1137(d)(3) of the Social Security Act.'';

(2) in subsection (b)(1)(B), by inserting ''Secretary of Homeland Security and'' before ''Attorney General'';

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''sponsor'' and all that follows through ''Attorney General'' and inserting ''sponsor and joint sponsor (if applicable) shall notify the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General,''; and

(B) in the undesignated matter at the end, by inserting ''Secretary of Homeland Security and'' before ''Attorney General'';

(4) in subsection (e)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), and moving such subparagraphs 2 ems to the right;

(B) by striking ''An action'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), an action''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) EXCEPTION.—(A) A sponsored alien shall not be permitted to file an action or otherwise seek enforcement of an affidavit of support if the sponsored alien is described in subparagraph (E) or (G) of subsection (a)(3).

''(B) Except as provided in subparagraph (A), a sponsored alien who files an action or otherwise seeks enforcement of an affidavit of support, and who a judge has determined that the sponsored alien battered or subjected the sponsor or sponsor's child to extreme cruelty, shall be required to pay the sponsor's attorneys' fees and costs if the enforcement action is dismissed with prejudice.'';

(5) in subsection (f)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by inserting ''AND JOINT SPONSOR'' after ''SPONSOR'';

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (E), by striking ''125 percent'' and inserting ''150 percent'';

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (E) as clauses (i) through (iv), and moving such clauses 2 ems to the right;

(iii) by striking the paragraph heading and all that follows through ''For purposes'', and inserting the following:

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—

''(A) SPONSOR.—For purposes''; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) JOINT SPONSOR.—For purposes of this section, the term 'joint sponsor' in relation to a sponsored alien means an individual who executes an affidavit of support with respect to the sponsored alien and who—

''(i) is a citizen or national of the United States or an alien who is lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence;

''(ii) is at least 18 years of age;

''(iii) is domiciled in any of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, or any territory or possession of the United States;

''(iv) demonstrates (as provided in paragraph (6)) the means to maintain an annual income equal to at least 150 percent of the Federal poverty line; and

''(v) is willing to submit an affidavit of support and accept joint and several liability with the sponsor, in any case in which the sponsor's household income is not sufficient to satisfy the requirements of section 213A.'';

(C) in paragraph (2), by striking ''paragraph (1)(E)'' and inserting ''paragraph (1)(A)(v)'';

(D) in paragraph (3), by striking ''paragraph (1)(E)'' and inserting ''paragraph (1)(A)(v)'';

(E) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in the paragraph heading, by striking ''IMMIGRANTS CASE'' and inserting ''IMMIGRANT CASES'';

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''paragraph (1)(D)'' and inserting ''paragraph (1)(A)(iv)''; and

(iii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in clause (i), by striking ''125 percent'' and inserting ''150 percent''; and

(II) in clause (ii), by striking ''paragraph (1)(E)'' and inserting ''paragraph (1)(A)(v)''; and

(F) in paragraph (5)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''paragraph (1)(D)'' and inserting ''paragraph (1)(A)(iv)''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''125 percent'' and inserting ''150 percent'';

(6) by redesignating subsections (h) and (i) as subsections (g) and (h), respectively; and

(7) in subsection (h), as redesignated—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking ''Attorney General'' and all that follows through ''maintain'' and inserting ''Secretary of Homeland Security shall maintain an automated system for''; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking ''Attorney General'' and inserting ''Secretary of Homeland Security''.

SA 3561. Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XII, add the following:

Subtitle F—Scam Compound Accountability and Mobilization Act

SEC. 1271. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Scam Compound Accountability and Mobilization Act''.

SEC. 1272. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) transnational cyber-enabled fraud, particularly perpetrated from scam compounds in Southeast Asia, is a growing threat to citizens of the United States, national security, and economic interests globally, with the Federal Bureau of Investigation reporting $13,700,000,000 in losses in the United States due to cyber-enabled fraud in 2024, including schemes commonly perpetrated by transnational criminal organizations operating scam compounds;

(2) transnational criminal organizations responsible for a large proportion of these scam compounds are affiliated with the People's Republic of China (PRC), actively spread PRC propaganda, promote unification with Taiwan, and have brokered projects for the Belt and Road Initiative;

(3) transnational criminal organizations have lured hundreds of thousands of human trafficking victims from over 40 countries to scam compounds, primarily in Burma, Cambodia, and Laos, for purposes of forced criminality;

(4) transnational criminal organizations are expanding scam compounds internationally including in Africa, the Middle East, South Asia, and the Pacific Islands, and related money laundering, human trafficking and recruitment fraud have occurred in Europe, North America, and South America;

(5) the United States should redouble efforts to hold the perpetrators and enablers of scam compound operations accountable, including those involved in related money laundering, human trafficking, and recruitment fraud, by employing tools, such as targeted sanctions, visa restrictions, and asset seizures;

(6) to effectively address cyber-enabled fraud originating from scam compounds internationally, the United States Government should work with partner governments, multilateral institutions, civil society experts, and private sector stakeholders to improve information sharing, strengthen preventative measures, raise public awareness, and increase coordination on law enforcement investigations and regulatory actions; and

(7) survivors of human trafficking and forced criminality require victim-centered support to ensure they are not punished for offences that directly resulted from being trafficked.

SEC. 1273. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) CYBER-ENABLED FRAUD.—The term ''cyber-enabled fraud'' means the use of the internet or other technology to commit fraudulent activity, including the theft of money, data, or identity or the creation of counterfeit goods or services.

(3) ENABLING COUNTRY.—The term ''enabling country'' means a country where—

(A) government authorities actively or implicitly permit, enable, or perpetuate scam compound operations; or

(B) ineffective law enforcement or a failure to enact legislation intended to prevent facilitating services from reaching scam compounds or transnational criminal organizations enables scam compound operators to obtain facilitating services.

(4) FORCED CRIMINALITY.—The term ''forced criminality'' means the coercion of an individual, including under threat of physical violence, blackmail, prosecution, or other harm directly against the individual or a person with whom such individual has a personal relationship, to engage in criminal activity, such as cyber-enabled fraud.

(5) IMPACTED COUNTRY.—The term ''impacted country'' means a country that is a significant—

(A) transit location for forced labor and human trafficking to scam compounds;

(B) source of forced labor or victims of human trafficking for scam compounds; or

(C) target of cyber-enabled fraud originating from scam compounds internationally.

(6) SCAM COMPOUND.—The term ''scam compound'' means a physical installation where a transnational criminal organization carries out cyber-enabled fraud operations, frequently using victims of human trafficking and forced criminality.

(7) STRATEGY.—The term ''Strategy'' means the strategy to counter scam compounds and hold transnational criminal organizations accountable required under section 1274.

(8) TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION.—The term ''transnational criminal organization'' means a group of persons that—

(A) includes one or more foreign person;

(B) engages in or facilitates an ongoing pattern of serious criminal activity involving the jurisdictions of at least two foreign states or one foreign state and the United States; and

(C) threatens the national security, foreign policy, or economy of the United States.

SEC. 1274. STRATEGY TO COUNTER SCAM COMPOUNDS AND HOLD TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS ACCOUNTABLE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with other Federal departments and agencies as designated by the President, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a comprehensive strategy to counter scam compounds and hold transnational criminal organizations accountable.

(b) CONTENTS.—The Strategy shall—

(1) articulate a comprehensive problem statement identifying the structural vulnerabilities exploited by transnational criminal organizations operating scam compounds;

(2) develop a comprehensive list of enabling countries and impacted countries;

(3) identify all active executive branch foreign assistance programs and diplomatic efforts underway to address scam compounds, transnational criminal organizations connected to scam compounds, money laundering, and human trafficking and forced criminality, including efforts with enabling countries and impacted countries;

(4) identify foreign assistance resources needed to fully implement the Strategy and any obstacles to the response of the Federal Government to scam compounds, including coordination with partner governments, to address the human trafficking, forced criminality, and money laundering that sustains scam compound operations;

(5) include objectives, activities, and performance indicators regarding the response of the Federal government to scam compounds, including—

(A) the prevention of recruitment fraud and human trafficking, including by—

(i) engaging private sector entities operating internet platforms or other services that can be abused or exploited to perpetrate recruitment fraud, human trafficking or cyber-enabled fraud;

(ii) raising awareness among at-risk populations to identify common recruitment fraud strategies and improve due diligence and self-protection measures; and

(iii) sharing information and building awareness among foreign counterparts, including law enforcement and border officials, to identify potential human trafficking victims;

(B) the support for survivors of human trafficking and forced criminality under the direction of the Ambassador at Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and the Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement;

(C) the enhancement of coordination and strengthening the capabilities of partner governments and law enforcement agencies;

(D) the use of sanctions, visa restrictions, and other accountability measures against enabling countries, transnational criminal organizations, and related third-party facilitators of scam compound operations;

(E) the support of partner governments in countering corruption and money laundering related to scam compound operations; and

(F) the investigation of PRC connections to transnational criminal organizations operating scam compounds.

SEC. 1275. ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO IMPLEMENT THE STRATEGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after submitting the Strategy pursuant to section 1274(a), the Secretary of State, in consultation with other Federal departments and agencies as designated by the President, shall establish an interagency task force (referred to in this section as the ''Task Force'')—

(1) to coordinate the implementation of the Strategy;

(2) to conduct regular monitoring and analysis of scam compound operations internationally;

(3) to track and evaluate progress toward the objectives, activities, and performance indicators of the Strategy described in section 1274(b)(5); and

(4) to update the Strategy, in consultation with the appropriate congressional committees, as needed.

(b) ANNUAL REVIEWS AND REPORTS.—Not later than one year after the establishment of the Task Force, and not less frequently than annually thereafter, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the heads of other Federal departments and agencies as designated by the President, shall—

(1) conduct a status review of the Strategy and the overall state of scam compounds operated by transnational criminal organizations;

(2) include a list of enabling countries and impacted countries; and

(3) submit the results of such review in a public report to the appropriate congressional committees, which may contain a classified annex.

(c) TASK FORCE TERMINATION.—The Task Force shall terminate six years after the date of its establishment.

SEC. 1276. STRENGTHENING TOOLS TO DISMANTLE SCAM COMPOUNDS AND HOLD TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS ACCOUNTABLE.

(a) AUTHORITY TO SANCTION SIGNIFICANT ACTORS IN SCAM COMPOUND OPERATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may exercise the authorities set forth in section 203 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702) without regard to section 202 of that Act (50 U.S.C. 1701) in the case of any of the following persons:

(A) Foreign persons that materially assist in, or provide financial or technological support to, or provide goods or services in support of, the activities of international scam compounds or enabling services, including recruitment fraud, human trafficking, forced criminality, cyber-enabled fraud, or money-laundering.

(B) Foreign persons that are owned, controlled, or directed by, or acting for or on behalf of, a significant scam compound operation or enabling service, including recruitment fraud, human trafficking, forced criminality, cyber-enabled fraud, or money-laundering.

(2) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT OF SUSPENSION OR TERMINATION OF SANCTIONS.—Not earlier than 15 days after notifying the appropriate congressional committees of a determination that any sanction authorized under paragraph (1) should be suspended or terminated, and the basis for such determination, the President may suspend or terminate such sanction.

(3) PENALTIES.—The penalties set forth in section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) apply to a violation of any license, order, or regulation issued under this section.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS ON IDENTIFICATION AND SANCTIONING OF SIGNIFICANT ACTORS IN INTERNATIONAL SCAM COMPOUND OPERATIONS OR ENABLING SERVICES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Upon exercising any authority under subsection (a)(1), the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that identifies—

(A) the foreign persons that the President has determined are appropriate for sanctions pursuant to this section and the basis for such determination; and

(B) specific sanctions imposed pursuant to this section.

(2) SUBMISSION OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.—Reports submitted under this section may include an annex with classified information regarding the basis for the determination made by the President under paragraph (1)(A) or subsection (a)(2).

(c) LAW ENFORCEMENT AND INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES NOT AFFECTED.—Nothing in this section may be construed to prohibit or otherwise limit the authorized law enforcement or intelligence activities of the United States, or the law enforcement activities of any State or subdivision thereof.

(d) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A requirement to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property pursuant to subsection (a) shall not include the authority or a requirement to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(2) GOOD DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''good'' means any article, natural or manmade substance, material, supply, or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment, and excluding technical data.

SA 3562. Mr. JOHNSON 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, insert the following:

SEC. 1067. STUDY ON PHARMACEUTICAL INGREDIENTS.

The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall seek to enter into an agreement with the RAND Corporation under which the RAND Corporation—

(1) studies—

(A) the extent to which drug manufacturers use foreign sources for precursor chemicals and active pharmaceutical ingredients for the manufacture of drugs for the United States market; and

(B) any statutory, regulatory, or other barriers to domestic production of such chemicals and ingredients; and

(2) submits a report on such study to the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

SA 3563. Mr. JOHNSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1248. ELIGIBILITY OF TAIWAN FOR THE STRATEGIC TRADE AUTHORIZATION EXCEPTION TO CERTAIN EXPORT CONTROL LICENSING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Taiwan has adopted high standards in the field of export controls.

(2) Taiwan has declared its unilateral adherence to the Missile Technology Control Regime, the Wassenaar Arrangement, the Australia Group, and the Nuclear Suppliers Group.

(3) At the request of President George W. Bush, section 1206 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107–228; 22 U.S.C. 2321k note) required that Taiwan be treated as if it were designated as a major non-NATO ally (as defined in section 644(q) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2403(q)).

(b) ELIGIBILITY FOR STRATEGIC TRADE AUTHORIZATION.—The President, consistent with the commitments of the United States under international arrangements, shall take steps so that Taiwan may be treated as if it were included in the list of countries eligible for the strategic trade authorization exception under section 740.20(c)(1) of the Export Administration Regulations to the requirement for a license for the export, re-export, or in-country transfer of an item subject to controls under the Export Administration Regulations.

(c) CRITERIA.—Before the President may treat Taiwan as eligible for the exception described in subsection (b), the President shall ensure that Taiwan satisfies any applicable criteria normally required for inclusion in the Country Group A:5 list set forth in Supplement No. 1 to part 740 of the Export Administration Regulations, particularly with respect to alignment of export control policies with such policies of the United States.

(d) EXPORT ADMINISTRATION REGULATIONS DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''Export Administration Regulations'' has the meaning given that term in section 1742 of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4801).

SA 3564. Mr. JOHNSON 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 subtitle C of title I, insert the following:

SEC. ___. MODIFICATION OF FFG–62 CONSTELLATION-CLASS FRIGATE CONTRACT TO PROVIDE ECONOMIC PRICE ADJUSTMENTS.

(a) AUTHORITY.—Amounts authorized to be appropriated by this Act for the Department of Defense may be used to modify the terms and conditions of contract PIID: N00024–20–C–2300, or an option for that contract, to provide an economic price adjustment consistent with sections 16.203–1 and 16.203–2 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation during the relevant period of performance for that contract or option and as specified in section 16.203–3 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation, to the extent and in such amounts as specifically provided in advance in appropriations Acts for the purposes of this section.

(b) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment shall issue guidance implementing the authority under this section.

SA 3565. Mr. JOHNSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title X, add the following:

Subtitle H—Safeguarding the Homeland From the Threats Posed by Unmanned Aircraft Systems Act of 2025

SEC. 1091. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the ''Safeguarding the Homeland from the Threats Posed by Unmanned Aircraft Systems Act of 2025''.

SEC. 1092. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM DETECTION AND MITIGATION ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY.

Subtitle A of title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 121 et seq.) is amended by striking section 210G (6 U.S.C. 124n) and inserting the following:

''SEC. 210G. PROTECTION OF CERTAIN FACILITIES AND ASSETS FROM UNMANNED AIRCRAFT.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) The term 'air navigation facility' has the meaning given the term in section 40102(a) of title 49, United States Code.

''(2) The term 'airport' has the meaning given the term in section 47102 of title 49, United States Code.

''(3) The term 'appropriate committees of Congress' means—

''(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate; and

''(B) the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

''(4) The term 'budget', with respect to a fiscal year, means the budget for that fiscal year that is submitted to Congress by the President under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code.

''(5) The term 'covered facility or asset' means any facility or asset that—

''(A) is identified as high-risk and a potential target for unlawful unmanned aircraft or unmanned aircraft system activity by the Secretary or the Attorney General, or by the chief executive of the jurisdiction in which a State, local, Tribal, or territorial law enforcement agency designated pursuant to subsection (d)(2) operates after review and approval of the Secretary or the Attorney General, in coordination with the Secretary of Transportation with respect to potentially impacted airspace, through a risk-based assessment for purposes of this section (except that in the case of the missions described in clauses (i)(II) and (iii)(I) of subparagraph (C), such missions shall be presumed to be for the protection of a facility or asset that is assessed to be high-risk and a potential target for unlawful unmanned aircraft or unmanned aircraft system activity);

''(B) is located in the United States; and

''(C) directly relates to 1 or more—

''(i) missions authorized to be performed by the Department, consistent with governing statutes, regulations, and orders issued by the Secretary, pertaining to—

''(I) security or protection functions of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, including securing or protecting facilities, aircraft, and vessels, whether moored or underway;

''(II) United States Secret Service protection operations pursuant to sections 3056(a) and 3056A(a) of title 18, United States Code, and the Presidential Protection Assistance Act of 1976 (18 U.S.C. 3056 note);

''(III) protection of facilities pursuant to section 1315(a) of title 40, United States Code;

''(IV) transportation security functions of the Transportation Security Administration; or

''(V) the security or protection functions for facilities, assets, and operations of Homeland Security Investigations;

''(ii) missions authorized to be performed by the Department of Justice, consistent with governing statutes, regulations, and orders issued by the Attorney General, pertaining to—

''(I) personal protection operations by—

''(aa) the Federal Bureau of Investigation as specified in section 533 of title 28, United States Code; or

''(bb) the United States Marshals Service as specified in section 566 of title 28, United States Code;

''(II) protection of penal, detention, and correctional facilities and operations conducted by the Federal Bureau of Prisons and prisoner operations and transport conducted by the United States Marshals Service;

''(III) protection of the buildings and grounds leased, owned, or operated by or for the Department of Justice, and the provision of security for Federal courts, as specified in section 566 of title 28, United States Code; or

''(IV) protection of an airport or air navigation facility;

''(iii) missions authorized to be performed by the Department or the Department of Justice, acting together or separately, consistent with governing statutes, regulations, and orders issued by the Secretary or the Attorney General, respectively, pertaining to—

''(I) protection of National Special Security Events and Special Event Assessment Rating events;

''(II) the provision of support to a State, local, Tribal, or territorial law enforcement agency, upon request of the chief executive officer of the State or territory, to ensure protection of people and property at mass gatherings, that is limited to a specified duration and location, within available resources, and without delegating any authority under this section to State, local, Tribal, or territorial law enforcement;

''(III) protection of an active Federal law enforcement investigation, emergency response, or security function, that is limited to a specified duration and location; or

''(IV) the provision of security or protection support to critical infrastructure owners or operators, for static critical infrastructure facilities and assets upon the request of the owner or operator;

''(iv) missions authorized to be performed by the United States Coast Guard, including those described in clause (iii) as directed by the Secretary, and as further set forth in section 528 of title 14, United States Code, and consistent with governing statutes, regulations, and orders issued by the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating; and

''(v) responsibilities of State, local, Tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies designated pursuant to subsection (d)(2) pertaining to—

''(I) protection of National Special Security Events and Special Event Assessment Rating events or other mass gatherings in the jurisdiction of the State, local, Tribal, or territorial law enforcement agency;

''(II) protection of critical infrastructure assessed by the Secretary as high-risk for unmanned aircraft systems or unmanned aircraft attack or disruption, including airports in the jurisdiction of the State, local, Tribal, or territorial law enforcement agency;

''(III) protection of government buildings, assets, or facilities in the jurisdiction of the State, local, Tribal, or territorial law enforcement agency; or

''(IV) protection of disaster response in the jurisdiction of the State, local, Tribal, or territorial law enforcement agency.

''(6) The term 'critical infrastructure' has the meaning given the term in section 1016(e) of the Critical Infrastructure Protection Act of 2001 (42 U.S.C. 5195c(e)).

''(7) The terms 'electronic communication', 'intercept', 'oral communication', and 'wire communication' have the meanings given those terms in section 2510 of title 18, United States Code.

''(8) The term 'homeland security or justice budget materials', with respect to a fiscal year, means the materials submitted to Congress by the Secretary and the Attorney General in support of the budget for that fiscal year.

''(9)(A) The term 'personnel' means—

''(i) an officer, employee, or contractor of the Department or the Department of Justice, who is authorized to perform duties that include safety, security, or protection of people, facilities, or assets; or

''(ii) an employee who—

''(I) is authorized to perform law enforcement and security functions on behalf of a State, local, Tribal, or territorial law enforcement agency designated under subsection (d)(2); and

''(II) is trained and certified to perform those duties, including training specific to countering unmanned aircraft threats and mitigating risks in the national airspace, including with respect to protecting privacy and civil liberties.

''(B) To qualify for use of the authorities described in subsection (b) or (c), respectively, a contractor conducting operations described in those subsections shall—

''(i) be directly contracted by the Department or the Department of Justice;

''(ii) operate at a government-owned or government-leased facility or asset;

''(iii) not conduct inherently governmental functions;

''(iv) be trained to safeguard privacy and civil liberties; and

''(v) be trained and certified by the Department or the Department of Justice to meet the established guidance and regulations of the Department or the Department of Justice, respectively.

''(C) For purposes of subsection (c)(1), the term 'personnel' includes any officer, employee, or contractor who is authorized to perform duties that include the safety, security, or protection of people, facilities, or assets, of—

''(i) a State, local, Tribal, or territorial law enforcement agency; and

''(ii) an owner or operator of an airport or critical infrastructure.

''(10) The term 'risk-based assessment' means an evaluation of threat information specific to a covered facility or asset and, with respect to potential impacts on the safety and efficiency of the national airspace system and the needs of law enforcement and national security at each covered facility or asset identified by the Secretary or the Attorney General, respectively, of each of the following factors:

''(A) Potential impacts to safety, efficiency, and use of the national airspace system, including potential effects on manned aircraft and unmanned aircraft systems or unmanned aircraft, aviation safety, airport operations, infrastructure, and air navigation services relating to the use of any system or technology for carrying out the actions described in subsection (e)(2).

''(B) Options for mitigating any identified impacts to the national airspace system relating to the use of any system or technology, including minimizing, when possible, the use of any technology that disrupts the transmission of radio or electronic signals, for carrying out the actions described in subsection (e)(2).

''(C) Potential consequences of the impacts of any actions taken under subsection (e)(2) to the national airspace system and infrastructure if not mitigated.

''(D) The ability to provide reasonable advance notice to aircraft operators consistent with the safety of the national airspace system and the needs of law enforcement and national security.

''(E) The setting and character of any covered facility or asset, including—

''(i) whether the covered facility or asset is located in a populated area or near other structures;

''(ii) whether the covered facility or asset is open to the public;

''(iii) whether the covered facility or asset is used for nongovernmental functions; and

''(iv) any potential for interference with wireless communications or for injury or damage to persons or property.

''(F) The setting, character, duration, and national airspace system impacts of National Special Security Events and Special Event Assessment Rating events, to the extent not already discussed in the National Special Security Event and Special Event Assessment Rating nomination process.

''(G) Potential consequences to national security, public safety, or law enforcement if threats posed by unmanned aircraft systems or unmanned aircraft are not mitigated or defeated.

''(H) Civil rights and civil liberties guaranteed by the First and Fourth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States.

''(11) The terms 'unmanned aircraft' and 'unmanned aircraft system' have the meanings given those terms in section 44801 of title 49, United States Code.

''(b) AUTHORITY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.—Notwithstanding section 46502 of title 49, United States Code, or sections 32, 1030, 1367, and chapters 119 and 206 of title 18, United States Code, the Secretary and the Attorney General may, for their respective Departments, take, and may authorize personnel with assigned duties that include the safety, security, or protection of people, facilities, or assets to take, actions described in subsection (e)(2) that are necessary to detect, identify, monitor, track, and mitigate a credible threat (as defined by the Secretary and the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, acting through the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration) that an unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft poses to the safety or security of a covered facility or asset.

''(c) ADDITIONAL LIMITED AUTHORITY FOR DETECTION, IDENTIFICATION, MONITORING, AND TRACKING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), and notwithstanding sections 1030 and 1367 and chapters 119 and 206 of title 18, United States Code, any State, local, Tribal, or territorial law enforcement agency, the Department of Justice, the Department, and any owner or operator of an airport or critical infrastructure may authorize personnel, with assigned duties that include the safety, security, or protection of people, facilities, or assets, to use equipment authorized under this subsection to take actions described in subsection (e)(1) that are necessary to detect, identify, monitor, or track an unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft within the respective areas of responsibility or jurisdiction of the authorized personnel.

''(2) AUTHORIZED EQUIPMENT.—Equipment authorized for unmanned aircraft system detection, identification, monitoring, or tracking under this subsection shall be limited to systems or technologies—

''(A) tested and evaluated by the Department or the Department of Justice, including evaluation of any potential counterintelligence or cybersecurity risks;

''(B) that are annually reevaluated for any changes in risks, including counterintelligence and cybersecurity risks;

''(C) determined by the Federal Communications Commission and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration not to adversely impact the use of the communications spectrum;

''(D) determined by the Federal Aviation Administration not to adversely impact the use of the aviation spectrum or otherwise adversely impact the national airspace system; and

''(E) that are included on a list of authorized equipment maintained by the Department, in coordination with the Department of Justice, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Federal Communications Commission, and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

''(3) STATE, LOCAL, TRIBAL, AND TERRITORIAL COMPLIANCE.—Each State, local, Tribal, or territorial law enforcement agency or owner or operator of an airport or critical infrastructure acting pursuant to this subsection shall—

''(A) prior to any such action, issue a written policy certifying compliance with the privacy protections of subparagraphs (A) through (D) of subsection (j)(2);

''(B) certify compliance with such policy to the Secretary and the Attorney General annually, and immediately notify the Secretary and Attorney General of any noncompliance with such policy or the privacy protections of subparagraphs (A) through (D) of subsection (j)(2); and

''(C) comply with any additional guidance issued by the Secretary or the Attorney General relating to implementation of this subsection.

''(4) PROHIBITION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to authorize the taking of any action described in subsection (e) other than the actions described in paragraph (1) of that subsection.

''(d) PILOT PROGRAM FOR STATE, LOCAL, TRIBAL, AND TERRITORIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary and the Attorney General may carry out a pilot program to evaluate the potential benefits of State, local, Tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies taking actions that are necessary to mitigate a credible threat (as defined by the Secretary and the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, acting through the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration) that an unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft poses to the safety or security of a covered facility or asset.

''(2) DESIGNATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary or the Attorney General, with the concurrence of the Secretary of Transportation (acting through the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration), may, under the pilot program established under paragraph (1), designate 1 or more State, local, Tribal, or territorial law enforcement agencies approved by the respective chief executive officer of the State, local, Tribal, or territorial law enforcement agency to engage in the activities authorized in paragraph (4) under the direct oversight of the Department or the Department of Justice, in carrying out the responsibilities authorized under subsection (a)(5)(C)(v).

''(B) DESIGNATION PROCESS.—

''(i) NUMBER OF AGENCIES AND DURATION.—On and after the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of the Safeguarding the Homeland from the Threats Posed by Unmanned Aircraft Systems Act of 2025, the Secretary and the Attorney General, pursuant to subparagraph (A), may designate a combined total of not more than 12 State, local, Tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies for participation in the pilot program, and may designate 12 additional State, local, Tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies each year thereafter, provided that not more than 60 State, local, Tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies in total may be designated during the 5-year period of the pilot program.

''(ii) REVOCATION.—The Secretary and the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation (acting through

the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration)—

''(I) may revoke a designation under subparagraph (A) if the Secretary, Attorney General, and Secretary of Transportation (acting through the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration) concur in the revocation; and

''(II) shall revoke a designation under subparagraph (A) if the Secretary, the Attorney General, or the Secretary of Transportation (acting through the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration) withdraws concurrence.

''(3) TERMINATION OF PILOT PROGRAM.—

''(A) DESIGNATION.—The authority to designate an agency for inclusion in the pilot program established under this subsection shall terminate 5 years after the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of the Safeguarding the Homeland from the Threats Posed by Unmanned Aircraft Systems Act of 2025.

''(B) AUTHORITY OF PILOT PROGRAM AGENCIES.—The authority of an agency designated under the pilot program established under this subsection to exercise any of the authorities granted under the pilot program shall terminate not later than 6 years after the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of the Safeguarding the Homeland from the Threats Posed by Unmanned Aircraft Systems Act of 2025, or upon revocation pursuant to paragraph (2)(B)(ii).

''(4) AUTHORIZATION.—Notwithstanding section 46502 of title 49, United States Code, or sections 32, 1030, 1367, and chapters 119 and 206 of title 18, United States Code, any State, local, Tribal, or territorial law enforcement agency designated pursuant to paragraph (2) may authorize personnel with assigned duties that include the safety, security, or protection of people, facilities, or assets to take such actions as are described in subsection (e)(2) that are necessary to detect, identify, monitor, track, or mitigate a credible threat (as defined by the Secretary and the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, acting through the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration) that an unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft poses to the safety or security of a covered facility or asset in carrying out the responsibilities authorized under subsection (a)(5)(C)(v).

''(5) EXEMPTION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Chair of the Federal Communications Commission, in consultation with the Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, shall implement a process for considering the exemption of 1 or more law enforcement agencies designated under paragraph (2), or any station operated by the agency, from any provision of title III of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.) to the extent that the designated law enforcement agency takes such actions as are described in subsection (e)(2) and may establish conditions or requirements for such exemption.

''(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The Chair of the Federal Communications Commission, in consultation with the Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, may grant an exemption under subparagraph (A) only if the Chair of the Federal Communications Commission in consultation with the Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration finds that the grant of an exemption—

''(i) is necessary to achieve the purposes of this subsection; and

''(ii) will serve the public interest.

''(C) REVOCATION.—Any exemption granted under subparagraph (A) shall terminate automatically if the designation granted to the law enforcement agency under paragraph (2)(A) is revoked by the Secretary or the Attorney General under paragraph (2)(B)(ii) or is terminated under paragraph (3)(B).

''(6) REPORTING.—Not later than 2 years after the date on which the first law enforcement agency is designated under paragraph (2), and annually thereafter for the duration of the pilot program, the Secretary and the Attorney General shall inform the appropriate committees of Congress in writing of the use by any State, local, Tribal, or territorial law enforcement agency of any authority granted pursuant to paragraph (4), including a description of any privacy or civil liberties complaints known to the Secretary or Attorney General in connection with the use of that authority by the designated agencies.

''(7) RESTRICTIONS.—Any entity acting pursuant to the authorities granted under this subsection—

''(A) may do so only using equipment authorized by the Department, in coordination with the Department of Justice, the Federal Communications Commission, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and the Department of Transportation (acting through the Federal Aviation Administration) according to the criteria described in subsection (c)(2);

''(B) shall, prior to any such action, issue a written policy certifying compliance with the privacy protections of subparagraphs (A) through (D) of subsection (j)(2);

''(C) shall ensure that all personnel undertaking any actions listed under this subsection are properly trained in accordance with the criteria that the Secretary and Attorney General shall collectively establish, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, the Chair of the Federal Communications Commission, the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, and the Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration; and

''(D) shall comply with any additional guidance relating to compliance with this subsection issued by the Secretary or Attorney General.

''(e) ACTIONS DESCRIBED.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The actions authorized under subsection (c) that may be taken by a State, local, Tribal, or territorial law enforcement agency, the Department, the Department of Justice, and any owner or operator of an airport or critical infrastructure, are limited to actions during the operation of an unmanned aircraft system, to detect, identify, monitor, and track the unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft, without prior consent, including by means of intercept or other access of a wire communication, an oral communication, or an electronic communication used to control the unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft.

''(2) CLARIFICATION.—The actions authorized in subsections (b) and (d)(4) are the following:

''(A) During the operation of the unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft, detect, identify, monitor, and track the unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft, without prior consent, including by means of intercept or other access of a wire communication, an oral communication, or an electronic communication used to control the unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft.

''(B) Warn the operator of the unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft, including by passive or active, and direct or indirect, physical, electronic, radio, and electromagnetic means.

''(C) Disrupt control of the unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft, without prior consent of the operator of the unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft, including by disabling the unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft by intercepting, interfering, or causing interference with wire, oral, electronic, or radio communications used to control the unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft.

''(D) Seize or exercise control of the unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft.

''(E) Seize or otherwise confiscate the unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft.

''(F) Use reasonable force, if necessary, to disable, damage, or destroy the unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft.

''(f) RESEARCH, TESTING, TRAINING, AND EVALUATION.—

''(1) REQUIREMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 46502 of title 49, United States Code, or any provision of title 18, United States Code, the Secretary, the Attorney General, and the heads of the State, local, Tribal, or territorial law enforcement agencies designated pursuant to subsection (d)(2) shall conduct research, testing, and training on, and evaluation of, any equipment, including any electronic equipment, to determine the capability and utility of the equipment prior to the use of the equipment in carrying out any action described in subsection (e).

''(B) COORDINATION.—Personnel and contractors who do not have duties that include the safety, security, or protection of people, facilities, or assets may engage in research, testing, training, and evaluation activities pursuant to subparagraph (A).

''(2) TRAINING OF FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL, TERRITORIAL, AND TRIBAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL.—The Attorney General, acting through the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, may—

''(A) provide training relating to measures to mitigate a credible threat that an unmanned aircraft or unmanned aircraft system poses to the safety or security of a covered facility or asset to any personnel who are authorized to take such measures, including personnel authorized to take the actions described in subsection (e); and

''(B) establish or designate 1 or more facilities or training centers for the purpose described in subparagraph (A).

''(3) COORDINATION FOR RESEARCH, TESTING, TRAINING, AND EVALUATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, the Attorney General, and the heads of the State, local, Tribal, or territorial law enforcement agencies designated pursuant to subsection (d)(2) shall coordinate procedures governing research, testing, training, and evaluation to carry out any provision under this subsection with the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration before initiating such activity in order that the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration may ensure the activity does not adversely impact or interfere with safe airport operations, navigation, air traffic services, or the safe and efficient operation of the national airspace system.

''(B) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.—Each head of a State, local, Tribal, or territorial law enforcement agency designated pursuant to subsection (d)(2) shall coordinate the procedures governing research, testing, training, and evaluation of the law enforcement agency through the Secretary and the Attorney General, in coordination with the Federal Aviation Administration.

''(g) FORFEITURE.—Any unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft that is lawfully

seized by the Secretary or the Attorney General pursuant to subsection (b) is subject to forfeiture to the United States pursuant to the provisions of chapter 46 of title 18, United States Code.

''(h) REGULATIONS AND GUIDANCE.—The Secretary, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of Transportation—

''(1) may prescribe regulations and shall issue guidance in the respective areas of each Secretary or the Attorney General to carry out this section; and

''(2) in developing regulations and guidance described in paragraph (1), shall consult the Chair of the Federal Communications Commission, the Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration.

''(i) COORDINATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary and the Attorney General shall coordinate with the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration before carrying out any action authorized under this section in order that the Administrator may ensure the action does not adversely impact or interfere with—

''(A) safe airport operations;

''(B) navigation;

''(C) air traffic services; or

''(D) the safe and efficient operation of the national airspace system.

''(2) GUIDANCE.—Before issuing any guidance, or otherwise implementing this section, the Secretary or the Attorney General shall each coordinate with—

''(A) the Secretary of Transportation in order that the Secretary of Transportation may ensure the guidance or implementation does not adversely impact or interfere with any critical infrastructure relating to transportation; and

''(B) the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration in order that the Administrator may ensure the guidance or implementation does not adversely impact or interfere with—

''(i) safe airport operations;

''(ii) navigation;

''(iii) air traffic services; or

''(iv) the safe and efficient operation of the national airspace system.

''(3) COORDINATION WITH THE FAA.—The Secretary and the Attorney General shall coordinate the development of their respective guidance under subsection (h) with the Secretary of Transportation (acting through the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration).

''(4) COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary and the Attorney General, and the heads of any State, local, Tribal, or territorial law enforcement agencies designated pursuant to subsection (d)(2), through the Secretary and the Attorney General, shall coordinate the development for their respective departments or agencies of the actions described in subsection (e) with the Secretary of Transportation (acting through the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration), the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, and the Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

''(5) STATE, LOCAL, TRIBAL, AND TERRITORIAL IMPLEMENTATION.—Prior to taking any action authorized under subsection (d)(4), each head of a State, local, Tribal, or territorial law enforcement agency designated under subsection (d)(2) shall coordinate, through the Secretary and the Attorney General—

''(A) with the Secretary of Transportation in order that the Administrators of non-aviation modes of the Department of Transportation may evaluate whether the action may have adverse impacts on critical infrastructure relating to non-aviation transportation;

''(B) with the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration in order that the Administrator may ensure the action will not adversely impact or interfere with—

''(i) safe airport operations;

''(ii) navigation;

''(iii) air traffic services; or

''(iv) the safe and efficient operation of the national airspace system; and

''(C) to allow the Department and the Department of Justice to ensure that any action authorized by this section is consistent with Federal law enforcement or in the interest of national security.

''(j) PRIVACY PROTECTION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Any regulation or guidance issued to carry out an action under subsection (e) by the Secretary or the Attorney General shall ensure for the Department or the Department of Justice, respectively, that—

''(A) the interception of, acquisition of, access to, maintenance of, or use of any communication to or from an unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft under this section is conducted in a manner consistent with the First and Fourth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States and any applicable provision of Federal law;

''(B) any communication to or from an unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft are intercepted or acquired only to the extent necessary to support an action described in subsection (e);

''(C) any record of a communication described in subparagraph (B) is maintained only for as long as necessary, and in no event for more than 180 days, unless the Secretary or the Attorney General, as applicable, determines that maintenance of the record is—

''(i) required under Federal law;

''(ii) necessary for the purpose of litigation; and

''(iii) necessary to investigate or prosecute a violation of law, including by—

''(I) directly supporting an ongoing security operation; or

''(II) protecting against dangerous or unauthorized activity by unmanned aircraft systems or unmanned aircraft; and

''(D) a communication described in subparagraph (B) is not disclosed to any person not employed or contracted by the Department or the Department of Justice unless the disclosure—

''(i) is necessary to investigate or prosecute a violation of law;

''(ii) will support—

''(I) the Department of Defense;

''(II) a Federal law enforcement, intelligence, or security agency;

''(III) a State, local, Tribal, or territorial law enforcement agency; or

''(IV) another relevant entity or person if the entity or person is engaged in a security or protection operation;

''(iii) is necessary to support a department or agency listed in clause (ii) in investigating or prosecuting a violation of law;

''(iv) will support the enforcement activities of a Federal regulatory agency relating to a criminal or civil investigation of, or any regulatory, statutory, or other enforcement action relating to, an action described in subsection (e);

''(v) is between the Department and the Department of Justice in the course of a security or protection operation of either department or a joint operation of those departments; or

''(vi) is otherwise required by law.

''(2) LOCAL PRIVACY PROTECTION.—In exercising any authority described in subsection (c) or (d), a State, local, Tribal, or territorial law enforcement agency designated under subsection (d)(2) or owner or operator of an airport or critical infrastructure shall ensure that—

''(A) the interception of, acquisition of, access to, maintenance of, or use of communications to or from an unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft under this section is conducted in a manner consistent with—

''(i) the First and Fourth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States; and

''(ii) applicable provisions of Federal law, and where required, State, local, Tribal, and territorial law;

''(B) any communication to or from an unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft is intercepted or acquired only to the extent necessary to support an action described in subsection (e);

''(C) any record of a communication described in subparagraph (B) is maintained only for as long as necessary, and in no event for more than 180 days, unless the Secretary, the Attorney General, or the head of a State, local, Tribal, or territorial law enforcement agency designated under subsection (d)(2) determines that maintenance of the record is—

''(i) required to be maintained under Federal, State, local, Tribal, or territorial law;

''(ii) necessary for the purpose of any litigation; or

''(iii) necessary to investigate or prosecute a violation of law, including by—

''(I) directly supporting an ongoing security or protection operation; or

''(II) protecting against dangerous or unauthorized activity by an unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft; and

''(D) the communication is not disclosed outside the agency or entity unless the disclosure—

''(i) is necessary to investigate or prosecute a violation of law;

''(ii) would support the Department of Defense, a Federal law enforcement, intelligence, or security agency, or a State, local, Tribal, or territorial law enforcement agency;

''(iii) would support the enforcement activities of a Federal regulatory agency in connection with a criminal or civil investigation of, or any regulatory, statutory, or other enforcement action relating to, an action described in subsection (e);

''(iv) is to the Department or the Department of Justice in the course of a security or protection operation of either the Department or the Department of Justice, or a joint operation of the Department and Department of Justice; or

''(v) is otherwise required by law.

''(k) BUDGET.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary and the Attorney General shall submit to Congress, as a part of the homeland security or justice budget materials for each fiscal year after fiscal year 2025, a consolidated funding display that identifies the funding source for the actions described in subsection (e) within the Department and the Department of Justice.

''(2) CLASSIFICATION.—Each funding display submitted under paragraph (1) shall be in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

''(l) PUBLIC DISCLOSURES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any provision of State, local, Tribal, or territorial law, information shall be governed by the disclosure obligations set forth in section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the 'Freedom of Information Act'), if the information relates to—

''(A) any capability, limitation, or sensitive detail of the operation of any technology used to carry out an action described in subsection (e)(1) of this section; or

''(B) an operational procedure or protocol used to carry out this section.

''(2) STATE, LOCAL, TRIBAL, OR TERRITORIAL AGENCY USE.—

''(A) CONTROL.—Information described in paragraph (1) that is obtained by a State, local, Tribal, or territorial law enforcement agency from a Federal agency under this section—

''(i) shall remain subject to the control of the Federal agency, notwithstanding that the State, local, Tribal, or territorial law enforcement agency has the information described in paragraph (1) in the possession of the State, local, Tribal, or territorial law enforcement agency; and

''(ii) shall not be subject to any State, local, Tribal, or territorial law authorizing or requiring disclosure of the information described in paragraph (1).

''(B) ACCESS.—Any request for public access to information described in paragraph (1) shall be submitted to the originating Federal agency, which shall process the request as required under section 552(a)(3) of title 5, United States Code.

''(m) ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT.—

''(1) FACILITIES AND SERVICES OF OTHER AGENCIES AND NON-FEDERAL ENTITIES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary and the Attorney General are authorized to use or accept from any other Federal agency, or any other public or private entity, any supply or service to facilitate or carry out any action described in subsection (e).

''(B) REIMBURSEMENT.—In accordance with subparagraph (A), the Secretary and the Attorney General may accept any supply or service with or without reimbursement to the entity providing the supply or service and notwithstanding any provision of law that would prevent the use or acceptance of the supply or service.

''(C) AGREEMENTS.—To implement the requirements of subsection (a)(5)(C), the Secretary or the Attorney General may enter into 1 or more agreements with the head of another executive agency or with an appropriate official of a non-Federal public or private agency or entity, as may be necessary and proper to carry out the responsibilities of the Secretary and Attorney General under this section.

''(2) MUTUAL SUPPORT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Secretary and the Attorney General are authorized to provide support or assistance, upon the request of a Federal agency or department conducting—

''(i) a mission described in subsection (a)(5)(C);

''(ii) a mission described in section 130i of title 10, United States Code; or

''(iii) a mission described in section 4510 of the Atomic Energy Defense Act (50 U.S.C. 2661).

''(B) REQUIREMENTS.—Any support or assistance provided by the Secretary or the Attorney General shall only be granted—

''(i) for the purpose of fulfilling the roles and responsibilities of the Federal agency or department that made the request for the mission for which the request was made;

''(ii) when exigent circumstances exist;

''(iii) for a specified duration and location;

''(iv) within available resources;

''(v) on a non-reimbursable basis; and

''(vi) in coordination with the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration.

''(n) SEMIANNUAL BRIEFINGS AND NOTIFICATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—On a semiannual basis beginning 180 days after the date of enactment of the Safeguarding the Homeland from the Threats Posed by Unmanned Aircraft Systems Act of 2025, the Secretary and the Attorney General shall each provide a briefing to the appropriate committees of Congress on the activities carried out pursuant to this section.

''(2) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary and the Attorney General each shall conduct the briefing required under paragraph (1) jointly with the Secretary of Transportation.

''(3) CONTENT.—Each briefing required under paragraph (1) shall include—

''(A) policies, programs, and procedures to mitigate or eliminate impacts of activities carried out pursuant to this section to the national airspace system and other critical infrastructure relating to national transportation;

''(B) a description of—

''(i) each instance in which any action described in subsection (e) has been taken, including any instances that may have resulted in harm, damage, or loss to a person or to private property;

''(ii) the guidance, policies, or procedures established by the Secretary or the Attorney General to address privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties issues implicated by the actions permitted under this section, as well as any changes or subsequent efforts by the Secretary or the Attorney General that would significantly affect privacy, civil rights, or civil liberties;

''(iii) options considered and steps taken by the Secretary or the Attorney General to mitigate any identified impacts to the national airspace system relating to the use of any system or technology, including the minimization of the use of any technology that disrupts the transmission of radio or electronic signals, for carrying out the actions described in subsection (e)(2); and

''(iv) each instance in which a communication intercepted or acquired during the course of operations of an unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft was—

''(I) held in the possession of the Department or the Department of Justice for more than 180 days; or

''(II) shared with any entity other than the Department or the Department of Justice;

''(C) an explanation of how the Secretary, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of Transportation have—

''(i) informed the public as to the possible use of authorities granted under this section; and

''(ii) engaged with Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies to implement and use authorities granted under this section;

''(D) an assessment of whether any gaps or insufficiencies remain in laws, regulations, and policies that impede the ability of the Federal Government or State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments and owners or operators of critical infrastructure to counter the threat posed by the malicious use of unmanned aircraft systems and unmanned aircraft;

''(E) an assessment of efforts to integrate unmanned aircraft system threat assessments within National Special Security Event and Special Event Assessment Rating event planning and protection efforts;

''(F) recommendations to remedy any gaps or insufficiencies described in subparagraph (D), including recommendations relating to necessary changes in law, regulations, or policies;

''(G) a description of the impact of the authorities granted under this section on—

''(i) lawful operator access to national airspace; and

''(ii) unmanned aircraft systems and unmanned aircraft integration into the national airspace system; and

''(H) a summary from the Secretary of any data and results obtained pursuant to subsection (r), including an assessment of—

''(i) how the details of the incident were obtained; and

''(ii) whether the operation involved a violation of Federal Aviation Administration aviation regulations.

''(4) UNCLASSIFIED FORM.—Each briefing required under paragraph (1) shall be in unclassified form but may be accompanied by an additional classified briefing.

''(5) NOTIFICATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after an authorized department, agency, or owner or operator of an airport or critical infrastructure deploys any new technology to carry out the actions described in subsection (e), the Secretary and the Attorney General shall, individually or jointly, as appropriate, submit a notification of the deployment to the appropriate committees of Congress.

''(B) CONTENTS.—Each notification submitted pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall include a description of options considered to mitigate any identified impacts to the national airspace system relating to the use of any system or technology, including the minimization of the use of any technology that disrupts the transmission of radio or electronic signals in carrying out the actions described in subsection (e).

''(o) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to—

''(1) vest in the Secretary, the Attorney General, or any State, local, Tribal, or territorial law enforcement agency that is authorized under subsection (c) or designated under subsection (d)(2) any authority of the Secretary of Transportation or the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration;

''(2) vest in the Secretary of Transportation, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, or any State, local, Tribal, or territorial law enforcement agency designated under subsection (d)(2) any authority of the Secretary or the Attorney General;

''(3) vest in the Secretary any authority of the Attorney General;

''(4) vest in the Attorney General any authority of the Secretary; or

''(5) provide a new basis of liability with respect to an officer of a State, local, Tribal, or territorial law enforcement agency designated under subsection (d)(2) or who participates in the protection of a mass gathering identified by the Secretary or Attorney General under subsection (a)(5)(C)(iii)(II), who—

''(A) is acting in the official capacity of the individual as an officer; and

''(B) does not exercise the authority granted to the Secretary and the Attorney General by this section.

''(p) TERMINATION.—

''(1) TERMINATION OF ADDITIONAL LIMITED AUTHORITY FOR DETECTION, IDENTIFICATION, MONITORING, AND TRACKING.—The authority to carry out any action authorized under subsection (c), if performed by a non-Federal entity, shall terminate on the date that is 5 years and 6 months after the date of enactment of the Safeguarding the Homeland from the Threats Posed by Unmanned Aircraft Systems Act of 2025 and the authority under the pilot program established under subsection (d) shall terminate as provided for in paragraph (3) of that subsection.

''(2) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITIES WITH RESPECT TO COVERED FACILITIES AND ASSETS.—The authority to carry out this section with respect to a covered facility or asset shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date of enactment of the Safeguarding the Homeland from the Threats Posed by Unmanned Aircraft Systems Act of 2025.

''(q) SCOPE OF AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to provide the Secretary or the Attorney General with any

additional authority other than the authorities described in subsections (a)(5)(C)(iii), (b), (c), (d), (f), (m), and (r).

''(r) UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DATABASE.—

''(1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Department is authorized to develop a Federal database to enable the transmission of data concerning security-related incidents in the United States involving unmanned aircraft and unmanned aircraft systems between Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies for purposes of conducting analyses of such threats in the United States.

''(2) POLICIES, PLANS, AND PROCEDURES.—

''(A) COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION.—Before implementation of the database developed under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall develop policies, plans, and procedures for the implementation of the database—

''(i) in coordination with the Attorney General, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of Transportation (acting through the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration); and

''(ii) in consultation with State, local, Tribal, and territorial law enforcement agency representatives, including representatives of fusion centers.

''(B) REPORTING.—The policies, plans, and procedures developed under subparagraph (A) shall include criteria for Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial reporting of unmanned aircraft systems or unmanned aircraft incidents.

''(C) DATA RETENTION.—The policies, plans, and procedures developed under subparagraph (A) shall ensure that data on security-related incidents in the United States involving unmanned aircraft and unmanned aircraft systems that is retained as criminal intelligence information is retained based on the reasonable suspicion standard, as permitted under part 23 of title 28, Code of Federal Regulations.''.

SEC. 1093. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.

Section 321(a)(2)(E) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 195g(a)(2)(E)) is amended by striking ''section 210G(g)(3)'' and inserting ''section 210G(n)(3)''.

SA 3566. Mr. COONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title X, add the following:

Subtitle H—Safer Supervision Act of 2025

SEC. 1091. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Safer Supervision Act of 2025''.

SEC. 1092. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Over 110,000 people were on Federal supervised release as of December 2024.

(2) The Supreme Court of the United States explained in Johnson v. United States that ''Supervised release departed from the parole system it replaced by giving district courts the freedom to provide postrelease supervision for those, and only those, who needed it. . . . Congress aimed, then, to use the district courts' discretionary judgment to allocate supervision to those releasees who needed it most.''.

(3) Federal probation officers report significant caseloads that can exceed 100 cases per officer. This can create a difficult burden for the officers and limit their ability to provide appropriate supervision to those who need it.

(4) The potential for early termination or other modifications of supervision, when consistent with public safety, can not only reduce burdens and save valuable judicial resources but also create positive incentives for compliance and rehabilitation consistent with the purposes of supervision. Requests for early termination and appeals from the denial of early termination are not challenges to the original sentence but rather an integral part of the rehabilitative scheme established by Congress. In the 12-month period ending in December 2024, early terminations were 29 percent of successful supervised release closures.

(5) The Administrative Office of the United States Courts has explained that ''excessive correctional intervention for low-risk defendants may increase the probability of recidivism by disrupting prosocial activities and exposing defendants to antisocial associates.''.

(6) Supervised release is and should remain an important tool for the Federal courts to use, as appropriate, to, among other items, protect the public from further crimes, deter future criminal conduct, and help the defendant become a contributing member of society by recovering from substance use disorder, participating in rehabilitation and training programs, and providing restitution to victims, among other outcomes.

(7) Better tailoring when and how supervised release is imposed, encouraging early termination when appropriate, and expanding judicial discretion on certain revocations will reduce burdens on law enforcement officers and taxpayers, encourage compliance and improve public safety, and better assist defendants in their pursuit of rehabilitation and reintegration, to the benefit of themselves, victims, and communities.

SEC. 1093. INCLUSION OF A TERM OF SUPERVISED RELEASE AFTER IMPRISONMENT.

Section 3583 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking ''The court'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The court''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) INDIVIDUALIZED ASSESSMENT.—When determining whether to include a term of supervised release as part of the sentence, and except to the extent that a term of supervised release is required by statute as described in paragraph (1), the court shall—

''(A) make an individualized assessment under the factors set forth in subsections (c) and (d) as to—

''(i) whether such a term is appropriate; and

''(ii) the appropriate length and conditions of such a term; and

''(B) provide the reasons of the court for imposing or not imposing such a term on the record.'';

(2) in subsection (d), in the fifth sentence, by striking ''shall also'' and inserting ''may also'';

(3) in subsection (e)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (4) as subparagraphs (A) through (D), respectively, and adjusting the margins accordingly;

(B) by striking ''The court may,'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the court may,'';

(C) in subparagraph (A), as so redesignated, by striking ''after the expiration of one year of supervised release'';

(D) in subparagraph (C), as so redesignated, by striking ''this paragraph'' and inserting ''this subparagraph'';

(E) in subparagraph (D), as so redesignated, by striking ''this paragraph'' and inserting ''this subparagraph''; and

(F) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) TERMINATION OF SUPERVISED RELEASE.—For purposes of the termination of supervised release under paragraph (1)(A)—

''(A) after a defendant has served the lesser of 1 year of supervised release or 50 percent of the term of supervised release imposed on the defendant, the Administrative Office of the United States Courts shall provide notice to a defendant, defendant's counsel, and any local Federal Public Defender Organization or Community Defender Organization of the opportunity to seek early termination of supervised release under paragraph (1)(A) and the process for doing so;

''(B) there shall be a presumption of early termination of supervised release for a defendant under supervision if—

''(i)(I) for a defendant serving a term of supervised release imposed in connection with a conviction for an offense described in subsection (a) of section 16, the defendant has served 66.6 percent of the term of supervised release imposed on the defendant; or

''(II) for a defendant other than a defendant described in subclause (I), the defendant has served 50 percent of the term of supervised release imposed on the defendant;

''(ii) the defendant has demonstrated good conduct and compliance while on supervised release; and

''(iii) the early termination will not jeopardize public safety;

''(C) the Government shall have an opportunity to object to a request for termination of supervised release and to present evidence, which the defendant shall have the opportunity to rebut, in any proceeding relating to such request; and

''(D) crime victims' rights under section 3771 shall apply to any proceeding relating to a request for early termination of supervised release.

''(3) PUBLIC SAFETY.—In assessing whether early termination of supervised release will not jeopardize public safety under this subsection, the court shall consider the nature of the offense committed by the defendant, the defendant's criminal history, the defendant's record while incarcerated (including good behavior and violations of prison rules), the defendant's efforts to avoid recidivism, the defendant's health status, any statements or information provided by victims of the offense, and other factors the court may find relevant to public safety.

''(4) GOOD CONDUCT AND COMPLIANCE.—In assessing whether the defendant has demonstrated good conduct and compliance under this subsection, the court shall consider the defendant's efforts to reintegrate into the community and the defendant's substantial compliance with the conditions of supervision.

''(5) ASSISTANCE OF COUNSEL.—The court may appoint a Federal public defender, a community defender, or other counsel qualified to be appointed under section 3006A to assist a defendant seeking early termination of supervised release under paragraph (1)(A) or modification of conditions under paragraph (1)(B).

''(6) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Paragraph (2)(B) shall not be construed to limit the discretion of a court under paragraph (1).

''(7) CLARIFICATION.—The early termination of supervised release under paragraph (1)(A) does not require extraordinary conduct or unforeseen circumstances.

''(8) APPLICABILITY.—The ability to seek the early termination of supervised release

under paragraph (1)(A) shall not be affected by the plea agreement of the defendant.'';

(4) in subsection (g)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking ''POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE OR FIREARM OR FOR REFUSAL TO COMPLY WITH DRUG TESTING'' and inserting ''DISTRIBUTION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE OR POSSESSION OF A FIREARM'';

(B) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

''(1)(A) possesses a controlled substance with the intent to distribute; or

''(B) possesses a controlled substance, the possession of which may be punished under Federal law by imprisonment for a term exceeding 1 year;'';

(C) in paragraph (2), by inserting ''or'' at the end;

(D) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

''(3) willfully refuses to comply with drug testing imposed as a condition of supervised release;'';

(E) by striking paragraph (4); and

(F) in the matter following paragraph (4), by striking ''subsection (e)(3)'' and inserting ''subsection (e)(1)(C)''; and

(5) in subsection (k), in the second sentence, by striking ''subsection (e)(3)'' and inserting ''subsection (e)(1)(C)''.

SEC. 1094. LAW ENFORCEMENT AVAILABILITY PAY FOR PROBATION AND PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICERS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report containing a legislative proposal, and considerations for implementation of the proposal, that would provide law enforcement availability pay to Federal probation officers and pre-trial services officers that is equal to that provided to criminal investigators under section 5545a of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 1095. RELEASE OF A PRISONER WHO HAS EARNED TIME CREDITS.

Section 3624(g) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading, by striking ''SUPERVISED'';

(2) in paragraph (1)(D)—

(A) in clause (i), by striking ''supervised'' each place it appears; and

(B) in clause (ii), by striking ''placed in supervised release'' and inserting ''released'';

(3) in paragraph (3)—

(A) by striking ''(3) SUPERVISED RELEASE.—If the sentencing court'' and inserting the following:

''(3) RELEASE.—

''(A) SUPERVISED RELEASE IMPOSED.—If the sentencing court''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) SUPERVISED RELEASE NOT IMPOSED.—If the sentencing court did not impose a term of supervised release, the Director of the Bureau of Prisons may release the prisoner at an earlier date, not to exceed 12 months, based on the application of time credits under section 3632.'';

(4) in paragraph (6)(A), by striking ''supervised''; and

(5) in paragraph (7)(B), by striking ''supervised''.

SEC. 1096. ELIMINATION OF MANDATORY SUPERVISED RELEASE FOR CERTAIN DRUG OFFENSES.

(a) CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT.—Part D of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 841 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 401(b) (21 U.S.C. 841(b))—

(A) by striking ''Notwithstanding section 3583 of title 18,'' each place it appears and inserting ''Notwithstanding subsections (a)(1) and (b) of section 3583 of title 18, United States Code, and except as provided in section 424 of this Act,''; and

(B) by striking ''Any sentence imposing'' each place it appears and inserting ''Notwithstanding subsections (a)(1) and (b) of section 3583 of title 18, United States Code, and except as provided in section 424 of this Act, any sentence imposing'';

(2) in section 409 (21 U.S.C. 849), by striking ''A person'' each place it appears and inserting ''Except as provided in section 424, a person'';

(3) in section 418 (21 U.S.C. 859), by striking ''(2) at least'' each place it appears and inserting ''(2) except as provided in section 424, at least'';

(4) in section 419 (21 U.S.C. 860), by striking ''(2) at least'' each place it appears and inserting ''(2) except as provided in section 424, at least'';

(5) in section 420 (21 U.S.C. 861), by striking ''and at least'' each place it appears and inserting ''and, except as provided in section 424, at least''; and

(6) by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 424. EXCEPTION TO MANDATORY SUPERVISED RELEASE.

''In imposing a sentence for an offense under this title, if a court determines it appropriate based on an individualized assessment under section 3583(a)(3) of title 18, United States Code, the court may impose a term of supervised release that is less than any mandatory minimum term of supervised release under this title or determine not to impose a term of supervised release.''.

(b) CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES IMPORT AND EXPORT ACT.—Part A of the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. 951 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 1010(b) (21 U.S.C. 960(b)), by striking ''Notwithstanding section 3583 of title 18,'' each place it appears and inserting ''Notwithstanding subsections (a)(1) and (b) of section 3583 of title 18, United States Code, and except as provided in section 1019 of this Act,'';

(2) in section 1010A(a) (21 U.S.C. 960a(a)), by striking ''Notwithstanding section 3583 of title 18,'' and inserting ''Notwithstanding subsections (a)(1) and (b) of section 3583 of title 18, United States Code, and except as provided in section 1019 of this Act,''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 1019. EXCEPTION TO MANDATORY SUPERVISED RELEASE.

''In imposing a sentence for an offense under this title, if a court determines it appropriate based on an individualized assessment under section 3583(a)(3) of title 18, United States Code, the court may impose a term of supervised release that is less than any mandatory minimum term of supervised release under this title or determine not to impose a term of supervised release.''.

SEC. 1097. GAO REPORT.

(a) INITIATION OF STUDY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall initiate a study on Federal post-release supervision and reentry services.

(b) REPORT.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report regarding the study under subsection (a), which shall include findings and potential recommendations related to—

(1) the number of individuals that have been placed on Federal probation or supervised release since 2019;

(2) the process for transitioning an individual from the custody of the Bureau of Prisons to the Office of Probation and Pretrial Services or the custody of the United States Marshals Service;

(3) a review of Federal programs or funding sources that aim to assist individuals from the custody of the Bureau of Prisons with reentry, including—

(A) ongoing mental health and substance use counseling, housing, medical care, education, and job placement; and

(B) any changes in such programs or funding since 2019;

(4) a workforce assessment of judicial districts, including an analysis of—

(A) during the most recent 2 years for which data is available, the number of officers, officer caseloads, and overtime hours worked, reported, or accrued; and

(B) the system for tracking overtime hours worked by officers of the Office of Probation and Pretrial Services; and

(5) the funding formula for probation offices, including an assessment of how that formula affects incentives for the recommendation of early termination of supervised release.

SA 3567. Mr. MCCORMICK (for himself and Mr. WYDEN) 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 division A, add the following:

TITLE XVII—CONTROL OF REMOTE ACCESS TO ITEMS

SEC. 1701. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Remote Access Security Act''.

SEC. 1702. CONTROL OF REMOTE ACCESS OF ITEMS UNDER THE EXPORT CONTROL REFORM ACT OF 2018.

(a) DEFINITION OF REMOTE ACCESS.—Section 1742 of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4801) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(15) REMOTE ACCESS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'remote access' means access to an item subject to the jurisdiction of the United States and included on the Commerce Control List set forth in Supplement No. 1 to part 774 of the Export Administration Regulations, by a foreign person of concern through a cloud computing service from a location other than where the item is physically located, if the Secretary determines that the use of the item has demonstrated a serious risk to the national security or foreign policy of the United States, such as by software that is for development, production, or use by—

''(i) intentionally training an artificial intelligence dual-use model identified by an Export Control Classification Number that would—

''(I) substantially lower the barrier of entry for experts or nonexperts to design, synthesize, acquire, or use chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction;

''(II) conduct offensive cyber operations through automated vulnerability discovery and exploitation against a wide range of potential targets of cyber attacks (other than for the purpose of research or vulnerability reporting); or

''(III) evade human control or oversight of automated systems through means of deception or obfuscation;

''(ii) accessing a quantum computer, including a quantum computer that would enable offensive cyber operations;

''(iii) collecting or analyzing personally identifiable sensitive data (as defined in section 2 of the Protecting Americans' Data from Foreign Adversaries Act of 2024 (15 U.S.C. 9901)); or

''(iv) hindering access at the national or regional level to online platforms, such as websites, social media networks, and communication applications.

''(B) FOREIGN PERSON OF CONCERN DEFINED.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term 'foreign person of concern' means—

''(i) a foreign person that is—

''(I) the government of a country specified in section 4872(f)(2) of title 10, United States Code;

''(II) an entity incorporated in such a country; or

''(III) an entity owned or controlled by the government of such a country; or

''(ii) any person designated by the Secretary under this subparagraph.''.

(b) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—Section 1752 of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4811) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting '', and provision of remote access to,'' after ''export of''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting '', and provision remote access to,'' after ''export of''; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting '', and provision of remote access to,'' after ''transfer of''; and

(B) in subparagraph (A), in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting '', or provision of remote access to,'' after ''release of''.

(c) AUTHORITY OF PRESIDENT.—Section 1753 of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4812) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in paragraph (2)(F), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) remote access to items subject to the jurisdiction of the United States by foreign persons.'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (6), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in paragraph (7), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(8) regulate remote access to items described in subsection (a)(3).''; and

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) by inserting '', or provision of remote access to,'' after ''in-country transfer of'';

(B) by striking ''subsections (b)(1) or (b)(2)'' and inserting ''paragraphs (1), (2), and (8) of subsection (b), as applicable,''; and

(C) by striking ''or in-country transfer occurs'' and inserting ''in-country transfer, or provision of remote access occurs''.

(d) ADDITIONAL AUTHORITIES.—Section 1754 of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4813) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by inserting '', and provision of remote access to,'' after ''transfers of'';

(B) in paragraph (4), by inserting '', and provision of remote access to,'' after ''transfers of'';

(C) in paragraph (5), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting '', and provision of remote access to,'' after ''transfers of'';

(D) in paragraph (6), by striking ''United States export control'' and inserting ''United States control'';

(E) in paragraph (7), by striking ''export controls'' and inserting ''controls'';

(F) in paragraph (10), by striking ''or in-country transferred'' and inserting ''in-country transferred, or accessed remotely'';

(G) in paragraph (11), by adding at the end before the semicolon the following: ''or remote access''; and

(H) in paragraph (15), by striking ''to export'' and inserting ''for export, reexport, in-country transfer, or provision of remote access'';

(2) in subsection (b), by inserting '', or provision of remote access to,'' after ''transfer of''; and

(3) in subsection (d)(1)(A), by inserting '', or provision of remote access to,'' after ''in country-transfer of''.

(e) ADMINISTRATION OF CONTROLS.—Section 1755 of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4814) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (C), by inserting '', and provision of remote access to,'' after ''in-country transfers of''; and

(B) in subparagraph (E), by inserting '', and remote access to,'' after ''in-country transfers of''; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking ''export controls'' and inserting ''controls''.

(f) LICENSING.—Section 1756 of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4815) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting '', and provision of remote access to,'' after ''in-country transfer of''; and

(2) in subsection (b), by inserting '', or provide remote access to,'' after ''in-country transfer''.

(g) COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE.—Section 1757 of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4816) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting '', or provision of remote access to,'' after ''in-country transfer of''; and

(2) in subsection (c)(2), by striking ''export controls'' and inserting ''controls''.

(h) PENALTIES.—Section 1760 of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4819) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2)(F)—

(A) in clause (ii), by striking ''any export control document or any report'' and inserting ''any document or report''; and

(B) in clause (iii), by inserting '', or provision of remote access to,'' after ''in-country transfer of'';

(2) in subsection (c)(1)(C), by striking ''or in-country transfer'' and inserting ''in-country transfer, or remotely access''; and

(3) in subsection (e)(1)(A)—

(A) in clause (i), by inserting '', or remotely access or provide remote access to,'' after ''United States''; and

(B) in clause (ii), by striking ''or in-country transfer'' and inserting ''in-country transfer, or remotely access, or provide remote access to,''.

(i) ENFORCEMENT.—Section 1761 of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4820) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(5), by striking ''or in-country transferred'' and inserting ''in-country transferred, or remotely accessed''; and

(2) in subsection (h)(1)(B), by inserting '', or provide remote access to,'' after ''in-country transfer''.

(3) In section 1761 (50 U.S.C. 4820)—

(A) in subsection (a)(5), by striking ''or in-country transferred'' and inserting ''in-country transferred, or remotely accessed''; and

(B) in subsection (h)(1)(B), by striking ''or in-country transfer'' and inserting ''in-country transfer of items, or provide remote access to items''.

(j) ANNUAL REPORT.—Section 1765(a)(1) of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4824(a)(1)) is amended by inserting '', and provision of remote access to,'' after ''in-country transfers of''.

(k) EFFECT ON OTHER ACTS.—Section 1767 of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4825) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting '', or remote access to,'' after ''reexport of''; and

(2) in subsection (b)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting '', and remote access by and provision of remote access to such persons to,'' after ''persons of''; and

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''or in-country transferred'' and inserting ''in-country transferred, or remotely accessed''.

(l) TERMINATION.—The authority under part I of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018, as amended by this section, to impose controls on remote access to items terminates on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 1703. CONSULTATIONS WITH CONGRESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce shall seek comment from the public with respect to, and ensure the appropriate congressional committees are kept fully and currently informed of, any anticipated promulgation of regulations to control remote access to items under the Export Control Reform Act of 2018, as amended by section 1702, including ensuring such committees are informed, in a classified setting as necessary, on—

(1) the national security or foreign policy risk that would be addressed by the regulations;

(2) how the method of the regulations addresses that risk; and

(3) how the regulations may impact the economy of the United States, including the impact on the competitiveness of United States industry in cloud services and related industries as a result of the regulations.

(b) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(1) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 1704. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON DEEMED EXPORTS AND REMOTE ACCESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 100 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall submit to Congress and make available to the public a report assessing and making recommendations with respect to—

(1) how remote access to items by individuals might be addressed under the Export Control Reform Act of 2018;

(2) how to improve the speed and consistency at which applications for licenses for remote access to items are reviewed;

(3) identifying relevant national security concerns related to remote access to items in the interest of improving certainty for United States businesses.

(b) CONSULTATIONS.—In developing the report required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with Congress and seek input from the public.

SA 3568. Ms. ROSEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH CAMPAIGN TO EDUCATE RURAL VETERANS ABOUT THE 211 HELPLINE NETWORK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall conduct a communications and outreach campaign to educate veterans in rural areas about the 211 helpline network in order to make those veterans aware of existing health programs and community resources that are available to them.

(b) COLLABORATION.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall collaborate with the 211 helpline network to ensure that—

(1) the network is prepared to handle calls from veterans; and

(2) veterans in rural areas know they can call 211 to learn about free or reduced-cost services available to them.

SA 3569. Mr. WHITEHOUSE 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. REVISION OF UNIFIED FACILITIES CRITERIA AND UNIFIED FACILITIES GUIDE SPECIFICATIONS TO INCLUDE SPECIFICATIONS ON USE OF FIBER-REINFORCED POLYMER COMPOSITES IN CONCRETE APPLICATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment (referred to in this section as the ''Under Secretary'') shall revise the Unified Facilities Criteria and the Unified Facilities Guide Specifications to—

(1) incorporate references to American Concrete Institute (ACI) Code 440.11–22, or successor similar standards, into the building code of the Department of Defense;

(2) incorporate references to Advancing Standards Transforming Markets (ASTM) International D7957 and ACI Code 440.1R–15, or successor similar standards, into the specifications for use of fiber-reinforced polymer bars in the rehabilitation of concrete; and

(3) include specifications for use of fiber-reinforced polymer dowels and reinforcing bars in cast-in-place concrete applications that incorporate references to ASTM D8444 and ASTM D8505.

(b) EXCEPTION.—The Under Secretary shall not carry out a requirement under subsection (a) if the Under Secretary determines that such requirement is not advisable.

(c) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—If the Under Secretary determines that a requirement under subsection (a) is not advisable, the Under Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report—

(1) explaining the reason why such requirement is not advisable; and

(2) describing any research and development activities needed to support reconsideration of such requirement.

SA 3570. Mr. PETERS 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. COMMERCIAL SPACE ACTIVITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a Commercial Space Activity Advisory Committee (in this section referred to as the ''Committee'').

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall be composed of 15 members appointed by the Secretary.

(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall be composed of representatives from a variety of space policy, engineering, technical, science, legal, academic, and finance fields who have significant experience in the commercial space industry, which may include previous Government experience.

(B) LIMITATION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), the Secretary may not appoint as a member of the Committee any employee or official of the Federal Government.

(ii) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may appoint as a member of the Committee a special government employee (as defined in section 202(a) of title 18, United States Code) who serves on 1 or more other Federal advisory committees.

(3) TERM.—Each individual appointed as a member of the Committee—

(A) shall be appointed for a term of not more than 4 years; and

(B) during the 2-year period beginning on the date on which such term ends, may not serve as a member of the Committee.

(c) DUTIES.—The duties of the Committee shall be—

(1) to advise on the status and recent developments of nongovernmental space activities;

(2) to provide to the Secretary and Congress recommendations on the manner in which the United States may facilitate and promote a safe, sustainable, robust, competitive, and innovative commercial sector that is investing in, developing, and conducting space activities within the jurisdiction of the Department of Commerce, including through the development and implementation of any regulatory framework applicable to the commercial space industry.

(3) to identify, and provide recommendations in response to, any challenge faced by the United States commercial sector relating to—

(A) the application of international obligations of the United States relevant to commercial space sector activities in outer space;

(B) export controls that affect the commercial space sector;

(C) harmful interference with commercial space sector activities in outer space; and

(D) access to adequate, predictable, and reliable radio frequency spectrum;

(4) to review existing best practices for United States entities to avoid—

(A) the harmful contamination of the Moon and other celestial bodies; and

(B) adverse changes in the environment of the Earth resulting from the introduction of extraterrestrial matter; and

(5) to provide information, advice, and recommendations on matters relating to—

(A) United States commercial space sector activities in outer space; and

(B) other commercial space sector activities, as the Committee considers necessary.

(d) TERMINATION.—The Committee shall terminate on the date that is 10 years after the date on which the Committee is established.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Office of Space Commerce.

(2) STATE.—The term ''State'' means each of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any other commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States.

(3) UNITED STATES ENTITY.—The term ''United States entity'' means—

(A) an individual who is a national of the United States (as defined in section 101(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a))); and

(B) a nongovernmental entity organized or existing under, and subject to, the laws of the United States or a State.

SA 3571. Mr. MORAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 724. IMPROVEMENT OF AVAILABILITY OF CARE FOR VETERANS FROM FACILITIES AND PROVIDERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) OUTREACH ON AVAILABLE CARE.—Not less frequently than annually, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall conduct outreach to increase awareness among veterans enrolled in the system of annual patient enrollment of the Department of Veterans Affairs established and operated under section 1705(a) of title 38, United States Code, of the ability of those veterans to receive care at military medical treatment facilities.

(b) TRAINING ON REFERRALS.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure training for staff and contractors involved in scheduling, or assisting in scheduling, appointments for care under the community care program specifically includes training regarding options for referral to facilities and providers of the Department of Defense.

(c) PREFERRED PROVIDERS.—Subsection (g) of section 1703 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading, by inserting ''AND PREFERRED PROVIDERS'' after ''NETWORK''; and

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

''(3) The Secretary shall consider providers under subsection (c)(2) to be preferred providers under this section.''.

(d) ACTION PLANS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall develop and implement action plans at covered facilities—

(A) to expand the partnership between the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs with respect to the provision of health care;

(B) to improve communication between the Department of Veterans Affairs and pertinent command and director leadership of military medical treatment facilities;

(C) to increase utilization of military medical treatment facilities with excess capacity;

(D) to increase case volume and complexity for graduate medical education programs of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs;

(E) to improve resource sharing agreements or permits, as applicable, between the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs, which would also ensure lessened barriers to shared facility spaces; and

(F) to increase access to care for veterans described in subsection (a) in areas in which a military medical treatment facility is located that is identified by the Secretary of Defense as having excess capacity.

(2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The action plans required under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) Cross-credentialing and privileging of health care providers, including nurses, medical technicians, and other support staff, to jointly care for beneficiaries in medical facilities of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(B) Expediting access to installations of the Department of Defense for staff and beneficiaries of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(C) Including in-kind or non-cash payment or reimbursement options for expenses incurred by either the Department of Defense or the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(D) Allowing eligible veterans to seek certain services at military medical treatment facilities without referral or preauthorization from the Department of Veterans Affairs, for which reimbursement to the Department of Defense will be made.

(E) The designation of a coordinator within each covered facility to serve as a liaison between the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs and to lead the implementation of such action plan.

(F) A mechanism for monitoring the effectiveness of such action plan on an ongoing basis, to include establishing relevant performance goals and collecting data to assess progress towards those goals.

(G) Prioritize the integration of relevant information technology and other systems or processes to enable seamless information sharing, referrals and ancillary orders, payment methodologies and billing processes, and workload attribution when Department of Veterans Affairs personnel provide services at Department of Defense facilities or when Department of Defense personnel provide services at Department of Veterans Affairs facilities.

(H) Any other matter that the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs consider appropriate.

(3) APPROVAL OF ACTION PLANS.—Before implementing any action plan required under paragraph (1) at a covered facility or covered facilities, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that approval for the action plan is obtained from—

(A) the co-chairs of the Department of Veterans Affairs-Department of Defense Joint Executive Committee established under section 320 of title 38, United States Code;

(B) the local installation commander for the covered facility of the Department of Defense; and

(C) the director of the relevant medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs with respect to any covered facility or covered facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(4) REPORTS.—

(A) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report containing the action plans required under paragraph (1).

(B) SUBSEQUENT REPORT.—Not later than one year after submitting the report required under subparagraph (A), the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report containing—

(i) a status update on the progress of implementing the action plans required under paragraph (1); and

(ii) recommendations for developing subsequent action plans for each facility with respect to which there is a sharing agreement in place.

(e) REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO SHARING AGREEMENTS.—

(1) LEAD COORDINATOR.—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that there is a lead coordinator at each facility of the Department of Defense or the Department of Veterans Affairs, as the case may be, with respect to which there is a sharing agreement in place.

(2) LIST OF AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall maintain on a publicly available website a list of all sharing agreements in place between medical facilities of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(f) TREATMENT OF EXISTING LAWS REGARDING SHARING OF HEALTH CARE RESOURCES.—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out this section notwithstanding any limitation or requirement under section 1104 of title 10, United States Code, or section 8111 of title 38, United States Code.

(g) FUNDING.—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may use funds available in the DOD–VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund established under section 8111(d)(2) of title 38, United States Code, to implement this section.

(h) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section or the amendments made by this section shall be construed to require veterans to seek care in facilities of the Department of Defense.

(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Veterans Affairs of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Veterans Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAM.—The term ''community care program'' means the Veterans Community Care Program under section 1703 of title 38, United States Code.

(3) COVERED FACILITY.—The term ''covered facility'' means—

(A) a military medical treatment facility ias defined in section 1073c(j) of title 10, United States Code; or

(B) a medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs located nearby a military medical treatment facility described in subparagraph (A).

(4) SHARING AGREEMENT.—The term ''sharing agreement'' means an agreement for sharing of health-care resources between the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs under section 1104 of title 10, United States Code, or section 8111 of title 38, United States Code.

(5) VETERAN.—The term ''veteran'' has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

SA 3572. Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Mr. HICKENLOOPER) 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. TECHNOLOGY GRANTS TO STRENGTHEN DOMESTIC MINING EDUCATION.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) BOARD.—The term ''Board'' means the Mining Professional Development Advisory Board established by subsection (d)(1).

(2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term ''institution of higher education'' has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

(3) MINING INDUSTRY.—The term ''mining industry'' means the mining industry of the United States, consisting of the search for, and extraction, beneficiation, refining, smelting, processing, reprocessing, and recycling of, naturally occurring metal and nonmetal minerals from the earth.

(4) MINING PROFESSION.—The term ''mining profession'' means the body of jobs directly relevant to—

(A) the exploration, planning, execution, and remediation of metal and nonmetal mining sites; and

(B) the extraction, including the separation, refining, alloying, smelting, concentration, processing, reprocessing, and recycling, of mineral ores.

(5) MINING SCHOOL.—The term ''mining school'' means—

(A) a mining, metallurgical, geological, or mineral engineering program accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, Inc., that is located at an institution of higher education, including a Tribal College or University (as defined in section 316(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c(b))); or

(B) a geology or engineering program or department that is located at a 4-year public institution of higher education located in a State the gross domestic product of which in 2021 was not less than $2,000,000,000 in the combined categories of ''Mining (except oil and gas)'' and ''Support activities for mining'', according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

(6) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Energy.

(b) DOMESTIC MINING EDUCATION STRENGTHENING PROGRAM.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior (acting through the Director of the United States Geological Survey), shall—

(1) establish a grant program to strengthen domestic mining education; and

(2) under the program established in paragraph (1), award competitive grants to mining schools for the purpose of recruiting and educating the next generation of mining engineers and other qualified professionals to meet the future energy and mineral needs of the United States.

(c) GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the grant program established under subsection (b)(1), the Secretary shall award not more than 10 grants each year to mining schools.

(2) SELECTION REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall select recipients for grants under paragraph (1) to ensure geographic diversity among grant recipients to ensure that region-specific specialties are developed for region-specific geology.

(B) TIMELINE.—The Secretary shall award the grants under paragraph (1) by not later than the later of—

(i) the date that is 180 days after the start of the applicable fiscal year; and

(ii) the date that is 180 days after the date on which the Act making full-year appropriations for the Department of Energy for the applicable fiscal year is enacted.

(3) RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BOARD.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In selecting recipients for grants under paragraph (1) and determining the amount of each grant, the Secretary, to the maximum extent practicable, shall take into consideration the recommendations of the Board under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (d)(3).

(B) SELECTION STATEMENT.—In selecting recipients for grants under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(i) in response to a recommendation from the Board, submit to the Board a statement that describes—

(I) whether the Secretary accepts or rejects, in whole or in part, the recommendation of the Board; and

(II) the justification and rationale for any rejection, in whole or in part, of the recommendation of the Board; and

(ii) not later than 15 days after awarding a grant for which the Board submitted a recommendation, publish the statement submitted under clause (i) on the Department of Energy website.

(4) USE OF FUNDS.—A mining school receiving a grant under paragraph (1) shall use the grant funds—

(A) to recruit students to the mining school; and

(B) to enhance and support programs related to, as applicable—

(i) mining, mineral extraction efficiency, and related processing technology;

(ii) emphasizing critical mineral and rare earth element exploration, extraction, and refining;

(iii) reclamation technology and practices for active mining operations;

(iv) the development of reprocessing systems and technologies that facilitate reclamation that fosters the recovery of resources at abandoned mine sites;

(v) mineral extraction, refining, processing, reprocessing, and recycling methods that reduce environmental and human impacts;

(vi) technologies to extract, refine, separate, smelt, produce, or recycle minerals, including rare earth elements;

(vii) reducing dependence on foreign energy and mineral supplies through increased domestic critical mineral production and recycling;

(viii) enhancing the competitiveness of United States energy and mineral technology exports;

(ix) the extraction or processing of coinciding mineralization, including rare earth elements, within coal or other ores, coal or mineral processing byproduct, overburden, or residue from coal, minerals, or other ores;

(x) enhancing technologies and practices relating to mitigation of acid mine drainage, reforestation, and revegetation in the reclamation of land and water resources adversely affected by mining;

(xi) enhancing exploration and characterization of new or novel deposits, including rare earth elements and critical minerals within phosphate rocks, uranium-bearing deposits, and other nontraditional sources;

(xii) meeting challenges of extreme mining conditions, such as deeper deposits or cold region mining;

(xiii) mineral economics, including analysis of supply chains, future mineral needs, and unconventional mining resources; and

(xiv) mining practices that reduce environmental impact, including mining practices that reduce water usage, mitigate surface disturbance, and promote overall resource efficiency.

(d) MINING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established an advisory board, to be known as the ''Mining Professional Development Advisory Board''.

(2) COMPOSITION.—The Board shall be composed of 6 members, to be appointed by the Secretary not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, of whom—

(A) 3 shall be individuals who are actively working in the mining profession and for the mining industry; and

(B) 3 shall have experience in academia implementing and operating professional skills training and education programs in the mining sector.

(3) DUTIES.—The Board shall—

(A) evaluate grant applications received under subsection (c) and make recommendations to the Secretary for selection of grant recipients under that subsection;

(B) propose the amount of the grant for each applicant recommended to be selected under subparagraph (A); and

(C) perform oversight to ensure that grant funds awarded under subsection (c) are used for the purposes described in paragraph (4) of that subsection.

(4) TERM.—A member of the Board shall serve for a term of 4 years.

(5) VACANCIES.—A vacancy on the Board—

(A) shall not affect the powers of the Board; and

(B) shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment was made by not later than 180 days after the date on which the vacancy occurs.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2033.

(f) REPEAL OF THE MINING AND MINERAL RESOURCES INSTITUTES ACT.—The Mining and Mineral Resources Institutes Act (30 U.S.C. 1221 et seq.) is repealed.

SA 3573. Mr. YOUNG submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title X, add the following:

Subtitle H—Helping Allies Respond to Piracy, Overfishing, and Oceanic Negligence Act

SEC. 1091. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Helping Allies Respond to Piracy, Overfishing, and Oceanic Negligence Act'' or the ''HARPOON Act''.

SEC. 1092. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) COMMANDANT.—The term ''Commandant'' means the Commandant of the Coast Guard.

(2) ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED, AND UNREGULATED FISHING; IUU FISHING.—The terms ''illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing'' and ''IUU fishing'' means activities described as illegal fishing, unreported fishing, or unregulated fishing in paragraph 3 of the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, adopted at the 24th Session of the Committee on Fisheries in Rome on March 2, 2001.

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

SEC. 1093. MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITY TO BUILD CAPACITY OF FOREIGN SECURITY FORCES.

Section 333(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(10) Counter-illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing operations.''.

SEC. 1094. COUNTER-IUU FISHING PROGRAM ENHANCEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary and the Commandant shall seek to engage with foreign partners to establish joint patrols to enhance counter-IUU fishing efforts, combat transnational crime, and enhance regional security.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary and the Commandant shall jointly submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on engagements with foreign partners under subsection (a), including—

(A) an identification of specific regions and countries interested in increased cooperation;

(B) a description of any limitations on enhanced partnerships due to insufficient resources;

(C) recommendations for increased program effectiveness;

(D) an assessment of the effectiveness of ongoing partner operations; and

(E) any other information the Secretary and the Commandant consider appropriate.

(2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

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

(B) the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

SA 3574. Mr. CORNYN 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 II, insert the following:

SEC. 2___. MANUFACTURING DOMESTICALLY PRODUCED COMPONENTS FOR 5G OPEN RADIO ACCESS NETWORK SYSTEMS.

The amount authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2026 by section 201 for research, development, test, and evaluation and available for Next Generation Information Communications Technology (5G) (PE 0604011D8Z) as specified in the funding table in section 4201 is increased by $75,000,000, with the amount of the increase to be available for manufacture of domestically produced components for fifth generation Open Radio Access Network (ORAN) systems.

SA 3575. Mr. CORNYN (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 end of subtitle E of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1265. REVIEW OF EXPORT CONTROLS ON ITEMS WITH CRITICAL CAPABILITIES TO ENABLE INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES.

(a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States to use export controls to the extent necessary to further the protection of internationally recognized human rights.

(b) REVIEW OF ITEMS WITH CRITICAL CAPABILITIES TO ENABLE INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and as appropriate thereafter, the Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of State, the Director of National Intelligence, and the heads of other Federal agencies as appropriate, shall conduct a review of items subject to controls for crime control reasons pursuant to section 742.7 of the Export Administration Regulations.

(c) REPORT REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In furtherance of the policy set forth in subsection (a), not later than 180 days after completing the review required by subsection (b), the Secretary, in coordination with the heads of other Federal agencies as appropriate, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on whether additional export controls are needed to protect internationally recognized human rights.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include consideration of—

(A) whether controls for crime control reasons pursuant to section 742.7 of the Export Administration Regulations should be imposed on additional items, including items with critical capabilities to enable internationally recognized human rights abuses involving—

(i) censorship or social control;

(ii) surveillance, interception, or restriction of communications;

(iii) monitoring or restricting access to or use of the internet;

(iv) identification of individuals through facial or voice recognition or biometric indicators; or

(v) DNA sequencing;

(B) whether end-use and end-user controls should be imposed on the export, reexport, or in-country transfer of certain items that are subject to the Export Administration Regulations and have critical capabilities to enable internationally recognized human rights abuses if the person seeking to export, reexport, or transfer the item has knowledge, or the Secretary determines and so informs that person, that the end-user or ultimate consignee will use the item to enable internationally recognized human rights abuses; and

(C) the effects of multilateral cooperation with other governments on implementing controls described in subparagraphs (A) and (B).

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) END-USER; KNOWLEDGE; ULTIMATE CONSIGNEE.—The terms ''end-user'', ''knowledge'', and ''ultimate consignee'' have the meanings given those terms in section 772.1 of the Export Administration Regulations.

(3) EXPORT; EXPORT ADMINISTRATION REGULATIONS; IN-COUNTRY TRANSFER; ITEM; REEXPORT.—The terms ''export'', ''Export Administration Regulations'', ''in-country transfer'', ''item'', and ''reexport'' have the meanings given those terms in section 1742 of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4801).

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

SA 3576. Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1248. STRATEGY TO STRENGTHEN MULTILATERAL DETERRENCE IN THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall develop and implement a strategy to strengthen multilateral deterrence against regional aggression in the Indo-Pacific region by expanding multilateral coordination with United States allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific region, particularly Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Philippines, and Australia, including by enhancing multilateral access and basing agreements, command and control structures, intelligence-sharing, and exercises and operations.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required by subsection (a) shall—

(1) describe current activities and identify future actions to be taken over the next 5 years by the Department of Defense—

(A) to leverage reciprocal access agreements between the United States and allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific region, particularly Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Philippines, and Australia, to expand regional access for the military forces of such allies and partners, including for purposes of enhancing interoperability at locations across the Indo-Pacific region, pre-positioning munitions stockpiles, and jointly supporting and leveraging shared facilities, operational access, and infrastructure;

(B) to improve command and control structures enabling enhanced multilateral coordination with allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific region, including through the Combined Coordination Center in the Philippines, the joint force headquarters of the United States in Japan, the Combined Forces Command in the Republic of Korea, and a potential combined coordination structure in Australia;

(C) to expand intelligence-sharing and maritime domain awareness among the United States and allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific region, including through the Bilateral Intelligence Analysis Cell in Japan and the Combined Coordination Center in the Philippines; and

(D) to expand the scope and scale of multilateral military exercises and operations as well as basing infrastructure and posture in the Indo-Pacific region, particularly among the United States, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Philippines, and Australia, including more frequent combined maritime operations through the Taiwan Strait, the South China Sea, and the Aleutian Islands;

(2) fully consider strategic and operational contingencies for security of likely military and economic avenues of approach and trade routes across the South, Central, and North Indo-Pacific region; and

(3) address the conduct of operations in accordance with such strategic and operational contingencies.

(c) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees the written strategy required by subsection (a), including an identification of—

(1) any changes to funding or policy required to strengthen multilateral deterrence among the United States and allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific region against regional aggression; and

(2) any additional resources required to carry out specific initiatives described in subsection (b), such as expanding regional access to the military forces of such allies and partners, improving command and control structures, expanding intelligence-sharing and maritime domain awareness, and expanding the scope and scale of multilateral exercises and operations in the Indo-Pacific region.

(d) INTERIM REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than March 15, 2027, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the progress of the implementation of the strategy required by subsection (a), including any resource or authority gaps identified in the ability of the Department of Defense to implement the strategy.

(e) INDO-PACIFIC REGION DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''Indo-Pacific region'' means—

(1) the geographical area encompassing the area of responsibility of the United States Indo-Pacific Command; and

(2) the Alaska theater of operations, including the entirety of the State of Alaska and the entirety of the oceans or other such maritime features bordering the State of Alaska.

SA 3577. Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. KAINE, and Ms. ALSOBROOKS) 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. ___. BENEFIT-COST ANALYSIS ON CERTAIN RELOCATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (d), a Federal agency may not carry out a covered relocation unless, prior to any submission to the Office of Management and Budget or other reviewing entity regarding such covered relocation—

(1) such agency—

(A) conducts a benefit-cost analysis on the covered relocation; and

(B) submits to the Office of Inspector General for such agency an unredacted report on the findings of the benefit-cost analysis and including such other information such Office of Inspector General determines necessary for compliance with subsection (c); and

(2) such Office of Inspector General reviews the report and submits to Congress the report described in subsection (c).

(b) BENEFIT-COST ANALYSIS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The benefit-cost analysis described in subsection (a)(1) shall be conducted in a manner consistent with the economic and social science principles articulated in the guidance applicable to relocations in the Office of Management and Budget Circular A–4, as in effect on September 17, 2003.

(2) ANALYSIS REPORT.—

(A) CONTENTS.—The report described in subsection (a)(1)(B) shall include, at a minimum—

(i) the anticipated outcomes and improvements that will result from the proposed covered relocation, quantified in monetary or other appropriate measures to the extent practicable;

(ii) an explanation of how the proposed covered relocation will result in the anticipated outcomes and improvements;

(iii) the metrics for measuring whether the proposed covered relocation results in the anticipated outcomes and improvements;

(iv) a detailed employee engagement plan;

(v) a list of stakeholders;

(vi) a timeline of past and future engagements with stakeholders regarding the proposed covered relocation;

(vii) an assessment of how the proposed covered relocation may affect stakeholders—

(I) served by the positions affected by the covered relocation; and

(II) in the destination agency or region;

(viii) a comprehensive strategy for accomplishing the proposed covered relocation that includes—

(I) staffing, resourcing, and financial needs;

(II) an implementation timeline identifying milestones and the persons accountable for meeting such milestones;

(III) a risk assessment;

(IV) a risk mitigation plan; and

(V) documentation of ongoing succession and recruiting planning processes;

(ix) an analysis of the effect the proposed covered relocation may have on the ability of the Federal agency to carry out its mission during the covered relocation and thereafter; and

(x) an assessment of the short- and long-term effects of the covered relocation on the mission of the Federal agency.

(B) PUBLICATION.—A Federal agency shall make publicly available the report described in subsection (a)(1)(B) in a form that excludes any proprietary information or trade secrets of any person and other confidential information.

(c) INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which a Federal agency submits a report under subsection (a)(1)(B), the Office of Inspector General for that agency shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the findings of the review conducted under subsection (a)(2), including—

(1) detailed descriptions of the data used in the benefit-cost analysis described in subsection (a)(1), including the types of data and the time periods covered by the data;

(2) the conclusions of the benefit-cost analysis and the analysis underlying such conclusions; and

(3) a comprehensive assessment of—

(A) the extent to which the Federal agency adhered to the guidance in the Office of Management and Budget Circular A–4, as in effect on September 17, 2003, in conducting the benefit-cost analysis, including a determination whether such adherence is sufficient to justify the use of Federal funds for the proposed covered relocation involved; and

(B) if the proposed covered relocation involves moving positions from inside the National Capital Region to outside the National Capital Region, the extent to which real estate options in the National Capital Region were compared to those in the destination as part of that analysis.

(d) OTHER REQUIREMENTS NOT ABROGATED.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to abrogate, reduce, or eliminate any requirements imposed by law pertaining to any covered relocation of a Federal agency or component of a Federal agency.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATIVE REDELEGATION OF FUNCTION.—The term ''administrative redelegation of function'' means a Federal agency establishing new positions within the agency that replace existing positions within the agency and perform the functions of the positions replaced.

(2) COVERED RELOCATION.—The term ''covered relocation'' means—

(A) an administrative redelegation of function which, by itself or in conjunction with other related redelegations, involves replacing the existing positions of more than the lesser of 5 percent or 100 of the employees of the relevant Federal agency with new positions located outside the commuting area of such employees;

(B) moving a Federal agency or any component of a Federal agency if such move, by itself or in conjunction with other related moves, involves moving the positions of more than the lesser of 5 percent or 100 of the employees of the Federal agency outside the commuting area of such employees or under the jurisdiction of another Federal agency; or

(C) a combination of related redelegations and moves which together involve the positions of more than the lesser of 5 percent or 100 of the employees of the relevant Federal agency being moved to or replaced with new positions located outside the commuting area of such employees or moved under the jurisdiction of another Federal agency.

(3) EMPLOYEE.—The term ''employee'' means an employee or officer of a Federal agency.

(4) FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term ''Federal agency'' has the meaning given the term ''agency'' in section 902 of title 5, United States Code.

(5) NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION.—The term ''National Capital Region'' has the meaning given such term in section 8702 of title 40, United States Code.

SA 3578. Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER (for herself and Mr. BUDD) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 220D. ALIGNMENT OF UPDATES OF STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE MANUFACTURING USA PROGRAM WITH UPDATES TO NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR ADVANCED MANUFACTURING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2) of section 34(i) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278s(i)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''and update not less frequently than once every 3 years thereafter,'';

(2) by redesignating subparagraphs (D) through (M) as subparagraphs (E) through (N), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (C), the following new bsubparagraph:

''(D) to update the strategic plan developed under subparagraph (C) not less frequently than once every 4 years such that the planning cycle for the updates aligns with the planning cycle for updates to the National Strategy for Advanced Manufacturing required under section 102(c)(4) of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 6622(c)(4)) to better ensure the Program reflects the priorities of the national strategy;''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such section is further amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking ''paragraph (2)(C)'' and inserting ''subparagraphs (C) and (D) of paragraph (2)''; and

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking ''paragraph (2)(C)'' and inserting ''subparagraph (C) of paragraph (2) and any update to the plan required under subparagraph (D) of such paragraph''.

SA 3579. Ms. SMITH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1210. USE OF OFFICIAL SEAL, EMBLEM, AND NAME OF THE PEACE CORPS.

Section 19(b) of the Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2518(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''The use'' and inserting ''Except as provided in paragraph (3), the use'';

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking ''Whoever'' and inserting ''Except as provided in paragraph (3), whoever''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) and (2), the official seal, emblem, and name of the Peace Corps may be used for a death announcement, gravestone, plaque, or other grave marker of any person who served as a volunteer or as an officer or employee of the Peace Corps, in accordance with such rules as may be prescribed by the Director.''.

SA 3580. Ms. SMITH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. PILOT PROGRAM TO FURNISH HEARING AIDS, HEARING TESTS, AND RELATED HEALTH CARE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO VETERANS WITH HEARING LOSS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Commencing not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a pilot program (in

this section referred to as the ''pilot program'') under which the Secretary shall furnish covered care to covered veterans for the duration of the pilot program.

(b) DURATION.—The pilot program shall be carried out during the four-year period beginning on the date of the commencement of the pilot program.

(c) LOCATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out the pilot program at the following locations:

(A) Each medical center of the Department with an established hearing clinic.

(B) Each community-based outpatient clinic with an established hearing clinic.

(2) MOBILE HEARING CLINICS.—In carrying out the pilot program, the Secretary shall test the efficacy of mobile hearing clinics to service rural areas that do not have a population base to warrant a full-time clinic but where there are covered veterans in need of covered care.

(3) HOME-BASED HEARING CARE.—In carrying out the pilot program, the Secretary shall test the efficacy of using portable units to provide covered care to rural veteran in their homes, as the Secretary considers medically appropriate.

(d) HEARING THERAPISTS AND TELE-HEARING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the pilot program, The Secretary shall test the efficacy of the use of hearing therapists and tele-hearing to service the covered care needs of covered veterans.

(2) USE OF TELE-HEARING.—When providing tele-hearing under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall use Federal employees to the maximum extent possible.

(e) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) NOTICE TO COVERED VETERANS.—In carrying out the pilot program, the Secretary shall inform all covered veterans of the covered care available under the pilot program.

(2) COPAYMENTS.—The Secretary may collect copayments for covered care furnished under the pilot program in accordance with authorities on the collection of copayments for medical care of veterans under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code.

(f) REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days before the completion of the pilot program, and not later than 180 days after the completion of the pilot program, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives a report on the pilot program.

(2) CONTENTS.—Each report under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A description of the implementation and operation of the provision of covered care under the pilot program.

(B) The number of covered veterans receiving covered care under the pilot program and a description of the covered care furnished to such veterans.

(C) An analysis of the costs and benefits of covered care provided under the pilot program, including a comparison of costs and benefits by location type.

(D) An assessment of the impact of the pilot program on appointments for care, prescriptions, hospitalizations, emergency room visits, wellness, employability, satisfaction, and perceived quality of life of covered veterans.

(E) An analysis and assessment of the efficacy of mobile clinics and portable hearing care units, to the extent such modalities are used, to service the needs of covered veterans under the pilot program.

(F) An analysis and assessment of the efficacy of hearing therapists and tele-hearing to service the needs of covered veterans under the pilot program, to include a cost benefit analysis of such services.

(G) The findings and conclusions of the Secretary with respect to the pilot program.

(H) Such recommendations as the Secretary considers appropriate for the expansion of covered care to all veterans eligible for health care from the Department.

(g) IMPACT ON COMMUNITY CARE.—Nothing in this section limits a covered veteran from accessing care or services pursuant to section 1703 of title 38, United States Code.

(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED CARE.—The term ''covered care'' means the provision of hearing aids, hearing tests, and related health care.

(2) COVERED VETERAN.—The term ''covered veteran'' means a veteran who—

(A) is enrolled in the system of annual patient enrollment of the Department of Veterans Affairs established and operated under section 1705(a) of title 38, United States Code; and

(B) has hearing loss.

SA 3581. Ms. SMITH 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. ___. RURAL EMERGENCY HOSPITAL FIX.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1861(kkk)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(kkk)(3)) is amended, in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting ''January 1, 2020, or'' after ''as of''.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Health and Human Services may implement the amendment made by subsection (a) by program instruction or otherwise.

SA 3582. Ms. SMITH (for herself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. PAYMENT FOR ADDITIONAL LANDS ACQUIRED IN NORTHERN MINNESOTA.

Section 5 of the Act of June 22, 1948 (commonly known as the ''Thye-Blatnik Act'') (62 Stat. 570, chapter 593; 16 U.S.C. 577g), is amended by striking ''of the fair appraised value of such'' and inserting ''of the highest fair appraised value, including historical fair appraised values, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with this section, of such''.

SA 3583. Mr. HEINRICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. REQUIREMENT TO USE ITEMS PRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES.

Section 604 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (6 U.S.C. 453b) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the following:

''(2) Soft sided structures, such as tents, with raised, insulated floor systems, stairs, elevated walkways, and LED lights.

''(3) Beds, mattresses, and linens.

''(4) External power distribution systems.

''(5) Internal walls constructed with semi-rigid or rigid materials that promote physical security and safety.

''(6) Covered walkways.'';

(2) in subsection (c), by striking ''subsection (b)(1)'' and inserting ''paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (b)'';

(3) in subsection (d), by inserting ''paragraph (1) or (2)'' before ''subsection (b)'';

(4) in subsection (e), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''Subsection'' and inserting ''With respect to a covered item described in subsection (b)(1), subsection''; and

(5) in subsection (f), by striking ''Subsection'' and inserting ''With respect to a covered item described in subsection (b)(1), subsection''.

SA 3584. Mr. VAN HOLLEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title X, add the following:

Subtitle H—Foreign Service Temporary Early Retirement Authority Act of 2025

SEC. 1091. SHORT TITLES.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Foreign Service Temporary Early Retirement Authority Act of 2025'' or the ''FS TERA Act of 2025''.

SEC. 1092. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) DEPARTMENT; FOREIGN SERVICE; SECRETARY.—The terms ''Department'', ''Foreign Service'', and ''Secretary'' have the meanings given such terms under section 102 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3902).

(2) ELIGIBLE FOREIGN SERVICE MEMBER.—The term ''eligible Foreign Service Member'' means a Foreign Service member who—

(A) completed 15 years of service in the Foreign Service before the date of the enactment of this Act; or

(B) voluntarily or involuntarily separated from the Foreign Service on or after January 1, 2025.

(3) FOREIGN SERVICE MEMBER.—The term ''Foreign Service Member'' means an individual described in section 103 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3903).

SEC. 1093. TEMPORARY FOREIGN SERVICE EARLY RETIREMENT PROGRAM.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary and appropriate authorities of

any Federal agency utilizing the Foreign Service personnel system under section 202 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3922) shall establish a temporary Foreign Service early retirement program in accordance with this section.

(b) RETIREMENT FOR FOREIGN SERVICE MEMBERS WITH 15 TO 20 YEARS OF SERVICE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary and appropriate authorities of any agency utilizing the Foreign Service personnel system shall—

(A) apply the provisions of section 806(a) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4046(a)) to a Foreign Service criminal investigator/inspector of the Office of the Inspector General of the United States Agency for International Development with at least 15 years of service, but less than 20 years of service, by—

(i) removing the age requirement each place it appears in such section; and

(ii) substituting ''15 years'' for ''20 years'' each place such term appears in such section; and

(B) apply the provisions of section 811 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4051) to a Foreign Service member with at least 15 of service, but less than 20 years of service, by—

(i) removing the 50 years of age requirement; and

(ii) substituting ''15 years of creditable service'' for ''20 years of creditable service''.

(c) COMPUTATION OF RETIRED PAY.—The retired pay of a Foreign Service member who retired under any provision of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3901 et seq.) pursuant to the authorization under subsection (b) shall be reduced by 1/12th of 1 percent for each full month by which the number of months of service of the participant are less than 240 months as of the date of the Foreign Service member's retirement.

(d) CONTINUATION OF HEALTH BENEFITS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any provision of title 5, United States Code, including section 8905(b) of such title, an individual shall be deemed to have satisfied the requirements for continued enrollment in a health benefits plan under chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, as an annuitant if the individual—

(A) was separated from service in the Foreign Service personnel system on or after January 1, 2025;

(B) is determined to be eligible for an annuity under this section; and

(C) was—

(i) enrolled in such health benefits plan on such date of separation; or

(ii) continuously covered through the Temporary Continuation of Coverage Program authorized under section 8905a of title 5, United States Code, without a break in coverage.

(2) CLARIFICATION.—For purposes of paragraph (1), a break in coverage between separation and annuity commencement does not disqualify an individual from eligibility for continued enrollment in a health benefits plan under such paragraph if such individual—

(A) was enrolled in a plan under chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, at the time of separation from service in the Foreign Service; and

(B) is receiving an annuity authorized under this section.

(e) FUNDING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide for the payment of retired pay in accordance with this section, subject to the availability of appropriations or as otherwise funded under the existing Foreign Service Pension System.

(2) FLEXIBILITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, Federal agencies may obligate and expend amounts that have been appropriated by Congress for the operating expenses of Diplomatic and Consular Programs, the United States Agency for International Development, and other applicable personnel-related accounts to pay for the annuities and health benefits costs authorized under this section, including processing applications, conducting eligibility and legal reviews, recalculating annuities, if applicable, and providing transition assistance and services to affected Foreign Service members.

(f) RULEMAKING.—The Secretary shall promulgate a rule that permits any eligible Foreign Service member, regardless of grade or skill code, to access early retirement and continued health benefits in accordance with this section.

(g) LIMITATION.—The enrollment period for any eligible Foreign Service member to participate in the temporary Foreign Service early retirement program authorized under this section shall expire on the date that is 12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(h) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed—

(1) to allow oversight or administration by the Office of Personnel Management under title 5, United States Code; or

(2) as an amendment to, or a modification of, the Foreign Service Act of 1980 or its retirement provisions.

SEC. 1094. REPORTS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and 1 year thereafter, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives on the impact of the temporary Foreign Service early retirement program established pursuant to section 1093 that includes—

(1) a table of the number of Foreign Service members, disaggregated by grade, skill code, years of service, gender, and race, who retired under the temporary Foreign Service early retirement program; and

(2) an assessment of the current Foreign Service staffing levels and target staffing levels, disaggregated by grade and skill code.

SA 3585. Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. BANKS) 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 II, insert the following:

SEC. 2_____. QUANTUM COMMUNICATIONS CORRIDOR.

The amount authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2026 by section 201 for research, development, test, and evaluation is hereby increased by $20,000,000, with the amount of the increase to be available for the development of a quantum communications corridor linking certain Department of Defense installations, national laboratories, and universities conducting Department of Defense research (PE 0602750N).

SA 3586. Ms. LUMMIS 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 C of title VI, add the following:

SEC. 629. MESS FACILITY MEALS FOR MEMBERS ASSIGNED TO MISSILE ALERT FACILITIES.

Section 402 of title 37, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (i) as subsection (j); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (h) the following new subsection (i):

''(i) MEMBERS ASSIGNED TO MISSILE ALERT FACILITIES.—A member of the Air Force serving on active duty who receives a basic allowance for subsistence under this section may, when assigned to a missile alert facility, elect—

''(1) to obtain meals provided in the mess facility of the missile alert facility; and

''(2) to have the basic allowance for subsistence of the member reduced by an amount the Secretary of the Air Force determines is equivalent to the cost of those meals.''.

SA 3587. Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. RISCH, and Ms. MURKOWSKI) 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. REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE CERTAIN SERVICES TO VETERANS IN THE FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.

(a) TELEHEALTH AND MAIL ORDER PHARMACY BENEFITS.—Section 1724(f)(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(C) Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026, the Secretary shall furnish to veterans described in subparagraph (A), subject to agreements described in such subparagraph, telehealth benefits and mail order pharmacy benefits.''.

(b) BENEFICIARY TRAVEL.—Section 111(h)(1) of such title is amended by striking ''the Secretary may make payments'' and inserting ''beginning not later than one year after the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026, the Secretary shall make payments''.

(c) QUARTERLY REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than quarterly, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the status of implementation of the amendments made by this section and the cost of such implementation.

(2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SA 3588. Mr. SANDERS (for Mr. WELCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. SANDERS 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 X, add the following:

SEC. 1038. PROHIBITION AGAINST COSTLY USE OF GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE FOR IMMIGRATION TRANSFERS.

None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2026 for the Department of Defense may be obligated or expended to transfer or support the transfer of any person from the United States to United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, for the purpose of detention, imprisonment, or removal from the United States.

SA 3589. Mr. SANDERS (for Mr. WELCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. SANDERS 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 X, add the following:

SEC. 1038. LIMITATION ON EMPLOYMENT OR FINANCIAL ENGAGEMENT OF PERSONS CONVICTED OF FELONIOUS ASSAULT ON LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.

Any person who has been convicted and sentenced to a term of imprisonment or probation by a court of the United States for felonious assault on a law enforcement officer shall be ineligible for employment or other financial engagement with the Department of Defense, Department of Defense components, or entities operating on their behalf, and shall be denied access to any properties of the Defense Department and Department of Defense components.

SA 3590. Mr. SANDERS (for Mr. WELCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. SANDERS to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. ___. LIMITATION ON MILITARY OPERATIONS AND ACTIVITIES IN YEMEN.

The Department of Defense shall not engage in military operations or activities in or affecting the territory, airspace, or waters of the Republic of Yemen, unless such operations or activities have been authorized by Congress. Nothing in this section shall—

(1) prohibit operations against Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula or ISIS-Yemen; or

(2) limit or disrupt any non-lethal intelligence, counterintelligence, or investigative activities in the Republic of Yemen by the United States Government.

SA 3591. Mr. SANDERS (for Mr. WELCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. SANDERS 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 X, add the following:

SEC. 1038. LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS TO BUILD OR REFURBISH AIRCRAFT TO SERVE AS AIR FORCE ONE FOR LESS THAN 20 YEARS.

None of the funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or prior Acts for the Department of Defense may be obligated or expended for purposes of building or refurbishing any aircraft that will serve as Air Force One if such aircraft is not scheduled to serve in such role for at least 20 years.

SA 3592. Mr. SANDERS (for Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. COONS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. KAINE)) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. SANDERS to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1265. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON HUNGER IN GAZA.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the humanitarian crisis and acute suffering of the Palestinian civilians in Gaza and the suffering of the hostages and hostage families is gravely concerning; and

(2) the President, the Secretary of State, and the heads of other relevant United States Government agencies should urgently use all available diplomatic tools to bring about the release of the hostages, immediate cessation of the blockade on food and humanitarian aid for Palestinian civilians, and a durable end to the conflict in Gaza.

SA 3593. Mr. SANDERS (for Mr. WELCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. SANDERS to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1265. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS TO DEPLOY FORCES TO GAZA.

None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act, or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2026 for the Department of Defense, may be obligated or expended—

(1) to deploy the United States Armed Forces to Gaza;

(2) for any activity, with respect to Palestinians, related to their displacement within or removal from Gaza, or forced transfer to designated zones; or

(3) to participate in, fund, approve or concur on a license for, approve or concur on a license for export of United States-origin weapons in support of, issue a contract for, or facilitate armed security activities or services in Gaza by United States persons, unless such activities or services have been authorized by an Act of Congress.

SA 3594. Mr. SANDERS (for Mr. WELCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. SANDERS to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1230B. LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS TO REDUCE NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES SERVING IN EUROPE.

(a) LIMITATION.— None of the funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or any other Act for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2026 may be used to reduce the total number of members of the United States Armed Forces serving on active duty who are deployed to Europe below the number that is 5% less than the number of such persons who were so deployed on January 1, 2023, unless—

(1) the Secretary of Defense first submits to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on—

(A) the effect of such a reduction on preserving deterrence in Europe and Eurasia;

(B) the anticipated reaction of the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China to such reduction;

(C) the effect of such a reduction on increasing incentives for European countries to develop independent nuclear weapons capabilities;

(D) the effect of such a reduction on the long-term military and economic partnership between the United States and Europe;

(E) the effect of such a reduction on the military balance between the United States and the People's Republic of China and between the United States and the Russian Federation; and

(2) the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, first certifies to the appropriate committees of Congress that—

(A) such a reduction is in the national security interests of the United States and will not significantly undermine the security of United States allies in the region;

(B) the Secretary has consulted, as appropriate, with allies of the United States regarding such a reduction;

(C) Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, and Romania would be fully capable of defending themselves and deterring a conflict in Europe following such a reduction; and

(D) such a reduction supports and is consistent with the most current national defense strategy under section 113 of title 10, United States Code.

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

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SA 3595. Mr. SANDERS (for Mr. WELCH (for himself and Mr. SCHATZ)) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. SANDERS to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1265. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS TO ASSIST IN ANNEXATION OF THE WEST BANK.

None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act, or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2026 for the Department of Defense, may be obligated or expended to carry out any activity, including negotiations or policy discussions, that recognizes the sovereignty of Israel over Gaza, the West Bank, or other geographic areas which came under the administration of the Government of Israel after June 5, 1967.

SA 3596. Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) 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 USE OF FUNDS FOR NON-REIMBURSEABLE SUPPORT FOR IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT.

None of the funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used by the Department of Defense to provide non-reimbursable support to the Department of Homeland Security for the purposes of immigration enforcement activities.

SA 3597. Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. LEE) 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 WARRANTLESS ACCESS TO THE COMMUNICATIONS AND OTHER INFORMATION OF UNITED STATES PERSONS.

(a) DEFINITION.—Section 702(f) of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1881a(f)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (7);

(2) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (8) and transferring such paragraph, as so redesignated, so as to appear after paragraph (7), as so redesignated; and

(3) in paragraph (8), as so redesignated—

(A) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C); and

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

''(B) The term 'covered query' means a query conducted—

''(i) using a term associated with a United States person; or

''(ii) for the purpose of finding the information of a United States person.''.

(b) PROHIBITION.—Section 702(f) of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1881a(f)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(A) by inserting ''and the limitations and requirements in paragraph (2)'' after ''Constitution of the United States'';

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (5) and (6), respectively; and

(3) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) PROHIBITION ON WARRANTLESS ACCESS TO THE COMMUNICATIONS AND OTHER INFORMATION OF UNITED STATES PERSONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraphs (B) and (C), no officer or employee of any agency that has access to unminimized communications or information obtained through an acquisition under this section may access communications content, or information the compelled disclosure of which would require a probable cause warrant if sought for law enforcement purposes inside the United States, acquired under subsection (a) and returned in response to a covered query.

''(B) EXCEPTIONS FOR CONCURRENT AUTHORIZATION, CONSENT, EMERGENCY SITUATIONS, AND CERTAIN DEFENSIVE CYBERSECURITY QUERIES.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply if—

''(i) the person to whom the query relates is the subject of an order or emergency authorization authorizing electronic surveillance, a physical search, or an acquisition under this section or section 105, section 304, section 703, or section 704 of this Act or a warrant issued pursuant to the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure by a court of competent jurisdiction;

''(ii)(I) the officer or employee accessing the communications content or information has a reasonable belief that—

''(aa) an emergency exists involving an imminent threat of death or serious bodily harm; and

''(bb) in order to prevent or mitigate the threat described in item (aa), the communications content or information must be accessed before authorization described in clause (i) can, with due diligence, be obtained; and

''(II) not later than 14 days after the communications content or information is accessed, a description of the circumstances justifying the accessing of the query results is provided to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, the congressional intelligence committees, the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

''(iii) such person or, if such person is incapable of providing consent, a third party legally authorized to consent on behalf of such person, has provided consent for the access on a case-by-case basis; or

''(iv)(I) the communications content or information is accessed and used for defensive cybersecurity purposes, including the protection of a United States person from cyber-related harms;

''(II) other than for such defensive cybersecurity purposes, no communications content or other information described in subparagraph (A) are accessed or reviewed; and

''(III) the accessing of query results is reported to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court.

''(C) MATTERS RELATING TO EMERGENCY QUERIES.—

''(i) TREATMENT OF DENIALS.—In the event that communications content or information returned in response to a covered query are accessed pursuant to an emergency authorization described in clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (B) and the subsequent application to authorize electronic surveillance, a physical search, or an acquisition pursuant to section 105(e), section 304(e), section 703(d), or section 704(d) of this Act is denied, or in any other case in which communications content or information returned in response to a covered query are accessed in violation of this paragraph—

''(I) no communications content or information acquired or evidence derived from such access may be used, received in evidence, or otherwise disseminated in any investigation by or in any trial, hearing, or other proceeding in or before any court, grand jury, department, office, agency, regulatory body, legislative committee, or other authority of the United States, a State, or political subdivision thereof; and

''(II) no communications content or information acquired or derived from such access may subsequently be used or disclosed in any other manner without the consent of the person to whom the covered query relates, except in the case that the Attorney General approves the use or disclosure of such information in order to prevent the death of or serious bodily harm to any person.

''(ii) ASSESSMENT OF COMPLIANCE.—Not less frequently than annually, the Attorney General shall assess compliance with the requirements under clause (i).

''(D) PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN QUERIES WITHOUT A FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE PURPOSE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii) of this subparagraph, no officer or employee of any agency that has access to unminimized communications or information obtained through an acquisition under this section may conduct a covered query of information acquired under subsection (a) unless the query is reasonably likely to retrieve foreign intelligence information.

''(ii) EXCEPTIONS.—An officer or employee of an agency that has access to unminimized communications or information obtained through an acquisition under this section may conduct a covered query of information acquired under this section if—

''(I)(aa) the officer or employee conducting the query has a reasonable belief that an emergency exists involving an imminent threat of death or serious bodily harm; and

''(bb) not later than 14 days after the query is conducted, a description of the query is provided to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, the congressional intelligence committees, the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

''(II) the person to whom the query relates or, if such person is incapable of providing consent, a third party legally authorized to consent on behalf of such person, has provided consent for the query on a case-by-case basis;

''(III)(aa) the query is conducted, and the results of the query are used, for defensive cybersecurity purposes, including the protection of a United States person from cyber-related harms;

''(bb) other than for such defensive cybersecurity purposes, no communications content or other information described in subparagraph (A) are accessed or reviewed; and

''(cc) the query is reported to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court; or

''(IV) the query is necessary to identify information that must be produced or preserved in connection with a litigation matter or to fulfill discovery obligations in a criminal matter under the laws of the United States or any State thereof.

''(3) DOCUMENTATION.—No officer or employee of any agency that has access to unminimized communications or information obtained through an acquisition under this section may access communications content, or information the compelled disclosure of which would require a probable cause warrant if sought for law enforcement purposes inside the United States, returned in response to a covered query unless an electronic record is created that includes a statement of facts showing that the access is authorized pursuant to an exception specified in paragraph (2)(B).

''(4) QUERY RECORD SYSTEM.—The head of each agency that has access to unminimized communications or information obtained through an acquisition under this section shall ensure that a system, mechanism, or business practice is in place to maintain the records described in paragraph (3). Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026, the head of each agency that has access to unminimized communications or information obtained through an acquisition under this section shall report to Congress on its compliance with this procedure.''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 603(b)(2) of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1873(b)(2)) is amended, in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking '', including pursuant to subsection (f)(2) of such section,''.

(2) Section 706(a)(2)(A)(i) of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1881e(a)(2)(A)(i)) is amended by striking ''obtained an order of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court to access such information pursuant to section 702(f)(2)'' and inserting ''accessed such information in accordance with section 702(f)(2)''.

SA 3598. Mr. SANDERS (for Mr. WELCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. SANDERS 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 X, add the following:

SEC. 1038. LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS TO BUILD, REFURBISH, OR PLAN FOR MORE THAN TWO AIRCRAFT TO SERVE AS AIR FORCE ONE.

None of the funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or prior Acts for the Department of Defense, may be obligated or expended for purposes of building, refurbishing, or planning for more than two aircraft that will serve as Air Force One.

SA 3599. Mr. HICKENLOOPER 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:

Strike section 1507 and insert the following:

SEC. 1507. CONTINUATION OF OPERATION OF DEFENSE METEOROLOGICAL SATELLITE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall continue to operate the Defense Meteorological Satellite Program, and its existing functions and distribution capability, until the end of the functional life of the satellites in orbit as of the date of the enactment of this Act under such program.

(b) BRIEFING.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall provide to the congressional defense committees a briefing on—

(1) the status of the Defense Meteorological Satellite Program;

(2) the requirements, capabilities, and costs for such program for fiscal year 2026;

(3) the projected costs—

(A) to carry out such program for the functional life of the satellites in orbit as of the date of the enactment of this Act under such program; and

(B) to replace the satellite functions under such program; and

(4) any cybersecurity concerns relating to the systems used to process the data under such program.

SA 3600. Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself and Mr. CRAPO) 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 V, add the following:

SEC. 515. LIMITATIONS APPLICABLE TO THE AUTHORITY TO TRANSFER SPACE FUNCTIONS OF THE AIR NATIONAL GUARD TO THE SPACE FORCE.

Section 514 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 (Public Law 118–159; 10 U.S.C. 20001 note) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (k) as subsection (l); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (j) the following new subsection:

''(k) LIMITATIONS.—

''(1) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as—

''(A) authorizing the transfer of a member of the Air National Guard of the United States other than on a one-time, voluntary basis as specified in subsection (c); or

''(B) establishing future precedent with respect to waiving the applicability of any provision of section 104 of title 32, United States Code, or section 18238 of title 10, United States Code.

''(2) CONTINUED APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF LAW.—All future force structure changes to National Guards of the various States shall be conducted in accordance with section 104 of title 32, United States Code, and section 18238 of title 10, United States Code.

''(3) SUSTAINED CONSULTATION.—The transfer authorized under this section shall not occur until after the Secretary of the Air Force has engaged in sustained consultation with the Governors of affected States and submitted to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on findings and recommendations related to the transfer of units and voluntary transfers of personnel from the Air National Guard and into the Space Force resulting from such consultation. The report shall include a section with direct comments and recommendations regarding such transfer from affected State's Adjutants General. For purposes of this paragraph, sustained consultation means at least two meetings with affected State Governors and Adjutants General, and any other actions that the Secretary of the Air Force deems necessary and relevant.''.

SA 3601. Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself and Mr. CRAPO) 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 V, add the following:

SEC. 515. LIMITATIONS APPLICABLE TO THE AUTHORITY TO TRANSFER SPACE FUNCTIONS OF THE AIR NATIONAL GUARD TO THE SPACE FORCE.

Section 514 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 (Public Law 118–159; 10 U.S.C. 20001 note) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (k) as subsection (l); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (j) the following new subsection:

''(k) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as—

''(1) authorizing the transfer of a member of the Air National Guard of the United States other than on a one-time basis as specified in subsection (c); or

''(2) setting future precedent with respect to waiving the applicability of any provision of title 32.''.

SA 3602. Mr. HICKENLOOPER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 724. STRATEGY FOR TREATING TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURIES THROUGH DIGITAL HEALTH TECHNOLOGIES.

Section 735 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117–263; 10 U.S.C. 1071 note) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as subsections (f) and (g), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the following new subsection:

''(e) DIGITAL HEALTH TECHNOLOGIES.—

''(1) WORKING GROUP.—As part of the Initiative, the Secretary shall establish a working group to develop a strategy for treating traumatic brain injuries through digital health technologies.

''(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The working group established under paragraph (1) shall be composed of members of the Armed Forces, civilian employees of the Department of Defense, and individuals not employed by the Federal Government, who have expertise in traumatic brain injury clinical care, biomedical informatics, engineering, or implementation science.

''(3) ELEMENTS.—The strategy developed under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

''(A) Identification of capability gaps in the treatment of traumatic brain injuries that could be addressed through artificial intelligence and digital health technologies.

''(B) An analysis of existing research, development, and acquisition efforts leveraging artificial intelligence-based capabilities and digital health technologies, including any applicable commercial off-the-shelf solutions being used by the Secretary to support the treatment of traumatic brain injuries.

''(C) Recommendations with respect to advances required to—

''(i) address gaps identified under subparagraph (A); and

''(ii) significantly improve the treatment of traumatic brain injuries using artificial intelligence and digital health technologies.

''(D) A recommended investment plan to advance technology and knowledge readiness levels to field digital health technologies to treat traumatic brain injuries.

''(4) BRIEFING.—Not later than September 30, 2026, the Secretary shall provide to the congressional defense committees a briefing on the strategy developed under paragraph (1).''.

SA 3603. Mr. HICKENLOOPER 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___. PRIORITIZED DEVELOPMENT OF LOGISTICS LAYER FOR GOLDEN DOME MISSILE DEFENSE ARCHITECTURE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Program Manager shall use all available authorities to prioritize the development of a dedicated logistics layer to support sustained, resilient, and effective on-orbit operations for the Golden Dome missile defense architecture.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The Program Manager shall ensure that the development of a dedicated logistics layer prioritized pursuant to subsection (a)—

(1) extends the operational lifespan of Golden Dome assets;

(2) reduces risk in congested orbital regimes;

(3) enables the rapid deployment and repositioning of interceptors and sensors;

(4) supports battlefield clearing operations to address the growing challenge of space debris;

(5) facilitates cost-effective in-space refueling architecture; and

(6) ensures persistent coverage and operational readiness of the interceptor constellation through in-orbit refueling, servicing, and sustainment.

(c) REPORT.—The Program Manager shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report detailing initial concepts for the layer described in subsection (a) and the steps taken to develop it.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term ''Golden Dome'' shall means the holistic missile defense architecture described in section 1543.

(2) The term ''Program Manager'' means the Direct Reporting Program Manager for Golden Dome.

SA 3604. Mr. HICKENLOOPER 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 III, add the following:

SEC. 320A. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMERCIAL WEATHER DATA PROGRAMS OF RECORD WITHIN DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE AND DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than September 30, 2027, the Secretary of the Air Force and the Secretary of the Navy shall each establish a program of record within the Department of the Air Force and the Department of the Navy, respectively—

(1) to acquire and use commercial weather data—

(A) to support operational weather forecasting; and

(B) to enhance mission planning and execution in data-sparse and contested environments;

(2) to integrate such data into the meteorological and decision-support frameworks of the Department of the Air Force and the Department of the Navy; and

(3) to ensure resilience against adversarial advancements in space-based environmental monitoring.

(b) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than March 1, 2026, the Secretary of the Air Force and the Secretary of the Navy shall submit to the congressional defense committees—

(1) a transition plan to carry out the requirements under subsection (a), including cost projections and requirements through fiscal year 2031 under the future-years defense program submitted to Congress by the Secretary of Defense pursuant to section 221 of title 10, United States Code;

(2) an acquisition strategy to carry out such requirements, considering middle tier or major capability pathways under Department of Defense Instruction 5000.85 (relating to major capability acquisition), or successor instruction; and

(3) budget justification materials to carry out such requirements, to be included with the budget of the President for that fiscal year submitted under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code.

(c) FISCAL YEAR 2026 PLANNING AND TRANSITION ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary of the Air Force and the Secretary of the Navy may use amounts available to the Secretary concerned for fiscal year 2026—

(1) to develop transition plans and acquisition strategies to carry out the requirements under subsection (a);

(2) to conduct technical assessments of commercial weather data capabilities; and

(3) to support pilot integration and requirements definition in coordination with the Joint Staff, commanders of relevant combatant commands, and the weather enterprise of the Air Force.

SA 3605. Mr. HICKENLOOPER 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___. REQUIREMENT FOR VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION TO COLLECT INFORMATION REGARDING APPLICATIONS FOR AND RECEIPT OF BENEFITS BY SURVIVING SPOUSES AND DEPENDENTS OF VETERANS WHO DIE BY SUICIDE.

The Under Secretary for Benefits shall, in coordination with the Under Secretary for Health, take such actions as may be necessary to collect accurate data in order to determine the rate of applications for and receipt of benefits by surviving spouses and dependents of veterans who die by suicide.

SA 3606. Mr. HICKENLOOPER 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. PAYMENT ADJUSTMENTS FOR OUTPATIENT SERVICES FOR CERTAIN CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—Section 1079(i) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following new paragraph (4):

''(4)(A) In addition to amounts paid under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall pay an annual payment adjustment to a children's hospital for outpatient services if the Secretary determines that, with respect to the year covered by the payment adjustment, the hospital meets one or more of the following criteria:

''(i) 10 percent or more of the revenue of the hospital comes from services provided to covered individuals under the TRICARE program.

''(ii) The hospital received not fewer than 10,000 visits by covered individuals that were paid under paragraph (2).

''(iii) The hospital has been determined by the Secretary to be essential for operations of the TRICARE program.

''(B) The amount of the annual payment adjustment paid to a children's hospital under subparagraph (A) shall be the amount that is equal to 30 percent of payments made under the Outpatient Prospective Payment System (or successor system) to the children's hospital under paragraph (2) during

the year covered by the annual payment adjustment for outpatient services provided to covered individuals.

''(C) In this paragraph:

''(i) The term 'children's hospital' means a provider of services provided under a plan covered by this section that is a children's hospital.

''(ii) The term 'covered individual' means a member of the armed forces serving on active duty or a dependent of such a member.''.

(b) METHODOLOGY AND REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Defense shall—

(1) develop a payment methodology to determine the amounts required to be paid under paragraph (4) of section 1079(i) of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a); and

(2) prescribe joint regulations to carry out such payments that are separate from the regulations concerning outpatient prospective payments pursuant to paragraph (2) of such section.

SA 3607. Mr. HICKENLOOPER 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 II, insert the following:

SEC. 2___. EXPANSION OF MISSION AREAS OF MECHANISMS FOR EXPEDITED ACCESS TO TECHNICAL TALENT AND EXPERTISE AT ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS TO SUPPORT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MISSIONS TO INCLUDE CRITICAL MINERALS.

Section 217(e) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (Public Law 115–91; 10 U.S.C. 4001 note) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (36) as paragraph (37); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (35) the following new paragraph (36):

''(36) Critical minerals.''.

SA 3608. Mr. RISCH (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) 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 add the following:

DIVISION E—DEPARTMENT OF STATE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026

SEC. 5001. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This division may be cited as the ''Department of State Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of content for this division is as follows:

DIVISION E—DEPARTMENT OF STATE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026

Sec. 5001. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 5002. Definitions.

TITLE LXI—WORKFORCE MATTERS

Sec. 5101. Report on vetting of Foreign Service Institute instructors.
Sec. 5102. Training limitations.
Sec. 5103. Language incentive pay for civil service employees.
Sec. 5104. Options for comprehensive evaluations.
Sec. 5105. Job share and part-time employment opportunities.
Sec. 5106. Exemption of spouses of Foreign Service members on domestic assignments from any return-to-office requirement.
Sec. 5107. Computation of FEGLI coverage.
Sec. 5108. Exception to the limitation on premium pay for service at special incentive posts.
Sec. 5109. Promoting reutilization of language skills in the Foreign Service.
Sec. 5110. Requirement for Uyghur language training.

TITLE LXII—ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONS

Sec. 5201. Periodic briefings from Bureau of Intelligence and Research.
Sec. 5202. Concurrence provided by Chiefs Of Mission for the provision of Department of Defense support to certain Department of Defense operations.
Sec. 5203. Support for congressional delegations.
Sec. 5204. Eliminating 1-year tours.
Sec. 5205. Notification requirements for authorized and ordered departures.
Sec. 5206. Diplomats-in-Residence.
Sec. 5207. Strengthening enterprise governance.
Sec. 5208. Report to Congress on diplomatic reserve corps within the Department of State.
Sec. 5209. Establishing and expanding the Regional China Officer program.
Sec. 5210. Foreign affairs manual changes.
Sec. 5211. Report required before closure of diplomatic posts.
Sec. 5212. Notification of intent to reduce personnel at covered diplomatic posts.

TITLE LXIII—INFORMATION SECURITY AND CYBER DIPLOMACY

Sec. 5301. Supporting Department of State data analytics.
Sec. 5302. Post Data Pilot Program.
Sec. 5303. Authorization to use commercial cloud enclaves overseas.
Sec. 5304. Reports on technology transformation projects at the Department of State.
Sec. 5305. Foreign commercial spyware.
Sec. 5306. Visa sanctions for misuse of foreign commercial spyware.
Sec. 5307. Report on new multilateral export control regime.
Sec. 5308. Security review of science and technology agreement with the People's Republic of China.
Sec. 5309. Study on geopolitical strategies and verification frameworks for advanced artificial intelligence.

TITLE LXIV—PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

Sec. 5401. Foreign information manipulation and interference strategy.
Sec. 5402. Lifting the prohibition on use of Federal funds for World's Fair pavilions and exhibits.

TITLE LXV—DIPLOMATIC SECURITY AND CONSULAR AFFAIRS

Sec. 5501. Machine-readable visa documents.
Sec. 5502. Report concerning Department of State consular officers joining Coast Guard and Navy missions to Pacific island countries.
Sec. 5503. Report on security conditions in Damascus, Syria, required for the reopening of the United States diplomatic mission.
Sec. 5504. Embassies, consulates, and other diplomatic installations return to standards report.
Sec. 5505. Passport and visa operations report.

TITLE LXVI—MISCELLANEOUS

Sec. 5551. Submission of federally funded research and development center reports to Congress.
Sec. 5552. Quarterly report on diplomatic pouch access.
Sec. 5553. Report on utility of instituting a processing fee for ITAR license applications.
Sec. 5554. Havana Act payment fix.
Sec. 5555. Establishing an inner Mongolia section within the United States embassy in Beijing.
Sec. 5556. Report on United States Mission Australia staffing.
Sec. 5557. Investing in talent in Southeast Asia, the Pacific Islands, sub-Saharan Africa, and Latin America.
Sec. 5558. Facilitating regulatory exchanges with allies and partners.
Sec. 5559. Pilot program to audit barriers to commerce in developing partner countries.
Sec. 5560. Strategy for promoting supply chain diversification.
Sec. 5561. Authorization to extend the provisions of the International Organizations Immunities Act to additional international organizations.
Sec. 5562. Extensions.
Sec. 5563. Permitting for international bridges and land ports of entry.

TITLE LXVII—OTHER MATTERS

Subtitle A—BUST FENTANYL Act

Sec. 5601. Short titles.
Sec. 5602. International Narcotics Control Strategy Report.
Sec. 5603. Study and report on efforts to address fentanyl trafficking from the People's Republic of China and other relevant countries.
Sec. 5604. Prioritization of identification of persons from the People's Republic of China.
Sec. 5605. Expansion of sanctions under the Fentanyl Sanctions Act.
Sec. 5606. Imposition of sanctions with respect to agencies or instrumentalities of foreign states.
Sec. 5607. Annual report on efforts to prevent the smuggling of methamphetamine into the United States from Mexico.

Subtitle B—Countering Wrongful Detention Act of 2025

Sec. 5611. Short title.
Sec. 5612. Rule of construction.

PART I—DETERRING AND PREVENTING UNLAWFUL OR WRONGFUL DETENTION

Sec. 5615. Designation of a foreign country as a State Sponsor of Unlawful or Wrongful Detention.
Sec. 5616. Required certification regarding international travel advisories.

PART II—STRENGTHENING PROCESSES AND SERVICES FOR HOSTAGES AND UNLAWFUL OR WRONGFUL DETAINEES

Sec. 5618. Advisory Council on Hostage-Taking and Unlawful or Wrongful Detention.
Sec. 5619. Congressional Report on Components Related to Hostage Affairs and Recovery.

Subtitle C—Deter PRC Aggression Against Taiwan Act

Sec. 5631. Short title.
Sec. 5632. Sense of Congress.

Sec. 5633. Definitions.
Sec. 5634. Task force.
Sec. 5635. Report.
Subtitle D—International Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2025
Sec. 5641. Short title.
PART I—COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING ABROAD
Sec. 5643. United states support for integration of anti-trafficking in persons interventions in multilateral development banks.
Sec. 5644. Counter-trafficking in persons efforts in development cooperation and assistance policy.
Sec. 5645. Technical amendments to tier rankings.
Sec. 5646. Modifications to the Program to End Modern Slavery.
Sec. 5647. Clarification of nonhumanitarian, nontrade-related foreign assistance.
Sec. 5648. Expanding protections for domestic workers of official and diplomatic persons.
Sec. 5649. Effective dates.
PART II—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS
Sec. 5651. Extension of authorizations under the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000.
Sec. 5652. Extension of authorizations under the International Megan's Law.
PART III—BRIEFINGS
Sec. 5655. Briefing on annual trafficking in person's report.
Sec. 5656. Briefing on use and justification of waivers.
Subtitle E—International Nuclear Energy Act of 2025
Sec. 5661. Short title.
Sec. 5662. Definitions.
Sec. 5663. Civil nuclear coordination and strategy.
Sec. 5664. Engagement with ally or partner nations.
Sec. 5665. Cooperative financing relationships with ally or partner nations and embarking civil nuclear nations.
Sec. 5666. Cooperation with ally or partner nations on advanced nuclear reactor demonstration and cooperative research facilities for civil nuclear energy.
Sec. 5667. International civil nuclear energy cooperation.
Sec. 5668. International civil nuclear program support.
Sec. 5669. Biennial cabinet-level international conference on nuclear safety, security, safeguards, and sustainability.
Sec. 5670. Advanced reactor coordination and resource center.
Sec. 5671. Strategic infrastructure fund working group.
Sec. 5672. Joint assessment between the United States and india on nuclear liability rules.
Sec. 5673. Rule of construction.
Sec. 5674. Sunset.
Subtitle F—Western Balkans Democracy and Prosperity Act
Sec. 5681. Short title.
Sec. 5682. Findings.
Sec. 5683. Sense of Congress.
Sec. 5684. Definitions.
Sec. 5685. Codification of sanctions relating to the Western Balkans.
Sec. 5686. Democratic and economic development and prosperity initiatives.
Sec. 5687. Promoting cross-cultural and educational engagement.
Sec. 5688. Young Balkan Leaders Initiative.
Sec. 5689. Supporting cybersecurity and cyber resilience in the Western Balkans.
Sec. 5690. Relations between Kosovo and Serbia.
Sec. 5691. Reports on Russian and Chinese malign influence operations and campaigns in the Western Balkans.
Subtitle G—Security of Critical Mineral Supply Chains
Sec. 5701. Short title.
Sec. 5702. Definition of critical mineral.
Sec. 5703. Statement of policy on critical mineral supply chains.
Sec. 5704. International negotiations relating to protecting critical mineral supply chains.
Sec. 5705. Minerals Security Partnership authorization.
Sec. 5706. United States membership in the International Nickel Study Group.
Sec. 5707. Authorization of appropriations.
Subtitle H—Democracy in Georgia
Sec. 5711. Short titles.
Sec. 5712. Definitions.
Sec. 5713. Sense of Congress.
Sec. 5714. Statement of policy.
Sec. 5715. Reports and briefings.
Sec. 5716. Sanctions.
Sec. 5717. Additional assistance with respect to Georgia.
Sec. 5718. Sunset.
Subtitle I—Scam Compound Accountability and Mobilization Act
Sec. 5721. Short title.
Sec. 5722. Sense of Congress.
Sec. 5723. Definitions.
Sec. 5724. Strategy to counter scam compounds and hold transnational criminal organizations accountable.
Sec. 5725. Establishing a task force to implement the strategy.
Sec. 5726. Strengthening tools to dismantle scam compounds and hold transnational criminal organizations accountable.
Subtitle J—Repeal of Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019
Sec. 5744. Repeal of Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019.

SEC. 5002. DEFINITIONS.

In this division:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) DEPARTMENT.—The term ''Department'' means the Department of State.

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

TITLE LXI—WORKFORCE MATTERS

SEC. 5101. REPORT ON VETTING OF FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE INSTRUCTORS.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the execution of requirements under section 6116 of the Department of State Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2023 (22 U.S.C. 4030) that includes—

(1) a description of all steps taken to date to carry out that section;

(2) a detailed explanation of the suitability or fitness reviews, background investigations, and periodic background checks or reinvestigations, as applicable, of relevant Foreign Service Institute instructors who provide language instructions; and

(3) a description of planned additional steps required to execute such section.

SEC. 5102. TRAINING LIMITATIONS.

The Department shall require the explicit approval of the Secretary for each instance in which a long-term training assignment is curtailed or a long-term training position is eliminated.

SEC. 5103. LANGUAGE INCENTIVE PAY FOR CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEES.

The Secretary may provide special monetary incentives to acquire or retain proficiency in foreign languages to civil service employees who serve in domestic positions that require critical language skills. The amounts of such incentives should be similar to the language incentive pay provided to members of the Foreign Service under the Foreign Service pursuant to section 704(b)(3) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4024(b)(3)).

SEC. 5104. OPTIONS FOR COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on options for integrating 360-degree reviews in personnel files for promotion panel consideration.

(b) EVALUATION SYSTEMS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include—

(1) one or more options to integrate confidential 360-degree reviews, references, or evaluations by superiors, peers, and subordinates, including consideration of automated reference requests; and

(2) other modifications or systems the Secretary considers relevant.

(c) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall describe, with respect to each evaluation system included in the report—

(1) any legal constraints or considerations;

(2) the timeline required for implementation;

(3) any starting and recurring costs in comparison to current processes;

(4) the likely or potential implications for promotion decisions and trends; and

(5) the impact on meeting the personnel needs of the Foreign Service.

SEC. 5105. JOB SHARE AND PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish and publish a Department policy on job share and part-time employment opportunities. The policy shall include a template for job-sharing arrangements, a database of job share and part-time employment opportunities, and a point of contact in the Bureau of Global Talent Management.

(b) DESIGNATION OF ELIGIBLE POSITIONS.—The Secretary shall designate at least 2 percent of domestic Department of State positions as eligible for job share or part-time employment arrangements.

(c) WORKPLACE FLEXIBILITY TRAINING.—The Secretary shall incorporate training on workplace flexibility, including the availability of job share and part-time employment opportunities, into employee onboarding and every level of supervisory training.

(d) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on workplace flexibility at the Department, including data on the number of employees utilizing job share or part-time employment arrangements.

SEC. 5106. EXEMPTION OF SPOUSES OF FOREIGN SERVICE MEMBERS ON DOMESTIC ASSIGNMENTS FROM ANY RETURN-TO-OFFICE REQUIREMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Consistent with section 3330d(b)(5) of title 5, United States Code, a spouse of a member of the Foreign Service who was appointed to a remote work position in the executive branch is exempt from

any generally applicable return-to-work requirement that is not required under section 6502 of such title, regardless of the location of the duty station to which such Foreign Service member spouse is posted.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) FOREIGN SERVICE ACT OF 1980.—Section 706(b)(1) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4026(b)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''and'' at the end; and

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following new subparagraph:

''(C) exempting such spouses who were appointed to a remote work position in the executive branch from any return-to-work requirement otherwise applicable to Federal employees; and''.

(2) FEDERAL TELEWORK POLICY.—Section 6504 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(g) EXEMPTION OF SPOUSES OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND FOREIGN SERVICE MEMBERS FROM ANY RETURN-TO-WORK REQUIREMENT.—The spouse of any active duty member of the Armed Forces or any member of the Foreign Service who was appointed to a remote work position in the executive branch is exempt from any generally applicable return-to-work requirement as long as the spouse is not stationed where the job is located.''.

SEC. 5107. COMPUTATION OF FEGLI COVERAGE.

The Secretary shall revise section 3625 of volume 3 of the Foreign Affairs Manual to provide that for purposes of any Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance program computation, the basic salary or basic pay of any member of the Service whose official duty station is outside the continental United States shall be considered to be the salary or pay that would have been paid to the member had the member's official duty station been Washington, D.C., including locality-based comparability payments under section 5304 of title 5, United States Code, that would have been payable to the member if the member's official duty station had been Washington, D.C.

SEC. 5108. EXCEPTION TO THE LIMITATION ON PREMIUM PAY FOR SERVICE AT SPECIAL INCENTIVE POSTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) COVERED EMPLOYEE.—the term ''covered employee'' means any officer, employee, or agent employed by the Department of State or other Federal agency who—

(A) is eligible for premium pay; and

(B) performs service in a position determined by the Secretary of State to be a high-priority assignment, such as a Special Incentive Post or office or mission eligible for Service Needs Differential.

(b) EXCEPTION TO THE LIMITATION ON PREMIUM PAY FOR SERVICE AT SPECIAL INCENTIVE POSTS.—The Secretary is authorized to provide any covered employee with premium pay for service at a special incentive post, to the extent provided under section 118 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 2001 (5 U.S.C. 5547 note).

(c) TREATMENT OF ADDITIONAL PAY.—If subsection (b) results in the payment of additional premium pay to a covered employee of a type that is normally creditable as basic pay for retirement or any other purpose, that additional pay shall not—

(1) be considered to be basic pay of the covered employee for any purpose; or

(2) be used in computing a lump-sum payment to the covered employee for accumulated and accrued annual leave under section 5551 or section 5552 of title 5, United States Code.

(d) AGGREGATE LIMIT.—With respect to the application of section 5307 of title 5, United States Code, the payment of any additional premium pay to a covered employee as a result of subsection (b) shall not be counted as part of the aggregate compensation of the covered employee.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect on the date that is 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(f) REPORTS.—

(1) REPORT ON PLANS TO REDUCE OVERTIME USAGE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report describing the steps that the Department of State and other agencies are taking to address the increased protective service demands placed upon covered employees.

(B) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subparagraph (A) shall include the following:

(i) An analysis of the current (as of the date on which the report is submitted) operational demands and staffing levels with respect to covered employees.

(ii) Recommended strategies for reducing overtime requirements for covered employees, including—

(I) the appointment of additional personnel;

(II) solutions such that sufficient resources are available throughout each year without the need for exceptions to, or waivers of, premium pay limitations;

(III) the redistribution of workload among covered employees; and

(IV) other improvements in operational efficiency with respect to covered employees.

(2) ANNUAL PROJECTIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—

(i) REQUIREMENT.—In accordance with the schedule described in clause (ii), the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that contains projections for the information described in clause (iii), which shall be divided by calendar quarter.

(ii) SCHEDULE DESCRIBED.—The schedule described in this clause is as follows:

(I) Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, a report with respect to calendar year 2026.

(II) Not later than December 31 of each of calendar years 2026 through 2029, a report with respect to the calendar year following the calendar year in which the report is submitted.

(III) INFORMATION INCLUDED.—Each report under this paragraph shall include—

(aa) the number of employees receiving premium pay above the statutory cap;

(bb) the number of employees who were not fully compensated due to the statutory cap and the total amount that employees would have been paid without the cap;

(cc) the total, median, mean, and greatest amounts of premium pay above the cap; and

(dd) a list of personnel who received premium pay above the cap and separated from the Department of State or other agency.

(B) QUARTERLY UPDATES.—With respect to each annual report required under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall, on the last day of each calendar quarter of the calendar year that is covered by the report, submit to the appropriate committees of Congress an updated version of that report that contains projections for the information described in that subparagraph for the remainder of that calendar year, which shall be divided by calendar quarter.

(3) EFFECT OF AMENDMENTS.—Not later than January 30 of each of calendar years 2027 through 2031, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the effects of this section, which shall include, with respect to the calendar year preceding the calendar year in which the report is submitted, the following:

(A) The information described in paragraph (2)(A)(iii)(III).

(B) A comparison between the final data reported under subparagraph (A) and the annual projections reported for that calendar year under paragraph (2)(A), including an explanation for any substantial variance between that final data and those annual projections.

SEC. 5109. PROMOTING REUTILIZATION OF LANGUAGE SKILLS IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) foreign language skills are essential to effective diplomacy, particularly in high-priority positions, such as Chinese- and Russian-language designated positions focused on Communist China and Russia;

(2) reutilization of acquired language skills creates efficiencies through the reduction of language training overall and increases regional expertise;

(3) often, investments in language skills are not sufficiently utilized and maintained throughout the careers of members of the Foreign Service following an initial assignment after language training;

(4) providing incentives such as an ''out-year bid'' on priority language-designated assignments would decrease training costs overall and encourage more expertise in relevant priority areas; and

(5) incentives for members of the Foreign Service to not only acquire and retain, but reuse, foreign language skills in priority assignments would reduce training costs in terms of both time and money and increase regional expertise to improve abilities in those areas deemed high priority by the Secretary.

(b) INCENTIVES TO REUTILIZE LANGUAGE SKILLS.—Section 704(b)(3) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4024(b)(3)) is amended by inserting ''and reutilize'' after ''to acquire or retain proficiency in''.

SEC. 5110. REQUIREMENT FOR UYGHUR LANGUAGE TRAINING.

(a) UYGHUR LANGUAGE TRAINING AND STAFFING.—The Secretary shall take such steps as may be necessary to ensure that—

(1) Uyghur language training is available to Foreign Service officers, as appropriate; and

(2) efforts are made to ensure that at least 1 Uyghur-speaking member of the Service (as defined in section 103 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3903)) is assigned to United States diplomatic posts in the People's Republic of China, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkey.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for the following 2 years, the Foreign Service Institute shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that outlines all of the steps that have been taken to implement subsection (a).

TITLE LXII—ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONS

SEC. 5201. PERIODIC BRIEFINGS FROM BUREAU OF INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,

and at least every 90 days thereafter for at least the next 3 years, the Secretary shall offer to the appropriate congressional committees a briefing on—

(1) any topic requested by one or more of the appropriate congressional committees;

(2) any topic of current importance to the national security of the United States; and

(3) any other topic the Secretary considers necessary.

(b) LOCATION.—The briefings required under subsection (a) shall be held at a secure facility that is suitable for review of information that is classified at the level of ''Top Secret/SCI''.

SEC. 5202. CONCURRENCE PROVIDED BY CHIEFS OF MISSION FOR THE PROVISION OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SUPPORT TO CERTAIN DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OPERATIONS.

(a) NOTIFICATION REQUIRED.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which a chief of mission provides concurrence for the provision of support by the Department of Defense to entities or individuals engaged in facilitating or supporting operations of the Department of Defense within the area of responsibility of the chief of mission, the Secretary of State shall notify the appropriate congressional committees of the provision of such concurrence.

(b) ANNUAL REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than January 31 of each year, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes the following:

(1) A description of any support described in subsection (a) that was provided with the concurrence of a chief of mission during the calendar year preceding the calendar year in which the report is submitted.

(2) An analysis of how the support described in paragraph (1) complements diplomatic lines of effort of the Department of State, including—

(A) Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining, and Related Programs (NADR) and associated Anti-Terrorism Assistance (ATA) programs;

(B) International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement (INCLE) programs; and

(C) Foreign Military Sales (FMS), Foreign Military Financing (FMF), and associated training programs.

SEC. 5203. SUPPORT FOR CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATIONS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) congressional travel is essential to fostering international relations, understanding global issues first-hand, and jointly advancing United States interests abroad; and

(2) only in close coordination and thanks to the dedication of personnel at United States embassies, consulates, and other missions abroad can the success of these vital trips be possible.

(b) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall reaffirm to all diplomatic posts the importance of congressional travel and shall require all such posts to support congressional travel by members and staff of the appropriate congressional committees fully, by making such support available on any day of the week, including Federal and local holidays and, to the extent practical, requiring the direct involvement of mid-level or senior officers.

(c) EXCEPTION FOR SIMULTANEOUS HIGH-LEVEL VISITS.—The requirement under subsection (b) does not apply in the case of a simultaneous visit from the President, the First Lady or First Gentleman, the Vice President, the Secretary of State, or the Secretary of Defense.

(d) TRAINING.—The Secretary shall require all designated control officers to have been trained on supporting congressional travel at posts abroad prior to the assigned congressional visit.

SEC. 5204. ELIMINATING 1-YEAR TOURS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ensure that tours of duty for service abroad shall be at least 2 years in length, except for personnel on temporary duty and Department fellows. Any tour lasting less than 2 years shall be considered temporary duty.

(b) WAIVER.—The Secretary may issue a nondelegable waiver on a case-by-case basis exempting personnel from the restrictions established in subsection (a) if the Secretary determines that doing so serves United States national security interests, provided the Secretary submits a justification to the appropriate congressional committees not later than 15 days prior to issuing the waiver that contains the following:

(1) A description of the factors considered by the Secretary when evaluating whether to issue the waiver.

(2) A compelling justification as to why issuing the waiver is in the national security interests of the United States.

SEC. 5205. NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR AUTHORIZED AND ORDERED DEPARTURES.

(a) DEPARTURES REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees listing every instance of an authorized or ordered departure during the 5-year period preceding the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) CONTENTS.—The Secretary shall include in the report required under paragraph (1)—

(A) the name of the post and the date of the announcement of the authorized or ordered departure;

(B) the reason for the authorized or ordered departure; and

(C) the number of chief of mission personnel that departed, categorized by agency, as well as family members, if available.

(b) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—Any instance of an authorized or ordered departure shall be notified to appropriate committees not later than 3 days after the Secretary authorized an authorized or ordered departure. The details in the notification shall include—

(1) the information described in subsection (a)(2);

(2) the mode of travel for chief of mission personnel who departed;

(3) the estimated cost of the authorized or ordered departure, including travel and per diem costs; and

(4) the destination of all departed personnel and changes to their work activities due to the departure.

(c) TERMINATION.—This requirements under this section shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 5206. DIPLOMATS-IN-RESIDENCE.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that Diplomats-in-Residence play a critical role within the Foreign Service by facilitating engagement between the American people and the diplomats who represent their interests around the world. United States students of all geographic areas who are interested in diplomacy and serving their Nation should have reasonable access to the Department of State and its Diplomats-in-Residence Program.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(1) increase the number of diplomats in the Diplomats-in-Residence Program from 17 to 40; and

(2) in doing so, assign Diplomats-in-Residence in a manner that guarantees no population within the United States is located more than 300 miles from a Diplomat-in-Residence.

SEC. 5207. STRENGTHENING ENTERPRISE GOVERNANCE.

(1) ORGANIZATION.—The Chief Information Officer and the Chief Data and Artificial Intelligence Officer of the Department of State shall report directly to the Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources or, in the event such position is vacant, to the Deputy Secretary of State for Policy.

(2) ADJUDICATION OF UNRESOLVED BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT DECISIONS.—Adjudication of unresolved budget and management decisions shall be made by the Deputy for Management and Resources in consultation, as appropriate, with the Deputy Secretary of State for Policy.

SEC. 5208. REPORT TO CONGRESS ON DIPLOMATIC RESERVE CORPS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

(a) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report setting forth a comprehensive proposal for the establishment and maintenance within the Department of a diplomatic reserve corps.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following elements:

(1) A description of the role of the proposed diplomatic reserve corps in assisting the Department in the discharge of the diplomatic functions and activities of the United States Government.

(2) An assessment of the strength of the proposed diplomatic reserve corps.

(3) The personnel authorities required for the maintenance of the proposed diplomatic reserve corps, including authorities relating to recruitment, appointment, and retention, training, and mobilization and demobilization.

(4) A description of the compensation and other benefits to be afforded personnel for service in the proposed diplomatic reservice corps.

(5) Such other matters as the Secretary considers appropriate to fully inform the appropriate congressional committees of the role, structure, and functions of the proposed diplomatic reserve corps and the authorities to apply to the corps.

SEC. 5209. ESTABLISHING AND EXPANDING THE REGIONAL CHINA OFFICER PROGRAM.

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be established at the Department a Regional China Officer (RCO) program to support regional posts and officers with reporting, information, and policy tools, and to enhance expertise related to strategic competition with the People's Republic of China. RCOs shall, to the greatest extent possible, have fluency in Mandarin Chinese and experience serving in China or Taiwan.

(2) AUTHORIZATION.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2029 to the Department of State to expand the RCO program, including for—

(A) the placement of Regional China Officers at United States missions to the United Nations and United Nations affiliated organizations;

(B) the placement of additional Regional China Officers in Africa and Latin America;

(C) the hiring of locally employed staff to support Regional China Officers serving abroad; and

(D) the establishment of full-time equivalent positions to assist in managing and facilitating the RCO program.

(3) PROGRAM FUNDS.—There is authorized to be appropriated $50,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2029 for each Regional China Officer to support programs and public

diplomacy activities of the Regional China Officer.

SEC. 5210. FOREIGN AFFAIRS MANUAL CHANGES.

Section 5318 of the Department of State Authorization Act of 2021 (22 U.S.C. 2658a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(1), by striking ''5 years'' and inserting ''8 years''; and

(2) adding at the end the following:

''(d) NOTICE; CONSULTATION; BRIEFING.—Before effectuating any significant change in the Foreign Affairs Manual, the Secretary of State shall—

''(1) provide notice to, and consult with, the appropriate congressional committees in writing, not later than 30 days before such changes are scheduled to take effect; and

''(2) provide a briefing to the appropriate congressional committees regarding the proposed changes.

''(e) DEFINITIONS.—'Significant change' means any reduction in staff of more than 10 personnel per bureau or more than 25 personnel Department-wide, or changes that affect the employment, benefits, management, review, promotion, or rights of personnel.''.

SEC. 5211. REPORT REQUIRED BEFORE CLOSURE OF DIPLOMATIC POSTS.

Section 48 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1965 (22 U.S.C. 2720) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''subsection (d) or in accordance with subsections (b) and (c)'' and inserting ''subsection (e) or in accordance with subsections (b) and (d)'';

(2) by redesignating subsections (c), (d), and (e) as subsections (d), (e), and (f), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after the subsection (b) the following new subsection:

''(c) REPORT.—Before carrying out a proposed closure of a United States diplomatic post, the Secretary of State shall submit to appropriate Congressional committees a report on—

''(1) the diplomatic presence of the People's Republic of China in the country where the post would be closed, including—

''(A) the number of diplomatic posts currently maintained by People's Republic of China in the country; and

''(B) the number of personnel at each post in the country; and

''(2) the impact such closure will have on United States national security interests and the ability of the United States to compete with the People's Republic of China.''.

SEC. 5212. NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO REDUCE PERSONNEL AT COVERED DIPLOMATIC POSTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), not later than 90 days before the date on which the Secretary of State carries out a reduction in United States personnel of at least 10 percent or 8 personnel at a covered diplomatic post, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate Congressional committees a notification of the intent to carry out such a reduction, which shall include a certification by the Secretary that such reduction will not negatively impact the ability of the United States to compete with the People's Republic of China or the Russian Federation.

(b) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) shall not apply in the case of a security risk to personnel at a covered diplomatic post.

(c) COVERED DIPLOMATIC POST DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''covered diplomatic post'' means a United States diplomatic post in a country in which the People's Republic of China or the Russian Federation also have a diplomatic post.

TITLE LXIII—INFORMATION SECURITY AND CYBER DIPLOMACY

SEC. 5301. SUPPORTING DEPARTMENT OF STATE DATA ANALYTICS.

There is authorized to be appropriated $3,000,000 to the Secretary for fiscal year 2026 to carry out the ''Bureau Chief Data Officer Program''.

SEC. 5302. POST DATA PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) POST DATA PILOT PROGRAM.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary is authorized to establish a program, which shall be known as the ''Post Data Program'' (referred to in this section as the ''Program''), overseen by the Department's Chief Data and Artificial Intelligence Officer. The data officers hired under this Program shall report to their respective Chiefs of Mission.

(2) GOALS.—The goals of the Program shall include the following:

(A) Cultivating a data culture at diplomatic posts globally, including data fluency and data collaboration.

(B) Promoting data integration with Department of State headquarters.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an implementation plan that outlines strategies for—

(A) advancing the goals described in subsection (a)(2);

(B) hiring data officers at United States diplomatic posts; and

(C) allocation of necessary resources to sustain the Program.

(2) ANNUAL REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for the following 3 years, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees regarding the status of the implementation plan required under paragraph (1).

SEC. 5303. AUTHORIZATION TO USE COMMERCIAL CLOUD ENCLAVES OVERSEAS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Department of State shall issue internal guidelines that authorize and track the use of enclaves deployed in overseas commercial cloud regions for OCONUS systems categorized at the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) high baseline.

(b) CONSISTENCY WITH FEDERAL CYBERSECURITY REGULATIONS.—The enclave deployments shall be consistent with existing Federal cybersecurity regulations as well as best practices established across National Institute of Standards and Technology standards and ISO 27000 security controls.

(c) BRIEFING.— Not later than 90 days after the enactment of the Act, and before issuing the new internal guidelines required under subsection (a), the Secretary shall brief the appropriate congressional committees on the proposed new guidelines, including—

(1) relevant risk assessments; and

(2) any security challenges regarding implementation.

SEC. 5304. REPORTS ON TECHNOLOGY TRANSFORMATION PROJECTS AT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) TECHNOLOGY.—The term ''technology'' includes—

(A) artificial intelligence and machine learning systems;

(B) cybersecurity modernization tools or platforms;

(C) cloud computing services and infrastructure;

(D) enterprise data platforms and analytics tools;

(E) customer experience platforms for public-facing services; and

(F) internal workflow automation or modernization systems.

(3) TECHNOLOGY TRANSFORMATION PROJECT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''technology transformation project'' means any new or significantly modified technology deployed by the Department with the purpose of improving diplomatic, consular, administrative, or security operations.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ''technology transformation project'' does not include a routine software update or version upgrade, a security patch or maintenance of an existing system, a minor configuration change, a business-as-usual information technology operation, or a support activity.

(b) SEMIANNUAL REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter for 5 years, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on all technology transformation projects completed during the two fiscal years preceding the fiscal year in which the report is submitted.

(2) ELEMENTS.—Each report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following elements:

(A) For each project, the following:

(i) A summary of the objective, scope, and operational context of the project.

(ii) An identification of the primary technologies and vendors used, including artificial intelligence models, cloud providers, cybersecurity platforms, and major software components.

(iii) A report on baseline and post-implementation performance and adoption metrics for the project, including with respect to—

(I) operational efficiency, such as reductions in processing time, staff hours, or error rates;

(II) user impact, such as improvements in end-user satisfaction scores and reliability;

(III) security posture, such as enhancements in threat detection, incident response time;

(IV) cost performance, including budgeted costs versus actual costs and projected cost savings or cost avoidance;

(V) interoperability and integration, including level of integration achieved with existing systems of the Department of State;

(VI) artificial intelligence (if applicable); and

(VII) adoption, including, if applicable—

(aa) an estimate of the percentage of eligible end-users actively using the system within the first 3, 6, and 12 months of deployment;

(bb) the proportion of staff trained to use the system;

(cc) the frequency and duration of use, disaggregated by bureau or geographic region if relevant;

(dd) summarized user feedback, including pain points and satisfaction ratings; and

(ee) a description of the status of deprecation or reduction in use of legacy systems, if applicable.

(iv) A description of key challenges encountered during implementation and any mitigation strategies employed.

(v) A summary of contracting or acquisition strategies used, including information on how the vendor or development team supported change management and adoption, including user testing, stakeholder engagement, and phased rollout.

(B) For any project where adoption metrics fell below 50 percent within 6 months of launch:

(i) A remediation plan with specific steps to improve adoption, including retraining, user experience improvements, or outreach.

(ii) An assessment of whether rollout should be paused or modified.

(iii) Any plans for iterative development based on feedback from employees.

(3) PUBLIC SUMMARY.—Not later than 60 days after submitting a report required by paragraph (1) to the appropriate committees of Congress, the Secretary of State shall publish an unclassified summary of the report on the publicly accessible website of the Department of State, consistent with national security interests.

(c) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE EVALUATION.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, and biennially thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report—

(1) evaluating—

(A) the extent to which the Department has implemented and reported on technology transformation projects in accordance with the requirements under this section;

(B) the effectiveness and reliability of the Department's performance and adoption metrics for such projects;

(C) whether such projects have met intended goals related to operational efficiency, security, cost-effectiveness, user adoption, and modernization of legacy systems; and

(D) the adequacy of oversight mechanisms in place to ensure the responsible deployment of artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies; and

(2) including any recommendations to improve the Department's management, implementation, or evaluation of technology transformation efforts.

SEC. 5305. FOREIGN COMMERCIAL SPYWARE.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) there is a national security need for the legitimate and responsible procurement and application of cyber intrusion capabilities, including efforts related to counterterrorism, counternarcotics, and countertrafficking;

(2) the growing commercial market for sophisticated cyber intrusion capabilities has enhanced state and non-state actors' ability to target and track journalists, human rights defenders, and civil society groups for nefarious purposes;

(3) the proliferation of commercial spyware presents significant and growing risks to United States national security, including to the safety and security of United States Government personnel; and

(4) ease of access into and lack of transparency in the commercial spyware market raises the probability of spreading potentially destructive or disruptive cyber capabilities to a wider range of malicious actors.

(b) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to oppose the misuse of foreign commercial spyware to target journalists, human rights defenders, journalists, and civil society groups;

(2) to coordinate with allies and partners to prevent the export of commercial spyware tools to end-users likely to use them for malicious activities;

(3) to maintain robust information-sharing with trusted allies and partners on commercial spyware proliferation and misuse, including to better identify and track these tools; and

(4) to work with private industry to identify and counter the abuse and misuse of commercial spyware technology; and

(5) to work with allies and partners to establish robust guardrails to ensure that the use of commercial spyware tools are consistent with respect for internationally recognized human rights, and the rule of law.

SEC. 5306. VISA SANCTIONS FOR MISUSE OF FOREIGN COMMERCIAL SPYWARE.

(a) SANCTIONS.—Pursuant to section 212 (a)(3)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(3)(C)), the Secretary of State may implement visa restrictions against—

(1) individuals believed to have been knowingly involved in the misuse of foreign commercial spyware to target, arbitrarily or unlawfully surveil, harass, suppress, or intimidate individuals, including journalists, defenders of internationally recognized human rights, members of ethnic or religious minority groups, or the family members of these targeted individuals;

(2) individuals believed to facilitate or derive financial benefit from the misuse of foreign commercial spyware, including developing, directing, or operationally controlling foreign companies that furnish technologies such as commercial spyware to governments, or those acting on behalf of governments, that engage in activities as described in paragraph (1); and

(3) the immediate family members of individuals subject to the restrictions described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

(b) IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''immediate family members'' includes spouses, siblings, and children of any age.

(c) NATIONAL INTEREST WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the imposition of sanctions under this section on a case-by-case basis if the Secretary submits to the appropriate congressional committees a determination that the waiver is in the national interests of the United States.

SEC. 5307. REPORT ON NEW MULTILATERAL EXPORT CONTROL REGIME.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordination with appropriate agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the advisability and feasibility of converting the Multilateral Action on Sensitive Technologies (MAST) dialogue into a fifth multilateral export control regime.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following elements:

(1) An assessment of the shortcomings of existing multilateral export control regimes in coordinating export controls for the purpose of limiting critical and emerging technologies from flowing to covered foreign countries.

(2) An assessment of the current effectiveness of the MAST dialogue in coordinating export controls among participating countries.

(3) An analysis of the potential benefits and challenges of establishing a formal multilateral export control regime focused on preventing the flow of United States and allied sensitive technologies to covered foreign countries.

(4) An evaluation of potential participant allied or likeminded nations and their willingness to join such a regime.

(5) A Department of State-led assessment of the domestic and foreign legal, regulatory, and administrative framework that would be required to establish and operate such a regime.

(6) A review of existing bilateral or multilateral agreements that could serve as a foundation for such a regime.

(7) An assessment of enforcement mechanisms and compliance measures that would be necessary for such regime to be effective.

(8) A timeline for potential establishment and implementation.

(9) Recommendations on whether the United States Government should pursue the establishment of such a regime.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—If the Secretary determines, based on the report required under subsection (a), that seeking to upgrade the MAST dialogue into a fifth multilateral export control regime is advisable and feasible, the Secretary shall, not later than 180 days after such determination, in consultation with the heads of appropriate Federal agencies, submit to the appropriate congressional committees an implementation plan that includes—

(1) specific steps and timeline for establishing the regime;

(2) proposed membership criteria and recruitment strategy;

(3) draft foundational documents and operating procedures;

(4) resource requirements and funding mechanisms;

(5) coordination mechanisms with existing export control regimes;

(6) proposed enforcement and compliance framework;

(7) stakeholder engagement strategy, including consultation with private sector and civil society organizations; and

(8) metrics for measuring the regime's effectiveness.

(d) FORM.—The report and implementation plan required under this section shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex if necessary.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) The term ''covered foreign country'' means any of the following:

(A) The People's Republic of China.

(B) The Islamic Republic of Iran.

(C) The Democratic People's Republic of North Korea.

(D) The Russian Federation.

(2) The term ''critical and emerging technologies'' means the technologies from the critical and emerging technologies list published by the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) at the Office of Science and Technology Policy, as amended by subsequent updates to the list issued by the NSTC.

SEC. 5308. SECURITY REVIEW OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

(a) SECURITY REVIEW.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordination with relevant Federal agencies, shall conduct a security review of the United States-China Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement (STA). The review shall include the following elements:

(1) An assessment of the potential risks of maintaining the STA agreement, including the transfer under such agreement of technology or intellectual property capable of harming the national security interests of the United States.

(2) An assessment of the Secretary of State's ability to monitor compliance of the People's Republic of China's commitments established under the STA agreement.

(3) An evaluation of the benefits of the STA agreement to the economy, military, and industrial base of the People's Republic of China and the United States.

(4) An evaluation of the value of the information and data the United States Government receives under the STA related to the People's Republic of China that the United States otherwise would not have access to should it withdraw its participation in the STA.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after completion of the security review of the STA agreement required in subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report detailing

the findings of the security review. The report shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(c) CERTIFICATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall certify to the appropriate committees of Congress whether it is in the national security interest of the United States to maintain its participation in the STA agreement through its current duration.

(d) GUIDANCE.—If Secretary certifies that it is no longer in the national security interest of the United States to maintain its participation in the STA agreement, the Secretary shall, not later than 90 days after submitting the certification, and in coordination with the heads of relevant Federal agencies, promulgate guidance on United States Federal agency interactions with counterpart agencies in the People's Republic of China.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committees on Foreign Relations and Commerce, Science of Technology of the Senate; and

(B) the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

(2) STA AGREEMENT.—The term ''STA Agreement'' means Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Cooperation in Science and Technology, signed in Washington January 31, 1979, its protocols, and any subagreements entered into pursuant to such Agreement on or before the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 5309. STUDY ON GEOPOLITICAL STRATEGIES AND VERIFICATION FRAMEWORKS FOR ADVANCED ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.

(a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to maintain United States leadership in the research, development, and deployment of advanced artificial intelligence (AI), including general-purpose and frontier AI systems;

(2) to promote and sustain a United States-led AI ecosystem, including via strategic engagements with allies and partners;

(3) to prevent foreign adversaries from acquiring or developing AI capabilities that would pose severe risks to United States national security or public safety;

(4) to sustain United States strategic advantage in AI over the People's Republic of China and other adversaries; and

(5) to prepare geopolitical, technical, and diplomatic strategies and robust verification methods to achieve these objectives.

(b) STUDY ON GEOPOLITICAL STRATEGIES AND VERIFICATION FRAMEWORKS FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.—

(1) STUDY REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordination with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall complete an initial report evaluating geopolitical, technical, diplomatic, and other relevant strategies to preserve enduring United States leadership in artificial intelligence and to prevent the development or deployment of artificial intelligence systems by foreign adversaries that would pose severe threats to United States national security. The Secretary of State shall continue to monitor relevant developments over a period of two years following the date of such enactment, including through periodic reports as described in subsection (c).

(2) STUDY OBJECTIVES.—In performing the study required under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall, at a minimum—

(A) develop, describe, and assess technical and non-technical methods to monitor the present or future development or deployment of covered AI systems by foreign actors and foreign adversaries, including the PRC, with particular attention to systems that could pose severe threats to United States national security;

(B) develop proposals for potential commitments or agreements under which one or more foreign states would commit to restrict, limit, or halt the development or deployment of covered AI systems;

(C) identify and evaluate monitoring, verification, and enforcement mechanisms, including methods that do not yet exist but could be developed or strengthened through additional research and development, that could be used to assess international compliance with the commitments or agreements described in subparagraph (B) or otherwise improve United States national security, including hardware-based safeguards, data center inspections, cloud service audits, satellite monitoring, signals intelligence, and other relevant methods;

(D) identify and assess potential evasion techniques or deception strategies that adversaries could employ to circumvent verification mechanisms, and evaluate countermeasures to enhance the credibility and robustness of such mechanisms; and

(E) identify potential limitations in the strategies, agreements, proposals, and mechanisms outlined in subparagraphs (A) through (D), and develop policy recommendations to address such limitations, including via coordination with allies and partners.

(c) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

(1) REPORT AND BRIEFING ON INITIAL STUDY.—Not later than 30 days after the completion of the initial study required under subsection (b), the Secretary, in coordination with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report detailing the findings and recommendations of the initial study and shall provide a corresponding briefing to such committees.

(2) FINAL TWO-YEAR REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordination with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a comprehensive report summarizing all findings, developments, and policy recommendations made pursuant to this section during the two-year study period and shall provide a corresponding briefing to such committees.

(3) NOTIFICIATIONS OF SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS.—During the two-year period described in subsection (b)(1), the Secretary shall provide timely updates to the appropriate committees of Congress in response to significant developments related to the objectives set forth in subsection (b)(2), or other material developments in the global landscape of advanced artificial intelligence that may affect United States national security interests, verification strategies, or geopolitical stability.

(4) CLASSIFIED ANNEX.—Each report submitted under this subsection shall be provided primarily at an unclassified level but may include a classified annex containing additional information.

(5) PUBLIC REPORTING.—The Secretary shall make publicly available a version of each report required under this subsection, with appropriate redactions of classified or sensitive information.

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

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(3) the Committee on Commerce, Science of Technology of the Senate; and

(4) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

(e) SPECIAL HIRING AUTHORITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may—

(A) appoint up to 15 employees to positions related to critical and emerging technology and international artificial intelligence policy without regard to the provisions of subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, regarding appointments in the competitive service; and

(B) fix the rates of basic pay of such employees without regard to chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title regarding classification and General Schedule pay rates, provided that the rates for such positions do not exceed the annual rate of basic pay in effect for a position at level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) MAINTENANCE OF ADEQUATE STAFFING.—The Secretary shall maintain a sufficient number of personnel with relevant backgrounds in engineering, data science, application development, artificial intelligence, critical and emerging technology, including for the purposes of carrying out this provision.

TITLE LXIV—PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

SEC. 5401. FOREIGN INFORMATION MANIPULATION AND INTERFERENCE STRATEGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordination with other relevant agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a comprehensive strategy to combat foreign manipulation and interference, which shall be carried out by the Department.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall include the following elements:

(1) Conducting analysis of foreign state and non-state actors' foreign malign influence narratives, tactics, and techniques, including those originating from United States nation-state adversaries, including the Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China, and Iran.

(2) Working together with allies and partners to expose and counter foreign malign influence narratives, tactics, and techniques, including those originating in the Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China and Iran.

(3) Supporting non-state actors abroad, including independent media and civil society groups, which are working to expose and counter foreign malign influence narratives, tactics, and techniques, including those originating in the Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China, or Iran.

(4) Coordinating efforts to expose and counter foreign information manipulation and interference across Federal departments and agencies.

(5) Protecting the First Amendment rights of United States citizens.

(6) Creating guardrails to ensure the Department of State does not provide grants to organizations engaging in partisan political activity in the United States.

(c) COORDINATION.—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall be led and implemented by the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs in coordination with relevant bureaus and offices at the Department of State.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes—

(1) actions the Department has taken to preserve the institutional capability to counter foreign nation-state influence operations from the People's Republic of China, Iran, and the Russian Federation since the termination of the Counter Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (R/FIMI) hub;

(2) a list of active and cancelled Countering PRC Influence Fund (CPIF) and Countering Russian Influence Fund (CRIF) projects since January 21, 2025;

(3) actions the Department has taken to improve Department grantmaking processes related to countering foreign influence operations from nation-state adversaries; and

(4) an assessment of recent foreign adversarial information operations and narratives related to United States foreign policy since January 21, 2025, from the People's Republic of China, Iran, and the Russian Federation.

SEC. 5402. LIFTING THE PROHIBITION ON USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS FOR WORLD'S FAIR PAVILIONS AND EXHIBITS.

Section 204 of the Admiral James W. Nance and Meg Donovan Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 2000 and 2001 (22 USC 2452b) is hereby repealed.

TITLE LXV—DIPLOMATIC SECURITY AND CONSULAR AFFAIRS

SEC. 5501. MACHINE-READABLE VISA DOCUMENTS.

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

(1) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(2) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate;

(3) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(4) the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives;

(5) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives;

(6) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives; and

(7) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall—

(1) use a machine-readable visa application form;

(2) make available all documents submitted in support of a visa application in a machine-readable format to assist in—

(A) identifying fraud;

(B) conducting lawful law enforcement activities;

(C) facilitating interagency access to required visa documentation for the purposes of providing necessary support for security background checks , including security advisory opinions, on visa applicants; and

(D) determining the eligibility of applicants for a visa under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.); and

(3) ensure that machine-readable visa documents can be indexed, searched, or retrieved by other Federal agencies through automated processes and are incorporated into other internal government databases relevant to national security, as appropriate.

(c) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the requirement described in subsection (b), for a period not to exceed 180 days, by submitting to Congress, not later than 30 days before such waiver is scheduled to take effect—

(1) a detailed explanation for why the waiver is being issued; and

(2) a timeframe for implementing the requirement described in subsection (b).

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 45 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that—

(1) describes how supplementary documents provided by a visa applicant in support of a visa application are stored and shared by the Department with authorized Federal agencies;

(2) identifies the sections of a visa application that are currently machine-readable and the sections of such application that are currently not machine-readable;

(3) provides cost estimates, including personnel costs and a cost-benefit analysis for adopting different technologies, including optical character recognition, for—

(A) making every element of a visa application, and all documents submitted in support of a visa application, machine-readable; and

(B) ensuring that such system, in accordance with existing Federal law—

(i) protects personally identifiable information;

(ii) permits the sharing of visa information with Federal agencies in accordance with existing Federal law; and

(iii) allows other Federal agencies to index, search, or retrieve visa information through automated processes and incorporate such visa information into other internal government databases relevant to national security, as appropriate; and

(4) includes an estimated timeline for completing the implementation of the requirement described in subsection (b).

SEC. 5502. REPORT CONCERNING DEPARTMENT OF STATE CONSULAR OFFICERS JOINING COAST GUARD AND NAVY MISSIONS TO PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) Pacific island countries, especially, but not limited to, the Freely Associated States, include close United States partners located across highly strategic waters critical for United States national security;

(2) it is in the national security interests of the United States to maintain and strengthen relations with the governments and the citizens of Pacific island countries; and

(3) many citizens of these countries face difficulties in accessing United States consular services because of the remote location of the Pacific islands, only some of which host United States embassies, and a paucity of flights, making applying for United States visas and other consular procedures difficult, expensive, and time-consuming.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordination with the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard, the Commander of United States Indo-Pacific Command, and the Chief of Naval Operations, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report analyzing the feasibility of attaching Department of State consular officers to Coast Guard and Navy missions in the Pacific Island countries.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) an assessment of the current demand for consular services from citizens of Pacific Island countries and challenges that these citizens face in obtaining services;

(B) an assessment of the approximate value, including in time and resources saved, such an initiative could save citizens of Pacific Island countries that do not host United States embassies to have their United States visas adjudicated or to receive other services;

(C) an assessment of the cost for the Department of State, United States Coast Guard, United States Indo-Pacific Command, and United States Navy, including potential alternative cost-effective options and recommendations for providing consular services to Pacific Island countries;

(D) an assessment of the frequency and duration of United States Coast Guard and United States Navy deployments to Pacific Island countries, including—

(i) deployment frequency measured against desired number of visits;

(ii) amount of time typically spent in port for such visits; and

(iii) disruption to planned United States Coast Guard and United States Navy missions in order to visit locations needing consular assistance; and

(E) an evaluation of the logistical issues to be addressed including, including—

(i) analysis of spacing requirements to host Department of State personnel and equipment aboard United States Coast Guard and United States Navy vessels;

(ii) analysis of the information technology and connectivity requirements to conduct consular affairs activities;

(iii) the feasibility of printing visas aboard United States Coast Guard and United States Navy vessels;

(iv) maintaining physical security of consular officers and relevant adjudication equipment, including computer systems and visa foils, during such missions;

(v) impacts to United States Coast Guard and United States Navy vessels' operations and security; and

(vi) the estimated amount of time that Consular Officers would spend on board United States Coast Guard and United States Navy vessels between visits to Pacific Island countries.

(3) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 5503. REPORT ON SECURITY CONDITIONS IN DAMASCUS, SYRIA, REQUIRED FOR THE REOPENING OF THE UNITED STATES DIPLOMATIC MISSION.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The United States has a national security interest in a stable Syria free from the malign influence of Russia and Iran, and which cannot be used by terrorist organizations to launch attacks against the United States or United States allies or partners in the region.

(2) Permissive security conditions are necessary for the reopening of any diplomatic mission.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report describing the Syrian interim government's progress towards meeting the security and governance related benchmarks described in paragraph (2).

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include the following elements:

(A) An assessment of the Syrian interim government's progress to ensure that Syria never serves as a platform for terrorist attacks against the United States or our partners.

(B) An assessment of the security environment of the location of the building of the

United States embassy in Damascus and the conditions necessary for the reopening of the mission.

(C) An analysis of the Syrian interim's government's progress in identifying and rendering harmless the Assad regime's chemical weapons stockpiles, research facilities, or related sites.

(D) An assessment of the Syrian interim government's destruction of the Assad regime's captagon and other illicit drug stockpiles, to include infrastructure.

(E) An assessment of the Syrian interim government's relationship with the Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran, to include access, basing, overflight, economic relationships, and impacts on United States national security objectives.

(F) A description of the Syrian interim government's cooperation with the United States to locate and repatriate United States citizens.

(G) An assessment of the status of foreign terror groups and militias and interim government efforts to eject these groups.

(H) A description of accountability efforts under the interim Syrian government to include accountability for Assad regime crimes against the Syrian people, the Alawite massacre in northwest Syria, records preservation, and mass grave documentation.

SEC. 5504. EMBASSIES, CONSULATES, AND OTHER DIPLOMATIC INSTALLATIONS RETURN TO STANDARDS REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that includes the impacts of the Bureau of Diplomatic Security's initiative known as ''Return to Standards'' on the security needs of United States embassies, consulates, and other diplomatic installations outside the United States.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall describe the impacts of the Return to Standards initiative and other reductions in staffing and resources from the beginning of the initiative to the date of enactment of this Act for all embassies, consulates, and other overseas diplomatic installations, including detailed descriptions and explanations of all reductions of personnel or other resources, including their effects on—

(1) securing facilities and perimeters;

(2) transporting United States personnel into the foreign country;

(3) gathering actionable intelligence; and

(4) executing any other relevant operations for which they are responsible.

SEC. 5505. PASSPORT AND VISA OPERATIONS REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on visa backlogs and the feasibility of providing priority visas to nationals of countries that are of strategic importance to the tourism industry of the United States.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall address—

(1) the status of visa backlogs and wait times, including internal and external recommendations to streamline and improve consular processes, as required by the joint exploratory statement for the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2024 (division F of Public Law 118–47), including the rationale and justification for the implementation of each such recommendation;

(2) the impact of reductions in force on improvement of the overall efficiency of consular operations, processing time, and customer experience for applicants;

(3) the extent to which non-consular Department personnel have been used to improve the overall efficiency of consular operations, processing time, and customer experience for applicants during periods of high demand;

(4) the viability of temporarily assigning non-consular Department personnel during periods of high demand; and

(5) the extent to which technology, including artificial intelligence, can alleviate visa backlogs.

TITLE LXVI—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 5551. SUBMISSION OF FEDERALLY FUNDED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER REPORTS TO CONGRESS.

Not later than 30 days after receiving a report or other written product provided to the Department by federally funded research and development centers (FFRDCs) and consultant groups that were supported by funds congressionally appropriated to the Department, the Secretary shall provide the appropriate committees the report or written product, including the original proposal for the report, the amount provided by the Department to the FFRDC, and a detailed description of the value the Department derived from the report.

SEC. 5552. QUARTERLY REPORT ON DIPLOMATIC POUCH ACCESS.

Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 90 days thereafter for the next 3 years, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that describes—

(1) a list of every overseas United States diplomatic post where diplomatic pouch access is restricted or limited by the host government;

(2) an explanation as to why, in each instance where an overseas United States diplomatic post has not been granted diplomatic pouch access by the host government, the host government has failed to do so; and

(3) a detailed explanation outlining the steps the Department is taking to gain diplomatic pouch access in each instance where such access has been denied by the host government.

SEC. 5553. REPORT ON UTILITY OF INSTITUTING A PROCESSING FEE FOR ITAR LICENSE APPLICATIONS.

No later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the feasibility and effect of establishing an export licensing fee system for the commercial export of defense items and services to partially or fully finance the licensing costs of the Department, if permitted by statute. The report should consider whether and to what degree such an export license application fee system would be preferable to relying solely on the existing registration fee system and the feasibility of a tiered system of fees, considering such options as volume per applicant over time and discounted fees for small businesses.

SEC. 5554. HAVANA ACT PAYMENT FIX.

Section 901 of title IX of division J of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (22 U.S.C. 2680b) is amended—

(1) by striking ''January 1, 2016'' each place it appears and inserting ''September 11, 2001''; and

(2) in subsection (e)(1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''of a'' and inserting ''of an''.

SEC. 5555. ESTABLISHING AN INNER MONGOLIA SECTION WITHIN THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN BEIJING.

(a) INNER MONGOLIA SECTION IN UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN BEIJING, CHINA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary should consider establishing an Inner Mongolian team within the United States Embassy in Beijing, China, to follow political, economic, and social developments in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region and other areas designated by the People's Republic of China as autonomous for Mongolians, with due consideration given to hiring Southern Mongolians as Locally Employed Staff.

(2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—Responsibilities of a team devoted to Inner Mongolia should include reporting on internationally recognized human rights issues, monitoring developments in critical minerals mining, environmental degradation, and PRC space capabilities, and access to areas designated as autonomous for Mongolians by United States Government officials, journalists, nongovernmental organizations, and the Southern Mongolian diaspora.

(3) LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary should ensure that the Department of State has sufficient proficiency in Mongolian language in order to carry out paragraph (1), and that the United States Embassy in Beijing, China, has sufficient resources to hire Local Employed Staff proficient in the Mongolian language, as appropriate.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the staffing described in subsection (a).

SEC. 5556. REPORT ON UNITED STATES MISSION AUSTRALIA STAFFING.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) Australia is one of the closest allies of the United States and integral to United States national security interests in the Indo-Pacific;

(2) the United States-Australia alliance has seen tremendous growth, including through AUKUS, as part of which, the United States plans to rotate up to four Virginia-class attack submarines out of the Australian port of Perth by 2027; and

(3) current United States staffing and facilities across United States Mission Australia do not appear adequately resourced to support an expanding mission set and are no longer commensurate with strategic developments, as the United States will need to station many more United States civilian and military personnel in western Australia to support the maintenance and supply of these vessels.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report regarding staffing and facility requirements at United States Mission Australia.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) an assessment of how many Americans, which includes United States Government personnel (including members of the United States Armed Forces) and their family members and dependents, the Department of State expects in the Perth area and across Australia in the next 2 years;

(B) an assessment of what requirements those Americans will have, including housing, schooling, and office space;

(C) a description of how many staff are currently in the United States Consulate in Perth and their roles;

(D) information regarding any discussions or decisions at the Department of State about transferring staff from elsewhere within Mission Australia to increase staffing in Perth and the tradeoffs of such personnel moves;

(E) a status update on the interagency process begun in 2024 to assess the needs of Mission Australia;

(F) an assessment of the impact the Department of State re-organization and workforce reduction is having on the staffing contemplated by that process;

(G) an estimated total cost of expanding Perth staffing to sufficiently serve the increased presence of United States citizens in the area and to achieve any other United States foreign policy objectives; and

(H) an estimate of the costs that are expected to be covered by United States Indo-Pacific Command or any other United States Government department or agency, as well as an estimate of the costs be covered by the Department of State.

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

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(2) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(3) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(4) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 5557. INVESTING IN TALENT IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, THE PACIFIC ISLANDS, SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA, AND LATIN AMERICA.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN.—In this section, the term ''Latin America and the Caribbean'' does not include Cuba, Nicaragua, or Venezuela.

(2) PACIFIC ISLANDS.—The term ''Pacific Islands'' means the nations of Federated States of Micronesia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

(3) SOUTHEAST ASIA.—The term ''Southeast Asia'' means the nations of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, and Timor-Leste.

(4) SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA.—The term ''sub-Saharan Africa'' means a country or successor political entity defined in section 107 of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3706).

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.—The Secretary, in coordination with, as appropriate, the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, is authorized to enter into public-private partnerships and establish centers of excellence located in countries in Southeast Asia, the Pacific Islands, sub-Saharan Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean to build and enhance the technical capacity of officials, emerging leaders, and other qualified persons from countries in those regions.

(c) PRIORITY AREAS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING.—The centers of excellence established under subsection (b) shall provide technical assistance and capacity building in areas, such as the following:

(1) Domestic resource mobilization.

(2) Regulatory management.

(3) Procurement processes, including tendering, bidding, and contract negotiation.

(4) Budget management and oversight.

(5) Management of key economic sectors, including energy, digital economy, and infrastructure.

(6) Sovereign financial management.

(7) Any other areas as determined by the Secretary to be priorities that advance the security and prosperity of the partner country in furtherance of United States national interests.

(d) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The program authorized under this section shall—

(1) leverage existing United States diplomatic and foreign assistance programs and activities in Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Latin America; and

(2) be supported by instructors who are United States nationals that—

(A)(i) currently serve in relevant areas of the United States Government with a rank of not less than 14 on the GS scale; or

(ii) possess at least 10 years of experience relevant to the areas of instruction identified in subsection (c);

(B) meet high professional standards within their fields; and

(C)(i) are contracted by any center of excellence established pursuant to subsection (b); or

(ii) are deployed or detailed directly from a Federal Government agency;

(3) seek to attract foreign participants who—

(A)(i) are currently senior or mid-career officials in key technical ministries of participating countries in Southeast Asia, the Pacific Islands, sub-Saharan Africa, or Latin America and the Caribbean;

(ii) have demonstrated leadership potential, under terms to be established by the Secretary and have exercised direct responsibility for crafting or implementing policies relevant to the areas of instruction described under subsection (c); and

(iii) have demonstrated an intent to return to government service of their home country after completing the program outlined in this section; or

(B) are currently employed in utilities or other critical infrastructure, as established by the Secretary, within their home country and have demonstrable experience in implementing relevant policy and regulation or supporting government functions in the areas of instruction described under subsection (c); and

(4) ensure appropriate burden sharing by requiring appropriate financial or in-kind contributions from participating governments, based upon their ability to contribute as determined by the Secretary.

(e) AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER AGREEMENTS AND NON-BINDING INSTRUMENTS.—To fulfill the terms and conditions specified by subsection (d), the Secretary of State is authorized to enter agreements and non-binding instruments with participating governments to determine what financial or in-kind contributions will be made by the United States and what financial or in-kind contributions will be made by the participating government with respect to the activities described in this section.

SEC. 5558. FACILITATING REGULATORY EXCHANGES WITH ALLIES AND PARTNERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordination with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, should establish and develop a voluntary program to facilitate and encourage regular dialogues between interested United States Government regulatory and technical agencies and their counterpart organizations in allied and partner countries, both bilaterally and in relevant multilateral institutions and organizations—

(1) to promote best practices in regulatory formation and implementation;

(2) to collaborate to achieve optimal regulatory outcomes based on scientific, technical, and other relevant principles;

(3) to seek better harmonization and alignment of regulations and regulatory practices; and

(4) to build consensus around industry and technical standards in emerging sectors that will drive future global economic growth and commerce.

(b) PRIORITIZATION OF ACTIVITIES.—In facilitating expert exchanges under subsection (a), the Secretary shall prioritize—

(1) bilateral coordination and collaboration with countries where greater regulatory coherence, harmonization of standards, or communication and dialogue between technical agencies is achievable and best advances the economic and national security interests of the United States;

(2) multilateral coordination and collaboration where greater regulatory coherence, harmonization of standards, or dialogue on other relevant regulatory matters is achievable and best advances the economic and national security interests of the United States, including with the members of—

(A) the European Union;

(B) the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation;

(C) the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN);

(D) the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD);

(E) the Pacific Alliance; and

(F) multilateral development banks; and

(3) regulatory practices and standards-setting bodies focused on key economic sectors and emerging technologies.

(c) PARTICIPATION BY NONGOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES.—With regard to the program described in subsection (a), the Secretary may facilitate the participation of relevant organizations and individuals with relevant expertise, as appropriate and to the extent that such participation advances the goals of such program.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The authorities provided by this section are intended solely to provide United States embassy and related Department support for dialogues which may occur outside the United States, on a strictly voluntary basis and as agreed to by the relevant United States Federal department or agency with their foreign counterparts, and are not intended to obligate in any way the participation of any other Federal department or agency in such dialogues.

SEC. 5559. PILOT PROGRAM TO AUDIT BARRIERS TO COMMERCE IN DEVELOPING PARTNER COUNTRIES.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, in coordination with relevant Federal departments and agencies as determined by the Secretary, is authorized to establish a pilot program—

(1) to identify and evaluate barriers to commerce in developing countries that are allies and partners of the United States; and

(2) to provide assistance to promote economic development and commerce to those countries.

(b) PURPOSES.—Under the pilot program established under subsection (a), the Secretary shall, in partnership with the countries selected under subsection (c)(1)—

(1) seek to identify possible barriers in those countries that limit international commerce with the goal of setting priorities for the efficient use of United States economic assistance;

(2) focus relevant United States economic assistance on building self-sustaining institutional capacity for expanding commerce with those countries, consistent with their international obligations and commitments; and

(3) further the national interests of the United States by—

(A) expanding prosperity through the elimination of foreign barriers to commercial exchange;

(B) assisting such countries to identify and reduce commercial restrictions, including through the deployment of targeted foreign assistance, as appropriate, to increase international commerce and investment;

(C) assisting each selected country in undertaking reforms that will promote economic growth, and promote conditions favorable for business and commercial development and job growth in the country; and

(D) assisting private sector entities in those countries to engage in reform efforts and enhance productive global supply chain partnerships with the United States and allies and partners of the United States.

(c) SELECTION OF COUNTRIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall select countries for participation in the pilot program established under subsection (a) from among developing countries—

(A) that are allies and partners of the United States;

(B) the governments of which have clearly demonstrated a willingness to make appropriate legal, policy, and regulatory reforms that are proven to stimulate economic growth and job creation, consistent with international trade rules and practices; and

(C) that meet such additional criteria as may be established by the Secretary, in consultation with, as appropriate, the heads of other Federal departments and agencies as determined by the Secretary.

(2) CONSIDERATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL CRITERIA.—In establishing additional criteria under paragraph (1)(C), the Secretary shall—

(A) identify and address structural weaknesses, systemic flaws, or other impediments within countries that may be considered for participation in the pilot program under subsection (a) that impact the effectiveness of United States assistance to and make recommendations for addressing those weaknesses, flaws, and impediments;

(B) set priorities for commercial development assistance that focus resources on countries where the provision of such assistance can deliver the best value in identifying and eliminating commercial barriers; and

(C) developing appropriate performance measures and establishing annual targets to monitor and assess progress toward achieving those targets, including measures to be used to terminate the provision of assistance determined to be ineffective.

(3) NUMBER AND DEADLINE FOR SELECTIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 3 years, the Secretary should select countries for participation in the pilot program.

(B) NUMBER.—The Secretary should select for participation in the pilot program under subsection (a) not fewer than 3 countries during the 1-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(4) PRIORITIZATION BASED ON RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CHIEFS OF MISSION.—In selecting countries under paragraph (1) for participation in the pilot program under subsection (a), the Secretary shall prioritize—

(A) countries recommended by chiefs of mission—

(i) that will be able to substantially benefit from expanded commercial development assistance; and

(ii) the governments of which have demonstrated the political will to effectively and sustainably implement such assistance; or

(B) groups of countries, including groups of geographically contiguous countries, including as recommended by chiefs of mission, that meet the criteria under subparagraph (A) and as a result of expanded United States commercial development assistance, will contribute to greater intra-regional commerce or regional economic integration.

(d) PLANS OF ACTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall lead in engaging relevant officials of each country selected under subsection (c)(1) to participate in the pilot program under subsection (a) with respect to the development of a plan of action to identify and evaluate barriers to economic and commercial development that then informs United States assistance.

(2) ANALYSIS REQUIRED.—The development of a plan of action under paragraph (1) shall include a comprehensive analysis of relevant legal, policy, and regulatory constraints to economic and job growth in that country.

(3) ELEMENTS.—A plan of action developed under paragraph (1) for a country shall include the following:

(A) Priorities for reform agreed to by the government of that country and the United States.

(B) Clearly defined policy responses, including regulatory and legal reforms, as necessary, to achieve improvement in the business and commercial environment in the country.

(C) Identification of the anticipated costs to establish and implement the plan.

(D) Identification of appropriate sequencing and phasing of implementation of the plan to create cumulative benefits, as appropriate.

(E) Identification of best practices and standards.

(F) Considerations with respect to how to make the policy reform investments under the plan long-lasting.

(G) Appropriate consultation with affected stakeholders in that country and in the United States.

(e) TERMINATION.—The pilot program established under subsection (a) shall terminate on the date that is 8 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 5560. STRATEGY FOR PROMOTING SUPPLY CHAIN DIVERSIFICATION.

(a) STRATEGY.—The Secretary, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, as determined by the Secretary, shall develop, implement, and submit to the appropriate congressional committees a strategy to increase supply chain resiliency and security by promoting and strengthening efforts to incentivize the relocation of supply chains from the People's Republic of China.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) be informed by consultations with the governments of allies and partners of the United States;

(2) provide a description of how supply chain diversification can be pursued in a complementary fashion to strengthen the national interests of the United States;

(3) include an assessment of—

(A) the status and effectiveness of current efforts by governments, multilateral development banks, and the private sector to attract investment by private entities who are seeking to diversify from reliance on the People's Republic of China;

(B) major challenges hindering those efforts; and

(C) how the United States can strengthen the effectiveness of those efforts;

(4) identify United States allies and partners with comparative advantages for sourcing and manufacturing critical goods and countries with the greatest opportunities and alignment with United States values;

(5) identify how activities by relevant Federal agencies, as determined by the Secretary, can effectively be leveraged to strengthen and promote supply chain diversification, including nearshoring to Latin America and the Caribbean as appropriate;

(6) advance diplomatic initiatives to secure specific national commitments by governments in Latin America and the Caribbean to undertake efforts to create favorable conditions for nearshoring in the region, including commitments—

(A) to develop formalized national strategies to attract investment from the United States ;

(B) to address corruption and rule of law concerns;

(C) to modernize digital and physical infrastructure of these nations;

(D) to improve ease of doing business; and

(E) to finance and incentivize nearshoring initiatives that transfer supply chains from the People's Republic of China to the nations of the Americas;

(7) to advance diplomatic initiatives towards mutually beneficial dialogues on standards and regulations; and

(8) to develop and implement assistance programs to finance, incentivize, or otherwise promote supply chain diversification in accordance with the assessments and identifications made pursuant to paragraphs (3), (4), and (5), including, at minimum, programs—

(A) to help develop physical and digital infrastructure;

(B) to promote transparency in procurement processes;

(C) to provide technical assistance in implementing national nearshoring strategies;

(D) to help mobilize private investment; and

(E) to pursue commitments by private sector entities to relocate supply chains from the People's Republic of China.

(c) COORDINATION WITH MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS.—In implementing the strategy required under subsection (a), the Secretary of State and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, as determined by the Secretary, should, as appropriate, cooperate with the World Bank Group and the regional development banks through the Secretary of the Treasury.

SEC. 5561. AUTHORIZATION TO EXTEND THE PROVISIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IMMUNITIES ACT TO ADDITIONAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS.—The International Organizations Immunities Act (22 U.S.C. 288 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 18.

''Under such terms and conditions as the President shall determine, the President is authorized to extend the provisions of this title to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in the same manner, to the same extent, and subject to the same conditions, as it may be extended to a public international organization in which the United States participates pursuant to any treaty or under the authority of any Act of Congress authorizing such participation or making an appropriation for such participation.''.

(b) EUROPEAN ORGANIZATION FOR NUCLEAR RESEARCH.—The International Organizations Immunities Act, as amended by subsection (a), is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 19.

''Under such terms and conditions as the President shall determine, the President is authorized to extend the provisions of this title to the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) in the same manner, to the same extent, and subject to the same conditions, as it may be extended to a public international organization in which the United States participates pursuant to any treaty or under the authority of any Act of Congress authorizing such participation or making an appropriation for such participation.''.

(c) PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM.—The International Organizations Immunities Act, as

amended by subsections (a) and (b), is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 20.

''Under such terms and conditions as the President shall determine, the President is authorized to extend the provisions of this title to the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) in the same manner, to the same extent, and subject to the same conditions, as it may be extended to a public international organization in which the United States participates pursuant to any treaty or under the authority of any Act of Congress authorizing such participation or making an appropriation for such participation.''.

SEC. 5562. EXTENSIONS.

(a) SUPPORT TO ENHANCE THE CAPACITY OF INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND MEMBERS TO EVALUATE THE LEGAL AND FINANCIAL TERMS OF SOVEREIGN DEBT CONTRACTS.—Title XVI of the International Financial Institutions Act (22 U.S.C. 262p et seq.) is amended in section 1630(c) by striking ''5-year period'' and inserting ''10-year period''.

(b) INSPECTOR GENERAL ANNUITANT WAIVER.—The authorities provided under section 1015(b) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2010 (Public Law 111–212; 124 Stat. 2332) shall remain in effect through September 30, 2031.

(c) EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATIONS TO SUPPORT UNITED STATES PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL FAIRS AND EXPOS.—Section 9601(b) of the Department of State Authorizations Act of 2022 (division I of Public Law 117–263; 136 6 Stat. 3909) is amended by striking ''fiscal years 2023 and 2024'' and inserting ''fiscal years 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, and 2028''.

SEC. 5563. PERMITTING FOR INTERNATIONAL BRIDGES AND LAND PORTS OF ENTRY.

Section 6 of the International Bridge Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 535d) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''December 31, 2024,'' and inserting ''December 31, 2035,''; and

(ii) by striking subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C), and inserting the following:

''(A) An international bridge between the United States and Mexico.

''(B) An international bridge between the United States and Canada.

''(C) A port of entry on the international land border between the United States and Mexico.

''(D) A port of entry on the international land border between the United States and Canada.''; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(A)(ii), by inserting ''or land port of entry'' after ''international bridge'';

(2) in subsection (b), by inserting ''or land port of entry'' after ''international bridge'';

(3) in subsection (c)(2)—

(A) by inserting ''sole'' before ''basis''; and

(B) by inserting ''or land port of entry'' after ''international bridge'';

(4) in subsection (e)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(B) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) (as so redesignated), by striking ''Notwithstanding'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) NO COMPILATION OR CONSIDERATION OF DOCUMENTS.—The Secretary shall not compile or take into consideration any environmental document pursuant to Public Law 91–190 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) with respect to a Presidential permit for an application under subsection (b).''; and

(5) in subsection (f), by inserting ''or land port of entry'' after ''international bridge'' each place it appears.

TITLE LXVII—OTHER MATTERS

Subtitle A—BUST FENTANYL Act

SEC. 5601. SHORT TITLES.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Break Up Suspicious Transactions of Fentanyl Act'' or the ''BUST FENTANYL Act''.

SEC. 5602. INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL STRATEGY REPORT.

Section 489(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2291h(a)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''March 1'' and inserting ''June 1''; and

(2) in paragraph (8)(A)(i), by striking ''pseudoephedrine'' and all that follows through ''chemicals)'' and inserting ''chemical precursors used in the production of methamphetamine that significantly affected the United States''.

SEC. 5603. STUDY AND REPORT ON EFFORTS TO ADDRESS FENTANYL TRAFFICKING FROM THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND OTHER RELEVANT COUNTRIES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) DEA.—The term ''DEA'' means the Drug Enforcement Administration.

(3) PRC.—The term ''PRC'' means the People's Republic of China.

(b) STUDY AND REPORT ON ADDRESSING TRAFFICKING OF FENTANYL AND OTHER SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS FROM THE PRC AND OTHER RELEVANT COUNTRIES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State and the Attorney General shall jointly submit to the appropriate committees of Congress an unclassified written report, with a classified annex, that includes—

(1) a description of United States Government efforts to gain a commitment from the Government of the PRC to submit unregulated fentanyl precursors, such as 4–AP, to controls;

(2) a plan for future steps the United States Government will take to urge the Government of the PRC to combat the production and trafficking of illicit fentanyl and synthetic opioids from the PRC, including the trafficking of precursor chemicals used to produce illicit narcotics in Mexico and in other countries;

(3) a detailed description of cooperation by the Government of the PRC to address the role of the PRC financial system and PRC money laundering organizations in the trafficking of fentanyl and synthetic opioid precursors;

(4) an assessment of the expected impact that the designation of principal corporate officers of PRC financial institutions for facilitating narcotics-related money laundering would have on PRC money laundering organizations;

(5) an assessment of whether the Trilateral Fentanyl Committee, which was established by the United States, Canada, and Mexico during the January 2023 North American Leaders' Summit, is improving cooperation with law enforcement and financial regulators in Canada and Mexico to combat the role of PRC financial institutions and PRC money laundering organizations in narcotics trafficking;

(6) an assessment of the effectiveness of other United States bilateral and multilateral efforts to strengthen international cooperation to address the PRC's role in the trafficking of fentanyl and synthetic opioid precursors, including through the Global Coalition to Address Synthetic Drug Threats;

(7) an update on the status of commitments made by third countries through the Global Coalition to Address Synthetic Drug Threats to combat the synthetic opioid crisis and progress towards the implementation of such commitments;

(8) a plan for future steps to further strengthen bilateral and multilateral efforts to urge the Government of the PRC to take additional actions to address the PRC's role in the trafficking of fentanyl and synthetic opioid precursors, particularly in coordination with countries in East Asia and Southeast Asia that have been impacted by such activities;

(9) an assessment of how actions the Government of the PRC has taken since November 15, 2023 has shifted relevant supply chains for fentanyl and synthetic opioid precursors, if at all; and

(10) the items described in paragraphs (1) through (4) pertaining to India, Mexico, and other countries the Secretary of State determines to have a significant role in the production or trafficking of fentanyl and synthetic opioid precursors for purposes of this report.

(c) ESTABLISHMENT OF DEA OFFICES IN THE PRC.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State and the Attorney General shall jointly provide to the appropriate committees of Congress a classified briefing on—

(1) outreach and negotiations undertaken by the United States Government with the Government of the PRC that was aimed at securing the approval of the Government of the PRC to establish of United States Drug Enforcement Administration offices in Shanghai and Guangzhou, the PRC; and

(2) additional efforts to establish new partnerships with provincial-level authorities in the PRC to counter the illicit trafficking of fentanyl, fentanyl analogues, and their precursors.

SEC. 5604. PRIORITIZATION OF IDENTIFICATION OF PERSONS FROM THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

Section 7211 of the Fentanyl Sanctions Act (21 U.S.C. 2311) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively; and

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

''(3) PRIORITIZATION.—

''(A) DEFINED TERM.—In this paragraph, the term 'person of the People's Republic of China' means—

''(i) an individual who is a citizen or national of the People's Republic of China; or

''(ii) an entity organized under the laws of the People's Republic of China or otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of the Government of the People's Republic of China.

''(B) IN GENERAL.—In preparing the report required under paragraph (1), the President shall prioritize, to the greatest extent practicable, the identification of persons of the People's Republic of China involved in the shipment of fentanyl, fentanyl analogues, fentanyl precursors, precursors for fentanyl analogues, pre-precursors for fentanyl and fentanyl analogues, and equipment for the manufacturing of fentanyl and fentanyl-laced counterfeit pills to Mexico or any other country that is involved in the production of fentanyl trafficked into the United States, including—

''(i) any entity involved in the production of pharmaceuticals; and

''(ii) any person that is acting on behalf of any such entity.

''(C) TERMINATION OF PRIORITIZATION.—The President shall continue the prioritization required under subparagraph (B) until the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that the People's Republic of China is no longer the primary source for the shipment of fentanyl, fentanyl analogues, fentanyl precursors, precursors for fentanyl analogues, pre-precursors for fentanyl and fentanyl analogues, and equipment for the manufacturing of fentanyl and fentanyl-laced counterfeit pills to Mexico or any other country that is involved in the production of fentanyl trafficked into the United States.''; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking ''the date that is 5 years after such date of enactment'' and inserting ''December 31, 2030''.

SEC. 5605. EXPANSION OF SANCTIONS UNDER THE FENTANYL SANCTIONS ACT.

Section 7212 of the Fentanyl Sanctions Act (21 U.S.C. 2312) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) the President determines has knowingly engaged in, on or after the date of the enactment of the BUST FENTANYL Act, a significant activity or significant financial transaction that has materially contributed to opioid trafficking; or

''(4) the President determines—

''(A) has received any property or interest in property that the foreign person knows—

''(i) constitutes or is derived from the proceeds of an activity or transaction described in paragraph (3); or

''(ii) was used or intended to be used to commit or to facilitate such an activity or transaction;

''(B) has knowingly provided significant financial, material, or technological support for, including through the provision of goods or services in support of—

''(i) any activity or transaction described in paragraph (3); or

''(ii) any foreign person described in paragraph (3); or

''(C) is or has been owned, controlled, or directed by any foreign person described in subparagraph (A) or (B) or in paragraph (3), or has knowingly acted or purported to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, such a foreign person.''.

SEC. 5606. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO AGENCIES OR INSTRUMENTALITIES OF FOREIGN STATES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms ''knowingly'' and ''opioid trafficking'' have the meanings given such terms in section 7203 of the Fentanyl Sanctions Act (21 U.S.C. 2302).

(b) IN GENERAL.—The President may—

(1) impose one or more of the sanctions described in section 7213 of the Fentanyl Sanctions Act (21 U.S.C. 2313) with respect to each political subdivision, agency, or instrumentality of a foreign government, including any financial institution owned or controlled by a foreign government, that the President determines has knowingly, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act—

(A) engaged in a significant activity or a significant financial transaction that has materially contributed to opioid trafficking; or

(B) provided financial, material, or technological support for (including through the provision of goods or services in support of) any significant activity or significant financial transaction described in subparagraph (A); and

(2) impose one or more of the sanctions described in section 7213(a)(6) of the Fentanyl Sanctions Act (21 U.S.C. 2313(a)(6)) with respect to each senior official of a political subdivision, agency, or instrumentality of a foreign government that the President determines has knowingly, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, facilitated a significant activity or a significant financial transaction described in paragraph (1).

SEC. 5607. ANNUAL REPORT ON EFFORTS TO PREVENT THE SMUGGLING OF METHAMPHETAMINE INTO THE UNITED STATES FROM MEXICO.

Section 723(c) of the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act of 2005 (22 U.S.C. 2291 note) is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting the following '', which shall—

''(1) identify the significant source countries for methamphetamine that significantly affect the United States, and

''(2) describe the actions by the governments of the countries identified pursuant to paragraph (1) to combat the diversion of relevant precursor chemicals and the production and trafficking of methamphetamine.''.

Subtitle B—Countering Wrongful Detention Act of 2025

SEC. 5611. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Countering Wrongful Detention Act of 2025''.

SEC. 5612. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this subtitle or the amendments made by this subtitle may be construed as preventing the freedom of travel of United States citizens.

PART I—DETERRING AND PREVENTING UNLAWFUL OR WRONGFUL DETENTION

SEC. 5615. DESIGNATION OF A FOREIGN COUNTRY AS A STATE SPONSOR OF UNLAWFUL OR WRONGFUL DETENTION.

The Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 1741 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 306 the following:

''SEC. 306A. DESIGNATION OF A FOREIGN COUNTRY AS A STATE SPONSOR OF UNLAWFUL OR WRONGFUL DETENTION.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the notice requirement of subsection (c)(1)(A), the Secretary of State, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, may designate a foreign country that has provided support for or directly engaged in the unlawful or wrongful detention of a United States national as a State Sponsor of Unlawful or Wrongful Detention based on any of the following criteria:

''(1) The unlawful or wrongful detention of a United States national occurs in the foreign country.

''(2) The government of the foreign country or an entity organized under the laws of a foreign country has failed to release an unlawfully or wrongfully detained United States national within 30 days of being officially notified by the Department of State of the unlawful or wrongful detention.

''(3) Actions taken by the government of the foreign country indicate that the government is responsible for, complicit in, or materially supports the unlawful or wrongful detention of a United States national, including by acting as described in paragraph (2) after having been notified by the Department of State.

''(4) The actions of a state or nonstate actor in the foreign country, including any previous action relating to unlawful or wrongful detention or hostage taking of a United States national, pose a risk to the safety and security of United States nationals abroad sufficient to warrant designation of the foreign country as a State Sponsor of Unlawful or Wrongful Detention, as determined by the Secretary.

''(b) TERMINATION OF DESIGNATION.—The Secretary of State may terminate the designation of a foreign country under subsection (a) if the Secretary certifies to Congress that the government of the foreign country—

''(1) has released the United States nationals unlawfully or wrongfully detained within the territory of the foreign country;

''(2) has positively contributed to the release of United States nationals taken hostage within the territory of the foreign country or from the custody of a nonstate entity;

''(3) has demonstrated changes in leadership or policies with respect to unlawful or wrongful detention and hostage taking; or

''(4) has provided assurances that the government of the foreign country will not engage or be complicit in or support acts described in subsection (a).

''(c) BRIEFING AND REPORTS TO CONGRESS; PUBLICATION.—

''(1) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 7 days prior to making a designation of a foreign country as a State Sponsor of Unlawful or Wrongful Detention under subsection (a), the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that notifies the committees of the proposed designation.

''(B) ELEMENTS.—In each report submitted under subparagraph (A) with respect to the designation of a foreign country as a State Sponsor of Unlawful or Wrongful Detention, the Secretary shall include—

''(i) the justification for the designation; and

''(ii) a description of any action taken by the United States Government, including the Secretary of State or the head of any other relevant Federal agency, in response to the designation to deter the unlawful or wrongful detention or hostage-taking of foreign nationals in the country.

''(2) INITIAL BRIEFING REQUIRED.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall brief Congress on the following:

''(A) Whether any of the following countries should be designated as a State Sponsor of Unlawful or Wrongful Detention under subsection (a):

''(i) Afghanistan.

''(ii) Eritrea.

''(iii) The Islamic Republic of Iran.

''(iv) The People's Republic of China.

''(v) The Russian Federation.

''(vi) The Syrian Arab Republic or any transitional government therein.

''(vii) Venezuela under the regime of Nicolás Maduro.

''(viii) The Republic of Belarus.

''(B) The steps taken by the Secretary and the heads of other relevant Federal agencies to deter the unlawful and wrongful detention of United States nationals and to respond to such detentions, including—

''(i) any engagement with private sector companies to optimize the distribution of travel advisories; and

''(ii) any engagement with private companies responsible for promoting travel to foreign countries engaged in the unlawful or wrongful detention of United States nationals.

''(C) An assessment of a possible expansion of chapter 97 of title 28, United States Code (commonly known as the 'Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act of 1976') to include an exception from asset seizure immunity for State Sponsors of Unlawful or Wrongful Detention.

''(D) A detailed plan on the manner by which a geographic travel restriction could be instituted against State Sponsors of Unlawful or Wrongful Detention.

''(E) The progress made in multilateral fora, including the United Nations and other international organizations, to address the unlawful and wrongful detention of United States nationals, in addition to nationals of

partners and allies of the United States in foreign countries.

''(3) ANNUAL BRIEFING.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this section, and annually thereafter for 5 years, the Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs and the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress with respect to unlawful or wrongful detentions taking place in the countries listed under paragraph (2)(A) and actions taken by the Secretary of State and the heads of other relevant Federal agencies to deter the wrongful detention of United States nationals, including any steps taken in accordance with paragraph (2)(B).

''(4) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall make available on a publicly accessible website of the Department of State, and regularly update, a list of foreign countries designated as State Sponsors of Unlawful or Wrongful Detention under subsection (a).

''(d) REVIEW OF AVAILABLE RESPONSES TO STATE SPONSORS OF UNLAWFUL OR WRONGFUL DETENTION.—Upon designation of a foreign country as a State Sponsor of Unlawful or Wrongful Detention under subsection (a), the Secretary of State, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall conduct a comprehensive review of the use of existing authorities to respond to and deter the unlawful or wrongful detention of United States nationals in the foreign country, including—

''(1) sanctions available under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.);

''(2) visa restrictions available under section 7031(c) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2024 (division F of Public Law 118–47; 8 U.S.C. 1182 note) or any other provision of Federal law;

''(3) sanctions available under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.);

''(4) imposition of a geographic travel restriction on citizens of the United States;

''(5) restrictions on assistance provided to the government of the country under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) or any other provision of Federal law;

''(6) restrictions on the export of certain goods to the country under the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.), the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4801 et seq.), or any other Federal law; and

''(7) designating the government of the country as a government that has repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism pursuant to—

''(A) section 1754(c)(1)(A)(i) of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4813(c)(1)(A)(i));

''(B) section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371);

''(C) section 40(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2780(d)); or

''(D) any other provision of law.

''(e) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term 'appropriate committees of Congress' means—

''(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

''(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

''(f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to imply that the United States Government formally recognizes any particular country or the government of such country as legitimate.''.

SEC. 5616. REQUIRED CERTIFICATION REGARDING INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL ADVISORIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 423 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 42309. Required certification regarding international travel advisories

''(a) IN GENERAL.—An air carrier, foreign air carrier, or ticket agent who sells, in the United States, a ticket for foreign air transportation of a passenger to a country or other geographic area with a 'D' or 'K' indicator issued by the Department of State Travel Advisory System shall require the passenger listed on the ticket to certify that the passenger—

''(1) has reviewed the travel advisory of the Department of State applicable to such country or other geographic area; and

''(2) understands the risks involved with traveling to such country or other geographic area.

''(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in subsection (a) may be construed as grounds to inhibit access to consular services by a United States citizen abroad.

''(c) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

''(1) 'D' INDICATOR.—The term ''D'' indicator' means a travel advisory issued by the Department of State that indicates a risk of wrongful detention of a United States national.

''(2) 'K' INDICATOR.—The term ''K'' indicator' means a travel advisory issued by the Department of State that indicates a criminal or terrorist individual or group has threatened to seize, detain, kill, or injure individuals (or has seized, detained, killed, or injured individuals) to compel a third party (including a governmental organization) to meet certain requirements as a condition of release.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 423 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 42308 the following:

''42309. Required certification regarding international travel advisories.''.

PART II—STRENGTHENING PROCESSES AND SERVICES FOR HOSTAGES AND UNLAWFUL OR WRONGFUL DETAINEES

SEC. 5618. ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HOSTAGE-TAKING AND UNLAWFUL OR WRONGFUL DETENTION.

The Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 1741 et seq.), as amended by section 101, is further amended by inserting after section 305B the following:

''SEC. 305C. ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HOSTAGE TAKING AND UNLAWFUL OR WRONGFUL DETENTION.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President shall establish an advisory council, to be known as the 'Advisory Council on Hostage Taking and Unlawful or Wrongful Detention' (in this section referred to as the 'Advisory Council'), to advise the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs, the Hostage Response Group, and the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell with respect to Federal policies regarding hostage-taking and unlawful or wrongful detention.

''(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall invite individuals to the Advisory Council, which shall be comprised of—

''(A) United States nationals who have been unlawfully or wrongfully detained or taken hostage abroad;

''(B) family members of such United States nationals; and

''(C) not fewer than 2 experts on areas including hostage-taking, wrongful detention, international relations, rule of law, and counterterrorism who have been recommended by the Secretary of State.

''(2) TERMS.—The term of a member of the Advisory Council shall be 3 years.

''(3) COMPENSATION AND TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the Advisory Council shall not be considered a Federal employee and shall not be compensated for service on the Advisory Council, but may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code.

''(c) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, the Advisory Council shall submit to the President and the appropriate congressional committees a report setting forth the recommendations of the Advisory Council.

''(d) TERMINATION.—The Advisory Council shall terminate on the date that is 10 years after the date of the enactment of this section.''.

SEC. 5619. CONGRESSIONAL REPORT ON COMPONENTS RELATED TO HOSTAGE AFFAIRS AND RECOVERY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to Congress a report on the following:

(1) The Hostage Response Group established pursuant to section 305(a) of the Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 1741c(a)).

(2) The Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell established pursuant to section 304(a) of that Act (22 U.S.C. 1741b(a)).

(3) The Office of the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs established pursuant to section 303(a) of that Act (22 U.S.C. 1741a(a)).

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a description of the existing structure of each component listed in subsection (a);

(2) recommendations on how the components can be improved, including through reorganization or consolidation of the components; and

(3) cost efficiencies on the components listed in subsection (a), including resources available to eligible former wrongful detainees and hostages and their family members.

Subtitle C—Deter PRC Aggression Against Taiwan Act

SEC. 5631. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Deter PRC Aggression Against Taiwan Act''.

SEC. 5632. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that the United States must be prepared to take immediate action to impose sanctions with respect to any military or non-military entities owned, controlled, or acting at the direction of the Government of the PRC or the Chinese Communist Party that are supporting actions by the Government of the PRC or by the Chinese Communist Party—

(1) to overthrow or dismantle the governing institutions in Taiwan;

(2) to occupy any territory controlled or administered by Taiwan;

(3) to violate the territorial integrity of Taiwan; or

(4) to take significant action against Taiwan, including—

(A) conducting a naval blockade of Taiwan;

(B) seizing any outlying island of Taiwan; or

(C) perpetrating a significant physical or cyber attack on Taiwan that erodes the ability of the governing institutions in Taiwan to operate or provide essential services to the citizens of Taiwan.

SEC. 5633. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate;

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

(D) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(E) the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives; and

(F) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

(2) PRC.—The term ''PRC'' means the People's Republic of China.

(3) PRC SANCTIONS TASK FORCE; TASK FORCE.—The terms ''PRC Sanctions Task Force'' and ''Task Force'' mean the task force established pursuant to section 4.

SEC. 5634. TASK FORCE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Coordinator for Sanctions of the Department of State and the Director of the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury, in coordination with the Director of National Intelligence and the heads of other Federal agencies, as appropriate, shall establish an interagency task force to identify military or non-military entities that could be subject to sanctions or other economic actions imposed by the United States immediately following any action taken by the PRC that demonstrates an attempt to achieve, or has the significant effect of achieving, the physical or political control of Taiwan, including by taking any of the actions described in paragraphs (1) through (4) of section 5632.

(b) STRATEGY REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the establishment of the PRC Sanctions Task Force, the Task Force shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that outlines the process for identifying proposed targets for sanctions or other economic actions referred to in subsection (a), which shall include—

(1) an assessment of how existing sanctions regimes could be used to impose sanctions with respect to entities identified by the Task Force;

(2) a strategy for developing or proposing, as appropriate, new sanctions authorities that might be required to impose sanctions with respect to such entities;

(3) an analysis of the potential economic consequences to the United States, and to allies and partners of the United States, of imposing various types of sanctions with respect to such entities;

(4) an assessment of measures that could be taken to mitigate the consequences referred to in paragraph (3), including through the use of licenses, exemptions, carve-outs, and other forms of relief;

(5) a strategy for working with allies and partners of the United States—

(A) to leverage sanctions and other economic tools including actions targeting the PRC's financial and industrial sectors to deter or respond to aggression against Taiwan;

(B) to identify and resolve potential impediments to coordinating sanctions or other economic actions with respect to responding to or deterring aggression against Taiwan; and

(C) to identify industries, sectors, or goods and services with respect to which the United States and allies and partners of the United States can take coordinated action through sanctions or other economic tools that will have a significant negative impact on the economy of the PRC; and

(D) to coordinate actions with partners and allies to provide economic support to Taiwan and other countries being threatened by the PRC, including measures to counter economic coercion by the PRC;

(6) an assessment of the resource gaps and needs at the Department of State, the Department of the Treasury, the Department of Commerce, the United States Trade Representative, and other Federal agencies, as appropriate, to most effectively use sanctions and other economic tools to respond to the threats posed by the PRC;

(7) recommendations on how best to target sanctions and other economic tools against individuals, entities, and economic sectors in the PRC, which shall take into account—

(A) the role of such targets in supporting policies and activities of the Government of the PRC, or of the Chinese Communist Party, that pose a threat to the national security or foreign policy interests of the United States;

(B) the negative economic implications of such sanctions and tools for the Government of the PRC, including its ability to achieve its objectives with respect to Taiwan; and

(C) the potential impact of such sanctions and tools on the stability of the global financial system, including with respect to—

(i) state-owned enterprises;

(ii) officials of the Government of the PRC and of the Chinese Communist Party;

(iii) financial institutions associated with the Government of the PRC; and

(iv) companies in the PRC that are not formally designated by the Government of the PRC as state-owned enterprises; and

(8) the identification of any foreign military or non-military entities that would likely be used to achieve the outcomes specified in section 5632, including entities in the shipping, logistics, energy (including oil and gas), maritime, aviation, ground transportation, and technology sectors.

SEC. 5635. REPORT.

Not later than 60 days after the submission of the report required under section 5634(b), and semiannually thereafter, the PRC Sanctions Task Force shall submit a classified report to the appropriate congressional committees that includes information regarding—

(1) any entities identified pursuant to section 5634(b)(8);

(2) any new authorities needed to impose sanctions with respect to such entities;

(3) potential economic impacts on the PRC, the United States, and allies and partners of the United States resulting from the imposition of sanctions with respect to such entities;

(4) mitigation measures that could be employed to limit any deleterious economic impacts on the United States and allies and partners of the United States of such sanctions;

(5) the status of coordination with allies and partners of the United States regarding sanctions and other economic tools identified under this subtitle;

(6) resource gaps and recommendations to enable the Department of State and the Department of the Treasury to use sanctions to more effectively respond to the malign activities of the Government of the PRC; and

(7) any additional resources that may be necessary to carry out the strategies and recommendations included in the report submitted pursuant to section 5634(b).

Subtitle D—International Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2025

SEC. 5641. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''International Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2025''.

PART I—COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING ABROAD

SEC. 5643. UNITED STATES SUPPORT FOR INTEGRATION OF ANTI-TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS INTERVENTIONS IN MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS.

(a) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State acting through the Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, shall instruct the United States Executive Director of each multilateral development bank (as defined in section 110(d) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107(d))) to encourage the inclusion of a counter-trafficking strategy, including risk assessment and mitigation efforts as needed, in proposed projects in countries listed—

(1) on the Tier 2 Watch List (required under section 110(b)(2)(A) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107(b)(2)(A)), as amended by section 104(a));

(2) under subparagraph (C) of section 110(b)(1) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107(b)(1)) (commonly referred to as ''Tier 3''); and

(3) as Special Cases in the most recent report on trafficking in persons required under such section (commonly referred to as the ''Trafficking in Persons Report'').

(b) BRIEFINGS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall brief the appropriate congressional committees regarding the implementation of this section.

(c) GAO REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that details the activities of the United States relating to combating human trafficking, including forced labor, within multilateral development projects.

(d) DEFINED TERM.—In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(2) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(3) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(4) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 5644. COUNTER-TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS EFFORTS IN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE POLICY.

The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 102(b)(4) (22 U.S.C. 2151–1(b)(4))—

(A) in subparagraph (F), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (G), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(H) effective counter-trafficking in persons policies and programs.''; and

(2) in section 492(d)(1) (22 U.S.C. 2292a(d)(1))—

(A) by striking ''that the funds'' and inserting the following: ''that—

''(A) the funds'';

(B) in subparagraph (A), as added by subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) in carrying out the provisions of this chapter, the President shall, to the greatest extent possible—

''(i) ensure that assistance made available under this section does not create or contribute to conditions that can be reasonably

expected to result in an increase in trafficking in persons who are in conditions of heightened vulnerability as a result of natural and manmade disasters; and

''(ii) integrate appropriate protections into the planning and execution of activities authorized under this chapter.''.

SEC. 5645. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO TIER RANKINGS.

(a) MODIFICATIONS TO TIER 2 WATCH LIST.—Section 110(b)(2) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) in the paragraph heading, by striking ''SPECIAL'' and inserting ''TIER 2''; and

(2) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

''(A) SUBMISSION OF LIST.—Not later than the date on which the determinations described in subsections (c) and (d) are submitted to the appropriate congressional committees in accordance with such subsections, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a list of countries that the Secretary determines require special scrutiny during the following year. Such list shall be composed of countries that have been listed pursuant to paragraph (1)(B) pursuant to the current annual report because—

''(i) the estimated number of victims of severe forms of trafficking is very significant or is significantly increasing and the country is not taking proportional concrete actions; or

''(ii) there is a failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons from the previous year, including increased investigations, prosecutions and convictions of trafficking crimes, increased assistance to victims, and decreasing evidence of complicity in severe forms of trafficking by government officials.''.

(b) MODIFICATION TO SPECIAL RULE FOR DOWNGRADED AND REINSTATED COUNTRIES.—Section 110(b)(2)(F) of such Act (22 U.S.C. 7107(b)(2)(F)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''the special watch list'' and all that follows through ''the country—'' and inserting ''the Tier 2 watch list described in subparagraph (A) for more than 2 years immediately after the country consecutively—'';

(2) in clause (i), in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking ''the special watch list described in subparagraph (A)(iii)'' and inserting ''the Tier 2 watch list described in subparagraph (A)''; and

(3) in clause (ii), by inserting ''in the year following such waiver under subparagraph (D)(ii)'' before the period at the end.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 110(b) of such Act (22 U.S.C. 7107(b)) is further amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), as amended by subsection (a)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''special watch list'' and inserting ''Tier 2 watch list'';

(B) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) in the subparagraph heading, by striking ''SPECIAL WATCH LIST'' and inserting ''TIER 2 WATCH LIST''; and

(ii) by striking ''special watch list'' and inserting ''Tier 2 watch list''; and

(C) in subparagraph (D)—

(i) in the subparagraph heading, by striking ''SPECIAL WATCH LIST'' and inserting ''TIER 2 WATCH LIST''; and

(ii) in clause (i), by striking ''special watch list'' and inserting ''Tier 2 watch list'';

(2) in paragraph (3)(B), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) of''; and

(3) in paragraph (4)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''each country described in paragraph (2)(A)(ii)'' and inserting ''each country described in paragraph (2)(A)''; and

(B) in subparagraph (D)(ii), by striking ''the Special Watch List'' and inserting ''the Tier 2 watch list''.

(d) FREDERICK DOUGLASS TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PREVENTION AND PROTECTION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2018.—Section 204(b)(1) of the Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–425) is amended by striking ''special watch list'' and inserting ''Tier 2 watch list''.

(e) BIPARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL TRADE PRIORITIES AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2015.—Section 106(b)(6)(E)(iii) of the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015 (19 U.S.C. 4205(b)(6)(E)(iii) is amended by striking ''under section'' and all that follows and inserting ''under section 110(b)(2)(A) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107(b)(2)(A))''.

SEC. 5646. MODIFICATIONS TO THE PROGRAM TO END MODERN SLAVERY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1298 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (22 U.S.C. 7114) is amended—

(1) in subsection (g)(2), by striking ''2020'' and inserting ''2029''; and

(2) in subsection (h)(1), by striking ''Not later than September 30, 2018, and September 30, 2020'' and inserting ''Not later than September 30, 2025, and September 30, 2029''.

(b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for funding under the Program to End Modern Slavery of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, a grant recipient shall—

(1) publish the names of all subgrantee organizations on a publicly available website; or

(2) if the subgrantee organization expresses a security concern, the grant recipient shall relay such concerns to the Secretary of State, who shall transmit annually the names of all subgrantee organizations in a classified annex to the chairs of the appropriate congressional committees (as defined in section 1298(i) of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2017 (22 U.S.C. 7114(i))).

(c) AWARD OF FUNDS.—All grants issued under the program referred to in subsection (b) shall be—

(1) awarded on a competitive basis; and

(2) subject to the regular congressional notification procedures applicable with respect to grants made available under section 1298(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2017 (22 U.S.C. 7114(b)).

SEC. 5647. CLARIFICATION OF NONHUMANITARIAN, NONTRADE-RELATED FOREIGN ASSISTANCE.

(a) CLARIFICATION OF SCOPE OF WITHHELD ASSISTANCE.—Section 110(d)(1) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107(d)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

''(1) WITHHOLDING OF ASSISTANCE.—The President has determined that—

''(A) the United States will not provide nonhumanitarian, nontrade-related foreign assistance to the central government of the country or funding to facilitate the participation by officials or employees of such central government in educational and cultural exchange programs, for the subsequent fiscal year until such government complies with the minimum standards or makes significant efforts to bring itself into compliance; and

''(B) the President will instruct the United States Executive Director of each multilateral development bank and of the International Monetary Fund to vote against, and to use the Executive Director's best efforts to deny, any loan or other utilization of the funds of the respective institution to that country (other than for humanitarian assistance, for trade-related assistance, or for development assistance that directly addresses basic human needs, is not administered by the central government of the sanctioned country, and is not provided for the benefit of that government) for the subsequent fiscal year until such government complies with the minimum standards or makes significant efforts to bring itself into compliance.''.

(b) DEFINITION OF NONHUMANITARIAN, NONTRADE RELATED ASSISTANCE.—Section 103(10) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102(10)) is amended to read as follows:

''(10) NONHUMANITARIAN, NONTRADE-RELATED FOREIGN ASSISTANCE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'nonhumanitarian, nontrade-related foreign assistance' means—

''(i) sales, or financing on any terms, under the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.), other than sales or financing provided for narcotics-related purposes following notification in accordance with the prior notification procedures applicable to reprogrammings pursuant to section 634A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2394–1); or

''(ii) United States foreign assistance, other than—

''(I) with respect to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961—

''(aa) assistance for international narcotics and law enforcement under chapter 8 of part I of such Act (22 U.S.C. 2291 et seq.);

''(bb) assistance for International Disaster Assistance under subsections (b) and (c) of section 491 of such Act (22 U.S.C. 2292);

''(cc) antiterrorism assistance under chapter 8 of part II of such Act (22 U.S.C. 2349aa et seq.); and

''(dd) health programs under chapters 1 and 10 of part I and chapter 4 of part II of such Act (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.);

''(II) assistance under the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1691 et seq.);

''(III) assistance under sections 2(a), (b), and (c) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962 (22 U.S.C. 2601(a), (b), (c)) to meet refugee and migration needs;

''(IV) any form of United States foreign assistance provided through nongovernmental organizations, international organizations, or private sector partners—

''(aa) to combat human and wildlife trafficking;

''(bb) to promote food security;

''(cc) to respond to emergencies;

''(dd) to provide humanitarian assistance;

''(ee) to address basic human needs, including for education;

''(ff) to advance global health security; or

''(gg) to promote trade; and

''(V) any other form of United States foreign assistance that the President determines, by not later than October 1 of each fiscal year, is necessary to advance the security, economic, humanitarian, or global health interests of the United States without compromising the steadfast United States commitment to combating human trafficking globally.

''(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term 'nonhumanitarian, nontrade-related foreign assistance' shall not include payments to or the participation of government entities necessary or incidental to the implementation of a program that is otherwise consistent with section 110.''.

SEC. 5648. EXPANDING PROTECTIONS FOR DOMESTIC WORKERS OF OFFICIAL AND DIPLOMATIC PERSONS.

Section 203(b) of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1375c(b)) is amended by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

''(5) NATIONAL EXPANSION OF IN-PERSON REGISTRATION PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall administer the Domestic Worker In-Person Registration Program for employees with A–3 visas or G–5 visas employed by accredited foreign mission members or international organization employees and shall expand this program nationally, which shall include—

''(A) after the arrival of each such employee in the United States, and annually during the course of such employee's employment, a description of the rights of such employee under applicable Federal and State law;

''(B) provision of a copy of the pamphlet developed pursuant to section 202 to the employee with an A–3 visa or a G–5 visa; and

''(C) information on how to contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline.

''(6) MONITORING AND TRAINING OF A–3 AND G–5 VISA EMPLOYERS ACCREDITED TO FOREIGN MISSIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.—The Secretary shall—

''(A) inform embassies, international organizations, and foreign missions of the rights of A–3 and G–5 domestic workers under the applicable labor laws of the United States, including the fair labor standards described in the pamphlet developed pursuant to section 202 and material on labor standards and labor rights of domestic worker employees who hold A–3 and G–5 visas;

''(B) inform embassies, international organizations, and foreign missions of the potential consequences to individuals holding a nonimmigrant visa issued pursuant to subparagraph (A)(i), (A)(ii), (G)(i), (G)(ii), or (G)(iii) of section 101(a)(15) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)) who violate the laws described in subclause (I)(aa), including (at the discretion of the Secretary)—

''(i) the suspension of A–3 visas and G–5 visas;

''(ii) request for waiver of immunity;

''(iii) criminal prosecution;

''(iv) civil damages; and

''(v) permanent revocation of or refusal to renew the visa of the accredited foreign mission or international organization employee; and

''(C) require all accredited foreign mission and international organization employers of individuals holding A–3 visas or G–5 visas to report the wages paid to such employees on an annual basis.''.

SEC. 5649. EFFECTIVE DATES.

Sections 5646(b) and 5647, and the amendments made by those sections, take effect on the date that is the first day of the first full reporting period for the report required under section 110(b)(1) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107(b)(1)) after the date of the enactment of this Act.

PART II—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 5651. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATIONS UNDER THE VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING AND VIOLENCE PROTECTION ACT OF 2000.

Section 113 of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7110) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''2018 through 2021, $13,822,000'' and inserting ''2026 through 2030, $17,000,000''; and

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''2018 through 2021, $65,000,000'' and inserting ''2026 through 2030, $102,500,000''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) PROGRAMS TO END MODERN SLAVERY.—Of the amounts authorized by paragraph (1) to be appropriated for a fiscal year, not more than $37,500,000 may be made available to fund programs to end modern slavery.''.

SEC. 5652. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATIONS UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL MEGAN'S LAW.

Section 11 of the International Megan's Law to Prevent Child Exploitation and Other Sexual Crimes Through Advanced Notification of Traveling Sex Offenders (34 U.S.C. 21509) is amended by striking ''2018 through 2021'' and inserting ''2025 through 2029''.

PART III—BRIEFINGS

SEC. 5655. BRIEFING ON ANNUAL TRAFFICKING IN PERSON'S REPORT.

Not later than 30 days after the public designation of country tier rankings and subsequent publishing of the Trafficking in Persons Report, the Secretary of State shall brief the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives on—

(1) countries that were downgraded or upgraded in the most recent Trafficking in Persons Report; and

(2) the efforts made by the United States to improve counter-trafficking efforts in those countries, including foreign government efforts to better meet minimum standards to eliminate human trafficking.

SEC. 5656. BRIEFING ON USE AND JUSTIFICATION OF WAIVERS.

Not later than 30 days after the President has determined to issue a waiver under section 110(d)(5) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107(d)(5)), the Secretary of State shall brief the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives on—

(1) each country that received a waiver;

(2) the justification for each such waiver; and

(3) a description of the efforts made by each country to meet the minimum standards to eliminate human trafficking.

Subtitle E—International Nuclear Energy Act of 2025

SEC. 5661. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''International Nuclear Energy Act of 2025''.

SEC. 5662. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) ADVANCED NUCLEAR REACTOR.—The term ''advanced nuclear reactor'' means—

(A) a nuclear fission reactor, including a prototype plant (as defined in sections 50.2 and 52.1 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations)), with significant improvements compared to reactors operating on October 19, 2016, including improvements such as—

(i) additional inherent safety features;

(ii) lower waste yields;

(iii) improved fuel and material performance;

(iv) increased tolerance to loss of fuel cooling;

(v) enhanced reliability or improved resilience;

(vi) increased proliferation resistance;

(vii) increased thermal efficiency;

(viii) reduced consumption of cooling water and other environmental impacts;

(ix) the ability to integrate into electric applications and nonelectric applications;

(x) modular sizes to allow for deployment that corresponds with the demand for electricity or process heat; and

(xi) operational flexibility to respond to changes in demand for electricity or process heat and to complement integration with intermittent renewable energy or energy storage;

(B) a fusion reactor; and

(C) a radioisotope power system that utilizes heat from radioactive decay to generate energy.

(2) ALLY OR PARTNER NATION.—The term ''ally or partner nation'' means—

(A) the Government of any country that is a member of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development;

(B) the Government of the Republic of India; and

(C) the Government of any country designated as an ally or partner nation by the Secretary of State for purposes of this subtitle.

(3) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committees on Foreign Relations and Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate; and

(B) the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

(4) ASSISTANT.—The term ''Assistant'' means the Assistant to the President and Director for International Nuclear Energy Export Policy described in section 5663(a)(1)(D).

(5) ASSOCIATED ENTITY.—The term ''associated entity'' means an entity that—

(A) is owned, controlled, or operated by—

(i) an ally or partner nation; or

(ii) an associated individual; or

(B) is organized under the laws of, or otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of, a country described in paragraph (2), including a corporation that is incorporated in a country described in that paragraph.

(6) ASSOCIATED INDIVIDUAL.—The term ''associated individual'' means a foreign national who is a national of a country described in paragraph (2).

(7) CIVIL NUCLEAR.—The term ''civil nuclear'' means activities relating to—

(A) nuclear plant construction;

(B) nuclear fuel services;

(C) nuclear energy financing;

(D) nuclear plant operations;

(E) nuclear plant regulation;

(F) nuclear medicine;

(G) nuclear safety;

(H) community engagement in areas in reasonable proximity to nuclear sites;

(I) infrastructure support for nuclear energy;

(J) nuclear plant decommissioning;

(K) nuclear liability;

(L) safe storage and safe disposal of spent nuclear fuel;

(M) environmental safeguards;

(N) nuclear nonproliferation and security; and

(O) technology related to the matters described in subparagraphs (A) through (N).

(8) EMBARKING CIVIL NUCLEAR NATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''embarking civil nuclear nation'' means a country that—

(i) does not have a civil nuclear energy program;

(ii) is in the process of developing or expanding a civil nuclear energy program, including safeguards and a legal and regulatory framework, for—

(I) nuclear safety;

(II) nuclear security;

(III) radioactive waste management;

(IV) civil nuclear energy;

(V) environmental safeguards;

(VI) community engagement in areas in reasonable proximity to nuclear sites;

(VII) nuclear liability; or

(VIII) advanced nuclear reactor licensing;

(iii) is in the process of selecting, developing, constructing, or utilizing advanced light water reactors, advanced nuclear reactors, or advanced civil nuclear technologies; or

(iv) is eligible to receive development lending from the World Bank.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ''embarking civil nuclear nation'' does not include—

(i) the People's Republic of China;

(ii) the Russian Federation;

(iii) the Republic of Belarus;

(iv) the Islamic Republic of Iran;
(v) the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;
(vi) the Republic of Cuba;
(vii) the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela;
(viii) Burma; or
(ix) any other country—
(I) the property or interests in property of the government of which are blocked pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); or
(II) the government of which the Secretary of State has determined has repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism for purposes of—
(aa) section 620A(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371(a));
(bb) section 40(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2780(d));
(cc) section 1754(c)(1)(A)(i) of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4813(c)(1)(A)(i)); or
(dd) any other relevant provision of law.

(9) NATIONAL ENERGY DOMINANCE COUNCIL.—The term ''National Energy Dominance Council'' means the National Energy Dominance Council established within the Executive Office of the President under Executive Order 14213 (90 Fed. Reg. 9945; relating to establishing the National Energy Dominance Council).

(10) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Energy.

(11) SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL.—The term ''spent nuclear fuel'' has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (42 U.S.C. 10101).

(12) U.S. NUCLEAR ENERGY COMPANY.—The term ''U.S. nuclear energy company'' means a company that—
(A) is organized under the laws of, or otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of, the United States; and
(B) is involved in the nuclear energy industry.

SEC. 5663. CIVIL NUCLEAR COORDINATION AND STRATEGY.

(a) WHITE HOUSE FOCAL POINT ON CIVIL NUCLEAR COORDINATION.—
(1) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—Given the critical importance of developing and implementing, with input from various agencies throughout the executive branch, a cohesive policy with respect to international efforts related to civil nuclear energy, it is the sense of Congress that—
(A) there should be a focal point within the White House, which may, if determined to be appropriate, report to the National Security Council, for coordination on issues relating to those efforts;
(B) to provide that focal point, the President should designate, within the National Energy Dominance Council, an office, to be known as the ''Office of the Assistant to the President and Director for International Nuclear Energy Export Policy'' (referred to in this subsection as the ''Office'');
(C) the Office should act as a coordinating office for—
(i) international civil nuclear cooperation; and
(ii) civil nuclear export strategy;
(D) the Office should be headed by an individual appointed as an Assistant to the President with the title of ''Director for International Nuclear Energy Export Policy'' who is also a member of the National Energy Dominance Council; and
(E) the Office should—
(i) coordinate civil nuclear export policies for the United States;
(ii) develop, in coordination with the officials described in paragraph (2), a cohesive Federal strategy for engagement with foreign governments (including ally or partner nations and the governments of embarking civil nuclear nations), associated entities, and associated individuals with respect to civil nuclear exports;
(iii) coordinate with the officials described in paragraph (2) to ensure that necessary framework agreements and trade controls relating to civil nuclear materials and technologies are in place for key markets; and
(iv) develop—
(I) a whole-of-government coordinating strategy for civil nuclear cooperation;
(II) a whole-of-government strategy for civil nuclear exports; and
(III) a whole-of-government approach to support appropriate foreign investment in civil nuclear energy projects supported by the United States in embarking civil nuclear nations.

(2) OFFICIALS DESCRIBED.—The officials referred to in paragraph (1)(E) are—
(A) appropriate officials of any Federal agency that the President determines to be appropriate; and
(B) appropriate officials representing foreign countries and governments, including—
(i) ally or partner nations;
(ii) embarking civil nuclear nations; and
(iii) any other country or government that the Assistant (if appointed) and the officials described in subparagraph (A) jointly determine to be appropriate.

(b) NUCLEAR EXPORTS WORKING GROUP.—
(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a working group, to be known as the ''Nuclear Exports Working Group'' (referred to in this subsection as the ''working group'').
(2) COMPOSITION.—The working group shall be composed of—
(A) senior-level Federal officials, selected internally by the applicable Federal agency or organization, from any Federal agency or organization that the President determines to be appropriate; and
(B) other senior-level Federal officials, selected internally by the applicable Federal agency or organization, from any other Federal agency or organization that the Secretary determines to be appropriate.
(3) REPORTING.—The working group shall report to the appropriate White House official, which may be the Assistant (if appointed).
(4) DUTIES.—The working group shall coordinate, not less frequently than quarterly, with the Civil Nuclear Trade Advisory Committee of the Department of Commerce, the Nuclear Energy Advisory Committee of the Department of Energy, and other advisory or stakeholder groups, as necessary, to maintain an accurate and up-to-date knowledge of the standing of civil nuclear exports from the United States, including with respect to meeting the targets established as part of the 10-year civil nuclear trade strategy described in paragraph (5)(A).
(5) STRATEGY.—
(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the working group shall establish a 10-year civil nuclear trade strategy, including biennial targets for the export of civil nuclear technologies, including light water and non-light water reactors and associated equipment and technologies, civil nuclear materials, and nuclear fuel that align with meeting international energy demand while seeking to avoid or reduce emissions and prevent the dissemination of nuclear technology, materials, and weapons to adversarial nations and terrorist groups.
(B) COLLABORATION REQUIRED.—In establishing the strategy under subparagraph (A), the working group shall collaborate with—
(i) any Federal agency that the President determines to be appropriate; and
(ii) representatives of private industry and experts in nuclear security and risk reduction, as appropriate.

SEC. 5664. ENGAGEMENT WITH ALLY OR PARTNER NATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall launch, in accordance with applicable nuclear technology export laws (including regulations), an international initiative to modernize the civil nuclear outreach to embarking civil nuclear nations.
(b) FINANCING.—In carrying out the initiative described in subsection (a), the President, acting through an appropriate Federal official, who may be the Assistant (if appointed), if determined to be appropriate, and in coordination with the officials described in section 5663(a)(2), may, if the President determines to be appropriate, seek to establish cooperative financing relationships for the export of civil nuclear technology, components, materials, and infrastructure to embarking civil nuclear nations.
(c) ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out the initiative described in subsection (a), the President shall—
(1) assist nongovernmental organizations and appropriate offices, administrations, agencies, laboratories, and programs of the Department of Energy and other relevant Federal agencies and offices in providing education and training to foreign governments in nuclear safety, security, and safeguards—
(A) through engagement with the International Atomic Energy Agency; or
(B) independently, if the applicable entity determines that it would be more advantageous under the circumstances to provide the applicable education and training independently;
(2) assist the efforts of the International Atomic Energy Agency to expand the support provided by the International Atomic Energy Agency to embarking civil nuclear nations for nuclear safety, security, and safeguards;
(3) coordinate with appropriate Federal departments and agencies on efforts to expand outreach to the private investment community and establish public-private financing relationships that enable the adoption of civil nuclear technologies by embarking civil nuclear nations, including through exports from the United States;
(4) seek to better coordinate, to the maximum extent practicable, the work carried out by any Federal agency that the President determines to be appropriate; and
(5) coordinate with the Export-Import Bank of the United States to improve the efficient and effective exporting and importing of civil nuclear technologies and materials.

SEC. 5665. COOPERATIVE FINANCING RELATIONSHIPS WITH ALLY OR PARTNER NATIONS AND EMBARKING CIVIL NUCLEAR NATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall designate an appropriate White House official, who may be the Assistant (if appointed), to coordinate with the officials described in section 5663(a)(2) to develop, as the President determines to be appropriate, financing relationships with ally or partner nations to assist in the adoption of civil nuclear technologies exported from the United States or ally or partner nations to embarking civil nuclear nations.
(b) UNITED STATES COMPETITIVENESS CLAUSES.—
(1) DEFINITION OF UNITED STATES COMPETITIVENESS CLAUSE.—In this subsection, the term ''United States competitiveness clause'' means any United States competitiveness provision in any agreement entered into by the Department of Energy, including—
(A) a cooperative agreement;
(B) a cooperative research and development agreement; and

(C) a patent waiver.

(2) CONSIDERATION.—In carrying out subsection (a), the relevant officials described in that subsection shall consider the impact of United States competitiveness clauses on any financing relationships entered into or proposed to be entered into under that subsection.

(3) WAIVER.—The Secretary shall facilitate waivers of United States competitiveness clauses as necessary to facilitate financing relationships with ally or partner nations under subsection (a).

SEC. 5666. COOPERATION WITH ALLY OR PARTNER NATIONS ON ADVANCED NUCLEAR REACTOR DEMONSTRATION AND COOPERATIVE RESEARCH FACILITIES FOR CIVIL NUCLEAR ENERGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary and the Secretary of Commerce, shall conduct bilateral and multilateral meetings with not fewer than 5 ally or partner nations, with the aim of enhancing nuclear energy cooperation among those ally or partner nations and the United States, for the purpose of developing collaborative relationships with respect to research, development, licensing, and deployment of advanced nuclear reactor technologies for civil nuclear energy.

(b) REQUIREMENT.—The meetings described in subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a focus on cooperation to demonstrate and deploy advanced nuclear reactors, with an emphasis on U.S. nuclear energy companies, during the 10-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act to provide options for addressing energy security and environmental impacts; and

(2) a focus on developing a memorandum of understanding or any other appropriate agreement between the United States and ally or partner nations with respect to—

(A) the demonstration and deployment of advanced nuclear reactors; and

(B) the development of cooperative research facilities.

(c) FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS.—In conducting the meetings described in subsection (a), the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary, the Secretary of Commerce, and the heads of other relevant Federal agencies and only after initial consultation with the appropriate committees of Congress, shall seek to develop financing arrangements to share the costs of the demonstration and deployment of advanced nuclear reactors and the development of cooperative research facilities with the ally or partner nations participating in those meetings.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, the Secretary of State, and the Secretary of Commerce shall jointly submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report highlighting potential partners—

(1) for the establishment of cost-share arrangements described in subsection (c) and the details of those arrangements; or

(2) with which the United States may enter into agreements with respect to—

(A) the demonstration of advanced nuclear reactors; or

(B) cooperative research facilities.

SEC. 5667. INTERNATIONAL CIVIL NUCLEAR ENERGY COOPERATION.

Section 959B of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16279b) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''The Secretary'' and inserting the following:

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary'';

(2) in subsection (a) (as so designated)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking ''financing,''; and

(ii) by striking ''and'' after the semicolon at the end;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''preparations for''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (C)(v), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) to support, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, the safe, secure, and peaceful use of civil nuclear technology in countries developing nuclear energy programs, with a focus on countries that have increased civil nuclear cooperation with the Russian Federation or the People's Republic of China; and

''(4) to promote the fullest utilization of the reactors, fuel, equipment, services, and technology of U.S. nuclear energy companies (as defined in section 5662 of the International Nuclear Energy Act of 2025) in civil nuclear energy programs outside the United States through—

''(A) bilateral and multilateral arrangements developed and executed with the concurrence of the Secretary of State that contain commitments for the utilization of the reactors, fuel, equipment, services, and technology of U.S. nuclear energy companies (as defined in that section);

''(B) the designation of 1 or more U.S. nuclear energy companies (as defined in that section) to implement an arrangement under subparagraph (A) if the Secretary determines that the designation is necessary and appropriate to achieve the objectives of this section; and

''(C) the waiver of any provision of law relating to competition with respect to any activity related to an arrangement under subparagraph (A) if the Secretary, in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of Commerce, determines that a waiver is necessary and appropriate to achieve the objectives of this section.''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The program under subsection (a) shall be supported in consultation with the Secretary of State and implemented by the Secretary—

''(1) to facilitate, to the maximum extent practicable, workshops and expert-based exchanges to engage industry, stakeholders, and foreign governments with respect to international civil nuclear issues, such as—

''(A) training;

''(B) financing;

''(C) safety;

''(D) security;

''(E) safeguards;

''(F) liability;

''(G) advanced fuels;

''(H) operations; and

''(I) options for multinational cooperation with respect to the disposal of spent nuclear fuel (as defined in section 2 of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (42 U.S.C. 10101)); and

''(2) in coordination with any Federal agency that the President determines to be appropriate.

''(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Secretary to carry out the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) in fiscal years 2026 through 2030, the Secretary may use $15,500,000 to carry out this section.''.

SEC. 5668. INTERNATIONAL CIVIL NUCLEAR PROGRAM SUPPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary and the Assistant (if appointed), shall launch an international initiative (referred to in this section as the ''initiative'') to provide financial assistance to, and facilitate the building of technical capacities by, in accordance with this section, embarking civil nuclear nations for activities relating to the development of civil nuclear energy programs.

(b) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the initiative, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary and the Assistant (if appointed), is authorized to award grants of financial assistance in amounts not greater than $5,500,000 to embarking civil nuclear nations in accordance with this subsection—

(A) for activities relating to the development of civil nuclear energy programs; and

(B) to facilitate the building of technical capacities for those activities.

(2) LIMITATIONS.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary and the Assistant (if appointed), may award—

(A) not more than 1 grant of financial assistance under paragraph (1) to any 1 embarking civil nuclear nation each fiscal year; and

(B) not more than a total of 5 grants of financial assistance under paragraph (1) to any 1 embarking civil nuclear nation.

(c) SENIOR ADVISORS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the initiative, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary and the Assistant (if appointed), is authorized to provide financial assistance to an embarking civil nuclear nation for the purpose of contracting with a U.S. nuclear energy company to hire 1 or more senior advisors to assist the embarking civil nuclear nation in establishing a civil nuclear program.

(2) REQUIREMENT.—A senior advisor described in paragraph (1) shall have relevant experience and qualifications to advise the embarking civil nuclear nation on, and facilitate on behalf of the embarking civil nuclear nation, 1 or more of the following activities:

(A) The development of financing relationships.

(B) The development of a standardized financing and project management framework for the construction of nuclear power plants.

(C) The development of a standardized licensing framework for—

(i) light water civil nuclear technologies; and

(ii) non-light water civil nuclear technologies and advanced nuclear reactors.

(D) The identification of qualified organizations and service providers.

(E) The identification of funds to support payment for services required to develop a civil nuclear program.

(F) Market analysis.

(G) The identification of the safety, security, safeguards, and nuclear governance required for a civil nuclear program.

(H) Risk allocation, risk management, and nuclear liability.

(I) Technical assessments of nuclear reactors and technologies.

(J) The identification of actions necessary to participate in a global nuclear liability regime based on the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage, with Annex, done at Vienna September 12, 1997 (TIAS 15–415).

(K) Stakeholder engagement.

(L) Management of spent nuclear fuel and nuclear waste.

(M) Any other major activities to support the establishment of a civil nuclear program, such as the establishment of export, financing, construction, training, operations, and education requirements.

(3) CLARIFICATION.—Financial assistance under this subsection is authorized to be provided to an embarking civil nuclear nation

in addition to any financial assistance provided to that embarking civil nuclear nation under subsection (b).

(d) LIMITATION ON ASSISTANCE TO EMBARKING CIVIL NUCLEAR NATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Offices of the Inspectors General for the Department of State and the Department of Energy shall coordinate—

(1) to establish and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a joint strategic plan to conduct comprehensive oversight of activities authorized under this section to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse; and

(2) to engage in independent and effective oversight of activities authorized under this section through joint or individual audits, inspections, investigations, or evaluations.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Secretary of State to carry out the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) in fiscal years 2026 through 2030, the Secretary of State may use $50,000,000 to carry out this section.

SEC. 5669. BIENNIAL CABINET-LEVEL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NUCLEAR SAFETY, SECURITY, SAFEGUARDS, AND SUSTAINABILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President, in coordination with international partners, as determined by the President, and industry, shall hold a biennial conference on civil nuclear safety, security, safeguards, and sustainability (referred to in this section as a ''conference'').

(b) CONFERENCE FUNCTIONS.—It is the sense of Congress that each conference should—

(1) be a forum in which ally or partner nations may engage with each other for the purpose of reinforcing the commitment to—

(A) nuclear safety, security, safeguards, and sustainability;

(B) environmental safeguards; and

(C) local community engagement in areas in reasonable proximity to nuclear sites; and

(2) facilitate—

(A) the development of—

(i) joint commitments and goals to improve—

(I) nuclear safety, security, safeguards, and sustainability;

(II) environmental safeguards; and

(III) local community engagement in areas in reasonable proximity to nuclear sites;

(ii) stronger international institutions that support nuclear safety, security, safeguards, and sustainability;

(iii) cooperative financing relationships to promote competitive alternatives to Chinese and Russian financing;

(iv) a standardized financing and project management framework for the construction of civil nuclear power plants;

(v) a standardized licensing framework for civil nuclear technologies;

(vi) a strategy to change internal policies of multinational development banks, such as the World Bank, to support the financing of civil nuclear projects;

(vii) a document containing any lessons learned from countries that have partnered with the Russian Federation or the People's Republic of China with respect to civil nuclear power, including any detrimental outcomes resulting from that partnership; and

(viii) a global civil nuclear liability regime;

(B) cooperation for enhancing the overall aspects of civil nuclear power, such as—

(i) nuclear safety, security, safeguards, and sustainability;

(ii) nuclear laws (including regulations);

(iii) waste management;

(iv) quality management systems;

(v) technology transfer;

(vi) human resources development;

(vii) localization;

(viii) reactor operations;

(ix) nuclear liability; and

(x) decommissioning; and

(C) the development and determination of the mechanisms described in paragraphs (7) and (8) of section 5670(a), if the President intends to establish an Advanced Reactor Coordination and Resource Center as described in that section.

(c) INPUT FROM INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT.—It is the sense of Congress that each conference should include a meeting that convenes nuclear industry leaders and leaders of government agencies with expertise relating to nuclear safety, security, safeguards, or sustainability to discuss best practices relating to—

(1) the safe and secure use, storage, and transport of nuclear and radiological materials;

(2) managing the evolving cyber threat to nuclear and radiological security; and

(3) the role that the nuclear industry should play in nuclear and radiological safety, security, and safeguards, including with respect to the safe and secure use, storage, and transport of nuclear and radiological materials, including spent nuclear fuel and nuclear waste.

SEC. 5670. ADVANCED REACTOR COORDINATION AND RESOURCE CENTER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall consider the feasibility of leveraging existing activities or frameworks or, as necessary, establishing a center, to be known as the ''Advanced Reactor Coordination and Resource Center'' (referred to in this section as the ''Center''), for the purposes of—

(1) identifying qualified organizations and service providers—

(A) for embarking civil nuclear nations;

(B) to develop and assemble documents, contracts, and related items required to establish a civil nuclear program; and

(C) to develop a standardized model for the establishment of a civil nuclear program that can be used by the International Atomic Energy Agency;

(2) coordinating with countries participating in the Center and with the Nuclear Exports Working Group established under section 5663(b)—

(A) to identify funds to support payment for services required to develop a civil nuclear program;

(B) to provide market analysis; and

(C) to create—

(i) project structure models;

(ii) models for electricity market analysis;

(iii) models for nonelectric applications market analysis; and

(iv) financial models;

(3) identifying and developing the safety, security, safeguards, and nuclear governance required for a civil nuclear program;

(4) supporting multinational regulatory standards to be developed by countries with civil nuclear programs and experience;

(5) developing and strengthening communications, engagement, and consensus-building;

(6) carrying out any other major activities to support export, financing, education, construction, training, and education requirements relating to the establishment of a civil nuclear program;

(7) developing mechanisms for how to fund and staff the Center; and

(8) determining mechanisms for the selection of the location or locations of the Center.

(b) OBJECTIVE.—The President shall carry out subsection (a) with the objective of establishing the Center if the President determines that it is feasible to do so.

SEC. 5671. STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE FUND WORKING GROUP.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a working group, to be known as the ''Strategic Infrastructure Fund Working Group'' (referred to in this section as the ''working group'') to provide input on the feasibility of establishing a program to support strategically important capital-intensive infrastructure projects.

(b) COMPOSITION.—The working group shall be—

(1) led by a White House official, who may be the Assistant (if appointed), who shall serve as the White House focal point with respect to matters relating to the working group; and

(2) composed of—

(A) senior-level Federal officials, selected by the head of the applicable Federal agency or organization, from any Federal agency or organization that the President determines to be appropriate;

(B) other senior-level Federal officials, selected by the head of the applicable Federal agency or organization, from any other Federal agency or organization that the Secretary determines to be appropriate; and

(C) any senior-level Federal official selected by the White House official described in paragraph (1) from any Federal agency or organization.

(c) REPORTING.—The working group shall report to the National Security Council.

(d) DUTIES.—The working group shall—

(1) provide direction and advice to the officials described in section 5663(a)(2)(A) and appropriate Federal agencies, as determined by the working group, with respect to the establishment of a Strategic Infrastructure Fund (referred to in this subsection as the ''Fund'') to be used—

(A) to support those aspects of projects relating to—

(i) civil nuclear technologies; and

(ii) microprocessors; and

(B) for strategic investments identified by the working group; and

(2) address critical areas in determining the appropriate design for the Fund, including—

(A) transfer of assets to the Fund;

(B) transfer of assets from the Fund;

(C) how assets in the Fund should be invested; and

(D) governance and implementation of the Fund.

(e) BRIEFING AND REPORT REQUIRED.—

(1) BRIEFING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the working group shall brief the committees described in paragraph (3) on the status of the development of the processes necessary to implement this section.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the working group shall submit to the committees described in paragraph (3) a report on the findings of the working group that includes suggested legislative text for how to establish and structure a Strategic Infrastructure Fund.

(3) COMMITTEES DESCRIBED.—The committees referred to in paragraphs (1) and (2) are—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, the Committee on Environment and Public Works, the Committee on Finance, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, the Committee on Ways and Means, and the

Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(4) ADMINISTRATION OF THE FUND.—The report submitted under paragraph (2) shall include suggested legislative language requiring all expenditures from a Strategic Infrastructure Fund established in accordance with this section to be administered by the Secretary of State (or a designee of the Secretary of State).

SEC. 5672. JOINT ASSESSMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND INDIA ON NUCLEAR LIABILITY RULES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall establish and maintain within the U.S.-India Strategic Security Dialogue a joint consultative mechanism with the Government of the Republic of India that convenes on a recurring basis—

(1) to assess the implementation of the Agreement for Cooperation between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of India Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, signed at Washington October 10, 2008 (TIAS 08–1206);

(2) to discuss opportunities for the Republic of India to align domestic nuclear liability rules with international norms; and

(3) to develop a strategy for the United States and the Republic of India to pursue bilateral and multilateral diplomatic engagements related to analyzing and implementing those opportunities.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 5 years, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that describes the joint assessment developed pursuant to subsection (a)(1).

SEC. 5673. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Except as expressly stated in this subtitle, nothing in this subtitle may be construed to alter or otherwise affect the interpretation or implementation of section 123 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2153) or any other provision of law, including the requirement that agreements pursuant to that section be submitted to Congress for consideration.

SEC. 5674. SUNSET.

This subtitle and the amendments made by this subtitle shall cease to have effect on the date that is 20 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

Subtitle F—Western Balkans Democracy and Prosperity Act

SEC. 5681. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Western Balkans Democracy and Prosperity Act''.

SEC. 5682. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The Western Balkans countries (the Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Kosovo, Montenegro, the Republic of North Macedonia and the Republic of Serbia) form a pluralistic, multi-ethnic region in the heart of Europe that is critical to the peace, stability, and prosperity of that continent.

(2) Continued peace, stability, and prosperity in the Western Balkans is directly tied to the opportunities for democratic and economic advancement available to the citizens and residents of those seven countries.

(3) It is in the mutual interest of the United States and the seven countries of the Western Balkans to promote stable and sustainable economic growth and development in the region.

(4) The reforms and integration with the European Union pursued by countries in the Western Balkans have led to significant democratic and economic progress in the region.

(5) Despite economic progress, rates of poverty and unemployment in the Western Balkans remain higher than in neighboring European Union countries.

(6) Out-migration, particularly of youth, is affecting demographics in each Western Balkans country, resulting in population decline in all seven countries.

(7) Implementing critical economic and governance reforms could help enable investment and employment opportunities in the Western Balkans, especially for youth, and can provide powerful tools for economic development and for encouraging broader participation in a political process that increases trade and prosperity for all.

(8) Existing regional economic efforts, such as the Common Regional Market, the Berlin Process, and the Open Balkan Initiative, could have the potential to improve the economic conditions in the Western Balkans, while promoting inclusion and transparency.

(9) The Department of Commerce, through its Foreign Commercial Service, plays an important role in promoting and facilitating opportunities for United States trade and investment.

(10) Corruption, including among key political leaders, continues to plague the Western Balkans and represents one of the greatest impediments to further economic and political development in the region.

(11) Disinformation campaigns targeting the Western Balkans undermine the credibility of its democratic institutions, including the integrity of its elections.

(12) Vulnerability to cyberattacks or attacks on information and communication technology infrastructure increases risks to the functioning of government and the delivery of public services.

(13) United States Cyber Command, the Department of State, and other Federal agencies play a critical role in defending the national security interests of the United States, including by deploying cyber hunt forward teams at the request of partner nations to reinforce their cyber defenses.

(14) Securing domestic and international cyber networks and ICT infrastructure is a national security priority for the United States, which is exemplified by offices and programs across the Federal Government that support cybersecurity.

(15) Corruption and disinformation proliferate in political environments marked by autocratic control or partisan conflict.

(16) Dependence on Russian sources of fossil fuels and natural gas for the countries of the Western Balkans ties their economies and politics to the Russian Federation and inhibits their aspirations for European integration.

(17) Reducing the reliance of the Western Balkans on Russian natural gas supplies and fossil fuels is in the national interest of the United States.

(18) The growing influence of China in the Western Balkans could also have a deleterious impact on strategic competition, democracy, and economic integration with Europe.

(19) In March 2022, President Biden launched the European Democratic Resilience Initiative to bolster democratic resilience, advance anti-corruption efforts, and defend human rights in Ukraine and its neighbors in response to Russia's war of aggression.

(20) The parliamentary and local elections held in Serbia on December 17, 2023, and their immediate aftermath are cause for deep concern about the state of Serbia's democracy, including due to the final report of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, which—

(A) found ''unjust conditions'' for the election;

(B) found ''numerous procedural deficiencies, including inconsistent application of safeguards during voting and counting, frequent instances of overcrowding, breaches in secrecy of the vote, and numerous instances of group voting''; and

(C) asserted that ''voting must be repeated'' in certain polling stations.

(21) The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe also noted that Serbian officials accused primarily peaceful protestors, opposition parties, and civil society of ''attempting to destabilize the government'', a concerning allegation that threatens the safety of important elements of Serbian society.

(22) Democratic countries whose values are in alignment with the United States make for stronger and more durable partnerships.

SEC. 5683. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is a sense of Congress that the United States should—

(1) encourage increased trade and investment between the United States and allies and partners in the Western Balkans;

(2) expand United States assistance to regional integration efforts in the Western Balkans;

(3) strengthen and expand regional economic integration in the Western Balkans, especially enterprises owned by and employing women and youth;

(4) work with allies and partners committed to improving the rule of law, energy resource diversification, democratic and economic reform, and the reduction of poverty in the Western Balkans;

(5) increase United States trade and investment with the Western Balkans, particularly in ways that support countries' efforts—

(A) to decrease dependence on Russian energy sources and fossil fuels;

(B) to increase energy diversification, efficiency, and conservation; and

(C) to facilitate the transition to cleaner and more reliable sources of energy, including renewables, as appropriate;

(6) continue to assist in the development, within the Western Balkans, of—

(A) strong civil societies;

(B) public-private partnerships;

(C) independent media;

(D) transparent, accountable, citizen-responsive governance, including equal representation for women, youth, and persons with disabilities;

(E) political stability; and

(F) modern, free-market based economies.

(7) support the expeditious accession of those Western Balkans countries that are not already members to the European Union and to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (referred to in this section as ''NATO'') for countries that desire, are eligible, and supported by all allies to proceed with an invitation for such membership;

(8) support—

(A) maintaining the full European Union Force (EUFOR) mandate in Bosnia and Herzegovina as being in the national security interests of the United States;

(B) encouraging NATO and the European Union to review their mission mandates and posture in Bosnia and Herzegovina to ensure they are playing a proactive role in establishing a safe and secure environment, particularly in the realm of defense;

(C) working within NATO to encourage contingency planning for an international military force to maintain a safe and secure environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina, especially if Russia blocks reauthorization of the mission in the United Nations; and

(D) a strengthened NATO headquarters in Sarajevo;

(9) continue to support the European Union membership aspirations of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia by supporting meeting the benchmarks required for their accession;

(10) continue to support the cultural heritage, and recognize the languages, of the Western Balkans;

(11) coordinate closely with the European Union, the United Kingdom, and other allies and partners on sanctions designations in Western Balkans countries and work to align efforts as much as possible to demonstrate a clear commitment to upholding democratic values;

(12) expand bilateral security cooperation with non-NATO member Western Balkans countries, particularly efforts focused on regional integration and cooperation, including through the Adriatic Charter, which was launched at Tirana on May 2, 2003;

(13) increase efforts to combat Russian malign influence campaigns and any other destabilizing or disruptive activities targeting the Western Balkans through engagement with government institutions, political stakeholders, journalists, civil society organizations, and industry leaders;

(14) develop a series of cyber resilience standards, consistent with the Enhanced Cyber Defence Policy and Readiness Action Plan endorsed at the 2014 Wales Summit of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to expand cooperation with partners and allies, including in the Western Balkans, on cyber security and ICT infrastructure;

(15) articulate clearly and unambiguously the United States commitment to supporting democratic values and respect for international law as the sole path forward for the countries of the Western Balkans; and

(16) prioritize partnerships and programming with Western Balkan countries that demonstrate commitment toward strengthening their democracies and show respect for human rights.

SEC. 5684. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) ICT.—The term ''ICT'' means information and communication technology.

(3) WESTERN BALKANS.—The term ''Western Balkans'' means the region comprised of the following countries:

(A) The Republic of Albania.

(B) Bosnia and Herzegovina.

(C) The Republic of Kosovo.

(D) Montenegro.

(E) The Republic of North Macedonia.

(F) The Republic of Serbia.

(4) WESTERN BALKANS COUNTRY.—The term ''Western Balkans country'' means any country listed in subparagraphs (A) through (G) of paragraph (3).

SEC. 5685. CODIFICATION OF SANCTIONS RELATING TO THE WESTERN BALKANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Each person listed or designated for the imposition of sanctions under an executive order described in subsection (c) as of the date of the enactment of this Act shall remain so designated, except as provided in subsections (d) and (e).

(b) CONTINUATION OF SANCTIONS AUTHORITIES.—Each authority to impose sanctions provided for under an executive order described in subsection (c) shall remain in effect.

(c) EXECUTIVE ORDERS SPECIFIED.—The executive orders specified in this subsection are—

(1) Executive Order 13219, as amended by Executive Order 13304 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property of persons who threaten international stabilization efforts in the Western Balkans); and

(2) Executive Order 14140 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property and suspending entry into the United States of certain persons contributing to the destabilizing situation in the Western Balkans), as in effect on such date of enactment.

(d) TERMINATION OF SANCTIONS.—The President may terminate the application of a sanction authorized under Executive Order 14140 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property and suspending entry into the United States of certain persons contributing to the destabilizing situation in the Western Balkans), with respect to a person if the President certifies to the appropriate committees of Congress that—

(1) the person is not engaging in the activity that was the basis for the sanctions or has taken significant verifiable steps toward stopping the activity; and

(2) the President has received reliable assurance s that the person will not knowingly engage in activity subject to sanctions described in subsection (a) in the future.

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING DELISTING PROCEDURES RELATING TO SANCTIONS AUTHORIZED UNDER EXECUTIVE ORDERS 13219 AND 13304.—Nothing in subsection (d) may be construed to modify the delisting procedures used by the Department of the Treasury with respect to sanctions authorized under Executive Order 13219, as amended by Executive Order 13304 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property of persons who threaten international stabilization efforts in the Western Balkans).

(f) WAIVER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may waive the application of sanctions under this section for renewable periods not to exceed 180 days if the President—

(A) determines that such a waiver is in the national security interests of the United States; and

(B) not less than 15 days before the granting of the waiver, submits to the appropriate congressional committees a notice of and justification for the waiver.

(2) FORM.—The waiver described in paragraph (1) may be transmitted in classified form.

(g) EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.—Sanctions under this Act shall not apply to—

(A) the conduct or facilitation of a transaction for the provision of agricultural commodities, food, medicine, medical devices, humanitarian assistance, or for humanitarian purposes; or

(B) transactions that are necessary for, or ordinarily incident to, the activities described in subparagraph (A).

(2) COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.—Sanctions under this Act shall not apply with respect to an alien if admitting or paroling such alien is necessary—

(A) to comply with United States obligations under—

(i) the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947;

(ii) the Convention on Consular Relations, done at Vienna April 24, 1963, and entered into force March 19, 1967; or

(iii) any other international agreement; or

(B) to carry out or assist law enforcement activity in the United States.

(3) EXCEPTION FOR INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.—Sanctions under this Act shall not apply to—

(A) any activity subject to the reporting requirements under title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.); or

(B) any authorized intelligence activities of the United States.

(4) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The requirement to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property under this Act shall not include the authority or a requirement to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(B) DEFINED TERM.—In this paragraph, the term ''good'' means any article, natural or manmade substance, material, supply or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment, and excluding technical data.

(h) RULEMAKING.—The President is authorized to promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section (which may include regulatory exceptions), including under section 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1704)).

(i) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to limit the authorities of the President under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

(j) SUNSET.—This section shall cease to have force or effect beginning on the date that is 8 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 5686. DEMOCRATIC AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PROSPERITY INITIATIVES.

(a) ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE.—The Secretary of State, through ongoing and new programs, shall develop an initiative that—

(1) seeks to expand technical assistance in each Western Balkans country, taking into account local conditions and contingent on the agreement of the host country government to develop new national anti-corruption strategies;

(2) seeks to share best practices with, and provide training, including through the use of embedded advisors, to civilian law enforcement agencies and judicial institutions, and other relevant administrative bodies, of the Western Balkans countries, to improve the efficiency, transparency, and accountability of such agencies and institutions;

(3) strengthens existing national anti-corruption strategies—

(A) to combat political corruption, particularly in the judiciary, independent election oversight bodies, and public procurement processes; and

(B) to strengthen regulatory and legislative oversight of critical governance areas, such as freedom of information and public procurement, including by strengthening cyber defenses and ICT infrastructure networks;

(4) includes the Western Balkans countries in the European Democratic Resilience Initiative of the Department of State, or any equivalent successor initiative, and considers the Western Balkans as a recipient of anti-corruption funding for such initiative; and

(5) seeks to promote the important role of an independent media in countering corruption through engagements with governments of Western Balkan countries and providing training opportunities for journalists on investigative reporting.

(b) PRIORITIZING CYBER RESILIENCE, REGIONAL TRADE, AND ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS.—

(1) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(A) promoting stronger economic, civic, and political relationships among Western Balkans countries will enable countries to better utilize existing resources and maximize their economic security and democratic resilience by reinforcing cyber defenses and increasing trade in goods and services among other countries in the region; and

(B) United States private investments in and assistance toward creating a more integrated region ensures political stability and security for the region.

(2) 5-YEAR STRATEGY FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND DEMOCRATIC RESILIENCE IN WESTERN BALKANS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a regional economic development and democratic resilience strategy for the Western Balkans that complements the efforts of the European Union, European nations, and other multilateral financing institutions—

(A) to consider the full set of tools and resources available from the relevant agencies;

(B) to include efforts to ensure coordination with multilateral and bilateral partners, such as the European Union, the World Bank, and other relevant assistance frameworks;

(C) to include an initial public assessment of—

(i) economic opportunities for which United States businesses, or those of other like-minded partner countries, would be competitive;

(ii) legal, economic, governance, infrastructural, or other barriers limiting United States trade and investment in the Western Balkans;

(iii) the effectiveness of all existing regional cooperation initiatives, such as the Open Balkan initiative and the Western Balkans Common Regional Market; and

(iv) ways to increase United States trade and investment within the Western Balkans;

(D) to develop human and institutional capacity and infrastructure across multiple sectors of economies, including clean energy, energy efficiency, agriculture, small and medium-sized enterprise development, health, and cyber-security;

(E) to assist with the development and implementation of regional and international trade agreements;

(F) to support small and medium-sized businesses, including women-owned enterprises;

(G) to promote government and civil society policies and programs that combat corruption and encourage transparency (including by supporting independent media by promoting the safety and security of journalists), free and fair competition, sound governance, judicial reform, environmental stewardship, and business environments conducive to sustainable and inclusive economic growth; and

(H) to include a public diplomacy strategy that describes the actions that will be taken by relevant agencies to increase support for the United States relationship by citizens of Western Balkans countries.

(3) BRIEFING.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall provide a briefing to the appropriate committees of Congress that describes the progress made towards developing the strategy required under paragraph (2).

(c) REGIONAL TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, may coordinate a regional trade and development initiative for the region comprised of each Western Balkans country and any European Union member country that shares a border with a Western Balkans country (referred to in this subsection as the ''Western Balkans region'') in accordance with this subsection.

(2) INITIATIVE ELEMENTS.—The initiative authorized under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) promote private sector growth and competitiveness and increase the capacity of businesses, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, in the Western Balkans region;

(B) aim to increase intraregional exports to countries in the Balkans and European Union member states;

(C) aim to increase United States exports to, and investments in, countries in the Balkans;

(D) support startup companies, including companies led by youth or women, in the Western Balkans region by—

(i) providing training in business skills and leadership; and

(ii) providing opportunities to connect to sources of capital;

(E) encourage and promote inward and outward trade and investment through engagement with the Western Balkans diaspora communities in the United States and abroad;

(F) provide assistance to the governments and civil society organizations of Western Balkans countries to develop—

(i) regulations to ensure fair and effective investment; and

(ii) screening tools to identify and deter malign investments and other coercive economic practices;

(G) identify areas where application of additional resources and workforce retraining could expand successful programs to 1 or more countries in the Western Balkans region by building on the existing experience and program architecture;

(H) compare existing single-country sector analyses to determine areas of focus that would benefit from a regional approach with respect to the Western Balkans region; and

(I) promote intraregional trade throughout the Western Balkans region through—

(i) programming, including grants, cooperative agreements, and other forms of assistance;

(ii) expanding awareness of the availability of loans and other financial instruments from the United States Government; and

(iii) coordinating access to existing trade instruments available through allies and partners in the Western Balkans region, including the European Union and international financial institutions.

(3) SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS.—The initiative authorized under paragraph (1) should facilitate and prioritize support for regional infrastructure projects, including—

(A) transportation projects that build roads, bridges, railways and other physical infrastructure to facilitate travel of goods and people throughout the Western Balkans region;

(B) technical support and investments needed to meet United States and European Union standards for air travel, including screening and information sharing;

(C) the development of telecommunications networks with trusted providers;

(D) infrastructure projects that connect Western Balkans countries to each other and to countries with which they share a border;

(E) information exchange on effective tender procedures and transparent procurement processes;

(F) investment transparency programs that will help countries in the Western Balkans analyze gaps and establish institutional and regulatory reforms necessary—

(i) to create an enabling environment for trade and investment; and

(ii) to strengthen protections against suspect investments through public procurement and privatization and through foreign direct investments;

(G) sharing best practices learned from the United States and other international partners to ensure that institutional and regulatory mechanisms for addressing these issues are fair, nonarbitrary, effective, and free from corruption;

(H) projects that support regional energy security and reduce dependence on Russian energy;

(I) technical assistance and generating private investment in projects that promote connectivity and energy-sharing in the Western Balkans region;

(J) technical assistance to support regional collaboration on environmental protection that includes governmental, political, civic, and business stakeholders; and

(K) technical assistance to develop financing options and help create linkages with potential financing institutions and investors.

(4) REQUIREMENTS.—All programming under the initiative authorized under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) be open to the participation of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia;

(B) be consistent with European Union accession requirements;

(C) be focused on retaining talent within the Western Balkans;

(D) promote government policies in Western Balkans countries that encourage free and fair competition, sound governance, environmental protection, and business environments that are conducive to sustainable and inclusive economic growth; and

(E) include a public diplomacy strategy to inform local and regional audiences in the Western Balkans region about the initiative, including specific programs and projects.

(d) UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION.—

(1) APPOINTMENTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, subject to the availability of appropriations, the Chief Executive Officer of the United States International Development Finance Corporation, in collaboration with the Secretary of State, should consider including a regional office with responsibilities for the Western Balkans within the Corporation's plans to open new regional offices.

(2) JOINT REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chief Executive Officer of the United States International Development Finance Corporation and the Secretary of State shall submit a joint report to the appropriate committees of Congress that shall include—

(A) an assessment of the benefits of providing sovereign loan guarantees to countries in the Western Balkans to support infrastructure and energy diversification projects;

(B) an outline of additional resources, such as tools, funding, and personnel, which may be required to offer sovereign loan guarantees in the Western Balkans; and

(C) an assessment of how the United States International Development Finance Corporation, in coordination with the United States Trade and Development Agency and the Export-Import Bank of the United States, can deploy its insurance products in support of bonds or other instruments issued to raise

capital through United States financial markets in the Western Balkans.

SEC. 5687. PROMOTING CROSS-CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL ENGAGEMENT.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) promoting partnerships between United States universities and universities in the Western Balkans, particularly universities in traditionally under-served communities, advances United States foreign policy goals and requires a whole-of-government approach, including the utilization of public-private partnerships;

(2) such university partnerships would provide opportunities for exchanging academic ideas, technical expertise, research, and cultural understanding for the benefit of the United States, and may provide additional beneficial opportunities for cooperation in the private sector; and

(3) the seven countries in the Western Balkans meet the requirements under section 105(c)(4) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151c(c)(4)).

(b) UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS.—The President, working through the Secretary of State, is authorized to provide assistance, consistent with section 105 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151c), to promote the establishment of partnerships between United States universities and universities in the Western Balkans, including—

(1) supporting research and analysis on cyber resilience;

(2) working with partner governments to reform policies, improve curricula, strengthen data systems, train teachers and students, including English language teaching, and to provide quality, inclusive learning materials;

(3) encouraging knowledge exchanges to help provide individuals, particularly at-risk youth, women, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable, marginalized, or underserved communities, with relevant education, training, and skills for meaningful employment;

(4) promoting teaching and research exchanges between institutions of higher education in the Western Balkans and in the United States; and

(5) encouraging alliances and exchanges with like-minded institutions of education within the Western Balkans and the larger European continent.

SEC. 5688. YOUNG BALKAN LEADERS INITIATIVE.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that regular people-to-people exchange programs that bring religious leaders, journalists, civil society members, politicians, and other individuals from the Western Balkans to the United States will strengthen existing relationships and advance United States interests and shared values in the Western Balkans region.

(b) BOLD LEADERSHIP PROGRAM FOR YOUNG BALKANS LEADERS.—

(1) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—The Department of State, through BOLD, a leadership program for young leaders in certain Western Balkans countries, plays an important role to develop young leaders in improving civic engagement and economic development in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, and Montenegro.

(2) EXPANSION.—BOLD should be expanded, subject to the availability of appropriations, to the entire Western Balkans region.

(c) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary of State should further develop and implement BOLD, which shall hereafter be known as the ''Young Balkan Leaders Initiative'', to promote educational and professional development for young adult leaders and professionals in the Western Balkans who have demonstrated a passion to contribute to the continued development of the Western Balkans region.

(d) CONDUCT OF INITIATIVE.—The goals of the Young Balkan Leaders Initiative shall be—

(1) to further build the capacity of young Balkan leaders in the Western Balkans in the areas of business and information technology, cyber security and digitization, agriculture, civic engagement, and public administration;

(2) to support young Balkan leaders by offering professional development, training, and networking opportunities, particularly in the areas of leadership, innovation, civic engagement, elections, human rights, entrepreneurship, good governance, public administration, and journalism;

(3) to support young political, parliamentary, and civic Balkan leaders in collaboration on regional initiatives related to good governance, environmental protection, government ethics, and minority inclusion;

(4) to provide increased economic and technical assistance to young Balkan leaders to promote economic growth and strengthen ties between businesses, investors, and entrepreneurs in the United States and in Western Balkans countries;

(5) to tailor such assistance and exchanges to advance the particular objectives of each United States mission in the Western Balkans within the framework outlined in this subsection; and

(6) to secure funding for such assistance and exchanges from existing funds available to each United States Mission in the Western Balkans.

(e) FELLOWSHIPS.—Under the Young Balkan Leaders Initiative, the Secretary of State shall award fellowships to young leaders from the Western Balkans who—

(1) are between 18 and 35 years of age;

(2) have demonstrated strong capabilities in entrepreneurship, innovation, public service, and leadership;

(3) have had a positive impact in their communities, organizations, or institutions, including by promoting cross-regional and multiethnic cooperation; and

(4) represent a cross-section of geographic, gender, political, and cultural diversity.

(f) PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP CENTER.—Under the Young Balkan Leaders Initiative, the Secretary of State shall take advantage of existing and future public diplomacy facilities (commonly known as ''American Spaces'') to hire staff and develop programming for the establishment of a flagship public engagement and leadership center in the Western Balkans that seeks—

(1) to counter disinformation and malign influence;

(2) to promote cross-cultural engagement;

(3) to provide training for young leaders from Western Balkans countries described in subsection (e);

(4) to harmonize the efforts of existing venues throughout Western Balkans countries established by the Office of American Spaces; and

(5) to annually bring together participants from the Young Balkans Leaders Initiative to provide platforms for regional networking.

(g) BRIEFING ON CERTAIN EXCHANGE PROGRAMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall provide a briefing to the appropriate committees of Congress that describes the status of exchange programs involving the Western Balkans region.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The briefing required under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) assess the factors constraining the number and frequency of participants from Western Balkans countries in the International Visitor Leadership Program of the Department of State;

(B) identify the resources that are necessary to address the factors described in subparagraph (A); and

(C) describe a strategy for connecting alumni and participants of professional development exchange programs of the Department of State in the Western Balkans with alumni and participants from other countries in Europe, to enhance inter-region and intra-region people-to-people ties.

SEC. 5689. SUPPORTING CYBERSECURITY AND CYBER RESILIENCE IN THE WESTERN BALKANS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) United States support for cybersecurity, cyber resilience, and secure ICT infrastructure in Western Balkans countries will strengthen the region's ability to defend itself from and respond to malicious cyber activity conducted by nonstate and foreign actors, including foreign governments, that seek to influence the region;

(2) insecure ICT networks that are vulnerable to manipulation can increase opportunities for—

(A) the compromise of cyber infrastructure, including data networks, electronic infrastructure, and software systems; and

(B) the use of online information operations by adversaries and malign actors to undermine United States allies and interests; and

(3) it is in the national security interest of the United States to support the cybersecurity and cyber resilience of Western Balkans countries.

(b) INTERAGENCY REPORT ON CYBERSECURITY AND THE DIGITAL INFORMATION ENVIRONMENT IN WESTERN BALKANS COUNTRIES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress that contains—

(1) an overview of interagency efforts to strengthen cybersecurity and cyber resilience in Western Balkans countries;

(2) a review of the information environment in each Western Balkans country;

(3) a review of existing United States Government cyber and digital initiatives that—

(A) counter influence operations and safeguard elections and democratic processes in Western Balkans countries;

(B) strengthen ICT infrastructure, digital accessibility, and cybersecurity capacity in the Western Balkans;

(C) support democracy and internet freedom in Western Balkans countries; and

(D) build cyber capacity of governments who are allies or partners of the United States;

(4) an assessment of cyber threat information sharing between the United States and Western Balkans countries;

(5) an assessment of—

(A) options for the United States to better support cybersecurity and cyber resilience in Western Balkans countries through changes to current assistance authorities; and

(B) the advantages or limitations, such as funding or office space, of posting cyber professionals from other Federal departments and agencies to United States diplomatic posts in Western Balkans countries and providing relevant training to Foreign Service Officers; and

(6) any additional support needed from the United States for the cybersecurity and cyber resilience of the following NATO Allies: Albania, Montenegro, and North Macedonia.

SEC. 5690. RELATIONS BETWEEN KOSOVO AND SERBIA.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Agreement on the Path to Normalization of Relations, which was agreed to by Kosovo and Serbia on February 27, 2023, with the facilitation of the European Union, is a positive step forward in advancing normalization between the two countries;

(2) Serbia and Kosovo should seek to make immediate progress on the Implementation Annex to the agreement referred to in paragraph (1);

(3) once sufficient progress has been made on the Implementation Annex, the United States should consider advancing initiatives to strengthen bilateral relations with both countries, which could include—

(A) establishing bilateral strategic dialogues with Kosovo and Serbia; and

(B) advancing concrete initiatives to deepen trade and investment with both countries; and

(4) the United States should continue to support a comprehensive final agreement between Kosovo and Serbia based on mutual recognition.

(b) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States Government that—

(1) it shall not pursue any policy that advocates for land swaps, partition, or other forms of redrawing borders along ethnic lines in the Western Balkans as a means to settle disputes between nation states in the region; and

(2) it should support pluralistic democracies in countries in the Western Balkans as a means to prevent a return to the ethnic strife that once characterized the region.

SEC. 5690. REPORTS ON RUSSIAN AND CHINESE MALIGN INFLUENCE OPERATIONS AND CAMPAIGNS IN THE WESTERN BALKANS.

(a) REPORTS REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every two years thereafter, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, the Director of National Intelligence, and the heads of other Federal departments or agencies, as appropriate, shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress regarding Russian and Chinese malign influence operations and campaigns carried out with respect to Balkan countries that seek—

(1) to undermine democratic institutions;

(2) to promote political instability; and

(3) to harm the interests of the United States and North Atlantic Treaty Organization member and partner states in the Western Balkans.

(b) ELEMENTS.—Each report submitted pursuant to subsection (a) shall include—

(1) an assessment of the objectives of the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China regarding malign influence operations and campaigns carried out with respect to Western Balkans countries—

(A) to undermine democratic institutions, including the planning and execution of democratic elections;

(B) to promote political instability; and

(C) to manipulate the information environment;

(2) the activities and roles of the Department of State and other relevant Federal agencies in countering Russian and Chinese malign influence operations and campaigns;

(3) an assessment of—

(A) each network, entity and individual, to the extent such information is available, of Russia, China, or any other country with which Russia or China may cooperate, that is supporting such Russian or Chinese malign influence operations or campaigns, including the provision of financial or operational support to activities in a Western Balkans country that may limit freedom of speech or create barriers of access to democratic processes, including exercising the right to vote in a free and fair election; and

(B) the role of each such entity in providing such support;

(4) the identification of the tactics, techniques, and procedures used in Russian or Chinese malign influence operations and campaigns in Western Balkans countries;

(5) an assessment of the effect of previous Russian or Chinese malign influence operations and campaigns that targeted alliances and partnerships of the United States Armed Forces in the Western Balkans, including the effectiveness of such operations and campaigns in achieving the objectives of Russia and China, respectively;

(6) the identification of each Western Balkans country with respect to which Russia or China has conducted or attempted to conduct a malign influence operation or campaign;

(7) an assessment of the capacity and efforts of NATO and of each individual Western Balkans country to counter Russian or Chinese malign influence operations and campaigns carried out with respect to Western Balkans countries;

(8) the efforts by the United States to combat such malign influence operations in the Western Balkans, including through the Countering Russian Influence Fund and the Countering People's Republic of China Malign Influence Fund;

(9) an assessment of the tactics, techniques, and procedures that the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence and the Secretary of Defense, determines are likely to be used in future Russian or Chinese malign influence operations and campaigns carried out with respect to Western Balkans countries; and

(10) activities that the Department of State and other relevant Federal agencies could use to increase the United States Government's capacity to counter Russian and Chinese malign influence operations and campaigns in Western Balkans countries.

(c) FORM.—Each report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

Subtitle G—Security of Critical Mineral Supply Chains

SEC. 5701. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Critical Minerals Partnership Act of 2025''.

SEC. 5702. DEFINITION OF CRITICAL MINERAL.

In this subtitle, the term ''critical mineral''—

(1) has the meaning given the term in section 7002 of the Energy Act of 2020 (30 U.S.C. 1606); and

(2) includes any other mineral or mineral material determined by the Secretary of State—

(A) to be essential to the economic or national security of the United States; and

(B) to have a supply chain vulnerable to disruption.

SEC. 5703. STATEMENT OF POLICY ON CRITICAL MINERAL SUPPLY CHAINS.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to collaborate with allies and partners of the United States to build secure and resilient critical minerals supply chains, including in the mining, processing, reclamation and recycling, and valuation of critical minerals;

(2) to prioritize the development and production of critical mineral resources domestically, including through improvement of systems for collecting and recycling critical minerals from used and discarded goods or equipment, both to supply domestic needs and for export to allies and partners that participate in secure and resilient supply chains for critical minerals;

(3) to reduce or eliminate reliance and dependence on critical mineral supply chains controlled by the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, Iran, or any other adversary of the United States;

(4) to work with allies and partners on enhancing evaluation capability and technology in trusted countries that produce critical minerals to avoid the export of critical minerals, or products or components that are dependent on critical minerals, that are controlled by adversaries of the United States;

(5) to identify and implement market-based incentives for the purposes of facilitating the creation and maintenance of secure and resilient critical mineral supply chains, including for reclamation and recycling of critical mineral resources from waste streams, in collaboration with allies and partners;

(6) to prioritize securing critical mineral supply chains in United States foreign policy, including through the use of economic tools to invest responsibly in projects in partner countries in a manner that both benefits local populations and bolsters the supply of critical minerals to the United States and allies and partners of the United States; and

(7) that collaboration with allies and partners to build secure and resilient critical mineral supply chains shall not replace United States efforts to increase domestic development and production or recycling of critical minerals.

SEC. 5704. INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS RELATING TO PROTECTING CRITICAL MINERAL SUPPLY CHAINS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized to negotiate an agreement with international partners for the purposes of establishing a coalition—

(1) to facilitate—

(A) the mining, processing, recycling, and enhanced access to the supply of critical minerals; and

(B) advanced manufacturing that relies on the practical application of critical minerals; and

(2) to secure an adequate supply of critical minerals and relevant products, manufacturing inputs, and components that are heavily dependent on critical mineral resource inputs for the United States and other members of the coalition (in this section referred to as ''member countries'').

(b) NEGOTIATING OBJECTIVES.—The overall objectives for negotiating an agreement described in subsection (a) should be—

(1) to establish mechanisms for member countries to build secure and resilient supply chains for critical minerals, including in—

(A) the mining, refinement, reclamation and recycling, processing, and valuation of critical minerals; and

(B) advanced manufacturing of products, components, and materials that are dependent on critical minerals;

(2) to improve economies of scale and joint cooperation with international partners in securing access and means of production throughout the supply chains of critical minerals and manufacturing processes dependent on critical minerals;

(3) to establish mechanisms, with appropriate market-based disciplines, that provide and maintain opportunities among member countries for creating industry economies of scale to attract joint investment among those countries, including—

(A) cooperation on joint projects, including cost-sharing on building appropriate infrastructure to access deposits of critical minerals; and

(B) creation or enhancement of national and international programs to support the

development of robust industries by providing appropriate sector-specific incentives, such as political risk and other insurance opportunities, financing, and other support, for—

(i) mining and processing critical minerals;

(ii) manufacturing of products, components, and materials that are dependent on critical minerals and are essential to consumer technology products or have important national security implications;

(iii) building capacities and creating incentives for recovering used, spent, or discarded equipment and consumer goods containing critical minerals to be safely handled and recycled; and

(iv) associated transportation needs that are tailored to the handling, movement, and logistics management of critical minerals and products, components, and materials that are dependent on critical minerals;

(4) to establish market-based rules for member countries regarding adoption of qualifying tax and other incentives to stimulate investment, as balanced by market-based disciplines to ensure a fair playing field among those countries;

(5) to establish recommended best practices to protect—

(A) labor rights;

(B) the natural environment and ecosystems near critical mineral industrial sites; and

(C) safety of communities near critical mineral industrial activities;

(6) to advance economic growth in developing countries with critical mineral reserves and capacities for the recovery and recycling of critical minerals, including for the benefit of the citizens of those countries;

(7) to establish rules allowing for the establishment of a consortium that is resourced and empowered to bid and compete in acquiring and securing potential deposits of critical minerals in countries that are not members of the coalition described in subsection (a) (in this section referred to as ''nonmember countries'');

(8) to establish a mechanism for joint resource mapping with procedures for equitable sharing of information on potential deposits of critical minerals not less frequently than annually;

(9) to establish appropriate mechanisms for the recognition and enforcement by a member country of judgments relating to environmental and related harms caused by mining operations within the territory of the member country in contravention of that country's laws; and

(10) to improve supply chain security among member countries by providing for national treatment investment protections among those countries that are equal to, or better than, the standards in the United States model bilateral investment treaty.

(c) CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED.—In the course of negotiations described in subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult closely and on a timely basis with, and keep fully apprised of the negotiations, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 5705. MINERALS SECURITY PARTNERSHIP AUTHORIZATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, acting through the Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment, is authorized to lead United States participation in the Minerals Security Partnership, for the following purposes:

(1) To identify and support investment and advocate for commercial critical mineral mining, processing, and refining projects that enable robust and secure critical mineral supply chains, in consultation with other Federal agencies, as appropriate.

(2) To coordinate with relevant regional bureaus to develop regional diplomatic engagement strategies related to critical minerals projects and to identify projects that are priorities.

(3) To coordinate with United States missions abroad on projects, programs, and investments that enable robust and secure critical mineral supply chains.

(4) To coordinate with current and prospective members of the Minerals Security Partnership.

(5) To establish a mechanism for information-sharing with members of the Minerals Security Partnership.

(6) To establish policies and procedures, and if necessary, to provide funding to facilitate cooperation on joint projects with members of the Minerals Security Partnership and the Minerals Security Forum, including those related to cost-sharing agreements, political risk insurance, financing, equity investments, and other support, in coordination with other Federal agencies, as appropriate.

(7) If an agreement described in section 5694 is entered into, to support the establishment of the coalition described in that section.

(b) DATABASE.—As part of the Minerals Security Partnership, the Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary, is authorized to establish and maintain a database of critical mineral projects for the purpose of providing high quality and up-to-date information to the private sector and, at the discretion of the Under Secretary, to members of the Minerals Security Partnership, in order to spur greater investment, increase the resilience of global critical minerals supply chains, and boost United States supply.

(c) QUALIFICATIONS FOR PERSONNEL.—With respect to staffing personnel to carry out the Minerals Security Partnership, the Secretary shall prioritize individuals with the following qualifications:

(1) Substantive knowledge and experience in issues related to critical minerals supply chain and their application to strategic industries, including in the defense, energy, and technology sectors.

(2) Substantive knowledge and experience in large-scale multi-donor project financing and related technical and diplomatic arrangements, international coalition-building, and project management.

(3) Substantive knowledge and experience in trade and foreign policy, defense industrial base policy, or national security-sensitive supply chain issues.

(d) PRIVATE SECTOR COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall ensure close coordination between the Department of State, the private sector, and relevant civil society groups on the implementation of this section.

(e) PROJECT SELECTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The United States, through its participation in the Minerals Security Partnership, shall prioritize projects that advance the national and economic security interests of the United States and allies and partners of the United States.

(2) CRITERIA REQUIREMENTS.—The United States should advocate for the Minerals Security Partnership to use environmental, social, or governance standards, including as criteria for project selection, that are consistent with United States law or international agreements approved by Congress.

SEC. 5706. UNITED STATES MEMBERSHIP IN THE INTERNATIONAL NICKEL STUDY GROUP.

(a) UNITED STATES MEMBERSHIP.—The President is authorized to accept the Terms of Reference of and maintain membership of the United States in the International Nickel Study Group.

(b) PAYMENTS OF ASSESSED CONTRIBUTIONS.—For fiscal year 2025 and thereafter, the United States assessed contributions to the International Nickel Study Group may be paid from funds appropriated for ''Contributions to International Organizations''.

SEC. 5707. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Department of State $50,000,000 for fiscal year 2026 to enhance critical mineral supply chain security, including to implement this subtitle.

Subtitle H—Democracy in Georgia

SEC. 5711. SHORT TITLES.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Mobilizing and Enhancing Georgia's Options for Building Accountability, Resilience, and Independence Act'' or the ''MEGOBARI Act''.

SEC. 5712. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives.

(2) GEORGIA.—The term ''Georgia'' means the country of Georgia.

(3) NATO.—The term ''NATO'' means the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

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

SEC. 5713. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the consolidation of democracy in Georgia is critical for regional stability and United States national interests;

(2) Georgia has seen significant democratic backsliding in recent years, as evidenced by numerous independent assessments and measures;

(3) the current Georgian government is increasingly hostile towards independent domestic civil society, members of the opposition and its chief Euro-Atlantic partners while increasingly embracing enhanced ties with the Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China, and other anti-Western authoritarian regimes;

(4) the United States has an interest in protecting and securing democracy in Georgia; and

(5) the United States's decision to suspend the- United States-Georgia Strategic Partnership Commission on November 30, 2024, should remain in effect until the Government of Georgia takes measures—

(A) to end political repressions against civil society, media organizations and members of the opposition and fully restore the constitutional rights of the Georgian people; and

(B) to uphold its constitutional obligation to advance Euro-Atlantic integration.

SEC. 5714. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to support the constitutionally stated aspirations of Georgia to become a member of the European Union and NATO, which is made clear under Article 78 of the Constitution of Georgia and is supported by the overwhelming majority of the citizens of Georgia;

(2) to continue supporting the capacity of the Government of Georgia to protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity from further Russian aggression or encroachment within its internationally recognized borders;

(3) to emphasize the importance of contributing to international efforts—

(A) to combat Russian aggression, including through restrictions on trade with Russia and the implementation and enforcement of worldwide sanctions on Russia; and

(B) to reduce, rather than increase, trade ties between Georgia and Russia;

(4) to continue supporting the ongoing development of democratic values in Georgia, including free and fair elections, freedom of association, an independent and accountable judiciary, an independent media, public-sector transparency and accountability, the rule of law, countering malign influence, and anti-corruption efforts and to impose swift consequences on individuals who are directly responsible for leading or have directly and knowingly engaged in leading actions of policies that significantly undermine those standards;

(5) to continue to support the Georgian people and civil society organizations that reflect the aspirations of the Georgian people for democracy and a future with the people of Europe;

(6) to continue supporting the right of the Georgian people to freely engage in peaceful protest, determine their future, and make independent and sovereign choices on foreign and security policy, including regarding Georgia's relationship with other countries and international organizations, without interference, intimidation, or coercion by other countries or those acting on their behalf;

(7) to call on all political parties, elected Members of the Parliament of Georgia, and officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia to respect the freedoms of peaceful assembly, association, and expression, including for the press, and the rule of law, and encourage a vibrant and inclusive civil society;

(8) to call on the Government of Georgia to release all persons detained or imprisoned on politically motivated grounds and drop any pending charges against them;

(9) to call on the Government of Georgia to thoroughly investigate all allegations emerging from the recent national elections, which took place on October 2024, make a determination whether the elections should be judged as illegitimate and hold those responsible for interference in the elections; and

(10) to continue impressing upon the Government of Georgia that the United States is committed to sustaining and deepening bilateral relations and supporting Georgia's Euro-Atlantic aspirations.

SEC. 5715. REPORTS AND BRIEFINGS.

(a) REPORT ON RUSSIAN AND CHINESE INTELLIGENCE ASSETS IN GEORGIA.—

(1) DEFINED TERM.—In this section, the term ''relevant congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(B) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate;

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

(D) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(E) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives; and

(F) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

(2) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Director of National Intelligence and the Secretary of Defense, shall submit a classified report, as appropriate, to the relevant congressional committees that meets the requirements set forth in paragraph (3).

(3) CONTENTS.—The report required under paragraph (2) shall—

(A) be prepared consistent with the protection of sources and methods;

(B) examine the penetration of Russian and Chinese intelligence elements and their assets in Georgia; and

(C) examine the potential intersection of Russian and Chinese influence and cooperation in Georgia.

(b) 5-YEAR UNITED STATES STRATEGY FOR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH GEORGIA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the relevant congressional committees a detailed strategy that—

(A) outlines specific objectives for enhancing bilateral ties which reflect the current domestic political environment in Georgia;

(B) includes a determination of the tools, resources, and funding that should be available to achieve the objectives outlined pursuant to subparagraph (A) and an assessment whether Georgia should remain a top recipient of United States funding in the Europe and Eurasia region;

(C) includes a determination of the extent to which the United States should continue to invest in its partnership with Georgia;

(D) includes a plan for how the United States can continue to support civil society and independent media organizations in Georgia; and

(E) includes a determination whether the Government of Georgia remains committed to expanding trade ties with the United States and Europe and whether the United States Government should continue to invest in Georgian projects.

(2) FORM.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, with a classified annex.

SEC. 5716. SANCTIONS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMISSION; ADMITTED; ALIEN.—The terms ''admission'', ''admitted'', and ''alien'' have the meanings given such terms in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

(2) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term ''foreign person'' means any individual or entity that is not a United States person.

(3) IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS.—The term ''immediate family members'' has the meaning given the term ''immediate relatives'' in section 201(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(b)(2)(A)(i)).

(4) KNOWINGLY.—The term ''knowingly'', with respect to conduct, a circumstance, or a result, means that a person has actual knowledge, or should have known, of the conduct, the circumstance, or the result.

(5) UNITES STATES PERSON.—The term ''United States person'' means—

(A) a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States;

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity; or

(C) any person within the United States.

(b) INADMISSIBILITY OF OFFICIALS OF GOVERNMENT OF GEORGIA AND CERTAIN OTHER INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN BLOCKING EURO-ATLANTIC INTEGRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall determine whether each of the following foreign persons has knowingly engaged in significant acts of corruption, or acts of violence or intimidation in relation to the blocking of Euro-Atlantic integration in Georgia:

(A) Any individual who, on or after January 1, 2014, has served as a member of the Parliament of the Government of Georgia or as a current or former senior official of a Georgian political party.

(B) Any individual who is serving as an official in a leadership position working on behalf of the Government of Georgia, including law enforcement, intelligence, judicial, or local or municipal government.

(C) An immediate family member of an official described in subparagraph (A) or a person described in subparagraph (B) who benefitted from the conduct of such official or person.

(2) SANCTIONS.—The President shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (d)(2) with respect to each foreign person with respect to which the President has made an affirmative determination under paragraph (1).

(3) BRIEFING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall brief the appropriate congressional committees with respect to—

(A) any foreign person with respect to which the President has made an affirmative determination under paragraph (1); and

(B) the specific facts that justify each such affirmative determination.

(4) WAIVER.—The President may waive imposition of sanctions under this subsection, on a case-by-case basis, if the President determines and reports to the appropriate congressional committees that—

(A) such waiver would serve national security interests; or

(B) the circumstances which caused the individual to be ineligible have sufficiently changed.

(c) IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO UNDERMINING PEACE, SECURITY, STABILITY, SOVEREIGNTY OR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF GEORGIA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may impose the sanctions described in subsection (d)(1) and shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (d)(2) with respect to each foreign person the President determines, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act—

(A) is responsible for, complicit in, or has directly or indirectly engaged in or attempted to engage in, actions or policies, including ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing acts that are intended to undermine the peace, security, stability, sovereignty, or territorial integrity of Georgia;

(B) is or has been a leader or official of an entity that has, or whose members have, engaged in any activity described in subparagraph (A); or

(C) is an immediate family member of a person subject to sanctions for conduct described in subparagraph (A) or (B) and benefitted from the conduct of such person.

(2) BRIEF AND WRITTEN NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 10 days after imposing sanctions on a foreign person or persons pursuant to this subsection, the President shall brief and provide written notification to the appropriate congressional committees regarding the imposition of such sanctions, which shall describe—

(A) the foreign person or persons subject to the imposition of such sanctions;

(B) the activity justifying the imposition of such sanctions; and

(C) the specific sanctions imposed on such foreign person or persons.

(3) WAIVER.—The President may waive the application of sanctions under this subsection with respect to a foreign person for renewable periods not to exceed 180 days if, not later than 15 days before the date on which such waiver is to take effect, the President submits to the appropriate congressional committees a written determination and justification that the waiver is in the national security interests of the United States.

(d) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions described in this subsection are the following with respect to a foreign person described in subsection (b) or (c), as applicable:

(1) BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.—Notwithstanding the requirements under section 202 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701), the President shall exercise all authorities granted under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in property and interests in property of the foreign person if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(2) INELIGIBILITY FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—

(A) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—A foreign person that is an alien shall be—

(i) inadmissible to the United States;

(ii) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and

(iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(B) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—The foreign person shall be subject to the following:

(i) Revocation of any visa or other entry documentation regardless of when the visa or other entry documentation is or was issued.

(ii) A revocation under clause (i) shall take effect immediately and automatically cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the foreign person's possession.

(e) IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.—

(1) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may exercise all authorities provided under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out this section.

(2) PENALTIES.—A person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of subsection (d)(2)(A) or any regulation, license, or order issued under that subsection shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subtitle, or any amendment made by this subtitle, may be construed to limit the authority of the President to designate or sanction persons pursuant to an applicable Executive order or otherwise pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

(f) RULEMAKING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall prescribe such regulations as are necessary for the implementation of this section.

(2) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 10 days before prescribing regulations pursuant to paragraph (1), the President shall notify the appropriate congressional committees of the proposed regulations and the provisions of this section that the regulations are implementing.

(g) SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO BROADER CORRUPTION IN GEORGIA.—

(1) DETERMINATION.—The President shall determine whether there are foreign persons who, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, have knowingly engaged in significant corruption in Georgia or acts that are intended to undermine the peace, security, stability, sovereignty, or territorial integrity of Georgia for the purposes of potential imposition of sanctions pursuant to powers granted to the President under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

(2) REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that—

(i) identifies all foreign persons the President has determined, pursuant to this subsection, have engaged in significant corruption in Georgia or committed acts that are intended to undermine the peace, security, stability, sovereignty, or territorial integrity of Georgia;

(ii) the dates on which sanctions were imposed; and

(iii) the reasons for imposing such sanctions.

(B) FORM.—The report required under subparagraph (A) shall be provided in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(h) TERMINATION OF SANCTIONS.—The President may terminate the application of a sanction authorized under this Act with respect to a person if the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that—

(1) the person is no longer engaging in the activity that was the basis for the sanctions or has taken significant verifiable steps toward ceasing the activity; and

(2) the President has received reliable assurances that the person will not knowingly engage in the sanctionable activity described in paragraph (1) in the future.

(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING DELISTING PROCEDURES RELATING TO SANCTIONS AUTHORIZED UNDER OTHER PROVISIONS OF LAW.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed to modify the delisting procedures used by the Department of the Treasury with respect to sanctions authorized under any other executive order or provision of law.

(i) EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY.—The term ''agricultural commodity'' has the meaning given such term in section 102 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5602).

(B) GOOD.—The term ''good'' means any article, natural or man-made substance, material, supply, or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment and excluding technical data.

(C) MEDICAL DEVICE.—The term ''medical device'' has the meaning given the term ''device'' in section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321).

(D) MEDICINE.—The term ''medicine'' has the meaning given the term ''drug'' in section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321).

(2) EXCEPTIONS.—

(A) EXCEPTION FOR INTELLIGENCE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.—Sanctions under this section apply with respect to activities subject to the reporting requirements under title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.) or to carry out or assist any authorized intelligence or law enforcement activities of the United States.

(B) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS.—Sanctions under this section shall not apply with respect to a foreign person if admitting or paroling the person into the United States is necessary to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations.

(C) HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.—Sanctions under this section shall not apply to—

(i) the conduct or facilitation of a transaction for the provision of agricultural commodities, food, medicine, medical devices, or humanitarian assistance, or for humanitarian purposes; or

(ii) transactions that are necessary for, or related to, the activities described in paragraph (1).

(j) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.—The requirement to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property under this section shall not include the authority or a requirement to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

SEC. 5717. ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE WITH RESPECT TO GEORGIA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Upon submission to Congress of the certification described in subsection (c)—

(1) the Secretary of State should seek to further enhance people-to-people contacts, academic, law enforcement, and technical assistance between the United States and Georgia; and

(2) the President, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State, should maintain military co-operation with Georgia if it is in the national security interests of the United States.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that, after the submission of the certification described in subsection (c), if the Government of Georgia takes steps to realign itself with its Euro-Atlantic agenda, including significant changes to the foreign influence law and related laws, the end of harassment of civil society and independent media, and the release of all political prisoners, the President should take steps to improve the bilateral relationship between the United States and Georgia, including actions to bolster Georgia's ability to deter threats from Russia and other malign actors.

(c) CERTIFICATION DESCRIBED.—The certification described in this subsection is a certification submitted by the President to the appropriate congressional committees, the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives that Georgia has shown significant and sustained progress towards reinvigorating its democracy and advancing its Euro-Atlantic integration.

SEC. 5718. SUNSET.

The provisions of this subtitle shall cease to have any force or effect beginning on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Subtitle I—Scam Compound Accountability and Mobilization Act

SEC. 5721. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Scam Compound Accountability and Mobilization Act''.

SEC. 5722. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) transnational cyber-enabled fraud, particularly perpetrated from scam compounds in Southeast Asia, is a growing threat to citizens of the United States, national security, and economic interests globally, with the Federal Bureau of Investigation reporting $13,700,000,000 in losses in the United States due to cyber-enabled fraud in 2024, including schemes commonly perpetrated by transnational criminal organizations operating scam compounds;

(2) transnational criminal organizations responsible for a large proportion of these scam compounds are affiliated with the People's Republic of China (PRC), actively spread PRC propaganda, promote unification with Taiwan, and have brokered projects for the Belt and Road Initiative;

(3) transnational criminal organizations have lured hundreds of thousands of human trafficking victims from over 40 countries to scam compounds, primarily in Burma, Cambodia, and Laos, for purposes of forced criminality;

(4) transnational criminal organizations are expanding scam compounds internationally including in Africa, the Middle East, South Asia, and the Pacific Islands, and related money laundering, human trafficking and recruitment fraud have occurred in Europe, North America, and South America;

(5) the United States should redouble efforts to hold the perpetrators and enablers of scam compound operations accountable, including those involved in related money laundering, human trafficking, and recruitment fraud, by employing tools, such as targeted sanctions, visa restrictions, and asset seizures;

(6) to effectively address cyber-enabled fraud originating from scam compounds internationally, the United States Government should work with partner governments, multilateral institutions, civil society experts, and private sector stakeholders to improve information sharing, strengthen preventative measures, raise public awareness, and increase coordination on law enforcement investigations and regulatory actions; and

(7) survivors of human trafficking and forced criminality require victim-centered support to ensure they are not punished for offences that directly resulted from being trafficked.

SEC. 5723. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) CYBER-ENABLED FRAUD.—The term ''cyber-enabled fraud'' means the use of the internet or other technology to commit fraudulent activity, including the theft of money, data, or identity or the creation of counterfeit goods or services.

(3) ENABLING COUNTRY.—The term ''enabling country'' means a country where—

(A) government authorities actively or implicitly permit, enable, or perpetuate scam compound operations; or

(B) ineffective law enforcement or a failure to enact legislation intended to prevent facilitating services from reaching scam compounds or transnational criminal organizations enables scam compound operators to obtain facilitating services.

(4) FORCED CRIMINALITY.—The term ''forced criminality'' means the coercion of an individual, including under threat of physical violence, blackmail, prosecution, or other harm directly against the individual or a person with whom such individual has a personal relationship, to engage in criminal activity, such as cyber-enabled fraud.

(5) IMPACTED COUNTRY.—The term ''impacted country'' means a country that is a significant—

(A) transit location for forced labor and human trafficking to scam compounds;

(B) source of forced labor or victims of human trafficking for scam compounds; or

(C) target of cyber-enabled fraud originating from scam compounds internationally.

(6) SCAM COMPOUND.—The term ''scam compound'' means a physical installation where a transnational criminal organization carries out cyber-enabled fraud operations, frequently using victims of human trafficking and forced criminality.

(7) STRATEGY.—The term ''Strategy'' means the strategy to counter scam compounds and hold transnational criminal organizations accountable required under section 1274.

(8) TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION.—The term ''transnational criminal organization'' means a group of persons that—

(A) includes one or more foreign person;

(B) engages in or facilitates an ongoing pattern of serious criminal activity involving the jurisdictions of at least two foreign states or one foreign state and the United States; and

(C) threatens the national security, foreign policy, or economy of the United States.

SEC. 5724. STRATEGY TO COUNTER SCAM COMPOUNDS AND HOLD TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS ACCOUNTABLE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with other Federal departments and agencies as designated by the President, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a comprehensive strategy to counter scam compounds and hold transnational criminal organizations accountable.

(b) CONTENTS.—The Strategy shall—

(1) articulate a comprehensive problem statement identifying the structural vulnerabilities exploited by transnational criminal organizations operating scam compounds;

(2) develop a comprehensive list of enabling countries and impacted countries;

(3) identify all active executive branch foreign assistance programs and diplomatic efforts underway to address scam compounds, transnational criminal organizations connected to scam compounds, money laundering, and human trafficking and forced criminality, including efforts with enabling countries and impacted countries;

(4) identify foreign assistance resources needed to fully implement the Strategy and any obstacles to the response of the Federal Government to scam compounds, including coordination with partner governments, to address the human trafficking, forced criminality, and money laundering that sustains scam compound operations;

(5) include objectives, activities, and performance indicators regarding the response of the Federal government to scam compounds, including—

(A) the prevention of recruitment fraud and human trafficking, including by—

(i) engaging private sector entities operating internet platforms or other services that can be abused or exploited to perpetrate recruitment fraud, human trafficking or cyber-enabled fraud;

(ii) raising awareness among at-risk populations to identify common recruitment fraud strategies and improve due diligence and self-protection measures; and

(iii) sharing information and building awareness among foreign counterparts, including law enforcement and border officials, to identify potential human trafficking victims;

(B) the support for survivors of human trafficking and forced criminality under the direction of the Ambassador at Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and the Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement;

(C) the enhancement of coordination and strengthening the capabilities of partner governments and law enforcement agencies;

(D) the use of sanctions, visa restrictions, and other accountability measures against enabling countries, transnational criminal organizations, and related third-party facilitators of scam compound operations;

(E) the support of partner governments in countering corruption and money laundering related to scam compound operations; and

(F) the investigation of PRC connections to transnational criminal organizations operating scam compounds.

SEC. 5725. ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO IMPLEMENT THE STRATEGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after submitting the Strategy pursuant to section 5724(a), the Secretary of State, in consultation with other Federal departments and agencies as designated by the President, shall establish an interagency task force (referred to in this section as the ''Task Force'')—

(1) to coordinate the implementation of the Strategy;

(2) to conduct regular monitoring and analysis of scam compound operations internationally;

(3) to track and evaluate progress toward the objectives, activities, and performance indicators of the Strategy described in section 5724(b)(5); and

(4) to update the Strategy, in consultation with the appropriate congressional committees, as needed.

(b) ANNUAL REVIEWS AND REPORTS.—Not later than one year after the establishment of the Task Force, and not less frequently than annually thereafter, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the heads of other Federal departments and agencies as designated by the President, shall—

(1) conduct a status review of the Strategy and the overall state of scam compounds operated by transnational criminal organizations;

(2) include a list of enabling countries and impacted countries; and

(3) submit the results of such review in a public report to the appropriate congressional committees, which may contain a classified annex.

(c) TASK FORCE TERMINATION.—The Task Force shall terminate six years after the date of its establishment.

SEC. 5726. STRENGTHENING TOOLS TO DISMANTLE SCAM COMPOUNDS AND HOLD TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS ACCOUNTABLE.

(a) AUTHORITY TO SANCTION SIGNIFICANT ACTORS IN SCAM COMPOUND OPERATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may exercise the authorities set forth in section 203 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702) without regard to section 202 of that Act (50 U.S.C. 1701) in the case of any of the following persons:

(A) Foreign persons that materially assist in, or provide financial or technological support to, or provide goods or services in support of, the activities of international scam compounds or enabling services, including recruitment fraud, human trafficking, forced criminality, cyber-enabled fraud, or money-laundering.

(B) Foreign persons that are owned, controlled, or directed by, or acting for or on behalf of, a significant scam compound operation or enabling service, including recruitment fraud, human trafficking, forced criminality, cyber-enabled fraud, or money-laundering.

(2) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT OF SUSPENSION OR TERMINATION OF SANCTIONS.—Not earlier than 15 days after notifying the appropriate congressional committees of a determination that any sanction authorized under paragraph (1) should be suspended or terminated, and the basis for such determination, the President may suspend or terminate such sanction.

(3) PENALTIES.—The penalties set forth in section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) apply to a violation of any license, order, or regulation issued under this section.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS ON IDENTIFICATION AND SANCTIONING OF SIGNIFICANT ACTORS IN INTERNATIONAL SCAM COMPOUND OPERATIONS OR ENABLING SERVICES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Upon exercising any authority under subsection (a)(1), the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that identifies—

(A) the foreign persons that the President has determined are appropriate for sanctions pursuant to this section and the basis for such determination; and

(B) specific sanctions imposed pursuant to this section.

(2) SUBMISSION OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.—Reports submitted under this section may include an annex with classified information regarding the basis for the determination made by the President under paragraph (1)(A) or subsection (a)(2).

(c) LAW ENFORCEMENT AND INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES NOT AFFECTED.—Nothing in this section may be construed to prohibit or otherwise limit the authorized law enforcement or intelligence activities of the United States, or the law enforcement activities of any State or subdivision thereof.

(d) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A requirement to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property pursuant to subsection (a) shall not include the authority or a requirement to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(2) GOOD DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''good'' means any article, natural or manmade substance, material, supply, or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment, and excluding technical data.

Subtitle J—Repeal of Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019

SEC. 5744. REPEAL OF CAESAR SYRIA CIVILIAN PROTECTION ACT OF 2019.

The Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019 (title LXXIV of division F of Public Law 116–92; 22 U.S.C. 8791 note) is hereby repealed.

SA 3609. Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. PETERS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1085. ASSESSMENT FOR FEDERAL AGENCY MIGRATION TO POST-QUANTUM CRYPTOGRAPHY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CRYPTOGRAPHY.—The term ''cryptography'' has the meaning given such term in the National Institute of Standards and Technology Special Publication 1800-21B (relating to mobile device security) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology Special Publication 800-59 (relating to guidelines for identifying an information system as a national security system).

(2) CLASSICAL COMPUTER.—The term ''classical computer'' means a device that accepts digital data and manipulates the data based on a program or sequence of instructions for how such data is to be processed, and that encodes information in binary.

(3) QUANTUM COMPUTER.—The term ''quantum computer'' means a computer that uses the collective properties of quantum states, such as superposition, interference, and entanglement, to perform calculations.

(4) POST-QUANTUM CRYPTOGRAPHY.—The term ''post-quantum cryptography'' means cryptographic algorithms or methods that are not specifically vulnerable to attacks by either a quantum computer or classical computer.

(5) CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.—The term ''critical infrastructure'' has the meaning given that term in section 1016(e) of the Critical Infrastructures Protection Act of 2001 (42 U.S.C. 5195c(e)).

(b) ASSESSMENT FOR FEDERAL AGENCY MIGRATION TO POST-QUANTUM CRYPTOGRAPHY.—

(1) DUTIES OF SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE ECONOMIC AND SECURITY IMPLICATIONS OF QUANTUM INFORMATION SCIENCE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Subcommittee on the Economic and Security Implications of Quantum Information Science, as established by section 105 of the National Quantum Initiative Act (15 U.S.C. 8814a), shall—

(A) develop a National Quantum Cybersecurity Migration Strategy;

(B) provide a definition of a cryptographically relevant quantum computer;

(C) develop standards for Federal agencies to apply to determine whether a quantum computer meets such definition, including—

(i) the characteristics of such computers; and

(ii) the particular point at which such computers are capable of attacking real world cryptographic systems that classical computers are unable to attack;

(D) assess the urgency for migration to post-quantum cryptography for each Federal agency relative to—

(i) the critical functions of each agency; and

(ii) the risk each agency faces should a cryptographically relevant quantum computer attack a system operated by the agency;

(E) identify performance measures for migration to post-quantum cryptography at each Federal agency for each of the following 4 stages of migration:

(i) Preparation for migration to post-quantum cryptography.

(ii) Establishment of a baseline understanding of the data inventory of each agency.

(iii) Planning and execution of post-quantum cryptographic solutions.

(iv) Monitoring and evaluation of migration success and assessment of cryptographic security; and

(F) evaluate and monitor entities that are at high risk of quantum cryptographic attacks, including entities determined to be providers of critical infrastructure.

(2) POST-QUANTUM PILOT PROGRAM.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Subcommittee on the Economic and Security Implications of Quantum Information Science shall establish a post-quantum pilot program that requires each Federal agency to upgrade not less than one high-impact system to post-quantum cryptography not later than January 1, 2027.

(3) DUTIES OF THE OFFICE OF ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Office of Electronic Government, in coordination with the Chairpersons of the Subcommittee on the Economic and Security Implications of Quantum Information Science, shall—

(A) survey the heads of Federal agencies for information relating to the cost of migration to post-quantum cryptography by the Federal agencies, including estimates for the personnel, equipment, and time needed to fully implement post-quantum cryptography, in alignment with the National Quantum Cybersecurity Migration Strategy developed pursuant to paragraph (1)(A);

(B) verify that the information provided under subparagraph (A) is realistic and fiscally sound;

(C) identify the funding and resources necessary for Federal agencies to carry out the migration to post-quantum cryptography; and

(D) describe how Federal agencies should encourage the adoption of post-quantum cryptography by the private sector.

(4) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and the Chairpersons of the Subcommittee on the Economic and Security Implications of Quantum Information Science shall jointly submit to Congress a report detailing their findings with respect to the post-quantum migration assessments required by paragraph (1)(D), the pilot program established pursuant to paragraph (2), and the survey on associated costs of executing the migration required under paragraph (3)(A).

SA 3610. Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. DURBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 12___. MODIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS FOR TRANSFERS OF UNITED STATES DEFENSE ARTICLES AND DEFENSE SERVICES AMONG BALTIC STATES.

(a) EXEMPTIONS FROM REQUIREMENT FOR CONSENT TO TRANSFER.—

(1) RETRANSFERS AMONG BALTIC STATES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the requirements of section 3(a)(2) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 USC 2753(a)(2)) and Section 505(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 USAC 2314(a)(1)), retransfers of defense articles related to United States-origin mobile rocket artillery systems among Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia shall not require prior Presidential consent.

(B) EXPIRATION.—The authority provided in subparagraph (A) shall cease to have effect on the date that is 10 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) AGREEMENTS.—

(A) CONSENT TO TRANSFER NOT REQUIRED.—An agreement between the United States and a Baltic State under section 3 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2753(a)) with respect to defense articles or defense services provided by the United States shall not require the Baltic state to seek approval from the United States to transfer the defense article or defense service to any other Baltic state.

(B) MODIFICATION.—With respect to any agreement under section 3(a)(2) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2753(a)(2)) in effect as of the date of the enactment of this Act that requires the consent of the President before a Baltic state may transfer a defense article or defense service provided by the United States, at the request of any Baltic state, the United States shall modify such agreement so as to remove such requirement with respect to such a transfer to any other Baltic state.

(b) COMMON COALITION KEY.—The Secretary of Defense shall establish among the Baltic

states a common coalition key or other technological solution within the Baltic states for the purpose of sharing ammunition for High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS) among the Baltic states for training and operational purposes.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) BALTIC STATE.—The term ''Baltic state'' means the following:

(A) Estonia.

(B) Lithuania.

(C) Latvia.

(2) DEFENSE ARTICLE; DEFENSE SERVICE.—The terms ''defense article'' and ''defense service'' have the meanings given such terms in section 47 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2794).

SA 3611. Mr. ROUNDS 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 III, add the following:

SEC. 320A. EXEMPTION FROM CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS OF NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT OF 1969 FOR DEFENSE READINESS ACTIVITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—On and after the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, title I of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4331 et seq.) shall not apply to any defense readiness activity and no environmental document under such title (including an environmental assessment, a finding of no significant impact, or an environmental impact statement) shall be prepared with respect to such an activity.

(b) PROCEDURES.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense (acting through the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment) and the Secretary of Energy (acting through the Under Secretary of Energy for Nuclear Security), after conferring with the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality for technical guidance, shall jointly—

(A) identify defense readiness activities that are exempt from title I of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4331 et seq.); and

(B) establish monitoring measures, if practicable and consistent with mission requirements, to minimize adverse environmental impacts while ensuring the effectiveness of the Armed Forces.

(2) SCOPE.—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Energy shall ensure that the categories of defense readiness activities identified under paragraph (1)(A) encompass the full spectrum of defense readiness activities.

(c) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the identification of defense readiness activities under subparagraph (A) of subsection (b)(1) and the establishment of monitoring measures under subparagraph (B) of such subsection, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Energy shall submit to the congressional defense committees a notice of and rationale for the activities identified and the measures established under such subsection.

(2) REVISIONS.—Not later than 30 days after revising the activities identified or the measures established under subsection (b)(1), the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Energy shall submit to the congressional defense committees a notice of such revision and a statement of the rationale for such revision.

(d) INTERIM EXCLUSION.—During the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on the date that is one year after such date of enactment, title I of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4331 et seq.) shall not apply to any defense readiness activity carried out or authorized by the Secretary of Defense (acting through the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment) or the Secretary of Energy (acting through the Under Secretary of Energy for Nuclear Security).

(e) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit—

(1) the applicability of section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536);

(2) the applicability of division A of subtitle III of title 54, United States Code (formerly known as the ''National Historic Preservation Act'');

(3) the applicability of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) (commonly referred to as the ''Clean Water Act'');

(4) the applicability of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.);

(5) the applicability of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.);

(6) the applicability of the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.) (commonly known as the ''Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976''); or

(7) any requirement of Federal law expressly applicable to the Department of Defense or the Department of Energy unless such requirement is superseded by this section.

(f) DEFENSE READINESS ACTIVITY DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''defense readiness activity'' means activities pertaining to the following:

(1) Computing infrastructure, including construction and expansion of artificial intelligence, high-performance computing, and conventional data centers, including cooling tower water demand, backup and interim generation, battery storage, and grid intertie upgrades.

(2) Energy generation on land of the Department of Defense or the Department of Energy.

(3) Radial lines, including conductors that—

(A) interconnect energy generation located outside of an installation solely to the point of common coupling of a behind-the-meter system serving the installation;

(B) follow an existing roadway, a dedicated utility easement, or a right-of-way of the Department of Defense or the Department of Energy, except that not more than 10 circuit-miles may deviate from such corridors as necessary to avoid environmentally sensitive areas;

(C) have a total circuit length of—

(i) not more than 10 circuit-miles if any portion crosses previously undisturbed land; or

(ii) not more than 50 circuit-miles if the entire route remains within the corridors described in subparagraph (B); and

(D) include no taps (such as lateral connections to third-party facilities) other than to facilities under the jurisdiction, custody, or control of the Department of Defense or the Department of Energy.

(4) Installation energy resilience projects, including—

(A) any construction, modernization, or replacement of energy generation capabilities described in paragraph (2); or

(B) any construction of a radial line described in paragraph (3) necessary to deliver the output of such generation to a behind-the-meter system serving the installation.

SA 3612. Mr. ROUNDS 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 II, insert the following:

SEC. ____. ACCELERATING RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TESTING, AND EVALUATION OF HIGH-ALTITUDE BALLOON AND HIGH-ALTITUDE LONG-ENDURANCE AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS.

(a) CAPABILITY COORDINATOR TO OVERSEE INTEGRATION OF HIGH-ALTITUDE BALLOON AND HIGH-ALTITUDE LONG-ENDURANCE AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS INTO OPERATIONAL PLANS.—

(1) DESIGNATION BY AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF.—The Chief of Staff of the Air Force shall designate a capability coordinator to oversee the integration of high-altitude balloon (HAB) and high-altitude long-endurance (HALE) aircraft systems into Air Force operational plans, including mission planning and live operational exercises, not later than December 1, 2026.

(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM OFFICE.—The Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics (SAF/AQ), as the Service Acquisition Executive, shall assign a program office to manage the acquisition of high-altitude balloon and high-altitude long-endurance systems. The program office shall—

(A) develop interoperable architectures for data sharing between high-altitude balloon, high-altitude long-endurance, and other intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) platforms, in consultation with the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL);

(B) implement resilience measures to counter electronic warfare (EW), cyber threats, and environmental challenges; and

(C) ensure deployment of high-altitude balloon and high-altitude long-endurance systems in live operational exercises by fiscal year 2027, in coordination with combatant commands and operational units.

(b) RAPID ACQUISITION AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Air Force may use rapid acquisition authority provided under section 3601 of title 10, United States Code, to expedite the procurement and integration of high-altitude balloon and high-altitude long-endurance systems to meet urgent operational needs.

(2) DESIGNATION OF EXECUTION AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Defense may designate the Secretary of the Air Force to execute rapid acquisition authorities for high-altitude balloon and high-altitude long-endurance systems, in accordance with Department of Defense policies and procedures.

(3) STREAMLINED PROCESSES.—The Secretary of the Air Force shall ensure that the program office established under subsection (a) leverages rapid acquisition authorities to reduce bureaucratic delays, streamline contracting, and prioritize cost-effective solutions.

(c) INDUSTRY AND ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS.—

(1) COLLABORATION.—The Secretary of the Air Force shall, acting through the program office established under subsection (a), foster

partnerships with industry, academic institutions, and other Federal agencies to advance high-altitude balloon and high-altitude long-endurance technologies, and establish mechanisms to transition successful prototypes from research to operational use with industry partners.

(2) GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may award grants or enter into cooperative agreements to support public-private collaboration programs that demonstrate dual-use applications of high-altitude balloon and high-altitude long-endurance technologies, prioritizing cost-sharing and innovation.

(d) ALIGNMENT WITH NATIONAL DEFENSE STRATEGY AND COMBATANT COMMAND NEEDS.—

(1) STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT.—The Secretary of defense shall ensure that the development and integration of high-altitude balloon and high-altitude long-endurance systems align with the National Defense Strategy, focusing on addressing pacing threats, enhancing resilience in contested environments, and supporting multi-domain operations.

(2) COORDINATION WITH COMBATANT COMMANDS.—The capability coordinator and program office shall engage with combatant commands, including United States Indo-Pacific Command and United States Special Operations Command, to identify operational gaps where high-altitude balloon and high-altitude long-endurance systems can provide immediate impact.

(e) ANNUAL REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of the Air Force shall, in coordination with the capability coordinator and the program office, submit to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives an annual report on the administration of this section.

(2) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include, for the period covered by the report, the following:

(A) An assessment of progress in developing, testing, and deploying high-altitude balloon and high-altitude long-endurance systems, including timelines, results of operational testing, and integration into live exercises.

(B) An analysis of cost savings, operational advantages, and scalability compared to traditional intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance platforms.

(C) Recommendations for future investments to enhance capability, resilience, and multi-domain integration.

SA 3613. Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. LEE, Mr. COONS, and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in subtitle F of title X, insert the following:

SECTION 10___. INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR ENERGY.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''International Nuclear Energy Act of 2025''.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADVANCED NUCLEAR REACTOR.—The term ''advanced nuclear reactor'' means—

(A) a nuclear fission reactor, including a prototype plant (as defined in sections 50.2 and 52.1 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations)), with significant improvements compared to reactors operating on October 19, 2016, including improvements such as—

(i) additional inherent safety features;

(ii) lower waste yields;

(iii) improved fuel and material performance;

(iv) increased tolerance to loss of fuel cooling;

(v) enhanced reliability or improved resilience;

(vi) increased proliferation resistance;

(vii) increased thermal efficiency;

(viii) reduced consumption of cooling water and other environmental impacts;

(ix) the ability to integrate into electric applications and nonelectric applications;

(x) modular sizes to allow for deployment that corresponds with the demand for electricity or process heat; and

(xi) operational flexibility to respond to changes in demand for electricity or process heat and to complement integration with intermittent renewable energy or energy storage;

(B) a fusion reactor; and

(C) a radioisotope power system that utilizes heat from radioactive decay to generate energy.

(2) ALLY OR PARTNER NATION.—The term ''ally or partner nation'' means—

(A) the Government of any country that is a member of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development;

(B) the Government of the Republic of India; and

(C) the Government of any country designated as an ally or partner nation by the Secretary of State for purposes of this section.

(3) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committees on Foreign Relations and Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate; and

(B) the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

(4) ASSISTANT.—The term ''Assistant'' means the Assistant to the President and Director for International Nuclear Energy Export Policy described in subsection (c)(1)(A)(iv).

(5) ASSOCIATED ENTITY.—The term ''associated entity'' means an entity that—

(A) is owned, controlled, or operated by—

(i) an ally or partner nation; or

(ii) an associated individual; or

(B) is organized under the laws of, or otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of, a country described in paragraph (2), including a corporation that is incorporated in a country described in that paragraph.

(6) ASSOCIATED INDIVIDUAL.—The term ''associated individual'' means a foreign national who is a national of a country described in paragraph (2).

(7) CIVIL NUCLEAR.—The term ''civil nuclear'' means activities relating to—

(A) nuclear plant construction;

(B) nuclear fuel services;

(C) nuclear energy financing;

(D) nuclear plant operations;

(E) nuclear plant regulation;

(F) nuclear medicine;

(G) nuclear safety;

(H) community engagement in areas in reasonable proximity to nuclear sites;

(I) infrastructure support for nuclear energy;

(J) nuclear plant decommissioning;

(K) nuclear liability;

(L) safe storage and safe disposal of spent nuclear fuel;

(M) environmental safeguards;

(N) nuclear nonproliferation and security; and

(O) technology related to the matters described in subparagraphs (A) through (N).

(8) EMBARKING CIVIL NUCLEAR NATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''embarking civil nuclear nation'' means a country that—

(i) does not have a civil nuclear energy program;

(ii) is in the process of developing or expanding a civil nuclear energy program, including safeguards and a legal and regulatory framework, for—

(I) nuclear safety;

(II) nuclear security;

(III) radioactive waste management;

(IV) civil nuclear energy;

(V) environmental safeguards;

(VI) community engagement in areas in reasonable proximity to nuclear sites;

(VII) nuclear liability; or

(VIII) advanced nuclear reactor licensing;

(iii) is in the process of selecting, developing, constructing, or utilizing advanced light water reactors, advanced nuclear reactors, or advanced civil nuclear technologies; or

(iv) is eligible to receive development lending from the World Bank.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ''embarking civil nuclear nation'' does not include—

(i) the People's Republic of China;

(ii) the Russian Federation;

(iii) the Republic of Belarus;

(iv) the Islamic Republic of Iran;

(v) the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

(vi) the Republic of Cuba;

(vii) the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela;

(viii) Burma; or

(ix) any other country—

(I) the property or interests in property of the government of which are blocked pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); or

(II) the government of which the Secretary of State has determined has repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism for purposes of—

(aa) section 620A(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371(a));

(bb) section 40(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2780(d));

(cc) section 1754(c)(1)(A)(i) of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4813(c)(1)(A)(i)); or

(dd) any other relevant provision of law.

(9) NATIONAL ENERGY DOMINANCE COUNCIL.—The term ''National Energy Dominance Council'' means the National Energy Dominance Council established within the Executive Office of the President under Executive Order 14213 (90 Fed. Reg. 9945; relating to establishing the National Energy Dominance Council).

(10) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Energy.

(11) SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL.—The term ''spent nuclear fuel'' has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (42 U.S.C. 10101).

(12) U.S. NUCLEAR ENERGY COMPANY.—The term ''U.S. nuclear energy company'' means a company that—

(A) is organized under the laws of, or otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of, the United States; and

(B) is involved in the nuclear energy industry.

(c) CIVIL NUCLEAR COORDINATION AND STRATEGY.—

(1) WHITE HOUSE FOCAL POINT ON CIVIL NUCLEAR COORDINATION.—

(A) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—Given the critical importance of developing and implementing,

with input from various agencies throughout the executive branch, a cohesive policy with respect to international efforts related to civil nuclear energy, it is the sense of Congress that—

(i) there should be a focal point within the White House, which may, if determined to be appropriate, report to the National Security Council, for coordination on issues relating to those efforts;

(ii) to provide that focal point, the President should designate, within the National Energy Dominance Council, an office, to be known as the ''Office of the Assistant to the President and Director for International Nuclear Energy Export Policy'' (referred to in this paragraph as the ''Office'');

(iii) the Office should act as a coordinating office for—

(I) international civil nuclear cooperation; and

(II) civil nuclear export strategy;

(iv) the Office should be headed by an individual appointed as an Assistant to the President with the title of ''Director for International Nuclear Energy Export Policy'' who is also a member of the National Energy Dominance Council; and

(v) the Office should—

(I) coordinate civil nuclear export policies for the United States;

(II) develop, in coordination with the officials described in subparagraph (B), a cohesive Federal strategy for engagement with foreign governments (including ally or partner nations and the governments of embarking civil nuclear nations), associated entities, and associated individuals with respect to civil nuclear exports;

(III) coordinate with the officials described in subparagraph (B) to ensure that necessary framework agreements and trade controls relating to civil nuclear materials and technologies are in place for key markets; and

(IV) develop—

(aa) a whole-of-government coordinating strategy for civil nuclear cooperation;

(bb) a whole-of-government strategy for civil nuclear exports; and

(cc) a whole-of-government approach to support appropriate foreign investment in civil nuclear energy projects supported by the United States in embarking civil nuclear nations.

(B) OFFICIALS DESCRIBED.—The officials referred to in subparagraph (A)(v) are—

(i) appropriate officials of any Federal agency that the President determines to be appropriate; and

(ii) appropriate officials representing foreign countries and governments, including—

(I) ally or partner nations;

(II) embarking civil nuclear nations; and

(III) any other country or government that the Assistant (if appointed) and the officials described in clause (i) jointly determine to be appropriate.

(2) NUCLEAR EXPORTS WORKING GROUP.—

(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a working group, to be known as the ''Nuclear Exports Working Group'' (referred to in this paragraph as the ''working group'').

(B) COMPOSITION.—The working group shall be composed of—

(i) senior-level Federal officials, selected internally by the applicable Federal agency or organization, from any Federal agency or organization that the President determines to be appropriate; and

(ii) other senior-level Federal officials, selected internally by the applicable Federal agency or organization, from any other Federal agency or organization that the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(C) REPORTING.—The working group shall report to the appropriate White House official, which may be the Assistant (if appointed).

(D) DUTIES.—The working group shall coordinate, not less frequently than quarterly, with the Civil Nuclear Trade Advisory Committee of the Department of Commerce, the Nuclear Energy Advisory Committee of the Department of Energy, and other advisory or stakeholder groups, as necessary, to maintain an accurate and up-to-date knowledge of the standing of civil nuclear exports from the United States, including with respect to meeting the targets established as part of the 10-year civil nuclear trade strategy described in subparagraph (E)(i).

(E) STRATEGY.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the working group shall establish a 10-year civil nuclear trade strategy, including biennial targets for the export of civil nuclear technologies, including light water and non-light water reactors and associated equipment and technologies, civil nuclear materials, and nuclear fuel that align with meeting international energy demand while seeking to avoid or reduce emissions and prevent the dissemination of nuclear technology, materials, and weapons to adversarial nations and terrorist groups.

(ii) COLLABORATION REQUIRED.—In establishing the strategy under clause (i), the working group shall collaborate with—

(I) any Federal agency that the President determines to be appropriate; and

(II) representatives of private industry and experts in nuclear security and risk reduction, as appropriate.

(d) ENGAGEMENT WITH ALLY OR PARTNER NATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall launch, in accordance with applicable nuclear technology export laws (including regulations), an international initiative to modernize the civil nuclear outreach to embarking civil nuclear nations.

(2) FINANCING.—In carrying out the initiative described in paragraph (1), the President, acting through an appropriate Federal official, who may be the Assistant (if appointed), if determined to be appropriate, and in coordination with the officials described in subsection (c)(1)(B), may, if the President determines to be appropriate, seek to establish cooperative financing relationships for the export of civil nuclear technology, components, materials, and infrastructure to embarking civil nuclear nations.

(3) ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out the initiative described in paragraph (1), the President shall—

(A) assist nongovernmental organizations and appropriate offices, administrations, agencies, laboratories, and programs of the Department of Energy and other relevant Federal agencies and offices in providing education and training to foreign governments in nuclear safety, security, and safeguards—

(i) through engagement with the International Atomic Energy Agency; or

(ii) independently, if the applicable entity determines that it would be more advantageous under the circumstances to provide the applicable education and training independently;

(B) assist the efforts of the International Atomic Energy Agency to expand the support provided by the International Atomic Energy Agency to embarking civil nuclear nations for nuclear safety, security, and safeguards;

(C) coordinate with appropriate Federal departments and agencies on efforts to expand outreach to the private investment community and establish public-private financing relationships that enable the adoption of civil nuclear technologies by embarking civil nuclear nations, including through exports from the United States;

(D) seek to better coordinate, to the maximum extent practicable, the work carried out by any Federal agency that the President determines to be appropriate; and

(E) coordinate with the Export-Import Bank of the United States to improve the efficient and effective exporting and importing of civil nuclear technologies and materials.

(e) COOPERATIVE FINANCING RELATIONSHIPS WITH ALLY OR PARTNER NATIONS AND EMBARKING CIVIL NUCLEAR NATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall designate an appropriate White House official, who may be the Assistant (if appointed), to coordinate with the officials described in subsection (c)(1)(B) to develop, as the President determines to be appropriate, financing relationships with ally or partner nations to assist in the adoption of civil nuclear technologies exported from the United States or ally or partner nations to embarking civil nuclear nations.

(2) UNITED STATES COMPETITIVENESS CLAUSES.—

(A) DEFINITION OF UNITED STATES COMPETITIVENESS CLAUSE.—In this paragraph, the term ''United States competitiveness clause'' means any United States competitiveness provision in any agreement entered into by the Department of Energy, including—

(i) a cooperative agreement;

(ii) a cooperative research and development agreement; and

(iii) a patent waiver.

(B) CONSIDERATION.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the relevant officials described in that paragraph shall consider the impact of United States competitiveness clauses on any financing relationships entered into or proposed to be entered into under that paragraph.

(C) WAIVER.—The Secretary shall facilitate waivers of United States competitiveness clauses as necessary to facilitate financing relationships with ally or partner nations under paragraph (1).

(f) COOPERATION WITH ALLY OR PARTNER NATIONS ON ADVANCED NUCLEAR REACTOR DEMONSTRATION AND COOPERATIVE RESEARCH FACILITIES FOR CIVIL NUCLEAR ENERGY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary and the Secretary of Commerce, shall conduct bilateral and multilateral meetings with not fewer than 5 ally or partner nations, with the aim of enhancing nuclear energy cooperation among those ally or partner nations and the United States, for the purpose of developing collaborative relationships with respect to research, development, licensing, and deployment of advanced nuclear reactor technologies for civil nuclear energy.

(2) REQUIREMENT.—The meetings described in paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) a focus on cooperation to demonstrate and deploy advanced nuclear reactors, with an emphasis on U.S. nuclear energy companies, during the 10-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act to provide options for addressing energy security and environmental impacts; and

(B) a focus on developing a memorandum of understanding or any other appropriate agreement between the United States and ally or partner nations with respect to—

(i) the demonstration and deployment of advanced nuclear reactors; and

(ii) the development of cooperative research facilities.

(3) FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS.—In conducting the meetings described in paragraph (1), the Secretary of State, in coordination

with the Secretary, the Secretary of Commerce, and the heads of other relevant Federal agencies and only after initial consultation with the appropriate committees of Congress, shall seek to develop financing arrangements to share the costs of the demonstration and deployment of advanced nuclear reactors and the development of cooperative research facilities with the ally or partner nations participating in those meetings.

(4) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, the Secretary of State, and the Secretary of Commerce shall jointly submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report highlighting potential partners—

(A) for the establishment of cost-share arrangements described in paragraph (3) and the details of those arrangements; or

(B) with which the United States may enter into agreements with respect to—

(i) the demonstration of advanced nuclear reactors; or

(ii) cooperative research facilities.

(g) INTERNATIONAL CIVIL NUCLEAR ENERGY COOPERATION.—Section 959B of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16279b) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''The Secretary'' and inserting the following:

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary'';

(2) in subsection (a) (as so designated)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking ''financing,''; and

(ii) by striking ''and'' after the semicolon at the end;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''preparations for''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (C)(v), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) to support, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, the safe, secure, and peaceful use of civil nuclear technology in countries developing nuclear energy programs, with a focus on countries that have increased civil nuclear cooperation with the Russian Federation or the People's Republic of China; and

''(4) to promote the fullest utilization of the reactors, fuel, equipment, services, and technology of U.S. nuclear energy companies (as defined in subsection (b) of the International Nuclear Energy Act of 2025) in civil nuclear energy programs outside the United States through—

''(A) bilateral and multilateral arrangements developed and executed with the concurrence of the Secretary of State that contain commitments for the utilization of the reactors, fuel, equipment, services, and technology of U.S. nuclear energy companies (as defined in that subsection);

''(B) the designation of 1 or more U.S. nuclear energy companies (as defined in that subsection) to implement an arrangement under subparagraph (A) if the Secretary determines that the designation is necessary and appropriate to achieve the objectives of this section; and

''(C) the waiver of any provision of law relating to competition with respect to any activity related to an arrangement under subparagraph (A) if the Secretary, in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of Commerce, determines that a waiver is necessary and appropriate to achieve the objectives of this section.''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The program under subsection (a) shall be supported in consultation with the Secretary of State and implemented by the Secretary—

''(1) to facilitate, to the maximum extent practicable, workshops and expert-based exchanges to engage industry, stakeholders, and foreign governments with respect to international civil nuclear issues, such as—

''(A) training;

''(B) financing;

''(C) safety;

''(D) security;

''(E) safeguards;

''(F) liability;

''(G) advanced fuels;

''(H) operations; and

''(I) options for multinational cooperation with respect to the disposal of spent nuclear fuel (as defined in section 2 of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (42 U.S.C. 10101)); and

''(2) in coordination with any Federal agency that the President determines to be appropriate.

''(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Secretary to carry out the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) in fiscal years 2026 through 2030, the Secretary may use $15,500,000 to carry out this section.''.

(h) INTERNATIONAL CIVIL NUCLEAR PROGRAM SUPPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary and the Assistant (if appointed), shall launch an international initiative (referred to in this subsection as the ''initiative'') to provide financial assistance to, and facilitate the building of technical capacities by, in accordance with this subsection, embarking civil nuclear nations for activities relating to the development of civil nuclear energy programs.

(2) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the initiative, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary and the Assistant (if appointed), is authorized to award grants of financial assistance in amounts not greater than $5,500,000 to embarking civil nuclear nations in accordance with this paragraph—

(i) for activities relating to the development of civil nuclear energy programs; and

(ii) to facilitate the building of technical capacities for those activities.

(B) LIMITATIONS.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary and the Assistant (if appointed), may award—

(i) not more than 1 grant of financial assistance under subparagraph (A) to any 1 embarking civil nuclear nation each fiscal year; and

(ii) not more than a total of 5 grants of financial assistance under subparagraph (A) to any 1 embarking civil nuclear nation.

(3) SENIOR ADVISORS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the initiative, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary and the Assistant (if appointed), is authorized to provide financial assistance to an embarking civil nuclear nation for the purpose of contracting with a U.S. nuclear energy company to hire 1 or more senior advisors to assist the embarking civil nuclear nation in establishing a civil nuclear program.

(B) REQUIREMENT.—A senior advisor described in subparagraph (A) shall have relevant experience and qualifications to advise the embarking civil nuclear nation on, and facilitate on behalf of the embarking civil nuclear nation, 1 or more of the following activities:

(i) The development of financing relationships.

(ii) The development of a standardized financing and project management framework for the construction of nuclear power plants.

(iii) The development of a standardized licensing framework for—

(I) light water civil nuclear technologies; and

(II) non-light water civil nuclear technologies and advanced nuclear reactors.

(iv) The identification of qualified organizations and service providers.

(v) The identification of funds to support payment for services required to develop a civil nuclear program.

(vi) Market analysis.

(vii) The identification of the safety, security, safeguards, and nuclear governance required for a civil nuclear program.

(viii) Risk allocation, risk management, and nuclear liability.

(ix) Technical assessments of nuclear reactors and technologies.

(x) The identification of actions necessary to participate in a global nuclear liability regime based on the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage, with Annex, done at Vienna September 12, 1997 (TIAS 15–415).

(xi) Stakeholder engagement.

(xii) Management of spent nuclear fuel and nuclear waste.

(xiii) Any other major activities to support the establishment of a civil nuclear program, such as the establishment of export, financing, construction, training, operations, and education requirements.

(C) CLARIFICATION.—Financial assistance under this paragraph is authorized to be provided to an embarking civil nuclear nation in addition to any financial assistance provided to that embarking civil nuclear nation under paragraph (2).

(4) LIMITATION ON ASSISTANCE TO EMBARKING CIVIL NUCLEAR NATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Offices of the Inspectors General for the Department of State and the Department of Energy shall coordinate—

(A) to establish and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a joint strategic plan to conduct comprehensive oversight of activities authorized under this subsection to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse; and

(B) to engage in independent and effective oversight of activities authorized under this subsection through joint or individual audits, inspections, investigations, or evaluations.

(5) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Secretary of State to carry out the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) in fiscal years 2026 through 2030, the Secretary of State may use $50,000,000 to carry out this subsection.

(i) BIENNIAL CABINET-LEVEL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NUCLEAR SAFETY, SECURITY, SAFEGUARDS, AND SUSTAINABILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President, in coordination with international partners, as determined by the President, and industry, shall hold a biennial conference on civil nuclear safety, security, safeguards, and sustainability (referred to in this subsection as a ''conference'').

(2) CONFERENCE FUNCTIONS.—It is the sense of Congress that each conference should—

(A) be a forum in which ally or partner nations may engage with each other for the purpose of reinforcing the commitment to—

(i) nuclear safety, security, safeguards, and sustainability;

(ii) environmental safeguards; and

(iii) local community engagement in areas in reasonable proximity to nuclear sites; and

(B) facilitate—

(i) the development of—

(I) joint commitments and goals to improve—

(aa) nuclear safety, security, safeguards, and sustainability;

(bb) environmental safeguards; and

(cc) local community engagement in areas in reasonable proximity to nuclear sites;

(II) stronger international institutions that support nuclear safety, security, safeguards, and sustainability;

(III) cooperative financing relationships to promote competitive alternatives to Chinese and Russian financing;

(IV) a standardized financing and project management framework for the construction of civil nuclear power plants;

(V) a standardized licensing framework for civil nuclear technologies;

(VI) a strategy to change internal policies of multinational development banks, such as the World Bank, to support the financing of civil nuclear projects;

(VII) a document containing any lessons learned from countries that have partnered with the Russian Federation or the People's Republic of China with respect to civil nuclear power, including any detrimental outcomes resulting from that partnership; and

(VIII) a global civil nuclear liability regime;

(ii) cooperation for enhancing the overall aspects of civil nuclear power, such as—

(I) nuclear safety, security, safeguards, and sustainability;

(II) nuclear laws (including regulations);

(III) waste management;

(IV) quality management systems;

(V) technology transfer;

(VI) human resources development;

(VII) localization;

(VIII) reactor operations;

(IX) nuclear liability; and

(X) decommissioning; and

(iii) the development and determination of the mechanisms described in subparagraphs (G) and (H) of subsection (j)(1), if the President intends to establish an Advanced Reactor Coordination and Resource Center as described in that subsection.

(3) INPUT FROM INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT.—It is the sense of Congress that each conference should include a meeting that convenes nuclear industry leaders and leaders of government agencies with expertise relating to nuclear safety, security, safeguards, or sustainability to discuss best practices relating to—

(A) the safe and secure use, storage, and transport of nuclear and radiological materials;

(B) managing the evolving cyber threat to nuclear and radiological security; and

(C) the role that the nuclear industry should play in nuclear and radiological safety, security, and safeguards, including with respect to the safe and secure use, storage, and transport of nuclear and radiological materials, including spent nuclear fuel and nuclear waste.

(j) ADVANCED REACTOR COORDINATION AND RESOURCE CENTER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall consider the feasibility of leveraging existing activities or frameworks or, as necessary, establishing a center, to be known as the ''Advanced Reactor Coordination and Resource Center'' (referred to in this subsection as the ''Center''), for the purposes of—

(A) identifying qualified organizations and service providers—

(i) for embarking civil nuclear nations;

(ii) to develop and assemble documents, contracts, and related items required to establish a civil nuclear program; and

(iii) to develop a standardized model for the establishment of a civil nuclear program that can be used by the International Atomic Energy Agency;

(B) coordinating with countries participating in the Center and with the Nuclear Exports Working Group established under subsection (c)(2)—

(i) to identify funds to support payment for services required to develop a civil nuclear program;

(ii) to provide market analysis; and

(iii) to create—

(I) project structure models;

(II) models for electricity market analysis;

(III) models for nonelectric applications market analysis; and

(IV) financial models;

(C) identifying and developing the safety, security, safeguards, and nuclear governance required for a civil nuclear program;

(D) supporting multinational regulatory standards to be developed by countries with civil nuclear programs and experience;

(E) developing and strengthening communications, engagement, and consensus-building;

(F) carrying out any other major activities to support export, financing, education, construction, training, and education requirements relating to the establishment of a civil nuclear program;

(G) developing mechanisms for how to fund and staff the Center; and

(H) determining mechanisms for the selection of the location or locations of the Center.

(2) OBJECTIVE.—The President shall carry out paragraph (1) with the objective of establishing the Center if the President determines that it is feasible to do so.

(k) STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE FUND WORKING GROUP.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a working group, to be known as the ''Strategic Infrastructure Fund Working Group'' (referred to in this subsection as the ''working group'') to provide input on the feasibility of establishing a program to support strategically important capital-intensive infrastructure projects.

(2) COMPOSITION.—The working group shall be—

(A) led by a White House official, who may be the Assistant (if appointed), who shall serve as the White House focal point with respect to matters relating to the working group; and

(B) composed of—

(i) senior-level Federal officials, selected by the head of the applicable Federal agency or organization, from any Federal agency or organization that the President determines to be appropriate;

(ii) other senior-level Federal officials, selected by the head of the applicable Federal agency or organization, from any other Federal agency or organization that the Secretary determines to be appropriate; and

(iii) any senior-level Federal official selected by the White House official described in subparagraph (A) from any Federal agency or organization.

(3) REPORTING.—The working group shall report to the National Security Council.

(4) DUTIES.—The working group shall—

(A) provide direction and advice to the officials described in subsection (c)(1)(B)(i) and appropriate Federal agencies, as determined by the working group, with respect to the establishment of a Strategic Infrastructure Fund (referred to in this paragraph as the ''Fund'') to be used—

(i) to support those aspects of projects relating to—

(I) civil nuclear technologies; and

(II) microprocessors; and

(ii) for strategic investments identified by the working group; and

(B) address critical areas in determining the appropriate design for the Fund, including—

(i) transfer of assets to the Fund;

(ii) transfer of assets from the Fund;

(iii) how assets in the Fund should be invested; and

(iv) governance and implementation of the Fund.

(5) BRIEFING AND REPORT REQUIRED.—

(A) BRIEFING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the working group shall brief the committees described in subparagraph (C) on the status of the development of the processes necessary to implement this subsection.

(B) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the working group shall submit to the committees described in subparagraph (C) a report on the findings of the working group that includes suggested legislative text for how to establish and structure a Strategic Infrastructure Fund.

(C) COMMITTEES DESCRIBED.—The committees referred to in subparagraphs (A) and (B) are—

(i) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, the Committee on Environment and Public Works, the Committee on Finance, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(ii) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, the Committee on Ways and Means, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(D) ADMINISTRATION OF THE FUND.—The report submitted under subparagraph (B) shall include suggested legislative language requiring all expenditures from a Strategic Infrastructure Fund established in accordance with this subsection to be administered by the Secretary of State (or a designee of the Secretary of State).

(l) JOINT ASSESSMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND INDIA ON NUCLEAR LIABILITY RULES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall establish and maintain within the U.S.-India Strategic Security Dialogue a joint consultative mechanism with the Government of the Republic of India that convenes on a recurring basis—

(A) to assess the implementation of the Agreement for Cooperation between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of India Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, signed at Washington October 10, 2008 (TIAS 08–1206);

(B) to discuss opportunities for the Republic of India to align domestic nuclear liability rules with international norms; and

(C) to develop a strategy for the United States and the Republic of India to pursue bilateral and multilateral diplomatic engagements related to analyzing and implementing those opportunities.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 5 years, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that describes the joint assessment developed pursuant to paragraph (1)(A).

(m) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Except as expressly stated in this section, nothing in this section may be construed to alter or otherwise affect the interpretation or implementation of section 123 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2153) or any other provision of law, including the requirement that agreements pursuant to that section be submitted to Congress for consideration.

(n) SUNSET.—This section and the amendments made by this section shall cease to have effect on the date that is 20 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 3614. Mr. RISCH (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1265. REPORTING AND SANCTIONS INVOLVING CERTAIN ILLICIT DRUGS.

(a) SHORT TITLES.—This section may be cited as the ''Break Up Suspicious Transactions of Fentanyl Act'' or the ''BUST FENTANYL Act''.

(b) INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL STRATEGY REPORT.—Section 489(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2291h(a)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''March 1'' and inserting ''June 1''; and

(2) in paragraph (8)(A)(i), by striking ''pseudoephedrine'' and all that follows through ''chemicals)'' and inserting ''chemical precursors used in the production of methamphetamine that significantly affected the United States''.

(c) STUDY AND REPORT ON EFFORTS TO ADDRESS FENTANYL TRAFFICKING FROM THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND OTHER RELEVANT COUNTRIES.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(i) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

(ii) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(iii) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and

(iv) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(B) DEA.—The term ''DEA'' means the Drug Enforcement Administration.

(C) PRC.—The term ''PRC'' means the People's Republic of China.

(2) STUDY AND REPORT ON ADDRESSING TRAFFICKING OF FENTANYL AND OTHER SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS FROM THE PRC AND OTHER RELEVANT COUNTRIES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State and the Attorney General shall jointly submit to the appropriate committees of Congress an unclassified written report, with a classified annex, that includes—

(A) a description of United States Government efforts to gain a commitment from the Government of the PRC to submit unregulated fentanyl precursors, such as 4–AP, to controls;

(B) a plan for future steps the United States Government will take to urge the Government of the PRC to combat the production and trafficking of illicit fentanyl and synthetic opioids from the PRC, including the trafficking of precursor chemicals used to produce illicit narcotics in Mexico and in other countries;

(C) a detailed description of cooperation by the Government of the PRC to address the role of the PRC financial system and PRC money laundering organizations in the trafficking of fentanyl and synthetic opioid precursors;

(D) an assessment of the expected impact that the designation of principal corporate officers of PRC financial institutions for facilitating narcotics-related money laundering would have on PRC money laundering organizations;

(E) an assessment of whether the Trilateral Fentanyl Committee, which was established by the United States, Canada, and Mexico during the January 2023 North American Leaders' Summit, is improving cooperation with law enforcement and financial regulators in Canada and Mexico to combat the role of PRC financial institutions and PRC money laundering organizations in narcotics trafficking;

(F) an assessment of the effectiveness of other United States bilateral and multilateral efforts to strengthen international cooperation to address the PRC's role in the trafficking of fentanyl and synthetic opioid precursors, including through the Global Coalition to Address Synthetic Drug Threats;

(G) an update on the status of commitments made by third countries through the Global Coalition to Address Synthetic Drug Threats to combat the synthetic opioid crisis and progress towards the implementation of such commitments;

(H) a plan for future steps to further strengthen bilateral and multilateral efforts to urge the Government of the PRC to take additional actions to address the PRC's role in the trafficking of fentanyl and synthetic opioid precursors, particularly in coordination with countries in East Asia and Southeast Asia that have been impacted by such activities;

(I) an assessment of how actions the Government of the PRC has taken since November 15, 2023 has shifted relevant supply chains for fentanyl and synthetic opioid precursors, if at all; and

(J) the items described in subparagraphs (A) through (D) pertaining to India, Mexico, and other countries the Secretary of State determines to have a significant role in the production or trafficking of fentanyl and synthetic opioid precursors for purposes of this report.

(3) ESTABLISHMENT OF DEA OFFICES IN THE PRC.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State and the Attorney General shall jointly provide to the appropriate committees of Congress a classified briefing on—

(A) outreach and negotiations undertaken by the United States Government with the Government of the PRC that was aimed at securing the approval of the Government of the PRC to establish of United States Drug Enforcement Administration offices in Shanghai and Guangzhou, the PRC; and

(B) additional efforts to establish new partnerships with provincial-level authorities in the PRC to counter the illicit trafficking of fentanyl, fentanyl analogues, and their precursors.

(d) PRIORITIZATION OF IDENTIFICATION OF PERSONS FROM THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.—Section 7211 of the Fentanyl Sanctions Act (21 U.S.C. 2311) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively; and

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

''(3) PRIORITIZATION.—

''(A) DEFINED TERM.—In this paragraph, the term 'person of the People's Republic of China' means—

''(i) an individual who is a citizen or national of the People's Republic of China; or

''(ii) an entity organized under the laws of the People's Republic of China or otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of the Government of the People's Republic of China.

''(B) IN GENERAL.—In preparing the report required under paragraph (1), the President shall prioritize, to the greatest extent practicable, the identification of persons of the People's Republic of China involved in the shipment of fentanyl, fentanyl analogues, fentanyl precursors, precursors for fentanyl analogues, pre-precursors for fentanyl and fentanyl analogues, and equipment for the manufacturing of fentanyl and fentanyl-laced counterfeit pills to Mexico or any other country that is involved in the production of fentanyl trafficked into the United States, including—

''(i) any entity involved in the production of pharmaceuticals; and

''(ii) any person that is acting on behalf of any such entity.

''(C) TERMINATION OF PRIORITIZATION.—The President shall continue the prioritization required under subparagraph (B) until the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that the People's Republic of China is no longer the primary source for the shipment of fentanyl, fentanyl analogues, fentanyl precursors, precursors for fentanyl analogues, pre-precursors for fentanyl and fentanyl analogues, and equipment for the manufacturing of fentanyl and fentanyl-laced counterfeit pills to Mexico or any other country that is involved in the production of fentanyl trafficked into the United States.''; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking ''the date that is 5 years after such date of enactment'' and inserting ''December 31, 2030''.

(e) EXPANSION OF SANCTIONS UNDER THE FENTANYL SANCTIONS ACT.—Section 7212 of the Fentanyl Sanctions Act (21 U.S.C. 2312) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) the President determines has knowingly engaged in, on or after the date of the enactment of the BUST FENTANYL Act, a significant activity or significant financial transaction that has materially contributed to opioid trafficking; or

''(4) the President determines—

''(A) has received any property or interest in property that the foreign person knows—

''(i) constitutes or is derived from the proceeds of an activity or transaction described in paragraph (3); or

''(ii) was used or intended to be used to commit or to facilitate such an activity or transaction;

''(B) has knowingly provided significant financial, material, or technological support for, including through the provision of goods or services in support of—

''(i) any activity or transaction described in paragraph (3); or

''(ii) any foreign person described in paragraph (3); or

''(C) is or has been owned, controlled, or directed by any foreign person described in subparagraph (A) or (B) or in paragraph (3), or has knowingly acted or purported to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, such a foreign person.''.

(f) IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO AGENCIES OR INSTRUMENTALITIES OF FOREIGN STATES.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the terms ''knowingly'' and ''opioid trafficking'' have the meanings given such terms in section 7203 of the Fentanyl Sanctions Act (21 U.S.C. 2302).

(2) IN GENERAL.—The President may—

(A) impose one or more of the sanctions described in section 7213 of the Fentanyl Sanctions Act (21 U.S.C. 2313) with respect to each political subdivision, agency, or instrumentality of a foreign government, including any

financial institution owned or controlled by a foreign government, that the President determines has knowingly, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act—

(i) engaged in a significant activity or a significant financial transaction that has materially contributed to opioid trafficking; or

(ii) provided financial, material, or technological support for (including through the provision of goods or services in support of) any significant activity or significant financial transaction described in clause (i); and

(B) impose one or more of the sanctions described in section 7213(a)(6) of the Fentanyl Sanctions Act (21 U.S.C. 2313(a)(6)) with respect to each senior official of a political subdivision, agency, or instrumentality of a foreign government that the President determines has knowingly, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, facilitated a significant activity or a significant financial transaction described in subparagraph (A).

(g) ANNUAL REPORT ON EFFORTS TO PREVENT THE SMUGGLING OF METHAMPHETAMINE INTO THE UNITED STATES FROM MEXICO.—Section 723(c) of the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act of 2005 (22 U.S.C. 2291 note) is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting the following'', which shall—

''(1) identify the significant source countries for methamphetamine that significantly affect the United States, and

''(2) describe the actions by the governments of the countries identified pursuant to paragraph (1) to combat the diversion of relevant precursor chemicals and the production and trafficking of methamphetamine.''.

SA 3615. Mr. RISCH (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

Subtitle F—International Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2025

SEC. 1270. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''International Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2025''.

PART I—COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING ABROAD

SEC. 1271. UNITED STATES SUPPORT FOR INTEGRATION OF ANTI-TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS INTERVENTIONS IN MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS.

(a) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State acting through the Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, shall instruct the United States Executive Director of each multilateral development bank (as defined in section 110(d) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107(d))) to encourage the inclusion of a counter-trafficking strategy, including risk assessment and mitigation efforts as needed, in proposed projects in countries listed—

(1) on the Tier 2 Watch List (required under section 110(b)(2)(A) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107(b)(2)(A)), as amended by section 104(a));

(2) under subparagraph (C) of section 110(b)(1) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107(b)(1)) (commonly referred to as ''Tier 3''); and

(3) as Special Cases in the most recent report on trafficking in persons required under such section (commonly referred to as the ''Trafficking in Persons Report'').

(b) BRIEFINGS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall brief the appropriate congressional committees regarding the implementation of this section.

(c) GAO REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that details the activities of the United States relating to combating human trafficking, including forced labor, within multilateral development projects.

(d) DEFINED TERM.—In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(2) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(3) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(4) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 1272. COUNTER-TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS EFFORTS IN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE POLICY.

The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 102(b)(4) (22 U.S.C. 2151–1(b)(4))—

(A) in subparagraph (F), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (G), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(H) effective counter-trafficking in persons policies and programs.''; and

(2) in section 492(d)(1) (22 U.S.C. 2292a(d)(1))—

(A) by striking ''that the funds'' and inserting the following: ''that—

''(A) the funds'';

(B) in subparagraph (A), as added by subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) in carrying out the provisions of this chapter, the President shall, to the greatest extent possible—

''(i) ensure that assistance made available under this section does not create or contribute to conditions that can be reasonably expected to result in an increase in trafficking in persons who are in conditions of heightened vulnerability as a result of natural and manmade disasters; and

''(ii) integrate appropriate protections into the planning and execution of activities authorized under this chapter.''.

SEC. 1273. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO TIER RANKINGS.

(a) MODIFICATIONS TO TIER 2 WATCH LIST.—Section 110(b)(2) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) in the paragraph heading, by striking ''SPECIAL'' and inserting ''TIER 2''; and

(2) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

''(A) SUBMISSION OF LIST.—Not later than the date on which the determinations described in subsections (c) and (d) are submitted to the appropriate congressional committees in accordance with such subsections, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a list of countries that the Secretary determines require special scrutiny during the following year. Such list shall be composed of countries that have been listed pursuant to paragraph (1)(B) pursuant to the current annual report because—

''(i) the estimated number of victims of severe forms of trafficking is very significant or is significantly increasing and the country is not taking proportional concrete actions; or

''(ii) there is a failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons from the previous year, including increased investigations, prosecutions and convictions of trafficking crimes, increased assistance to victims, and decreasing evidence of complicity in severe forms of trafficking by government officials.''.

(b) MODIFICATION TO SPECIAL RULE FOR DOWNGRADED AND REINSTATED COUNTRIES.—Section 110(b)(2)(F) of such Act (22 U.S.C. 7107(b)(2)(F)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''the special watch list'' and all that follows through ''the country—'' and inserting ''the Tier 2 watch list described in subparagraph (A) for more than 2 years immediately after the country consecutively—'';

(2) in clause (i), in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking ''the special watch list described in subparagraph (A)(iii)'' and inserting ''the Tier 2 watch list described in subparagraph (A)''; and

(3) in clause (ii), by inserting ''in the year following such waiver under subparagraph (D)(ii)'' before the period at the end.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 110(b) of such Act (22 U.S.C. 7107(b)) is further amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), as amended by subsection (a)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''special watch list'' and inserting ''Tier 2 watch list'';

(B) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) in the subparagraph heading, by striking ''SPECIAL WATCH LIST'' and inserting ''TIER 2 WATCH LIST''; and

(ii) by striking ''special watch list'' and inserting ''Tier 2 watch list''; and

(C) in subparagraph (D)—

(i) in the subparagraph heading, by striking ''SPECIAL WATCH LIST'' and inserting ''TIER 2 WATCH LIST''; and

(ii) in clause (i), by striking ''special watch list'' and inserting ''Tier 2 watch list'';

(2) in paragraph (3)(B), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) of''; and

(3) in paragraph (4)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''each country described in paragraph (2)(A)(ii)'' and inserting ''each country described in paragraph (2)(A)''; and

(B) in subparagraph (D)(ii), by striking ''the Special Watch List'' and inserting ''the Tier 2 watch list''.

(d) FREDERICK DOUGLASS TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PREVENTION AND PROTECTION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2018.—Section 204(b)(1) of the Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–425) is amended by striking ''special watch list'' and inserting ''Tier 2 watch list''.

(e) BIPARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL TRADE PRIORITIES AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2015.—Section 106(b)(6)(E)(iii) of the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015 (19 U.S.C. 4205(b)(6)(E)(iii) is amended by striking ''under section'' and all that follows and inserting ''under section 110(b)(2)(A) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107(b)(2)(A))''.

SEC. 1274. MODIFICATIONS TO THE PROGRAM TO END MODERN SLAVERY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1298 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (22 U.S.C. 7114) is amended—

(1) in subsection (g)(2), by striking ''2020'' and inserting ''2029''; and

(2) in subsection (h)(1), by striking ''Not later than September 30, 2018, and September 30, 2020'' and inserting ''Not later than September 30, 2025, and September 30, 2029''.

(b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for funding under the Program to End Modern Slavery of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, a grant recipient shall—

(1) publish the names of all subgrantee organizations on a publicly available website; or

(2) if the subgrantee organization expresses a security concern, the grant recipient shall relay such concerns to the Secretary of State, who shall transmit annually the names of all subgrantee organizations in a classified annex to the chairs of the appropriate congressional committees (as defined in section 1298(i) of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2017 (22 U.S.C. 7114(i))).

(c) AWARD OF FUNDS.—All grants issued under the program referred to in subsection (b) shall be—

(1) awarded on a competitive basis; and

(2) subject to the regular congressional notification procedures applicable with respect to grants made available under section 1298(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2017 (22 U.S.C. 7114(b)).

SEC. 1275. CLARIFICATION OF NONHUMANITARIAN, NONTRADE-RELATED FOREIGN ASSISTANCE.

(a) CLARIFICATION OF SCOPE OF WITHHELD ASSISTANCE.—Section 110(d)(1) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107(d)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

''(1) WITHHOLDING OF ASSISTANCE.—The President has determined that—

''(A) the United States will not provide nonhumanitarian, nontrade-related foreign assistance to the central government of the country or funding to facilitate the participation by officials or employees of such central government in educational and cultural exchange programs, for the subsequent fiscal year until such government complies with the minimum standards or makes significant efforts to bring itself into compliance; and

''(B) the President will instruct the United States Executive Director of each multilateral development bank and of the International Monetary Fund to vote against, and to use the Executive Director's best efforts to deny, any loan or other utilization of the funds of the respective institution to that country (other than for humanitarian assistance, for trade-related assistance, or for development assistance that directly addresses basic human needs, is not administered by the central government of the sanctioned country, and is not provided for the benefit of that government) for the subsequent fiscal year until such government complies with the minimum standards or makes significant efforts to bring itself into compliance.''.

(b) DEFINITION OF NONHUMANITARIAN, NONTRADE RELATED ASSISTANCE.—Section 103(10) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102(10)) is amended to read as follows:

''(10) NONHUMANITARIAN, NONTRADE-RELATED FOREIGN ASSISTANCE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'nonhumanitarian, nontrade-related foreign assistance' means—

''(i) sales, or financing on any terms, under the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.), other than sales or financing provided for narcotics-related purposes following notification in accordance with the prior notification procedures applicable to reprogrammings pursuant to section 634A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2394–1); or

''(ii) United States foreign assistance, other than—

''(I) with respect to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961—

''(aa) assistance for international narcotics and law enforcement under chapter 8 of part I of such Act (22 U.S.C. 2291 et seq.);

''(bb) assistance for International Disaster Assistance under subsections (b) and (c) of section 491 of such Act (22 U.S.C. 2292);

''(cc) antiterrorism assistance under chapter 8 of part II of such Act (22 U.S.C. 2349aa et seq.); and

''(dd) health programs under chapters 1 and 10 of part I and chapter 4 of part II of such Act (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.);

''(II) assistance under the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1691 et seq.);

''(III) assistance under sections 2(a), (b), and (c) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962 (22 U.S.C. 2601(a), (b), (c)) to meet refugee and migration needs;

''(IV) any form of United States foreign assistance provided through nongovernmental organizations, international organizations, or private sector partners—

''(aa) to combat human and wildlife trafficking;

''(bb) to promote food security;

''(cc) to respond to emergencies;

''(dd) to provide humanitarian assistance;

''(ee) to address basic human needs, including for education;

''(ff) to advance global health security; or

''(gg) to promote trade; and

''(V) any other form of United States foreign assistance that the President determines, by not later than October 1 of each fiscal year, is necessary to advance the security, economic, humanitarian, or global health interests of the United States without compromising the steadfast United States commitment to combating human trafficking globally.

''(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term 'nonhumanitarian, nontrade-related foreign assistance' shall not include payments to or the participation of government entities necessary or incidental to the implementation of a program that is otherwise consistent with section 110.''.

SEC. 1276. EXPANDING PROTECTIONS FOR DOMESTIC WORKERS OF OFFICIAL AND DIPLOMATIC PERSONS.

Section 203(b) of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1375c(b)) is amended by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

''(5) NATIONAL EXPANSION OF IN-PERSON REGISTRATION PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall administer the Domestic Worker In-Person Registration Program for employees with A–3 visas or G–5 visas employed by accredited foreign mission members or international organization employees and shall expand this program nationally, which shall include—

''(A) after the arrival of each such employee in the United States, and annually during the course of such employee's employment, a description of the rights of such employee under applicable Federal and State law;

''(B) provision of a copy of the pamphlet developed pursuant to section 202 to the employee with an A–3 visa or a G–5 visa; and

''(C) information on how to contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline.

''(6) MONITORING AND TRAINING OF A–3 AND G–5 VISA EMPLOYERS ACCREDITED TO FOREIGN MISSIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.—The Secretary shall—

''(A) inform embassies, international organizations, and foreign missions of the rights of A–3 and G–5 domestic workers under the applicable labor laws of the United States, including the fair labor standards described in the pamphlet developed pursuant to section 202 and material on labor standards and labor rights of domestic worker employees who hold A–3 and G–5 visas;

''(B) inform embassies, international organizations, and foreign missions of the potential consequences to individuals holding a nonimmigrant visa issued pursuant to subparagraph (A)(i), (A)(ii), (G)(i), (G)(ii), or (G)(iii) of section 101(a)(15) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)) who violate the laws described in subclause (I)(aa), including (at the discretion of the Secretary)—

''(i) the suspension of A–3 visas and G–5 visas;

''(ii) request for waiver of immunity;

''(iii) criminal prosecution;

''(iv) civil damages; and

''(v) permanent revocation of or refusal to renew the visa of the accredited foreign mission or international organization employee; and

''(C) require all accredited foreign mission and international organization employers of individuals holding A–3 visas or G–5 visas to report the wages paid to such employees on an annual basis.''.

SEC. 1277. EFFECTIVE DATES.

Sections 204(b) and 206, and the amendments made by those sections, take effect on the date that is the first day of the first full reporting period for the report required under section 110(b)(1) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107(b)(1)) after the date of the enactment of this Act.

PART II—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 1278. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATIONS UNDER THE VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING AND VIOLENCE PROTECTION ACT OF 2000.

Section 113 of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7110) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''2018 through 2021, $13,822,000'' and inserting ''2026 through 2030, $17,000,000''; and

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''2018 through 2021, $65,000,000'' and inserting ''2026 through 2030, $102,500,000''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) PROGRAMS TO END MODERN SLAVERY.—Of the amounts authorized by paragraph (1) to be appropriated for a fiscal year, not more than $37,500,000 may be made available to fund programs to end modern slavery.''.

SEC. 1279. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATIONS UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL MEGAN'S LAW.

Section 11 of the International Megan's Law to Prevent Child Exploitation and Other Sexual Crimes Through Advanced Notification of Traveling Sex Offenders (34 U.S.C. 21509) is amended by striking ''2018 through 2021'' and inserting ''2025 through 2029''.

PART III—BRIEFINGS

SEC. 1280. BRIEFING ON ANNUAL TRAFFICKING IN PERSON'S REPORT.

Not later than 30 days after the public designation of country tier rankings and subsequent publishing of the Trafficking in Persons Report, the Secretary of State shall brief the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives on—

(1) countries that were downgraded or upgraded in the most recent Trafficking in Persons Report; and

(2) the efforts made by the United States to improve counter-trafficking efforts in

those countries, including foreign government efforts to better meet minimum standards to eliminate human trafficking.

SEC. 1281. BRIEFING ON USE AND JUSTIFICATION OF WAIVERS.

Not later than 30 days after the President has determined to issue a waiver under section 110(d)(5) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107(d)(5)), the Secretary of State shall brief the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives on—

(1) each country that received a waiver;

(2) the justification for each such waiver; and

(3) a description of the efforts made by each country to meet the minimum standards to eliminate human trafficking.

SA 3616. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XII, add the following:

Subtitle F—Deterring Aggression Against Taiwan

SEC. 1271. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Deter PRC Aggression Against Taiwan Act''.

SEC. 1272. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that the United States must be prepared to take immediate action to impose sanctions with respect to any military or non-military entities owned, controlled, or acting at the direction of the Government of the PRC or the Chinese Communist Party that are supporting actions by the Government of the PRC or by the Chinese Communist Party—

(1) to overthrow or dismantle the governing institutions in Taiwan;

(2) to occupy any territory controlled or administered by Taiwan;

(3) to violate the territorial integrity of Taiwan; or

(4) to take significant action against Taiwan, including—

(A) conducting a naval blockade of Taiwan;

(B) seizing any outlying island of Taiwan; or

(C) perpetrating a significant physical or cyber attack on Taiwan that erodes the ability of the governing institutions in Taiwan to operate or provide essential services to the citizens of Taiwan.

SEC. 1273. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate;

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

(D) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(E) the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives; and

(F) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

(2) PRC.—The term ''PRC'' means the People's Republic of China.

(3) PRC SANCTIONS TASK FORCE; TASK FORCE.—The terms ''PRC Sanctions Task Force'' and ''Task Force'' mean the task force established pursuant to section 1274.

SEC. 1274. TASK FORCE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Coordinator for Sanctions of the Department of State and the Director of the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury, in coordination with the Director of National Intelligence and the heads of other Federal agencies, as appropriate, shall establish an interagency task force to identify military or non-military entities that could be subject to sanctions or other economic actions imposed by the United States immediately following any action taken by the PRC that demonstrates an attempt to achieve, or has the significant effect of achieving, the physical or political control of Taiwan, including by taking any of the actions described in paragraphs (1) through (4) of section 1272.

(b) STRATEGY.—Not later than 180 days after the establishment of the PRC Sanctions Task Force, the Task Force shall submit a strategy to the appropriate congressional committees for identifying proposed targets for sanctions or other economic actions referred to in subsection (a), which shall—

(1) assess how existing sanctions programs could be used to impose sanctions with respect to entities identified by the Task Force;

(2) develop or propose, as appropriate, new sanctions authorities that might be required to impose sanctions with respect to such entities;

(3) analyze the potential economic consequences to the United States, and to allies and partners of the United States, of imposing various types of such sanctions with respect to such entities;

(4) assess measures that could be taken to mitigate the consequences referred to in paragraph (3), including through the use of licenses, exemptions, carve-outs, and other approaches;

(5) include coordination with allies and partners of the United States—

(A) to leverage sanctions and other economic tools including actions targeting the PRC's financial and industrial sectors to deter or respond to aggression against Taiwan;

(B) to identify and resolve potential impediments to coordinating sanctions-related efforts or other economic actions with respect to responding to or deterring aggression against Taiwan; and

(C) to identify industries, sectors, or goods and services where the United States and allies and partners of the United States can take coordinated action through sanctions or other economic tools that will have a significant negative impact on the economy of the PRC; and

(D) to coordinate actions with partners and allies to provide economic support to Taiwan and other countries being threatened by the PRC, including measures to counter economic coercion by the PRC;

(6) assess the resource gaps and needs at the Department of State, the Department of the Treasury, the Department of Commerce, the United States Trade Representative, and other Federal agencies, as appropriate, to most effectively use sanctions and other economic tools to respond to the threats posed by the PRC;

(7) recommend how best to target sanctions and other economic tools against individuals, entities, and economic sectors in the PRC, which shall take into account—

(A) the role of such targets in supporting policies and activities of the Government of the PRC, or of the Chinese Communist Party, that pose a threat to the national security or foreign policy interests of the United States;

(B) the negative economic implications of such sanctions and tools for the Government of the PRC, including its ability to achieve its objectives with respect to Taiwan; and

(C) the potential impact of such sanctions and tools on the stability of the global financial system, including with respect to—

(i) state-owned enterprises;

(ii) officials of the Government of the PRC and of the Chinese Communist Party;

(iii) financial institutions associated with the Government of the PRC; and

(iv) companies in the PRC that are not formally designated by the Government of the PRC as state-owned enterprises; and

(8) identify any foreign military or non-military entities that would likely be used to achieve the outcomes specified in section 1272, including entities in the shipping, logistics, energy (including oil and gas), maritime, aviation, ground transportation, and technology sectors.

SEC. 1275. REPORT.

Not later than 60 days after the submission of the strategy required under section 1274(b), and semiannually thereafter, the PRC Sanctions Task Force shall submit a classified report to the appropriate congressional committees that includes information regarding—

(1) any entities identified pursuant to section 1274(b)(8);

(2) any new authorities required to impose sanctions with respect to such entities;

(3) potential economic impacts on the PRC, the United States, and allies and partners of the United States resulting from the imposition of sanctions with respect to such entities;

(4) mitigation measures that could be employed to limit any deleterious economic impacts on the United States and allies and partners of the United States of such sanctions;

(5) the status of coordination with allies and partners of the United States regarding sanctions and other economic tools identified under this subtitle;

(6) resource gaps and recommendations to enable the Department of State and the Department of the Treasury to use sanctions to more effectively respond to the malign activities of the Government of the PRC; and

(7) any additional resources that may be necessary to carry out the strategies and recommendations included in the report submitted pursuant to section 1274(b).

SA 3617. Mr. RISCH (for himself and Mr. COONS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XII, add the following:

Subtitle F—Countering Wrongful Detention

SEC. 1271. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Countering Wrongful Detention Act of 2025''.

SEC. 1272. DESIGNATION OF A FOREIGN COUNTRY AS A STATE SPONSOR OF UNLAWFUL OR WRONGFUL DETENTION.

The Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 1741 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 306 the following:

"SEC. 306A. DESIGNATION OF A FOREIGN COUNTRY AS A STATE SPONSOR OF UNLAWFUL OR WRONGFUL DETENTION.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the notice requirement of subsection (c)(1)(A), the Secretary of State, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, may designate a foreign country that has provided support for or directly engaged in the unlawful or wrongful detention of a United States national as a State Sponsor of Unlawful or Wrongful Detention based on any of the following criteria:

''(1) The unlawful or wrongful detention of a United States national occurs in the foreign country.

''(2) The government of the foreign country or an entity organized under the laws of a foreign country has failed to release an unlawfully or wrongfully detained United States national within 30 days of being officially notified by the Department of State of the unlawful or wrongful detention.

''(3) Actions taken by the government of the foreign country indicate that the government is responsible for, complicit in, or materially supports the unlawful or wrongful detention of a United States national, including by acting as described in paragraph (2) after having been notified by the Department of State.

''(4) The actions of a state or nonstate actor in the foreign country, including any previous action relating to unlawful or wrongful detention or hostage taking of a United States national, pose a risk to the safety and security of United States nationals abroad sufficient to warrant designation of the foreign country as a State Sponsor of Unlawful or Wrongful Detention, as determined by the Secretary.

''(b) TERMINATION OF DESIGNATION.—The Secretary of State may terminate the designation of a foreign country under subsection (a) if the Secretary certifies to Congress that the government of the foreign country—

''(1) has released the United States nationals unlawfully or wrongfully detained within the territory of the foreign country;

''(2) has positively contributed to the release of United States nationals taken hostage within the territory of the foreign country or from the custody of a nonstate entity;

''(3) has demonstrated changes in leadership or policies with respect to unlawful or wrongful detention and hostage taking; or

''(4) has provided assurances that the government of the foreign country will not engage or be complicit in or support acts described in subsection (a).

''(c) BRIEFING AND REPORTS TO CONGRESS; PUBLICATION.—

''(1) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 7 days prior to making a designation of a foreign country as a State Sponsor of Unlawful or Wrongful Detention under subsection (a), the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that notifies the committees of the proposed designation.

''(B) ELEMENTS.—In each report submitted under subparagraph (A) with respect to the designation of a foreign country as a State Sponsor of Unlawful or Wrongful Detention, the Secretary shall include—

''(i) the justification for the designation; and

''(ii) a description of any action taken by the United States Government, including the Secretary of State or the head of any other relevant Federal agency, in response to the designation to deter the unlawful or wrongful detention or hostage-taking of foreign nationals in the country.

''(2) INITIAL BRIEFING REQUIRED.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall brief Congress on the following:

''(A) Whether any of the following countries should be designated as a State Sponsor of Unlawful or Wrongful Detention under subsection (a):

''(i) Afghanistan.

''(ii) Eritrea.

''(iii) The Islamic Republic of Iran.

''(iv) The People's Republic of China.

''(v) The Russian Federation.

''(vi) The Syrian Arab Republic or any transitional government therein.

''(vii) Venezuela under the regime of Nicolás Maduro.

''(viii) The Republic of Belarus.

''(B) The steps taken by the Secretary and the heads of other relevant Federal agencies to deter the unlawful and wrongful detention of United States nationals and to respond to such detentions, including—

''(i) any engagement with private sector companies to optimize the distribution of travel advisories; and

''(ii) any engagement with private companies responsible for promoting travel to foreign countries engaged in the unlawful or wrongful detention of United States nationals.

''(C) An assessment of a possible expansion of chapter 97 of title 28, United States Code (commonly known as the 'Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act of 1976') to include an exception from asset seizure immunity for State Sponsors of Unlawful or Wrongful Detention.

''(D) A detailed plan on the manner by which a geographic travel restriction could be instituted against State Sponsors of Unlawful or Wrongful Detention.

''(E) The progress made in multilateral fora, including the United Nations and other international organizations, to address the unlawful and wrongful detention of United States nationals, in addition to nationals of partners and allies of the United States in foreign countries.

''(3) ANNUAL BRIEFING.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this section, and annually thereafter for 5 years, the Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs and the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress with respect to unlawful or wrongful detentions taking place in the countries listed under paragraph (2)(A) and actions taken by the Secretary of State and the heads of other relevant Federal agencies to deter the wrongful detention of United States nationals, including any steps taken in accordance with paragraph (2)(B).

''(4) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall make available on a publicly accessible website of the Department of State, and regularly update, a list of foreign countries designated as State Sponsors of Unlawful or Wrongful Detention under subsection (a).

''(d) REVIEW OF AVAILABLE RESPONSES TO STATE SPONSORS OF UNLAWFUL OR WRONGFUL DETENTION.—Upon designation of a foreign country as a State Sponsor of Unlawful or Wrongful Detention under subsection (a), the Secretary of State, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall conduct a comprehensive review of the use of existing authorities to respond to and deter the unlawful or wrongful detention of United States nationals in the foreign country, including—

''(1) sanctions available under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.);

''(2) visa restrictions available under section 7031(c) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2024 (division F of Public Law 118–47; 8 U.S.C. 1182 note) or any other provision of Federal law;

''(3) sanctions available under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.);

''(4) imposition of a geographic travel restriction on citizens of the United States;

''(5) restrictions on assistance provided to the government of the country under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) or any other provision of Federal law;

''(6) restrictions on the export of certain goods to the country under the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.), the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4801 et seq.), or any other Federal law; and

''(7) designating the government of the country as a government that has repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism pursuant to—

''(A) section 1754(c)(1)(A)(i) of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4813(c)(1)(A)(i));

''(B) section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371);

''(C) section 40(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2780(d)); or

''(D) any other provision of law.

''(e) DEFINED TERM.—In this section, the term 'appropriate committees of Congress' means—

''(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

''(2) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

''(3) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

''(4) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

''(f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to imply that the United States Government formally recognizes any particular country or the government of such country as legitimate.''.

SEC. 1273. REQUIRED CERTIFICATION REGARDING INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL ADVISORIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 423 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 42309. Required certification regarding international travel advisories

''(a) IN GENERAL.—An air carrier, foreign air carrier, or ticket agent who sells, in the United States, a ticket for foreign air transportation of a passenger to a country or other geographic area with a 'D' or 'K' indicator issued by the Department of State Travel Advisory System shall require the passenger listed on the ticket to certify that the passenger—

''(1) has reviewed the travel advisory of the Department of State applicable to such country or other geographic area; and

''(2) understands the risks involved with traveling to such country or other geographic area.

''(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in subsection (a) may be construed as grounds to inhibit access to consular services by a United States citizen abroad.

''(c) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

''(1) 'D' INDICATOR.—The term ''D'' indicator' means a travel advisory issued by the Department of State that indicates a risk of wrongful detention of a United States national.

''(2) 'K' INDICATOR.—The term ''K'' indicator' means a travel advisory issued by the Department of State that indicates a criminal or terrorist individual or group has threatened to seize, detain, kill, or injure individuals (or has seized, detained, killed, or injured individuals) to compel a third party (including a governmental organization) to meet certain requirements as a condition of release.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 423 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 42308 the following:

''42309. Required certification regarding international travel advisories.''.

SEC. 1274. ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HOSTAGE-TAKING AND UNLAWFUL OR WRONGFUL DETENTION.

The Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 1741 et seq.), as amended by section 1272, is further amended by inserting after section 305B the following:

''SEC. 305C. ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HOSTAGE TAKING AND UNLAWFUL OR WRONGFUL DETENTION.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President shall establish an advisory council, to be known as the 'Advisory Council on Hostage Taking and Unlawful or Wrongful Detention' (in this section referred to as the 'Advisory Council'), to advise the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs, the Hostage Response Group, and the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell with respect to Federal policies regarding hostage-taking and unlawful or wrongful detention.

''(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall invite individuals to the Advisory Council, which shall be comprised of—

''(A) United States nationals who have been unlawfully or wrongfully detained or taken hostage abroad;

''(B) family members of such United States nationals; and

''(C) not fewer than 2 experts on areas including hostage-taking, wrongful detention, international relations, rule of law, and counterterrorism who have been recommended by the Secretary of State.

''(2) TERMS.—The term of a member of the Advisory Council shall be 3 years.

''(3) COMPENSATION AND TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the Advisory Council shall not be considered a Federal employee and shall not be compensated for service on the Advisory Council, but may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code.

''(c) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, the Advisory Council shall submit to the President and the appropriate congressional committees a report setting forth the recommendations of the Advisory Council.

''(d) TERMINATION.—The Advisory Council shall terminate on the date that is 10 years after the date of the enactment of this section.''.

SEC. 1275. CONGRESSIONAL REPORT ON COMPONENTS RELATED TO HOSTAGE AFFAIRS AND RECOVERY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to Congress a report on the following:

(1) The Hostage Response Group established pursuant to section 305(a) of the Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 1741c(a)).

(2) The Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell established pursuant to section 304(a) of such Act (22 U.S.C. 1741b(a)).

(3) The Office of the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs established pursuant to section 303(a) of such Act (22 U.S.C. 1741a(a)).

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a description of the existing structure of each component listed in subsection (a);

(2) recommendations on how the components can be improved, including through reorganization or consolidation of the components; and

(3) cost efficiencies on the components listed in subsection (a), including resources available to eligible former wrongful detainees and hostages and their family members.

SEC. 1276. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this subtitle or the amendments made by this subtitle may be construed as preventing the freedom of travel of United States citizens.

SA 3618. Mr. RISCH 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. ___. CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATIONS UNDER THE ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT.

(a) DOLLAR AMOUNT THRESHOLDS.—The Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 36(a)(10), by striking ''$250,000'' each place it appears and inserting ''$440,000 (as adjusted pursuant to section 48)'';

(2) in section 25(a)(1), by striking ''$7,000,000'' and inserting ''$12,000,000 (as adjusted pursuant to section 48)'';

(3) in section 25(a)(1), by striking ''25,000,000'' and inserting ''44,000,000 (as adjusted pursuant to section 48)'';

(4) in sections 3(d)(1), 3(d)(3)(A), 36(b)(1), 36(b)(5)(C), 36(c)(1), and 63(a)(1), by striking ''$14,000,000'' each place it appears and inserting ''$25,000,000 (as adjusted pursuant to section 48)'';

(5) in sections 3(d)(5)(A), 36(b)(6)(A), 36(c)(5)(A), and 63(a)(2)(A), by striking ''$25,000,000'' each place it appears and inserting ''$44,000,000 (as adjusted pursuant to section 48)'';

(6) in sections 3(d)(1), 3(d)(3)(A), 36(b)(1), 36(b)(5)(C), 36(c)(1), 47(6), 63(a)(1), and 71(d), by striking ''$50,000,000'' each place it appears and inserting ''$88,000,000 (as adjusted pursuant to section 48)'';

(7) in sections 3(d)(5)(B), 36(b)(6)(B), 36(c)(5)(B), and 63(a)(2)(B), by striking ''$100,000,000'' each place it appears and inserting ''$175,000,000 (as adjusted pursuant to section 48)'';

(8) in sections 36(b)(1), 36(b)(5)(C), and 47(6), by striking ''$200,000,000'' each place it appears and inserting ''$350,000,000 (as adjusted pursuant to section 48)'';

(9) in section 36(b)(6)(C), by striking ''$300,000,000'' and inserting ''$526,000,000 (as adjusted pursuant to section 48)''; and

(10) by inserting after section 47 the following:

''SEC. 48. INFLATION ADJUSTMENTS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—On the date that is three years after the date of the enactment of this section, and every three years thereafter, the amounts specified in subsection (b) shall be adjusted to reflect the percentage (if any) of the increase in the average of the Consumer Price Index for the preceding 12-month period compared to the Consumer Price Index for fiscal year 2026.

''(b) AMOUNTS SPECIFIED.—The amounts specified in this subsection are the dollar amounts in—

''(1) sections 3(d)(1), 3(d)(3)(A), 3(d)(5)(A), and 3(d)(5)(B);

''(2) section 25(a)(1);

''(3) sections 36(a)(10), 36(b)(1), 36(b)(5)(C), 36(b)(6)(A), 36(b)(6)(B), 36(b)(6)(C), 36(c)(1), 36(c)(5)(A), and 36(c)(5)(B);

''(4) section 47(6);

''(5) sections 63(a)(1), 63(a)(2)(A), and 63(a)(2)(B); and

''(6) section 71(d).

''(c) CONSUMER PRICE INDEX DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'Consumer Price Index' means the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor.''.

(b) INFORMATION.—

(1) FOREIGN MILITARY SALES.—Section 36(b)(1) of such Act (22 U.S.C. 2776(b)(1)) is amended, in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting, after ''of such technology.'', the following: ''Such numbered certifications shall also contain any information on the proposed sale that the Department of Defense provides to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate or the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives, including information on defense capability gaps and security cooperation requirements, which shall be submitted by the Secretary of Defense.''.

(2) DIRECT COMMERCIAL SALES.—Section 36(c)(1) of such Act (22 U.S.C. 2776(c)(1)) is amended by inserting, after ''such offset agreement.'', the following: ''Each such numbered certification shall also contain any information on the proposed export that the Department of Defense provides to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate or the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives, including information on defense capability gaps and security cooperation requirements, which shall be submitted by the Secretary of Defense.''.

(c) QUARTERLY BRIEFINGS.—Section 36 of such Act (22 U.S.C. 2776) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(j) QUARTERLY BRIEFINGS.—Not less frequently than quarterly, the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense shall each brief the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate on the letters of offers to sell, and licenses to export, defense articles or defense services under this Act issued during the preceding quarter for which a certification was not required to be submitted to Congress under subsection (b) or (c).''.

SA 3619. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. ___. REPORT ON MADURO REGIME IN VENEZUELA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter until the date that is 10 years after such date of enactment, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State and such other heads of Federal agencies as the Secretary of Defense considers appropriate, shall submit to Congress a report that includes the following:

(1) An assessment of the extent to which the regime of Nicolas Maduro provides safe haven to transnational criminal organizations and foreign terrorist organizations.

(2) A list of transnational criminal organizations and foreign terrorist organizations operating within Venezuela.

(3) An assessment of the extent to which senior members of the Maduro regime support and protect transnational criminal organizations operating within Venezuela.

(4) An assessment of the nature and extent of relations between senior members of the Maduro regime and transnational criminal organizations and foreign terrorist organizations.

(5) An assessment of the nature and extent of relations between the security forces of Venezuela and transnational criminal organizations and foreign terrorist organizations.

(6) A description of the geographic routes of illicit narcotics flows into Venezuela, within Venezuela, and outbound from Venezuela.

(7) An assessment of illicit finance flows into Venezuela, within Venezuela, and outbound from Venezuela.

(8) An assessment of the extent to which members of the Maduro regime and members of the security forces of Venezuela actively facilitate the manufacturing or transportation of narcotics within Venezuela or outbound from Venezuela.

(9) An assessment of whether the Maduro regime conducts credible counter-narcotics efforts within Venezuela.

(10) An assessment of whether the nature and extent of relations between members of the Maduro regime and transnational criminal organizations and foreign terrorist organizations undermines United States security interests and counter-narcotics efforts in Colombia.

(11) An assessment of whether the nature and extent of relations between members of the Maduro regime and transnational criminal organizations and foreign terrorist organizations undermines the 2016 agreement between the Government of Colombia and the FARC.

(12) An assessment of the implications of the nature and extent of relations between members of the Maduro regime and transnational criminal organizations and foreign terrorist organizations for the security and stability of the Caribbean region.

(13) An assessment of the implications of the nature and extent of relations between members of the Maduro regime and transnational criminal organizations and foreign terrorist organizations for United States security and economic interests in the Caribbean.

(14) An assessment of the implications of the involvement of the Ejercito de Liberacion Nacional (ELN) in transnational criminal activities within Venezuela for Cuba's relations with the ELN.

(15) An assessment of whether the Maduro regime meets the criteria for designation as a specially designated global terrorist and whether such designation would facilitate the implementation of Executive Order 14157 (relating to designating cartels and other organizations as foreign terrorist organizations and specially designated global terrorists) or Executive Order 13224 (relating to blocking property and prohibiting transactions with persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism).

(b) FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATION DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''foreign terrorist organization'' means an organization that is designated as a foreign terrorist organization under section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189).

SA 3620. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XII, add the following:

Subtitle F—Western Hemisphere Drug Policy Commission

SEC. 1271. ESTABLISHMENT.

There is established an independent commission, which shall be known as the ''Western Hemisphere Drug Policy Commission'' (referred to in this subtitle as the ''Commission'').

SEC. 1272. DUTIES.

(a) REVIEW OF ILLICIT DRUG CONTROL POLICIES.—The Commission shall conduct a comprehensive review of United States foreign policy in the Western Hemisphere to reduce the illicit drug supply and drug abuse and reduce the damage associated with illicit drug markets and trafficking. The Commission shall also identify policy and program options to improve existing international counternarcotics policy. The review shall include the following topics:

(1) An evaluation of United States-funded international illicit drug control programs in the Western Hemisphere, including drug interdiction, crop eradication, alternative development, drug production surveys, police and justice sector training, demand reduction, and strategies to target drug kingpins.

(2) An evaluation of the impact of United States counternarcotics assistance programs in the Western Hemisphere, including counternarcotics cooperation with Mexico, counternarcotics assistance programs in Colombia, the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative and the Central America Regional Security Initiative, in curbing drug production, drug trafficking, and drug-related violence and improving citizen security.

(3) An evaluation of how the President's annual determination of major drug-transit and major illicit drug producing countries under section 706 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (22 U.S.C. 2291j–1) serves United States interests with respect to United States international illicit drug control policies.

(4) An evaluation of how reforming section 706 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (22 U.S.C. 2291j–1) to authorize counternarcotic measures included in Section 802 of the Narcotics Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2492) serves United States interests with respect to United States international illicit drug control policies.

(5) An evaluation of whether the proper indicators of success are being used to evaluate United States international illicit drug control policy.

(6) An evaluation of United States efforts to stop illicit proceeds from drug trafficking organizations from entering the United States financial system.

(7) An evaluation of the links between the illegal narcotics trade and human smuggling and human trafficking activities in the Western Hemisphere.

(8) An evaluation of the links between the illegal narcotics trade in the Western Hemisphere and terrorist activities around the world.

(9) An evaluation of United States efforts to combat narco-terrorism in the Western Hemisphere.

(10) An evaluation of the financing of foreign terrorist organizations by drug trafficking organizations and an evaluation of United States efforts to stop such activities.

(11) An evaluation of United States efforts to combat money laundering related to drug trafficking organizations.

(12) An evaluation of alternative drug policy models in the Western Hemisphere.

(13) An evaluation of the impact of local drug consumption in Latin America and the Caribbean in promoting violence and insecurity.

(14) Recommendations on how best to improve United States counternarcotics policies in the Western Hemisphere.

(b) COORDINATION WITH GOVERNMENTS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE.—In conducting the review required under subsection (a), the Commission is encouraged to consult with—

(1) government, academic, and nongovernmental leaders, as well as leaders from international organizations, from throughout the United States, Latin America, and the Caribbean; and

(2) the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD).

(c) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the first meeting of the Commission, the Commission shall submit a report to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, the Secretary, and the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy that contains—

(A) a detailed statement of the recommendations, findings, and conclusions of the Commission under subsection (a); and

(B) summaries of the input and recommendations of the leaders and organizations with which the Commission consulted under subsection (b).

(2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The report required under this subsection shall be made available to the public.

SEC. 1273. MEMBERSHIP.

(a) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Commission shall be composed of 10 members to be appointed as follows:

(1) The majority leader and minority leader of the Senate shall each appoint two members.

(2) The Speaker and the minority leader of the House of Representatives shall each appoint two members.

(3) The President shall appoint two members.

(b) PROHIBITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may not include—

(A) Members of Congress; or

(B) Federal, State, or local government officials.

(2) MEMBER OF CONGRESS.—In this subsection, the term ''Member of Congress'' includes a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress.

(c) APPOINTMENT OF INITIAL MEMBERS.—The initial members of the Commission shall be appointed not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) VACANCIES.—Any vacancies shall not affect the power and duties of the Commission, but shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. An appointment required by subsection (a) should be made within 90 days of a vacancy on the Commission.

(e) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.—Each member shall be appointed for the life of the Commission.

(f) INITIAL MEETING AND SELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall hold an initial meeting to develop and implement a schedule for completion of the review and report required under section 1272.

(2) CHAIRPERSON.—At the initial meeting, the Commission shall select a Chairperson from among its members.

(g) QUORUM.—Six members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

(h) COMPENSATION.—Members of the Commission—

(1) shall not be considered to be a Federal employee for any purpose by reason of service on the Commission; and

(2) shall serve without pay.

(i) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Members shall receive travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with sections 5702 and 5703 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in performance of services for the Commission.

SEC. 1274. POWERS.

(a) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet at the call of the Chairperson or a majority of its members.

(b) HEARINGS.—The Commission may hold such hearings and undertake such other activities as the Commission determines necessary to carry out its duties.

(c) OTHER RESOURCES.—

(1) DOCUMENTS, STATISTICAL DATA, AND OTHER SUCH INFORMATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Library of Congress, the Office of National Drug Control Policy, the Department, and any other Federal department or agency shall, in accordance with the protection of classified information, provide reasonable access to documents, statistical data, and other such information the Commission determines necessary to carry out its duties.

(B) OBTAINING INFORMATION.—The Chairperson of the Commission shall request the head of an agency described in subparagraph (A) for access to documents, statistical data, or other such information described in such subparagraph that is under the control of such agency in writing when necessary.

(2) OFFICE SPACE AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.—The Administrator of General Services shall make office space available for day-to-day activities of the Commission and for scheduled meetings of the Commission. Upon request, the Administrator shall provide, on a reimbursable basis, such administrative support as the Commission requests to fulfill its duties.

(d) AUTHORITY TO USE UNITED STATES MAILS.—The Commission may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other departments and agencies of the United States.

(e) AUTHORITY TO CONTRACT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, the Commission is authorized to enter into contracts with Federal and State agencies, private firms, institutions, and individuals for the conduct of activities necessary to the discharge of its duties under section 1272.

(2) TERMINATION.—A contract, lease, or other legal agreement entered into by the Commission may not extend beyond the date of termination of the Commission.

SEC. 1275. STAFFING.

(a) DIRECTOR.—The Commission shall have a Director who shall be appointed by a majority vote of the Commission. The Director shall be paid at a rate not to exceed the rate of basic pay for level IV of the Executive Schedule.

(b) STAFFING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—With the approval of the Commission, the Director may appoint such personnel as the Director determines to be appropriate. Such personnel shall be paid at a rate not to exceed the rate of basic pay for level IV of the Executive Schedule.

(2) ADDITIONAL STAFF.—The Commission may appoint and fix the compensation of such other personnel as may be necessary to enable the Commission to carry out its duties, without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service, and without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates, except that no rate of pay fixed under this subsection may exceed the equivalent of that payable to a person occupying a position at level V of the Executive Schedule.

(c) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—With the approval of the Commission, the Director may procure temporary and intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code.

(d) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—Upon the request of the Commission, the head of any Federal agency may detail, without reimbursement, any of the personnel of such agency to the Commission to assist in carrying out the duties of the Commission. Any such detail shall not interrupt or otherwise affect the civil service status or privileges of the personnel.

(e) VOLUNTEER SERVICES.—Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, the Commission may accept and use voluntary and uncompensated services as the Commission determines necessary.

SEC. 1276. SUNSET.

The Commission shall terminate on the date that is 60 days after the date on which the Commission submits its report to Congress pursuant to section 1272(c).

SA 3621. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XII, add the following:

Subtitle F—Artificial Intelligence Diplomacy

SEC. 1271. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

(2) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM.—The term ''artificial intelligence system'' means the set of components and tools that collectively enable the development, deployment, and operation of artificial intelligence, including—

(A) infrastructure;

(B) data used for training, validating, and testing artificial intelligence models;

(C) data used for inference;

(D) artificial intelligence models;

(E) artificial intelligence development tools; and

(F) artificial intelligence applications.

(3) COVERED FOREIGN COUNTRY.—The term ''covered foreign country'' means—

(A) the People's Republic of China;

(B) the Russian Federation;

(C) the Islamic Republic of Iran;

(D) the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

(E) the Republic of Cuba;

(F) the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela under the regime of Nicolás Maduro; and

(G) any other country determined by the President, the Secretary of State, or the Secretary of Commerce to present a risk of diversion, misuse, or transfer of sensitive technologies as a result of the country's strategic alignment, trade relationships, or technology cooperation with any country specified in any of subparagraphs (A) through (F).

(4) DUAL-USE.—The term ''dual-use'' has the meaning given that term in section 1742 of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4801).

SEC. 1272. ENHANCEMENT OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER PROTECTIONS.

(a) ASSESSMENT OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER RISKS; STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall coordinate with the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Energy, and the heads of other relevant agencies—

(A) to assess—

(i) the effectiveness of existing technology transfer protection measures, including initiatives to mitigate the risks of technology transfer in—

(I) basic and applied research;

(II) higher education and academic partnerships;

(III) collaboration with respect to dual-use technology with, and exports to, foreign entities; and

(IV) activities by covered foreign countries; and

(ii) the creation of and progress in implementing new technology transfer protection measures; and

(B) to develop a plan, to be known as the ''Technology Diplomacy Strategic Plan for an Artificial Intelligence Global Alliance'', that aligns incentives and policy levers across the Federal Government to induce key allies of the United States to adopt artificial intelligence protection systems and export controls across the artificial intelligence supply chain.

(2) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the assessment required by subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) and the plan required by subparagraph (B) of that paragraph.

(b) EXPANSION OF EXPORT CONTROL FRAMEWORKS TO ADDRESS TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER RISKS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall, in coordination with the heads of other relevant agencies, conduct an assessment of the capacity of existing multilateral and plurilateral export control frameworks to address the risks of technology transfer, including—

(A) the Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies;

(B) the trilateral agreement between the United States, the Netherlands, and Japan with respect to export controls on advanced artificial intelligence and semiconductor technology;

(C) the Missile Technology Control Regime;

(D) the Australia Group; and

(E) the Multilateral Action on Sensitive Technologies (MAST) dialogues.

(2) ELEMENTS.—In conducting the assessment required by paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) identify gaps in coverage of existing frameworks in coordinating export controls for the purpose of limiting artificial intelligence systems from flowing to covered foreign countries;

(B) assess diplomatic initiatives and next steps to fill gaps through new or expanded plurilateral export controls; and

(C) analyze options for enforcement if nationals of countries that are partners of the United States undermine United States export control objectives.

(3) REPORT ON ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the assessment conducted under paragraph (1) that includes recommendations with respect to the matters described in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of paragraph (2).

SEC. 1273. PROMOTION OF EXPORTS OF UNITED STATES ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.

(a) REPORT ON EFFORTS TO PROMOTE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE EXPORTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that includes the following:

(1) A list of countries or regions in which exports of United States-origin artificial intelligence systems have been promoted.

(2) A description of financing mechanisms for such exports.

(3) An assessment of challenges encountered in advancing artificial intelligence export diplomacy and financing, including an evaluation of—

(A) the effectiveness of diplomatic activities with foreign governments to promote demand for United States-origin artificial intelligence systems;

(B) coordination across United States embassies, including economic officers and cyber and technology diplomats at such embassies, to identify demand for such systems in partner countries and facilitate high-level discussions with respect to the export of such systems; and

(C) coordination within the Department of State and with relevant interagency counterparts to facilitate artificial intelligence export diplomacy.

(4) Recommendations for additional authorities or funding needed to advance efforts to promote such exports.

(5) Promotion activities, where appropriate, with respect to the inclusion of local technical assistance and deployment readiness support as part of artificial intelligence export packages, particularly in developing partner countries, to ensure effective and secure integration of United States technologies.

(6) Supporting partner countries in fostering pro-innovation regulatory, data, and infrastructure environments conducive to the deployment of United States-origin artificial intelligence systems.

(7) An assessment of—

(A) how security controls and technology protection measures, consistent with the security standards described in subsection (b)(1), have been incorporated into transactions for the export of United States-origin artificial intelligence systems; and

(B) actions taken to monitor and evaluate exports of such systems, including—

(i) risks assessments;

(ii) validating compliance with security protections;

(iii) procedures for suspension or review of exports if national security risks are identified, such as chip diversion or loss of control; and

(iv) verification of end-users and intended end-use cases for artificial intelligence export packages, with particular scrutiny for exports involving—

(I) surveillance;

(II) cyber threats to the United States and allies of the United States;

(III) nefarious information operations; or

(IV) other sensitive applications that may be inconsistent with the national security interests of the United States or of countries that are partners of the United States.

(b) REPORT ON INTERAGENCY SECURITY STANDARDS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Defense, and the heads of other relevant agencies, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that assesses the activities required to achieve the following security standards for artificial intelligence export packages:

(1) Export control harmonization with the governments of countries that are allies of the United States and restrictions on reexports to covered foreign countries.

(2) Coordination on outbound investment restrictions and inbound investment screening with the governments of countries importing United States-origin artificial intelligence systems.

(3) Requirements that model weights and sensitive components be hosted on cloud infrastructure controlled by the United States or an ally of the United States and with appropriate access controls.

(4) Prohibition on integration or interoperability with military infrastructure linked to a covered foreign country.

(5) Know-Your-Customer protocols for computer infrastructure recipients, including beneficial ownership disclosure and personnel screening.

(6) Enforcement of access control, encryption, and traceability of model development and use.

(7) Monitoring, logging, and auditability of administrative and developer access to exported artificial intelligence systems.

(8) Provisions allowing revocation of exports of artificial intelligence systems for security violations, including diversion of such systems.

(9) Transparency and compliance assurance measures across the life cycle of exports of United States-origin artificial intelligence systems.

(10) Any additional security objectives determined appropriate by the Secretary of State.

(c) CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT.—The Secretary of State shall notify the appropriate committees of Congress of any proposed transactions for the export of artificial intelligence facilitated under this section that—

(1) exceeds $20,000,000 in value; or

(2) involves the export of dual-use artificial intelligence systems with potential national security implications.

SA 3622. Mr. RISCH 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:

On page 716, strike line 17 and all that follows through ''Section'' on line 20, and insert the following:

SEC. 1256. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS TO COUNTER UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States condemns the January 28, 2024, drone attack on Tower 22 in Jordan by Iranian-backed militias that tragically took the lives of 3 American servicemembers and wounded 47 others;

(2) one-way attack drones and similar low-cost armed unmanned aerial systems are the most dangerous asymmetric threat employed by Iranian-aligned militias against Americans and American interests;

(3) United States defense against drones relies on a patchwork of defensive systems, and the United States and like-minded partners need to develop defensive systems that leverage innovation and are responsive to rapidly changing technology and attack methodologies;

(4) the United States should improve cooperation with like-minded partners to systematically map out, expose, and disrupt missile and drone procurement networks used by the Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen and other Iranian proxies targeting United States forces and assets and United States allies and partners in the region;

(5) the partner countries of the United States, including Israel, Jordan, and countries on the Arabian Peninsula, face urgent and emerging threats from unmanned aerial systems and other unmanned aerial vehicles;

(6) joint research and development to counter unmanned aerial systems will serve the national security interests of the United States and its partners in Israel, Jordan, and on the Arabian Peninsula;

(7) development of counter Unmanned Aircraft Systems technology will reduce the impacts of these attacks, build deterrence, and increase regional stability; and

(8) the United States and partners in Israel, Jordan, and on the Arabian Peninsula should continue to work together to protect against the threat from unmanned aerial systems.

(b) DEFINED TERM.—In this section, the term ''Arabian Peninsula'' means Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

(c) AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT TO PROTECT AMERICANS IN ISRAEL, JORDAN, AND ON THE ARABIAN PENINSULA FROM WEAPONIZED UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized to enter into cooperative project agreements with Israel, Jordan, and countries on the Arabian Peninsula under the authority of section 27 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2767) to carry out research on and development, testing, evaluation, and joint production (including follow-on support) of defense articles and defense services to detect, track, and destroy armed unmanned aerial systems that threaten the United States and its partners in Israel, Jordan, and on the Arabian Peninsula.

(2) APPLICABLE REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The cooperative project agreements described in paragraph (1)—

(i) shall provide that any activities carried out pursuant to such agreement are subject to—

(I) the applicable requirements described in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of section 27(b)(2) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2767(b)(2)); and

(II) any other applicable requirements of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.) with respect to the use, transfer, and security of such defense articles and defense services under such Act;

(ii) shall establish a framework to negotiate the rights to intellectual property developed under such agreement; and

(iii) shall be defensive in nature.

(B) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.—Notwithstanding section 27(g) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2767(g)), any defense articles that result from a cooperative project agreement shall be subject to

the requirements under subsections (b) and (c) of section 36 of such Act (22 U.S.C. 2776).

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION WITH RESPECT TO USE OF MILITARY FORCE.—Nothing in this section may be construed as an authorization for the use of military force.

(e) EXTENSION AND MODIFICATION OF UNITED STATES-ISRAEL COOPERATION TO COUNTER UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS.—Section

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SA 3623. Mr. RISCH (for himself and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 12____. ENHANCED IRAN SANCTIONS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Enhanced Iran Sanctions Act of 2025''.

(b) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States—

(1) that, in accordance with the Iran Nuclear Weapons Capability and Terrorism Monitoring Act of 2022 (22 U.S.C. 8701 note; Public Law 117–263), the United States must—

(A) ensure that the Islamic Republic of Iran does not acquire a nuclear weapons capability;

(B) protect against aggression from the Islamic Republic of Iran manifested through its missiles and drone programs; and

(C) counter regional and global terrorism of the Islamic Republic of Iran in a manner that minimizes the threat posed by state and non-state actors to the interests of the United States;

(2) to fully enforce sanctions against all persons involved in the international logistical chain that provide support to the energy sector of the Islamic Republic of Iran;

(3) through such sanctions, to deny the Islamic Republic of Iran the financial resources required—

(A) to fund and facilitate international terrorism;

(B) to finance the development of weapons of mass destruction;

(C) to engage in destabilizing efforts abroad; and

(D) to repress the rights of Iranian citizens; and

(4) to strengthen coherence among members of the international community in enforcing sanctions on the malign activity of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMITTED; ALIEN.—The terms ''admitted'' and ''alien'' have the meanings given those terms in section 101(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)).

(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives.

(3) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term ''foreign person'' means a person that is not a United States person, including the government of a foreign country.

(4) KNOWINGLY.—The term ''knowingly'', with respect to conduct, a circumstance, or a result, means that a person has actual knowledge, or should have known, of the conduct, the circumstance, or the result.

(5) PROPERTY; INTEREST IN PROPERTY.—The terms ''property'' and ''interest in property'' have the meanings given the terms ''property'' and ''property interest'', respectively, in section 576.312 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(6) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term ''United States person'' means—

(A) an individual who is a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States;

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity; or

(C) any person in the United States.

(d) IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO PERSONS ENGAGED IN LOGISTICAL TRANSACTIONS OF OIL, GAS, LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS, AND PETROCHEMICAL PRODUCTS FROM THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—On and after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President may impose the sanctions described in paragraph (2) with respect to any foreign person, including any bank or foreign financial institution, insurance provider, flagging registry, pipeline construction or operation facility for liquefied natural gas, that—

(A) the President determines knowingly engaged in, on or after such date of enactment, any transaction involved in, relating or incident to the processing, export, or sale of oil, condensates, gas, liquefied natural gas, or other petrochemical products in whole or in part from the Islamic Republic of Iran;

(B) is a subsidiary, successor, or alias of a foreign person described in subparagraph (A);

(C)(i) directly or indirectly owns or controls a 50 percent or greater interest in or is owned or controlled by a 50 percent or greater interest of a foreign person or foreign persons subject to sanctions pursuant to subparagraph (A) or (B); and

(ii) directly or indirectly conducts a significant transaction with, for, or on behalf of a foreign person described in paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of section 3(b) of the Stop Harboring Iranian Petroleum Act (22 U.S.C. 8572);

(D) the President determines is a corporate officer of a foreign person described subparagraph (A), (B), or (C); or

(E) is an immediate family member of a foreign person described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C).

(2) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions described in this subsection are the following:

(A) BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.—The President may, pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), block and prohibit all transactions in property and interests in property of a foreign person subject to sanctions pursuant to paragraph (1)(A) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(B) ALIENS INADMISSIBLE FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—

(i) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—In the case of an alien subject to sanctions pursuant to paragraph (1), the alien is—

(I) inadmissible to the United States;

(II) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and

(III) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(ii) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—The visa or other entry documentation of an alien described in clause (i) shall be revoked, regardless of when such visa or other entry documentation was issued.

(II) IMMEDIATE EFFECT.—A revocation under subclause (I) shall—

(aa) take effect immediately; and

(bb) automatically cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the alien's possession.

(3) EXCEPTIONS.—

(A) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The authority to impose sanctions under this section shall not include the authority or a requirement to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(ii) GOOD DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term ''good'' means any article, natural or manmade substance, material, supply, or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment, and excluding technical data.

(B) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.—Sanctions under paragraph (2)(B) shall not apply with respect to an alien if admitting or paroling the alien into the United States is necessary—

(i) to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations; or

(ii) to carry out or assist authorized law enforcement activity in the United States.

(4) IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.—

(A) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may exercise all authorities provided under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out paragraph (2)(A).

(B) PENALTIES.—A person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of paragraph (2)(A) or any regulation, license, or order issued to carry out that subsection shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

(5) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Subsection (d)(1)(C)(i) shall be construed to be consistent with Frequently Asked Questions 398 through 402, published by the Office of Foreign Assets Control on August 11, 2020, and August 13, 2014, or any successors to such frequently asked questions.

(e) INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON IRANIAN SANCTIONS.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President may establish a working group to be known as the ''Interagency Working Group on Iranian Sanctions'' (referred to in this subsection as the ''Working Group'').

(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Working Group shall be composed representatives of such Federal departments and agencies as the President determines.

(3) CHAIR.—The President shall designate a Chair of the Working Group.

(4) MULTILATERAL CONTACT GROUP.—

(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Working Group shall endeavor to establish a multilateral contact group with like-minded nations to coordinate international efforts to enforce sanctions imposed with respect to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

(B) DUTIES.—The multilateral contact group shall—

(i) share information on evolving sanctions frameworks to identify areas of difference or enforcement gaps;

(ii) share information on newly-designated entities,

(iii) raise awareness of new sanctions evasion practices; and

(iv) coordinate on new measures to curb Iranian malign activity, including uranium enrichment activities, ballistic missile production, and support for terrorism.

(f) PRIVATE SECTOR REPORTING ON PERSONS ENGAGED IN SANCTIONABLE ACTIVITIES OR SANCTIONS EVASION.—Section 36(b) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2708(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (13), by striking ''; or'' and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (14), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following paragraph:

''(15) the identification a person described in ⟦section 12_____(d)(1)⟧ of the Enhanced Iran Sanctions Act of 2025 or any person that has attempted or is attempting to evade sanctions imposed under such Act with proceeds generated by the sale of intercepted oil, gas, liquefied natural gas, petrochemical products, or related products from the Islamic Republic of Iran.''.

SA 3624. Mr. RISCH (for himself and Mr. COONS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1210. EMERGENCY AUTHORITIES TO EXPAND THE TIMELINESS AND REACH OF UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL FOOD ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of State is authorized to procure life-saving food aid commodities, including commodities available locally and regionally, for the provision of emergency food and nutrition assistance to the most vulnerable populations in countries and areas experiencing acute food insecurity.

(b) PRIORITIZATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In responding to crises in which emergency food and nutrition commodities are unavailable locally or regionally, or in which the provision of locally or regionally procured emergency food and nutrition commodities would be unsafe, impractical, or inappropriate, the Secretary should prioritize procurements of United States food and nutrition commodities, including when exercising authorities under section 491 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2292).

(2) LOCAL OR REGIONAL PROCUREMENTS.—In making local or regional procurements of emergency food and nutrition aid commodities pursuant to subsection (a), the Secretary of State, to the extent practicable and appropriate, should prioritize procurements from areas supported through the international agricultural development programs authorized under the Global Food Security Act of 2016 (22 U.S.C. 9301 et seq.), for the purpose of promoting economic stability, resilience to price shocks, and early recovery from such shocks in such areas.

(c) DO NO HARM.—In making local or regional procurements of food aid commodities pursuant to subsection (a), the Secretary of State shall first conduct market assessments to ensure that such procurements—

(1) will not displace United States agricultural trade and investment; and

(2) will not cause or exacerbate shortages, or otherwise harm local markets, for such commodities within the countries of origin.

(d) EMERGENCY EXCEPTIONS.—Commodities procured pursuant to subsection (b) shall be excluded from calculations of gross tonnage for purposes of determining compliance with section 55305(b) of title 46, United States Code.

(e) EXCLUSION.—The authority under subsection (a) shall not apply to procurements from the Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China, or any country subject to sanctions under—

(1) section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371);

(2) section 40 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2780); or

(3) section 1754(c) of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4813(c)).

SA 3625. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in subtitle E of title XII, insert the following:

SEC. 12____. AUSSOM FUNDING RESTRICTION.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) AUSSOM.—The term ''AUSSOM'' means the African Union Support and Stabilisation Mission in Somalia, established as the successor mission to the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia under United Nations Security Council Resolution 2767 (2024).

(3) RESOLUTION 2719.—The term ''Resolution 2719'' means United Nations Security Council Resolution 2719, adopted on December 21, 2023.

(b) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to support Somali- and African partner-led initiatives—

(A) to contain and defeat al-Shabaab and ISIS-Somalia;

(B) to foster peace, security, stability, and economic development within Somalia; and

(C) to support the development of functional Somali state institutions at the national and federal member state level;

(2) to ensure appropriate and fair burden sharing at the United Nations, including for United Nations peacekeeping missions and United Nations support to African Union peace support operations;

(3) to uphold the conditions set forth in Resolution 2719 for the application of United Nations assessed contributions to African Union peace support operations on a case-by-case basis, including conditions that require—

(A) that funding from assessed contributions cannot exceed 75 percent of the annual budget of an African Union peace support operation under a ''one mission, one budget'' model, with the remaining 25 percent mobilized by the African Union and United Nations ''from the international community as extra-budgetary resources'';

(B) compliance with—

(i) the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces;

(ii) the African Union Compliance Framework on International Human Rights Law;

(iii) the African Union Policy on Conduct and Discipline for Peace Support Operations; and

(iv) the African Union Policy on Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse;

(C) the prioritization of protection of civilians; and

(D) the existence and application of appropriate accountability mechanisms of African Union-led peace support operations to member states of the United Nations;

(4) to judiciously consider United States support for the application of United Nations assessed contributions to African Union peace support operations, including the selection of an appropriate first application of Resolution 2719 that—

(A) responds to a new crisis or threat with the demonstrable need for a multi-lateral response led by the African Union; and

(B) has clear and achievable objectives; and

(5) to encourage the exploration and utilization of alternative funding mechanisms for AUSSOM that do not rely on United Nations assessed contributions to diversify AUSSOM's financial burden and promote international responsibility-sharing.

(c) RESTRICTION ON FUNDING.—

(1) PROHIBITION.—None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available for assessed contributions of the United States to the United Nations, including any organ, agency, or entity of the United Nations, may be obligated or expended for—

(A) any activity related to the implementation of Resolution 2719 in support of AUSSOM or any other African Union-led peace support mission in Somalia; or

(B) any program, project, or initiative for Somalia directly linked to the mandate outlined in Resolution 2719.

(2) DIRECTION TO UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS.—The United States Ambassador to the United Nations, or their designee shall use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States at the United Nations—

(A) to oppose any United Nations Security Council resolution that would authorize funding prohibited under paragraph (1); and

(B) to decline to join in consensus on any United Nations Security Council product, including letters from the United Nations Security Council President, that authorizes funding prohibited under paragraph (1).

(3) EXCEPTIONS.—This restriction under paragraph (1) shall not apply to—

(A) the use of United Nations assessed contributions to fund the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS) as approved by the United Nations Security Council;

(B) the use of voluntary contributions of the United States to the United Nations or funds expressly appropriated by Congress to support AUSSOM;

(C) humanitarian assistance funded with United Nations assessed or voluntary contributions delivered through nongovernmental organizations or United Nations agencies that operate independently of AUSSOM; and

(D) expenditures for salaries of United States personnel, administrative costs, or other support services directly associated with the oversight or monitoring of assessed

contributions of the United States to the United Nations to ensure compliance with this section.

(d) ANNUAL ASSESSMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of State shall conduct an annual assessment of the African Union's ability to meet the terms and conditions outlined in Resolution 2719 paragraphs 3 to 13 for African Union-led peace support operations to receive United Nations Security Council authorization to have access to United Nations assessed contributions.

(2) INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT.—The assessment required under paragraph (1) shall be conducted independently of any assessment of the same conducted by the United Nations Secretary General and reported to the United Nations Security Council under paragraphs 15 and 16 of Resolution 2719.

(e) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes—

(1) the findings of the assessment required under subsection (d);

(2) the total assessed contributions of the United States to the United Nations for peacekeeping;

(3) the allocations and expenditures for assessed contributions to the United Nations under Resolution 2719;

(4) an assessment of how United Nations assessed contributions are being used to implement Resolution 2719;

(5) an analysis of the performance and effectiveness of AUSSOM, including the types and impact of United States support to Somalia directly or indirectly impacting the mission and objectives of AUSSOM;

(6) a breakdown of financial and other support for AUSSOM provided by the United Nations, African Union, European Union, and other international and regional actors, including both bilateral and multilateral contributions;

(7) the status of and progress made toward finding alternative funding mechanisms for AUSSOM; and

(8) a description of measures taken to ensure compliance with subsection (c).

(f) CONSULTATIONS.—Section 4(d)(2) of the United Nations Participation Act of 1945 (22 U.S.C. 287b(d)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting ''and African Union peace support operations receiving United Nations assessed contributions under United Nations Security Council Resolution 2719 (2023)(referred to in this paragraph as 'Resolution 2719')'' after ''peacekeeping operations''; and

(B) in clause (i), by inserting ''or African Union peace support operation receiving United Nations assessed contributions under Resolution 2719'' after ''peacekeeping operation''; and

(2) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting ''and African Union peace support operation receiving United Nations assessed contributions under Resolution 2719'' after ''peacekeeping operation''; and

(B) in clause (v), by inserting ''or African Union peace support operation receiving United Nations assessed contributions under Resolution 2719, as the case may be'' after ''peacekeeping operation''.

SA 3626. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in subtitle E of title XII, insert the following:

SEC. 12____. ASSESSMENT OF AFRICAN ARMED GROUPS M23 AND RSF FOR DESIGNATION AS FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Attorney General, shall conduct an assessment of whether the following organizations meet the criteria for designation as foreign terrorist organizations under section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189):

(1) The Mouvement Du 23 Mars (M23) operating in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

(2) The Rapid Support Forces (RSF) operating in Sudan.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a classified report containing the results of the assessment described in subsection (a).

(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''congressional committees'' means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

SA 3627. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1265. LIMITATION ON SUPPORT FOR GHANA AT INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND UNTIL UNITED STATES BUSINESSES ARE PAID.

(a) DETERMINATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter, the Secretary of Treasury, in coordination with the Secretary of State, shall submit to Congress a determination as to whether the Government of Ghana is meeting its commitments to repay United States businesses as part of debt restructuring of the International Monetary Fund for Ghana.

(b) LIMITATION ON INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND SUPPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall direct the United States Executive Director to the International Monetary Fund to use the voice and vote of the United States to oppose any loan, credit, grant, or other financial assistance to the Government of Ghana until the Secretary of State certifies that such assistance includes conditions requiring—

(A) the Government of Ghana to settle all verified financial obligations owed to United States businesses; and

(B) the establishment of verifiable payment terms to ensure the timely fulfillment of such obligations.

(2) VERIFICATION OF PAYMENT TERMS.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(B), verifiable payment terms shall include—

(A) a clear schedule of payments to resolve outstanding obligations within a specific timeframe;

(B) mechanisms for independent confirmation of payments to United States businesses; and

(C) assurances that such payments are prioritized within the commitments of the Government of Ghana under any program of the International Monetary Fund.

(c) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter, the Secretary of the Treasury, in coordination with the Secretary of State, shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report describing—

(1) the status of financial obligations owed by the Government of Ghana to United States businesses;

(2) actions taken by the United States Executive Director to the International Monetary Fund to advance the policy described in this section; and

(3) progress by the Government of Ghana in meeting payment obligations under any program of the International Monetary Fund.

SA 3628. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1265. REVIEW OF MAJOR NON-NATO ALLY STATUS OF KENYA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Treasury and the Director of National Intelligence, shall commence a review of the major non-NATO status of Kenya, conferred on June 24, 2024.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense and the Director of National Intelligence, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a classified report containing the findings of the review required by subsection (a), including—

(1) an assessment of relationship of Kenya with the United States in countering violent extremism, achieving and maintaining peace and security in Sub-Saharan Africa and in Haiti, as a United Nations peacekeeping troop contributing country, and as an economic partner;

(2) a detailed description of the military and security relationship of the Government of Kenya with the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, and Iran, including any engagements, agreements, or joint activities since June 24, 2024;

(3) a detailed description of the political and financial links of key political actors and institutions of Kenya with the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, and Iran;

(4) an assessment of the relationships of the Government of Kenya and key officials of Kenya with nonstate armed groups and

violent extremist organizations, including the Rapid Support Forces and al-Shabaab;

(5) an assessment of the trade and investment relationship of Kenya with the People's Republic of China, including with respect to—

(A) participation in the Belt and Road Initiative; and

(B) bilateral debt and commercial ties;

(6) an assessment of Kenya as a financial safe haven for individuals and entities on the Office of Foreign Assets Control Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons list and foreign terrorist organizations, including such individuals and entities based in South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, and Somalia; and

(7) an assessment of the use by the Government of Kenya of United States security assistance and intelligence support and sharing, including potential impacts on state and nonstate sponsored actions against civilians to include abductions, torture, renditions, and violence against civilians.

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

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

SA 3629. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XII, add the following:

Subtitle F—Real Reciprocity With Adversaries Act of 2025

SEC. 1271. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Real Reciprocity with Adversaries Act of 2025''.

SEC. 1272. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) COUNTRY OF CONCERN.—The term ''country of concern'' means—

(A) the People's Republic of China;

(B) the Russian Federation;

(C) the Islamic Republic of Iran;

(D) the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

(E) the Republic of Cuba; and

(F) the Maduro Regime of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

(3) FOREIGN MALIGN INFLUENCE.—The term ''foreign malign influence'' means any hostile effort undertaken by, at the direction of, or on behalf of or with the substantial support of, the government of a country of concern with the objective of influencing, through overt or covert means—

(A) the political, military, economic, or other policies or activities of the United States Government or State or local governments, including any election within the United States;

(B) the public opinion within the United States; or

(C) free speech, academic freedom, political and civil rights, the integrity of nongovernmental institutions, or discourse or any activity related to authoritarianism or the policies and practices of countries of concern.

PART I—ADVERSARY ABUSE OF UNITED STATES DIPLOMATS

SEC. 1275. STATEMENT OF POLICY ON ADVERSARY ABUSE OF UNITED STATES.

(a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to safeguard the privileges and immunities of the United States with respect to United States diplomats;

(2) to take special care to safeguard these privileges and immunities in adversarial nations, including the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China;

(3) to prevent the exploitation of diplomatic facilities for intelligence collection and malign influence;

(4) to ensure United States diplomats and all other personnel under Chief of Mission authority are made aware of any waivers of diplomatic privileges and immunities, including subsequent changes to the waivers, in a timely fashion, especially for those posted to adversarial nations;

(5) to prevent adversarial nations from collecting the biogenetic data of United States Government personnel;

(6) to resist efforts by adversarial nations to use public health, overly broad concepts of national security, and other pretexts to violate the privileges and immunities of the United States;

(7) to collect detailed information on any foreign government violation of privileges and immunities, abuse or harassment of United States diplomats, and encourage those who experience such violations, abuse, or harassment to come forward;

(8) to impose costs on United States adversaries that violate diplomatic privileges and immunities or engage in any other form of harassment of United States diplomatic personnel; and

(9) to ensure that what happened to United States diplomats and their families in China during the COVID–19 pandemic is never repeated.

SEC. 1276. REPORT ON VIOLATIONS OF AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC CORPS PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for five years, the Secretary of State shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that includes—

(1) a detailed description of each case in which United States diplomats had privileges and immunities (as set forth in the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, done at Vienna April 18, 1961, and other applicable international agreements) violated while serving in the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation since 2020 in the first report, and during the period since the last report for all subsequent reports; and

(2) a fulsome and detailed review of efforts undertaken by the Department of State to mitigate or otherwise respond to such violations of the United States privileges and immunities as enjoyed by its diplomats.

SEC. 1277. CHINA'S ABUSE OF THE DIPLOMATIC POUCH.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, done at Vienna April 18, 1961 (referred to in this subtitle as the ''Vienna Convention''), governs the conduct of diplomatic relations between countries, including the provisioning of countries' foreign missions. Article 27 of the Vienna Convention states that the ''diplomatic bag shall not be opened or detained.'' Article 25 of the Vienna Convention states clearly that ''[t]he receiving State shall accord full facilities for the performance of the functions of the mission''.

(2) The People's Republic of China is in violation of Articles 25 and 27 of the Vienna Convention due to the undue restrictions it places on the United States use of its diplomatic pouch, which is essential to the function of the United States Mission in China.

(3) The Government of the PRC's restrictions on the United States diplomatic pouch are one of many ways it undermines United States interests, harasses and mistreats United States diplomats in China, imposes its view of the world on others, and violates international law.

(4) Despite this treatment, the United States has nevertheless upheld its obligations under the Vienna Convention.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE DIPLOMATIC POUCH.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) China's restrictions on the United States Government's use of the diplomatic pouch are severe and represent a threat to United States national security;

(2) the United States Government must prioritize the issue of the diplomatic pouch and raise this issue consistently and at the high levels with Chinese leadership; and

(3) the United States must impose costs on China in response to flagrant violations of diplomatic law and reciprocity.

(c) STATEMENT OF POLICY WITH RESPECT TO FLIGHTS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND CHINA.—It is the policy of the United States—

(1) not to conclude any further agreements that increase commercial flights from the People's Republic of China or utilization of PRC airline carriers into the United States until the United States regains its right of unfettered use of its diplomatic pouch; and

(2) to consider decreasing the number of commercial flights from the People's Republic of China or decreasing utilization of PRC airline carriers into the United States to put pressure on China to restore the United States' right to the unfettered use of its diplomatic pouch.

(d) AMENDMENT TO DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall update existing regulations with respect to diplomatic clearance for state aviation and foreign government ships of the People's Republic of China.

(e) ELEMENTS.—The regulations described in subsection (d) shall include the following:

(1) A designation of any aircraft, ship, or vessel, whether cargo or passenger, that is owned by a state-owned enterprise of the People's Republic of China, to be designated as a state aircraft or foreign government ship.

(2) A requirement that each such aircraft, ship, or vessel certify that in entering the United States, it is not carrying out any government purpose or task, including conveyance of goods via a diplomatic pouch.

(3) At least two penalties, including a significant financial penalty, for noncompliance.

PART II—ADVERSARY COUNTERINTELLIGENCE RISKS

SEC. 1281. BAN ON FRATERNIZATION AT CRITICAL-THREAT POSTS.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall promulgate guidance that prohibits any United States Government employee under Chief of Mission authority assigned to or on temporary duty at a Critical Human Intelligence Threat post identified in the Department of State's Security Environment Threat List (SETL) from engaging in a

romantic or sexual relationship with any citizen of that country.

SEC. 1282. COUNTERINTELLIGENCE INVESTIGATIONS OF SPECIAL IMMIGRANT VISA APPLICANTS AT CRITICAL HUMAN INTELLIGENCE THREAT POSTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall require all principal officers assigned to a Critical Human Intelligence Threat post, before recommending any current or former locally employed staff of the United States Government abroad for special immigrant status, to ensure that such individuals have been subject to an in-depth counterintelligence investigation conducted by the Regional Security Office (RSO) assigned to such post and the Department's Office of Counterintelligence (DS/DO/CI).

(b) EFFECT OF DEROGATORY COUNTERINTELLIGENCE INFORMATION.—If an investigation conducted pursuant to subsection (a) reveals derogatory counterintelligence information about an employee—

(1) a principal officer described in subsection (a) shall not recommend that such employee receive special immigrant status; and

(2) if applicable, the employee's security certification at such post shall be adjudicated by the RSO not later than 30 days after the conclusion of such investigation.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the implementation of this section that includes—

(1) a list of all steps taken to date;

(2) a description of the in-depth counterintelligence investigation process established pursuant to subsection (a) for current or former locally employed staff recommended for special immigrant status;

(3) the number of investigations that have been undertaken and the results of those investigations; and

(4) a description of planned additional steps required to implement this section.

SEC. 1283. REPORT ON VETTING OF FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE INSTRUCTORS.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the execution of requirements under section 6116 of the Department of State Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2023 (22 U.S.C. 4030) that includes—

(1) a description of all steps taken to date to carry out that section;

(2) a detailed explanation of the suitability or fitness reviews, background investigations, and periodic background checks or reinvestigations of relevant Foreign Service Institute instructors who provide language instructions; and

(3) a description of planned additional steps required to execute such section.

SEC. 1284. RESTRICTION ON ISSUANCE OF VISAS TO PROTECT NATIONAL SECURITY.

(a) RESTRICTIONS FOR MEMBERS OF THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY AND VISA APPLICANTS FROM PRC UNIVERSITIES.—The Secretary of State may not issue a visa to, and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall deny entry to, the United States of—

(1) all members of the People's Liberation Army of China, with the exception of the A1–A visa classifications; and

(2) applicants from PRC universities that have a memorandum of understanding (referred to in this paragraph as ''MOU'') or other research or academic exchange agreement with a United States institution of higher education, and are seeking to study or work in the United States pursuant to such an agreement, unless—

(A) the United States university has submitted such MOU or similar agreement for a security review by the Secretary of State, who shall consult with other relevant Federal agencies as appropriate; and

(B) the Secretary of State, in consultation with other relevant Federal agencies, has determined that such MOU or similar agreement—

(i) has sufficient safeguards against illicit knowledge and technology transfer to the PRC; and

(ii) does not facilitate foreign malign influence.

(b) WAIVER.—The Secretary of State may waive the restrictions in subsection (a) if the Secretary determines and certifies to Congress within five days of such determination, including a justification, that such a waiver is in the national security interest of the United States.

(c) EXCEPTION.—Restrictions shall not apply with respect to the admission of an alien to the United States if such admission is necessary to comply with the obligations of the United States under the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success on June 26, 1947, and entered into force on November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or the Convention on Consular Relations, done at Vienna on April 24, 1963, and entered into force on March 19, 1967, or other international obligations of the United States.

SEC. 1285. REVIEW OF THREAT ENVIRONMENT FOR LOCALLY EMPLOYED STAFF AT CRITICAL HUMINT THREAT POSTS.

(a) Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a classified report on the efforts of host nation intelligence and security-services to co-opt locally employed staff at Critical HUMINT threat posts identified in the Security Environment Threat List, including—

(1) the numbers of locally employed staff at such posts;

(2) vacancies or unfilled local staff positions at such posts;

(3) an assessment conducted by the RSO assigned to such post and DS/DO/CI of the degree to which host nation intelligence and security services target local staff at such posts are the degree to which local staff are compromised, co-opted, or influenced by host nation intelligence and security services and the impact on posts' ability to execute core functions;

(4) an assessment of which responsibilities performed by local nationals in such posts could be performed by direct-hire or contract personnel who are United States nationals, as well as the cost of transferring those functions to United States nationals; and

(5) a timeline for transferring the responsibilities and job functions identified in paragraph (4) to direct-hire or contract personnel who are United States nationals.

SEC. 1286. REVIEW OF TOUR LENGTHS FOR FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS AT CRITICAL HUMINT THREAT POSTS.

Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report evaluating the length of foreign service postings at Critical HUMINT threat posts identified in the Security Environment Threat List including—

(1) an assessment of the counterintelligence or safety risks of current tour of duty lengths;

(2) a determination of whether changes at specific posts are necessary to mitigate counterintelligence of safety risks identified in paragraph (1); and

(3) a description of the changes the Department is making in line with the determination in paragraph (2) and the timeline for implementation.

SEC. 1287. DIPLOMATIC ACCREDITATION FOR DIPLOMATS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION MISSION TO THE UNITED STATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall not issue any accreditation for diplomats of the Russian Federation mission to the United States for a period exceeding three years or the length of time United States diplomats receive accreditation from the government of the Russian Federation.

(b) WAIVER.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, may waive the limitation in subsection (a) if the Secretary determines it is in the vital national security interests of the United States and submits to the appropriate congressional committees—

(1) a justification for the determination;

(2) the number of diplomatic visas/accreditation extensions being issued pursuant to the waiver; and

(3) a plan and implementation timeline to return to parity.

PART III—ADVERSARY COERCION AND IMPRISONMENT OF AMERICAN CITIZENS

SEC. 1291. RESTRICTION ON ISSUANCE OF VISAS BECAUSE OF CHINA'S EXIT BANS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Government of the People's Republic of China has increasingly expanded its legal landscape for exit bans, which prevent both Chinese citizens and foreign nationals from leaving the country.

(2) Chinese officials enforce exit bans by confiscating passports, denying passport applications or renewals, or simply preventing people from leaving the country.

(3) The legal framework governing exit bans in the People's Republic of China is vague and opaque, allowing government officials to abuse the system.

(4) There is no process to challenge an exit ban in court or appeal the decision within the Chinese judicial system.

(5) Exit bans have been used to target members of ethnic minorities, citizens of Taiwan, defenders of internationally recognized human rights, persons involved in civil disputes, officials, relatives of persons of interest to the Chinese Communist Party, and foreign nationals.

(6) As of November 2024, the United States Department of State's travel advisory for mainland China warned Americans to ''exercise increased caution'' due to ''arbitrary enforcement of local laws, including in relation to exit bans''.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON EXIT BANS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) The Government of the People's Republic of China abuses its opaque legal framework governing exit bans to arbitrarily detain people, and some of those who are forbidden from leaving the country have no legal recourse;

(2) The use of use of exit bans by the Government of the People's Republic of China, including with regard to foreign nationals, has grown in recent years;

(3) the arbitrary application of exit bans to United States citizens is a threat to United States national security; and

(4) the United States Government should hold officials of the People's Republic of China accountable for China's arbitrary exit bans on United States citizens.

(c) RESTRICTIONS FOR SPOUSES AND CHILDREN OF SENIOR PRC OFFICIALS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—With the exception of the A1–A2, G1–G4, C–2, and C–3 visa classifications as well as any travel covered under the United Nations Headquarters Agreement, the Secretary of State may not issue a visa and

the Secretary of Homeland Security shall deny entry to the United States of the spouses and children of any senior official of the Chinese Communist Party, including all members of the Politburo, the Central Committee, delegates to the National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party, members or staff of the National People's Congress, and anyone with the rank of Deputy Party Secretary or above.

(2) WAIVER.—The Secretary of State may waive the restrictions in paragraph (1) if the Secretary determines and certifies to Congress within five days of such determination, including a justification, that such a waiver is in the national security interest of the United States.

(3) EXCEPTION.—The restrictions under paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to the admission of an alien to the United States if such admission is necessary to comply with the obligations of the United States under the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success on June 26, 1947, and entered into force on November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or the Convention on Consular Relations, done at Vienna on April 24, 1963, and entered into force on March 19, 1967, or other international obligations of the United States.

(d) APPLICABILITY AND CERTIFICATION.—The restrictions in subsection (c) shall not apply during any fiscal year in which the Secretary of State certifies to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives that the People's Republic of China has lifted all known exit bans on United States citizens.

(e) FURTHER NOTIFICATION.—If the Secretary of State, subsequent to certifying that the People's Republic of China has lifted all known exit bans on United States citizens, learns in the same fiscal year of any additional exit bans on United States citizens, the Secretary of State shall notify the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives of such fact and the restrictions in subsection (c) shall be reimposed 10 days after such notification.

(f) DATA ON EXIT BANS AGAINST UNITED STATES NATIONALS.—The Secretary of State shall collect and analyze available information on the application of exit bans by the PRC, including trends with respect to the application of such exit bans to United States nationals. Such data shall be—

(1) used to update travel warnings and disseminated to relevant State and local authorities, as appropriate, with a special emphasis on domestic jurisdictions with large numbers of at-risk populations;

(2) shared, as appropriate, with allies and partner nations to raise awareness about potential risks and vulnerabilities their citizens may face in traveling to the PRC;

(3) used to inform United States actions to hold the PRC accountable for its exit ban policy; and

(4) submitted to the appropriate congressional committees.

(g) EXIT BAN DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''exit ban'' means a restriction imposed by the Government of the PRC that prevents foreign nationals, including United States nationals, from leaving the PRC without a fair and transparent legal cause or recourse for the impacted party.

PART IV—ADVERSARY ABUSE OF AMERICA'S OPEN SOCIETY

SEC. 1295. APPLICATION OF TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS ON UNITED STATES ADVERSARIES.

Section 502 of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (division N of Public Law 115–31; 22 U.S.C. 254a note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by inserting ''and the People's Republic of China'' after ''accredited diplomatic and consular personnel of the Russian Federation'' and by striking ''Russian personnel'' and inserting ''such personnel'';

(2) in subsection (c)(1), by inserting ''and the People's Republic of China'' after ''accredited diplomatic and consular personnel of the Russian Federation''; and

(3) in subsection (d)(2), by inserting ''and the People's Republic of China'' after ''accredited diplomatic and consular personnel of the Russian Federation''.

SEC. 1296. ANNUAL REVIEW OF TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS ON ACCREDITED DIPLOMATS AND CONSULAR OFFICIALS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigations, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a review of the travel restriction policies for accredited diplomats and consular officials of the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation in the United States, including—

(1) the number of known or suspected violations of such requirements by any accredited diplomatic or consular personnel of the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China;

(2) an assessment of whether policies governing travel and notification requirements for accredited United States diplomats in the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation are reciprocal to the travel restriction policies governing their diplomats in the United States; and

(3) an assessment of whether United States policies on travel restrictions for Chinese and Russian diplomats are sufficient to mitigate Chinese and Russian counterintelligence and malign influence activities in the United States.

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

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 1297. ANNUAL REPORT ON THE PRC'S DIPLOMATIC MISSION ENGAGEMENTS.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 10 years, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that details all official meetings, conferences, events, activities, or travel within the United States organized or participated in by PRC diplomatic missions in the United States that were approved by or notified to the Office of Foreign Missions.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) the date and location of the engagement;

(2) the purpose and nature of the engagement, including any official meetings, conferences, events, activities, or deliverables organized or participated in by the PRC diplomatic missions;

(3) the format of the engagement, including in-person, on-site, virtually, or any other format that was approved by or notified to the Office of Foreign Missions;

(4) the identities and official positions of all individuals involved in the engagement, including members of the PRC diplomatic missions and host organizations;

(5) a summary of the Department of State's evaluation of the potential impact of the engagement on United States national security, foreign policy, and economic interests;

(6) any actions or measures taken by the Department of State to address concerns or mitigate risks related to the engagement; and

(7) any other relevant information the Secretary determines appropriate.

(c) FORM.—The report required under subsection (a) may be submitted in classified or unclassified form, but shall include an unclassified section released publicly that includes a summary of the information in paragraphs (2), (5), (6), (7), (8), and (9) of subsection (b).

(d) REPORT SAVINGS CLAUSE.—The Secretary of State may submit the report required in subsection (a) as part of the review required by section 1296.

SEC. 1298. RESTRICTION ON UNITED STATES PARTICIPATION IN EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES LINKED TO PRC MALIGN INFLUENCE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) OFFICIALS.—The term ''official'' means an individual who is employed directly or through a contractual arrangement by the Department of State.

(2) SUBORDINATE OR AFFILIATE ORGANIZATION.—The term ''subordinate or affiliate organization'' means a person or entity—

(A) that is determined by any agency within the intelligence community to be linked to the United Front Work Department of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party or its activities;

(B) the activities or funding of which is associated with the United Front Work Department or the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference; or

(C) that has at least one senior executive or board member with demonstrable ties to the United Front Work Department or the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

(b) RESTRICTION.—No Senate-confirmed officials may participate in any conference, forum, or other event organized or funded by—

(1) any organ of the United Front Work Department of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party;

(2) any organ of the Liaison Department of the Political Work Department of the Central Military Commission;

(3) any organ of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party;

(4) the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference or any organ thereof; or

(5) any subordinate or affiliate organization of paragraphs (1), (2), or (3).

(c) PARTICIPATION.—The Secretary of State may dispatch officials that are not Senate-confirmed to attend a conference, forum, or other event described in subsection (b) for the purposes of—

(1) observation; or

(2) engagement with United States persons in attendance.

SEC. 1299. ADDITIONAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

Section 204B of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 4304b) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''the Congress'' and inserting ''the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives'';

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (F), by striking ''subsection (c)'' and inserting ''subsection (d)''; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

''(G) The number and names of foreign diplomats with expired diplomatic visas who continue to receive diplomatic accreditation.

''(H) The foreign country represented by each diplomat referred to in subparagraph (G).'';

(C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(D) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraph:

''(3) FORM.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, except that the information described in subparagraphs (G) and (H) of paragraph (2) may be included in a classified annex.'';

(2) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after subsection (a) the following new subsection:

''(b) CERTIFICATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Director of National Intelligence, shall certify to the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, in each annual report required under subsection (a), that the foreign diplomats identified under subsection (a)(2)(G) are not engaging in intelligence activities in the United States that are harmful to the national security of the United States.

''(2) INABILITY TO CERTIFY.—If the Secretary of State is unable to make the certification described in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit a report to the congressional committees listed under such paragraph that describes why such certification was not made.

''(3) CONTINUED DIPLOMATIC ACCREDITATION IN NATIONAL SECURITY INTEREST.—If the Secretary of State determines that the continued diplomatic accreditation of a foreign diplomat identified under subsection (a)(2)(G) is in the national security interests of the United States and the Secretary is unable to submit the certification required under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit a report to the congressional committees listed under such paragraph that describes the reasons for such determination.''.

SA 3630. Mr. HICKENLOOPER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in subtitle E of title VIII, insert the following:

SEC. 881. PILOT PROGRAM ON SUPPLY CHAIN VISIBILITY AND DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGIC SEMICONDUCTOR STOCKPILE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PILOT PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall initiate a pilot program to identify the stockpiling requirements for microelectronic and semiconductor components to enhance supply chain visibility .

(2) IDENTIFICATION.—Consistent with the January 2024 National Defense Industrial Strategy, the Secretary shall identify stockpiling requirements for microelectronic and semiconductor components necessary for the continued production of semiconductors in times of international conflict or crisis when the viability of supply chain are compromised.

(3) DURATION.—The Secretary shall complete the pilot program required by paragraph (1) not later than one year after the date on which the Secretary initiates the program under paragraph (1).

(b) CONTRACTS WITH PRIVATE ENTITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To carry out the pilot program required by subsection (a)(1), the Secretary of Defense shall enter into a contract with not less than one eligible entity that will survey and assess the stockpiling requirements for microelectronic and semiconductor components.

(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''eligible entity'' means a private entity that—

(A) has a trusted and proven history of—

(i) working with the Department of Defense; and

(ii) complying with the regulations of the Department;

(B) maintains a positive performance history in the Contractor Performance Assessment Reporting System, with multiple contracting entities, including civilian entities and military agencies;

(C) maintains facility security clearances commensurate with the highest level of classified access required to support the most sensitive of efforts of managing, maintaining, and replenishing the stockpile of microelectronic and semiconductor components, and sufficient staff in the continental United States to support such efforts;

(D) has completed third party assessments, which verify that the entity—

(i) is compliant with the National Institute of Standards and Technology Special Publication 800–171, in anticipation of Cybersecurity Model Certification Level 2; and

(ii) reports its status in the Supplier Performance Risk System; and

(E) maintains compliance with international standards for distributors of electronic and semiconductor components, including the standards set forth in—

(i) the General Requirements for Authorized Distributors of Commercial and Military Semiconductor Devices, adopted August 2021 (JESD 31);

(ii) Fraudulent/Counterfeit Electronic Parts: Avoidance, Detection, Mitigation, and Disposition–Authorized/Franchise Distribution, adopted August 2014 (AS6496);

(iii) Counterfeit Electronic Parts; Avoidance, Detection, Mitigation, and Disposition, issued April 2009 (AS5553); and

(iv) Quality Management Systems Requirements, adopted September 2015 (ISO 9001:2015).

(c) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the pilot program is initiated under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report that includes—

(A) a description of the implementation of the pilot program; and

(B) an assessment of the viability of scaling up the pilot program, including—

(i) an evaluation of the benefits and mission priorities of developing a stockpile of microelectronics and semiconductor components; and

(ii) a description of any additional resources needed to scale up the program.

(2) BRIEFING.—The Secretary shall brief the congressional defense committees on the report submitted under paragraph (1).

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriate such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

SA 3631. Mr. HICKENLOOPER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title XV, add the following:

SEC. 1508. STRATEGY ON INTELLIGENCE, SURVEILLANCE, AND RECONNAISSANCE CAPABILITIES TO IMPROVE SITUATIONAL AWARENESS AND ENHANCE DEEP SENSING, PARTICULARLY IN CONTESTED ENVIRONMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Army shall develop a tactical high-altitude intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance strategy focused on addressing advancements in foreign adversarial high-altitude systems that offer persistent, low-signature, mass-swarm, and deep-ingress intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required by subsection (a) shall include, at a minimum—

(1) options for streamlining and formalizing investment in novel high-altitude platforms, including tactical stratosphere balloons, across Army organizations, task forces, and commands;

(2) policy and budgetary changes that could facilitate more rapid adoption of existing technologies and reduce platform costs; and

(3) plans to assess and leverage investments made by the other military departments, the United States Special Operations Command, Defense agencies and field activities, and the intelligence community.

(c) BRIEFING.—Not later than March 1, 2026, the Secretary of the Army shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress on the strategy required by this section and options to deploy capabilities and centralize efforts.

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

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

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

SA 3632. Mr. HICKENLOOPER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title XV, add the following:

SEC. 1508. AIR FORCE RESEARCH LABORATORY ORACLE PRIME CISLUNAR SPACE SITUATIONAL AWARENESS, OBJECT DETECTION, AND TRACKING DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.

Of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2026, not less than $25,000,000 shall be available for the Air Force Research Laboratory Oracle Prime cislunar space situational awareness, object detection, and tracking demonstration program.

SA 3633. Mr. HICKENLOOPER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title XV, add the following:

SEC. 1508. REPORT ON COOPERATION EFFORTS BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on cooperation efforts between the Department of Defense and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A detailed assessment of existing forms of cooperation between the Department of Defense and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(2) An assessment of, and recommendations for improving, future joint engagement between the Department of Defense and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(3) An assessment of the opportunities for exchange of personnel between the Department of Defense and National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and an examination of the feasibility and strategic benefits of establishing—

(A) dedicated joint duty billets for Space Force personnel at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; and

(B) rotational assignments of National Aeronautics and Space Administration employees in Space Force units and in the United States Space Command.

(4) An identification of potential career incentives for Space Force joint duty at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and civilian National Aeronautics and Space Administration rotational assignments at Space Force commands.

(c) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

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

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

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

SA 3634. Mrs. SHAHEEN 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 C of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1230B. LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR WITHDRAWAL OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES FROM EASTERN EUROPE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act may be obligated or expended for the withdrawal of the United States Armed Forces from multinational battle groups in eastern member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, including Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, and Romania, except as required for routine rotational movements, while maintaining not fewer than the number of forces and the types of capabilities present in such countries as of January 1, 2025, until the date that is 180 days after the date on which the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State jointly submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a certification that—

(1) the Russian Federation has withdrawn its military forces from occupied territories in Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova;

(2) the Russian Federation no longer has ambitions to control territory of sovereign neighbors in its near abroad; and

(3) the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State have appropriately consulted with the leaders of such multinational battlegroups and with the governments of each member country of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization with respect to such withdrawal of the United States Armed Forces.

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

(1) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

SA 3635. Mrs. SHAHEEN 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 B of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1219. CAPACITY BUILDING FOR DEFENSE FORCES.

The Secretary of Defense is authorized to provide counter-ISIS support and training assistance to the Syrian authorities—

(1) to build their capacity to contribute to counterterrorism needs in Syria; and

(2) to support core United States national security objectives.

SA 3636. Mrs. SHAHEEN 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 B of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1219. COUNTERING CAPTAGON PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

The Secretary of State is authorize to establish a program that—

(1) provides funding to rehabilitate border crossings in Syria; and

(2) supports counter-narcotics, counterterrorism, and counter-weapons trafficking, particularly by personnel and ministries linked to the new Government of Syria.

SA 3637. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XII, add the following:

Subtitle F—Support for Syria

SEC. 1271. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Syria Support Act of 2025''.

SEC. 1272. STATEMENT OF POLICY AND AUTHORIZATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—It shall be the policy of the United States—

(1) to encourage greater engagement with and support for Syria's authorities in areas of shared national security interests, including countering the threat of ISIS and preventing its return, facilitating the return and reintegration of Syrians, providing security at detention facilities and camps, preventing Iran and Russia from reestablishing a presence in Syria, and combating illicit financial transactions that would benefit terrorists, criminal gangs, and other sanctioned actors;

(2) to support the Syrian people's aspirations for a peaceful, prosperous, and democratic future and support a robust civil society, protection of religious and ethnic minorities, and accountability for war crimes and atrocities committed by ISIS, the Assad regime, and other actors;

(3) to support the Syrian people's livelihoods and promote Syria's economic recovery;

(4) to work in tandem with the United States and its allies and partners to promote Syria's recovery, spur civil society and independent media, and mitigate instability;

(5) to adjust bilateral United States foreign assistance, including security assistance, to recognize and to encourage continued progress of Syria's authorities towards meeting United States requirements and recommendations; and

(6) to ensure that Russia, Iran, ISIS, and other terrorist groups cannot exploit Syria's transition to sew violence and instability.

(b) AUTHORIZATIONS.—

(1) URGENT HUMANITARIAN AND RECOVERY NEEDS.—The President is authorized to provide assistance authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available to carry out the purposes of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.), section 202 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1722), and subsections (a) through (c) of section 2 of the

Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962 (22 U.S.C. 2601) to meet the urgent humanitarian and recovery needs of Syrian refugees and displaced persons, as well as communities hosting significant numbers of Syrian refugees and displaced persons, in accordance with established international humanitarian principles.

(2) DEPARTMENT OF STATE ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of State is authorized to establish a program to—

(A) provide funding to rehabilitate border crossings in Syria and support counter-narcotics and counterterrorism operations; and

(B) combat weapons trafficking, particularly by personnel and ministries linked to the new Government of Syria.

(3) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of Defense is authorized to provide counter-ISIS support and training assistance to the Government of Syria to—

(A) build the capacity of the government to contribute to counterterrorism needs in Syria; and

(B) support core United States national security objectives.

SEC. 1273. SYRIA STABILIZATION AND RECOVERY FUND AUTHORIZED.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of State $50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026, 2027, and 2028, which shall be used to establish the ''Syria Stabilization and Recovery Fund'' for the purpose of encouraging Syria's recovery, preventing instability, and allowing the Syrian people to achieve their aspirations for peace and prosperity, including—

(1) creating fair and effective governance institutions that represent all Syrians;

(2) increasing the capacity of civil and public servants, including in the Central Bank and Ministries, to effectively and transparently administer Syria's state administrative and governance functions;

(4) supporting community security providers to provide equitable and effective security services that are supported by their communities and local governance bodies in the whole of Syria;

(5) supporting the return and effective reintegration of displaced Syrians in a manner that bolsters their self-sufficiency, prevents recidivism, and incentivizes Syrian communities to accept them;

(6) supporting flexible assistance to Syrians, including to individuals and political and civil society groups, to participate in the Syrian political process, including the Constitutional Dialogue, Reconciliation Committee, and other mechanisms that advance peaceful transition, dialogue, and effective citizen participation in the Government of Syria;

(7) supporting Syrian civil society organizations to serve, represent, and advocate for all Syrians, with a focus on creating peaceful coexistence in communities and accountability for government authorities;

(8) promoting accountability, reconciliation, and justice efforts by providing funding for organizations supporting the collection, analysis, documentation, and transmission of key evidence and documentation of atrocities committed in Syria to and through international organizations, like the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism (IIIM), that support prosecution of individuals responsible for these crimes;

(9) sustaining critically needed humanitarian and early recovery assistance; and

(10) stabilizing the Syrian economy.

(b) INITIAL REPORT, ANNUAL REPORT AND BRIEFING.—

(1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter through 2029, the Secretary of State shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees a report and accompanying briefing that describes—

(A) the state of Syria's transition, including its progress towards meeting counterterrorism and counternarcotics goals and facilitating destruction of chemical weapons, building effective and fair state institutions, supporting transitional justice and accountability measures related to war crimes and atrocities committed by the former regime and ISIS, increasing transparency and adopting international best practices in the banking sector, safeguarding and protecting all Syrians, ensuring Syrians are able to organize and freely petition the government around societal and political issues, setting a clear path towards democratic elections, and towards keeping peaceful relations with Syria's neighbors, namely Israel; and

(B) how United States foreign assistance is funding programs to support progress towards achieving such benchmarks.

(2) FORM OF REPORT.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

SEC. 1274. REPORT ON THE IMPACT OF UNITED STATES ASSISTANCE CUTS.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that describes the foreign assistance strategy of the United States in support of United States Syria policy and provides comprehensive details on foreign assistance programs (including humanitarian and non-humanitarian efforts) inside Syria paused or canceled since January 2025.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include, at a minimum, the following elements:

(1) A comprehensive list of all United States foreign assistance programs paused or cancelled since January 20, 2025, and enumeration of the scope of these programs and impacts to United States foreign policy and national security objectives, as well as a clear justification for their termination of each effort and how it fits into a comprehensive Syria strategy.

(2) If any new programs exist that fulfill this scope, a listing of the programs.

(3) A description of efforts to leverage international donors, multilateral organizations, charities or other external funders to fill gaps, where they exist.

(4) An accounting of all sustained and ongoing humanitarian and foreign assistance programs inside Syria, including a comprehensive description of each project, any supporting organizations, relevant details related to funding, performance metrics, progress towards meeting United States objectives, and other relevant details, as needed.

SEC. 1275. STRATEGY ON ISIS-RELATED DETAINEE AND DISPLACEMENT CAMPS IN SYRIA.

Section 1262 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118–31) is amended—

(1) in subsection (e)(1), by inserting '', and annually thereafter through January 2029,'' after ''Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act''; and

(2) in subsection (f)(1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''January 31, 2025'' and inserting ''January 31, 2029''; and

(B) in subparagraph (A), by striking clause (ii) and inserting the following:

''(ii) an assessment of the status of all United States efforts, including via foreign assistance, to encourage and facilitate repatriation and reintegration of all individuals from such camps, consistent with all relevant domestic and applicable international laws;''.

SEC. 1276. STRATEGY FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH SYRIAN AUTHORITIES AND FOR EVALUATING SECURITY AT THE UNITED STATES MISSION.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States should take measures to expand its engagement with Syrian authorities in support of mutual national security interests, such as combating terrorism, eliminating chemical weapons, and mitigating Captagon smuggling; and

(2) the Department of State should take measures to evaluate and mitigate known security vulnerabilities at the United States mission in Damascus in support of eventually reopening the embassy compound for official usage.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter until January 1, 2029, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that describes the strategy of the United States to establish and sustain deepened engagement with Syrian authorities and assesses in detail the security conditions at the United States mission in Damascus and any known security preparations to re-establish operations on the compound.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include, at a minimum, the following elements:

(A) A strategy to strengthen and sustain broader United States engagement with Syrian authorities, which includes policy objectives, staffing plans domestically and overseas, regional engagement efforts, and efforts to engage Syrians, including activists, political groups, and civil society organizations.

(B) A detailed accounting of progress made on the engagement strategy, including meetings, travel, staffing patterns and changes, and notable gaps or areas where additional engagement is needed.

(C) A comprehensive assessment of security conditions at the United States mission in Damascus, any notable changes or progress made towards hardening security, and any progress towards re-establishing a permanent presence or re-opening the embassy.

SEC. 1277. REPORT ON EFFORTS TO ADVANCE ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AND OTHER RELATED CRIMES IN SYRIA.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter until 2029, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a comprehensive report on efforts to advance accountability and justice measures for human rights violations and atrocities committed by the Assad regime, ISIS, and other extremist groups.

(b) ELEMENTS OF THE REPORT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following elements:

(1) A summary of the United States national security interests and foreign policy objectives related to accountability and justice measures in Syria and how these interests are being supported through United States foreign assistance programs and engagement.

(2) A description of Syrian, regional, and multilateral efforts to support the collection and documentation of evidence of abuses, to process case-ready evidence files for local or international courts, and to pursue justice through the Syrian court system of convicted offenders.

SEC. 1278. STRATEGY TO ENSURE THE ENDURING DEFEAT OF ISIS IN SYRIA.

(a) STRATEGY REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the heads of other appropriate Federal agencies, shall jointly develop and submit to the appropriate congressional committees and the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a strategy to combat and prevent the further resurgence of ISIS and its affiliates in Syria.

(b) ELEMENTS OF THE STRATEGY.—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall include the following elements:

(1) A summary of the United States national security interests in Syria and the impact a resurgence of ISIS would have on those interests.

(2) A comprehensive assessment of current training and support programs by agency or department, specifically focused on countering ISIS and other terrorist organizations, including nonlethal assistance, training, and organizational capacity for the Syrian authorities and others to counter gains by ISIS and its affiliates.

(3) A detailed description of United States Government efforts to support, develop, and expand the capacity of Syrian authorities to combat ISIS and prevent its return.

(4) An estimate of the number of current, active ISIS members in Iraq and Syria, including an assessment of those being held in detainee camps or prisons.

(5) A comprehensive plan to repatriate or secure ISIS detainees currently being held in Syria and Iraq, including—

(A) the designation of an existing senior-level official within the executive branch to serve as a coordinator of relevant agencies for all matters for the United States Government relating to the long-term disposition of ISIS fighter detainees, including all matters in connection with—

(i) repatriation, transfer, prosecution, and intelligence-gathering;

(ii) coordinating a whole-of-government approach with other countries and international organizations, including INTERPOL, to ensure secure chains of custody and locations of ISIS foreign terrorist fighter detainees;

(iii) coordinating technical and evidentiary assistance to foreign countries to aid in the successful prosecution of ISIS foreign terrorist fighter detainees; and

(iv) all multilateral and international engagements led by the Department of State and other agencies that are related to the current and future handling, detention, and prosecution of ISIS foreign terrorist fighter detainees;

(B) engagement with international partners on legal, tenable mechanisms for repatriating foreign fighters; and

(C) a plan for how funds in appropriations Acts will support disarmament, demobilization, disengagement, deradicalization, and reintegration of current and former members and affiliates of ISIS and their family members.

(6) A description, which may be in classified form, of ISIS senior leadership and infrastructure and efforts to target leadership figures.

(7) A comprehensive description of the activities of the United States Government, utilizing social media and other communication technologies, to counter ISIS's propaganda and influence and its ability to use such technologies to recruit fighters domestically and internationally, including through private technology companies, and a description of how such activities are being coordinated across the United States Government.

(8) A description of the steps taken by the United States Government, including through the use of economic sanctions to deny financial resources to ISIS and its affiliates, in conjunction with international partners and financial institutions.

(9) A description of United States Government efforts to support credible war crimes prosecutions against ISIS fighters.

(10) A plan to ensure intelligence-sharing by the United States and its partners and allies with Syria authorities related to credible ISIS threats against Syrian authorities, and other ISIS and terror threats, as necessary.

(11) A plan to ensure the delivery of humanitarian and reintegration assistance.

SEC. 1279. APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.

In this subtitle, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

SA 3638. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. CURTIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XII, add the following:

Subtitle F—Security of Critical Mineral Supply Chains

SEC. 1701. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Critical Minerals Partnership Act of 2025''.

SEC. 1702. DEFINITION OF CRITICAL MINERAL.

In this subtitle, the term ''critical mineral''—

(1) has the meaning given the term in section 7002 of the Energy Act of 2020 (30 U.S.C. 1606); and

(2) includes any other mineral or mineral material determined by the Secretary of State—

(A) to be essential to the economic or national security of the United States; and

(B) to have a supply chain vulnerable to disruption.

SEC. 1703. STATEMENT OF POLICY ON CRITICAL MINERAL SUPPLY CHAINS.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to collaborate with allies and partners of the United States to build secure and resilient critical minerals supply chains, including in the mining, processing, reclamation and recycling, and valuation of critical minerals;

(2) to prioritize the development and production of critical mineral resources domestically, including through improvement of systems for collecting and recycling critical minerals from used and discarded goods or equipment, both to supply domestic needs and for export to allies and partners that participate in secure and resilient supply chains for critical minerals;

(3) to reduce or eliminate reliance and dependence on critical mineral supply chains controlled by the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, Iran, or any other adversary of the United States;

(4) to work with allies and partners on enhancing evaluation capability and technology in trusted countries that produce critical minerals to avoid the export of critical minerals, or products or components that are dependent on critical minerals, that are controlled by adversaries of the United States;

(5) to identify and implement market-based incentives for the purposes of facilitating the creation and maintenance of secure and resilient critical mineral supply chains, including for reclamation and recycling of critical mineral resources from waste streams, in collaboration with allies and partners;

(6) to prioritize securing critical mineral supply chains in United States foreign policy, including through the use of economic tools to invest responsibly in projects in partner countries in a manner that both benefits local populations and bolsters the supply of critical minerals to the United States and allies and partners of the United States; and

(7) that collaboration with allies and partners to build secure and resilient critical mineral supply chains shall not replace United States efforts to increase domestic development and production or recycling of critical minerals.

SEC. 1704. INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS RELATING TO PROTECTING CRITICAL MINERAL SUPPLY CHAINS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized to negotiate an agreement with international partners for the purposes of establishing a coalition—

(1) to facilitate—

(A) the mining, processing, recycling, and enhanced access to the supply of critical minerals; and

(B) advanced manufacturing that relies on the practical application of critical minerals; and

(2) to secure an adequate supply of critical minerals and relevant products, manufacturing inputs, and components that are heavily dependent on critical mineral resource inputs for the United States and other members of the coalition (in this section referred to as ''member countries'').

(b) NEGOTIATING OBJECTIVES.—The overall objectives for negotiating an agreement described in subsection (a) should be—

(1) to establish mechanisms for member countries to build secure and resilient supply chains for critical minerals, including in—

(A) the mining, refinement, reclamation and recycling, processing, and valuation of critical minerals; and

(B) advanced manufacturing of products, components, and materials that are dependent on critical minerals;

(2) to improve economies of scale and joint cooperation with international partners in securing access and means of production throughout the supply chains of critical minerals and manufacturing processes dependent on critical minerals;

(3) to establish mechanisms, with appropriate market-based disciplines, that provide and maintain opportunities among member countries for creating industry economies of scale to attract joint investment among those countries, including—

(A) cooperation on joint projects, including cost-sharing on building appropriate infrastructure to access deposits of critical minerals; and

(B) creation or enhancement of national and international programs to support the development of robust industries by providing appropriate sector-specific incentives, such as political risk and other insurance opportunities, financing, and other support, for—

(i) mining and processing critical minerals;

(ii) manufacturing of products, components, and materials that are dependent on critical minerals and are essential to consumer technology products or have important national security implications;

(iii) building capacities and creating incentives for recovering used, spent, or discarded equipment and consumer goods containing critical minerals to be safely handled and recycled; and

(iv) associated transportation needs that are tailored to the handling, movement, and logistics management of critical minerals and products, components, and materials that are dependent on critical minerals;

(4) to establish market-based rules for member countries regarding adoption of qualifying tax and other incentives to stimulate investment, as balanced by market-based disciplines to ensure a fair playing field among those countries;

(5) to establish recommended best practices to protect—

(A) labor rights;

(B) the natural environment and ecosystems near critical mineral industrial sites; and

(C) safety of communities near critical mineral industrial activities;

(6) to advance economic growth in developing countries with critical mineral reserves and capacities for the recovery and recycling of critical minerals, including for the benefit of the citizens of those countries;

(7) to establish rules allowing for the establishment of a consortium that is resourced and empowered to bid and compete in acquiring and securing potential deposits of critical minerals in countries that are not members of the coalition described in subsection (a) (in this section referred to as ''nonmember countries'');

(8) to establish a mechanism for joint resource mapping with procedures for equitable sharing of information on potential deposits of critical minerals not less frequently than annually;

(9) to establish appropriate mechanisms for the recognition and enforcement by a member country of judgments relating to environmental and related harms caused by mining operations within the territory of the member country in contravention of that country's laws; and

(10) to improve supply chain security among member countries by providing for national treatment investment protections among those countries that are equal to, or better than, the standards in the United States model bilateral investment treaty.

(c) CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED.—In the course of negotiations described in subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult closely and on a timely basis with, and keep fully apprised of the negotiations, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 1705. MINERALS SECURITY PARTNERSHIP AUTHORIZATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, acting through the Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment, is authorized to lead United States participation in the Minerals Security Partnership, for the following purposes:

(1) To identify and support investment and advocate for commercial critical mineral mining, processing, and refining projects that enable robust and secure critical mineral supply chains, in consultation with other Federal agencies, as appropriate.

(2) To coordinate with relevant regional bureaus to develop regional diplomatic engagement strategies related to critical minerals projects and to identify projects that are priorities.

(3) To coordinate with United States missions abroad on projects, programs, and investments that enable robust and secure critical mineral supply chains.

(4) To coordinate with current and prospective members of the Minerals Security Partnership.

(5) To establish a mechanism for information-sharing with members of the Minerals Security Partnership.

(6) To establish policies and procedures, and if necessary, to provide funding to facilitate cooperation on joint projects with members of the Minerals Security Partnership and the Minerals Security Forum, including those related to cost-sharing agreements, political risk insurance, financing, equity investments, and other support, in coordination with other Federal agencies, as appropriate.

(7) If an agreement described in section 1704 is entered into, to support the establishment of the coalition described in that section.

(b) DATABASE.—As part of the Minerals Security Partnership, the Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary, is authorized to establish and maintain a database of critical mineral projects for the purpose of providing high quality and up-to-date information to the private sector and, at the discretion of the Under Secretary, to members of the Minerals Security Partnership, in order to spur greater investment, increase the resilience of global critical minerals supply chains, and boost United States supply.

(c) QUALIFICATIONS FOR PERSONNEL.—With respect to staffing personnel to carry out the Minerals Security Partnership, the Secretary shall prioritize individuals with the following qualifications:

(1) Substantive knowledge and experience in issues related to critical minerals supply chain and their application to strategic industries, including in the defense, energy, and technology sectors.

(2) Substantive knowledge and experience in large-scale multi-donor project financing and related technical and diplomatic arrangements, international coalition-building, and project management.

(3) Substantive knowledge and experience in trade and foreign policy, defense industrial base policy, or national security-sensitive supply chain issues.

(d) PRIVATE SECTOR COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall ensure close coordination between the Department of State, the private sector, and relevant civil society groups on the implementation of this section.

(e) PROJECT SELECTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The United States, through its participation in the Minerals Security Partnership, shall prioritize projects that advance the national and economic security interests of the United States and allies and partners of the United States.

(2) CRITERIA REQUIREMENTS.—The United States should advocate for the Minerals Security Partnership to use environmental, social, or governance standards, including as criteria for project selection, that are consistent with United States law or international agreements approved by Congress.

SEC. 1706. UNITED STATES MEMBERSHIP IN THE INTERNATIONAL NICKEL STUDY GROUP.

(a) UNITED STATES MEMBERSHIP.—The President is authorized to accept the Terms of Reference of and maintain membership of the United States in the International Nickel Study Group.

(b) PAYMENTS OF ASSESSED CONTRIBUTIONS.—For fiscal year 2025 and thereafter, the United States assessed contributions to the International Nickel Study Group may be paid from funds appropriated for ''Contributions to International Organizations''.

SEC. 1707. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Department of State $50,000,000 for fiscal year 2026 to enhance critical mineral supply chain security, including to implement this subtitle.

SA 3639. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 12___. REPORT ANALYZING THE USE OF LONG-ACTING INJECTABLE PREVENTATIVE MALARIA MEDICATION.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Commander of the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report containing an analysis of—

(1) the use of long-acting injectable preventative malaria medication through programs led by the Office of Infectious Diseases and Outbreak Response of the Bureau of Global Health Security and Diplomacy of the Department of State and the Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring and Research Program of the Department of Defense;

(2) which programs under the President's Malaria Initiative would benefit from using long-acting injectable preventative malaria medication; and

(3) the use by the Department of State and the Department of Defense of long-acting injectable preventative malaria medication for diplomats and members of the Armed Forces serving in malaria endemic areas.

SA 3640. Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. ROUNDS, and Ms. SMITH) 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. _____. REQUIREMENT TO TESTIFY.

Section 104(b) of the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4703(b)) is amended by adding to the end the following:

''(5) ANNUAL TESTIMONY.—The Secretary of the Treasury (or a designee of the Secretary) shall, at the discretion of the chairman of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and chairman of the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives, annually testify before such committees (or a subcommittee of such committees) regarding the operations of the Fund during the previous fiscal year.''.

SEC. _____. CDFI BOND GUARANTEE PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''CDFI Bond Guarantee Program Improvement Act of 2025''.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the authority to guarantee bonds under section 114A of the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4713a) (commonly referred to as the ''CDFI Bond Guarantee Program'') provides community development financial institutions with a sustainable source of long-term capital and furthers the mission of the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (established under section 104(a) of such Act (12 U.S.C. 4703(a)) to increase economic opportunity and promote community development investments for underserved populations and distressed communities in the United States.

(c) GUARANTEES FOR BONDS AND NOTES ISSUED FOR COMMUNITY OR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 114A of the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4713a) is amended—

(A) in subsection (c)(2), by striking '', multiplied by an amount equal to the outstanding principal balance of issued notes or bonds'';

(B) by amending subsection (e)(2) to read as follows:

''(2) LIMITATION ON GUARANTEE AMOUNT.—The Secretary may not guarantee any amount under the program equal to less than $25,000,000, but the total of all such guarantees in any fiscal year may not exceed $1,000,000,000.''; and

(C) in subsection (k), by striking ''September 30, 2014'' and inserting ''the date that is 4 years after the date of enactment of the CDFI Bond Guarantee Program Improvement Act of 2025''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–315; 108 Stat. 2160) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 114 the following:

''Sec. 114A. Guarantees for bonds and notes issued for community or economic development purposes.''.

(d) REPORT ON THE CDFI BOND GUARANTEE PROGRAM.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and not later than 3 years after such date of enactment, the Secretary of the Treasury shall issue a report to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives on the effectiveness of the CDFI bond guarantee program established under section 114A of the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4713a).

SEC. _____. CAPITALIZATION ASSISTANCE TO ENHANCE LIQUIDITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 113 of the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4712) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

''(a) ASSISTANCE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Fund may provide funds to organizations for the purpose of—

''(A) purchasing loans that are not conforming loans, loan participations, or interests therein from community development financial institutions;

''(B) providing guarantees, loan loss reserves, or other forms of credit enhancement to promote liquidity for community development financial institutions; and

''(C) otherwise enhancing the liquidity of community development financial institutions.

''(2) CONSTRUCTION OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FUNDS.—For purposes of this subsection, notwithstanding section 105(a)(9) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(9)), funds provided pursuant to such Act shall be considered to be Federal Government funds.

''(3) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term 'conforming loan'—

''(A) means a loan that meets the guidelines of the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation and the Federal National Mortgage Association.'';

(2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

''(b) SELECTION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The selection of organizations to receive assistance and the amount of assistance to be provided to any organization under this section shall be at the discretion of the Fund and in accordance with criteria established by the Fund.

''(2) ELIGIBILITY.—Organizations eligible to receive assistance under this section—

''(A) shall have a primary purpose of promoting community development; and

''(B) are not required to be community development financial institutions.

''(3) PRIORITIZATION.—For the purpose of making an award of funds under this section, the Fund shall prioritize the selection of organizations that—

''(A) demonstrate relevant experience or an ability to carry out the activities under this section, including experience leading or participating in loan purchase structures or purchasing or participating in the purchase of, assigning, or otherwise transferring, assets from community development financial institutions;

''(B) demonstrate the capacity to increase the number or dollar volume of loan originations or expand the products or services of community development financial institutions, including by leveraging the award with private capital; and

''(C) will use the funds to support community development financial institutions that represent broad geographic coverage or that serve borrowers that have experienced significant unmet capital or financial services needs.'';

(3) in subsection (c), in the first sentence—

(A) by striking ''$5,000,000'' and inserting ''$20,000,000''; and

(B) by striking ''during any 3-year period''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(g) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary may promulgate such regulations as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the authorities or purposes of this section.''.

(b) EMERGENCY CAPITAL INVESTMENT FUNDS.—Section 104A of the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4703a) is amended by striking subsection (l) and inserting the following:

''(l) DEPOSIT OF FUNDS.—All funds received by the Secretary in connection with purchases made pursuant this section, including interest payments, dividend payments, and proceeds from the sale of any financial instrument, shall be deposited into the Fund and used—

''(1) to provide financial assistance to organizations pursuant to section 113; and

''(2) to provide financial and technical assistance pursuant to section 108, except that subsection (e) of that section shall be waived.''.

(c) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the terms ''community development financial institution'' and ''Fund'' have the meanings given the terms in section 103 of the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4702).

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which assistance is first provided under section 113 of the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4712) pursuant to the amendments made by subsection (a) of this section, and annually thereafter through 2028, the Secretary of the Treasury shall submit to Congress a written report describing the use of the Fund for the 1-year period preceding the submission of the report for the purposes described in subsection (a)(1) of such section 113, as amended by subsection (a) of this section, which shall include, with respect to the period covered by the report—

(A) the total amount of—

(i) loans, loan participations, and interests therein purchased from community development financial institutions;

(ii) loans that support affordable housing construction; and

(iii) guarantees, loan loss reserves, and other forms of credit enhancement provided to community development financial institutions;

(B) the effect of the purchases and guarantees made by the Fund on the overall competitiveness of community development financial institutions; and

(C) the impact of the purchases and guarantees made by the Fund on the liquidity of community development financial institutions.

SEC. _____. NATIVE CDFI RELENDING PROGRAM.

Section 502 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1472) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(j) SET ASIDE FOR NATIVE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

''(A) the term 'Alaska Native' has the meaning given the term 'Native' in section 3(b) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1602(b));

''(B) the term 'appropriate congressional committees' means—

''(i) the Committee on Agriculture of the Senate;

''(ii) the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate;

''(iii) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate;

''(iv) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives;

''(v) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives; and

''(vi) the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives;

''(C) the term 'community development financial institution' has the meaning given the term in section 103 of the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4702);

''(D) the term 'Indian Tribe' has the meaning given the term 'Indian tribe' in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103);

''(E) the term 'Native community development financial institution' means an entity—

''(i) that has been certified as a community development financial institution by the Secretary of the Treasury;

''(ii) that is not less than 51 percent owned or controlled by members of Indian Tribes, Alaska Native communities, or Native Hawaiian communities; and

''(iii) for which not less than 51 percent of the activities of the entity serve Indian Tribes, Alaska Native communities, or Native Hawaiian communities;

''(F) the term 'Native Hawaiian' has the meaning given the term in section 801 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4221); and

''(G) the term 'priority Tribal land' means—

''(i) any land located within the boundaries of—

''(I) an Indian reservation, pueblo, or rancheria; or

''(II) a former reservation within Oklahoma;

''(ii) any land not located within the boundaries of an Indian reservation, pueblo, or rancheria, the title to which is held—

''(I) in trust by the United States for the benefit of an Indian Tribe or an individual Indian;

''(II) by an Indian Tribe or an individual Indian, subject to restriction against alienation under laws of the United States; or

''(III) by a dependent Indian community;

''(iii) any land located within a region established pursuant to section 7(a) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1606(a));

''(iv) Hawaiian Home Lands, as defined in section 801 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4221); or

''(v) those areas or communities designated by the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs of the Department of the Interior that are near, adjacent, or contiguous to reservations where financial assistance and social service programs are provided to Indians because of their status as Indians.

''(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this subsection is to—

''(A) increase homeownership opportunities for Indian Tribes, Alaska Native Communities, and Native Hawaiian communities in rural areas; and

''(B) provide capital to Native community development financial institutions to increase the number of mortgage transactions carried out by those institutions.

''(3) SET ASIDE FOR NATIVE CDFIS.—Of amounts appropriated to make direct loans under this section for each fiscal year, the Secretary may use not more than $50,000,000 to make direct loans to Native community development financial institutions in accordance with this subsection.

''(4) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—A Native community development financial institution desiring a loan under this subsection shall demonstrate that the institution—

''(A) can provide the non-Federal cost share required under paragraph (6); and

''(B) is able to originate and service loans for single family homes.

''(5) LENDING REQUIREMENTS.—A Native community development financial institution that receives a loan pursuant to this subsection shall—

''(A) use those amounts to make loans to borrowers—

''(i) who otherwise meet the requirements for a loan under this section; and

''(ii) who—

''(I) are members of an Indian Tribe, an Alaska Native community, or a Native Hawaiian community; or

''(II) maintain a household in which not less than 1 member is a member of an Indian Tribe, an Alaska Native community, or a Native Hawaiian community; and

''(B) in making loans under subparagraph (A), give priority to borrowers described in that subparagraph who are residing on priority Tribal land.

''(6) NON-FEDERAL COST SHARE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A Native community development financial institution that receives a loan under this section shall be required to match not less than 20 percent of the amount received.

''(B) WAIVER.—In the case of a loan for which amounts are used to make loans to borrowers described in paragraph (5)(B), the Secretary shall waive the non-Federal cost share requirement described in subparagraph (A) with respect to those loan amounts.

''(7) REPORTING.—

''(A) ANNUAL REPORT BY NATIVE CDFIS.—Each Native community development financial institution that receives a loan pursuant to this subsection shall submit an annual report to the Secretary on the lending activities of the institution using the loan amounts, which shall include—

''(i) a description of the outreach efforts of the institution in local communities to identify eligible borrowers;

''(ii) a description of how the institution leveraged additional capital to reach prospective borrowers;

''(iii) the number of loan applications received, approved, and deployed;

''(iv) the average loan amount;

''(v) the number of finalized loans that were made on Tribal trust lands and not on Tribal trust lands; and

''(vi) the number of finalized loans that were made on priority Tribal land and not priority Tribal land.

''(B) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, and every year thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional communities a report that includes—

''(i) a list of loans made to Native community development financial institutions pursuant to this subsection, including the name of the institution and the loan amount;

''(ii) the percentage of loans made under this section to members of Indian Tribes, Alaska Native communities, and Native Hawaiian communities, respectively, including a breakdown of loans made to households residing on and not on Tribal trust lands; and

''(iii) the average loan amount made by Native community development financial institutions pursuant to this subsection.

''(C) EVALUATION OF PROGRAM.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary and the Secretary of the Treasury shall conduct an evaluation of and submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the program under this subsection, which shall—

''(i) evaluate the effectiveness of the program, including an evaluation of the demand for loans under the program; and

''(ii) include recommendations relating to the program, including whether—

''(I) the program should be expanded to such that all community development financial institutions may make loans under the program to the borrowers described in paragraph (5); and

''(II) the set aside amount paragraph (3) should be modified in order to match demand under the program.

''(8) GRANTS FOR OPERATIONAL SUPPORT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make grants to Native community development financial institutions that receive a loan under this section to provide operational support and other related services to those institutions, subject to—

''(i) the satisfactory performance, as determined by the Secretary, of a Native community development financial institution in carrying out this section; and

''(ii) the availability of funding.

''(B) AMOUNT.—A Native community development financial institution that receives a loan under this section shall be eligible to receive a grant described in subparagraph (A) in an amount equal to 20 percent of the direct loan amount received by the Native community development financial institution under the program under this section as of the date on which the direct loan is awarded.

''(9) OUTREACH AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary $1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025, 2026, and 2027—

''(A) to provide technical assistance to Native community development financial institutions—

''(i) relating to homeownership and other housing-related assistance provided by the Secretary; and

''(ii) to assist those institutions to perform outreach to eligible homebuyers relating to the loan program under this section; or

''(B) to provide funding to a national organization representing Native American housing interests to perform outreach and provide technical assistance as described in clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, of subparagraph (A).

''(10) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—In addition to other available funds, the Secretary may use not more than 3 percent of the amounts made available to carry out this subsection for administration of the programs established under this subsection.''.

SA 3641. Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) 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. _____. AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TRAINING IMPROVEMENTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration.

(2) FAA.—The term ''FAA'' means the Federal Aviation Administration.

(b) COLLEGIATE TRAINING INITIATIVE PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 44506(c) of title 49, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(c) AIR TRAFFIC-COLLEGIATE TRAINING INITIATIVE AND ENHANCED AIR TRAFFIC-COLLEGIATE TRAINING INITIATIVE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall maintain the Air Traffic-Collegiate Training Initiative program and the Enhanced Air Traffic-Collegiate Training Initiative program by making new agreements and continuing existing agreements with institutions of higher education (as defined by the Administrator) under which the institutions prepare students for the position of air traffic controller with the Department of Transportation (as defined in section 2109 of title 5). The Administrator may establish standards for the entry of institutions into the program and for their continued participation.

''(2) APPOINTMENT OF PROGRAM GRADUATES.—The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration may appoint an individual who has successfully completed a course of training in a program described in paragraph (1) to the position of air traffic controller noncompetitively in the excepted service (as defined in section 2103 of title 5).

''(3) ENHANCED AIR TRAFFIC-COLLEGIATE TRAINING INITIATIVE GRANT PROGRAM.—

''(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall establish and carry out a grant program to award grants to institutions of higher education (as defined by the Administrator) that have been approved to, or are seeking to (as determined appropriate by the Administrator), participate in the Enhanced Air

Traffic-Collegiate Training Initiative program described in paragraph (1).

''(B) GRANTS.—

''(i) USE OF FUNDS.—An institution of higher education shall use a grant awarded under this paragraph for the following purposes:

''(I) To implement curriculum for the Enhanced Air Traffic-Collegiate Training Initiative program described in paragraph (1).

''(II) To provide faculty, simulators, and other necessary classroom supplies to the Enhanced Air Traffic-Collegiate Training Initiative program.

''(III) For any other purpose determined appropriate by the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, including providing medical certificates and FAA-required tests.

''(ii) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this paragraph, an institution of higher education shall submit an application to the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration at such time, in such form, and containing such information as the Administrator may require.

''(iii) FUNDING.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated $20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2031 to carry out this paragraph.

''(II) FEDERAL SHARE OF COSTS.—The Federal share of costs for a grant under this paragraph shall be 90 percent.''.

(2) ENHANCED AIR TRAFFIC-COLLEGIATE TRAINING INITIATIVE PROGRAM FACULTY ANNUITY SUPPLEMENT.—Section 8421a(c) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''; or'' and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

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

''(3) air traffic control instructor, or supervisor thereof, at an institution of higher education participating in the Enhanced Air Traffic-Collegiate Training Initiative program described in section 44506(c) of title 49.''.

(3) FAA ACADEMY AND COLLEGIATE TRAINING INITIATIVE PROGRAM CURRICULUM AVIATION RULEMAKING COMMITTEE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall convene an aviation rulemaking committee to—

(i) review the curricula of the air traffic technical training academy of the FAA, the Air Traffic-Collegiate Training Initiative program, and the Enhanced Air Traffic-Collegiate Training Initiative program;

(ii) develop findings and recommendations regarding the improvement and modernization of such curricula; and

(iii) provide to the Administrator a report on such findings and recommendations and for other related purposes as determined by the Administrator.

(B) COMPOSITION.—The aviation rulemaking committee established under subparagraph (A) shall consist of members appointed by the Administrator, including representatives of—

(i) institutions of higher education that are accredited by the Aviation Accreditation Board International;

(ii) aviation industry organizations;

(iii) FAA subject matter experts;

(iv) military and commercial operators of aircraft, helicopters, and powered-lift aircraft;

(v) the exclusive bargaining representative of the air traffic controllers certified under section 7111 of title 5, United States Code; and

(vi) aviation safety experts and other experts determined appropriate by the Administrator.

(C) CONSIDERATIONS.—The aviation rulemaking committee established under subparagraph (A) shall consider the following:

(i) The advancements in education technology, including digital resources and augmented reality or virtual reality capabilities, that may be incorporated into a modern curriculum.

(ii) The appropriate balance between the use of theoretical knowledge and practical application.

(iii) A review of instructional techniques to improve the effectiveness of learning outcomes.

(iv) The real-world applicability of air traffic operations procedures included in the curriculum.

(v) Student success rates, including outcomes of air traffic controller trainees when placed at facilities for on-the-job training.

(vi) Methods for reducing the subjectivity of instructional techniques.

(vii) Student success rates correlated to the Air Traffic-Collegiate Training Initiative program and the Enhanced Air Traffic-Collegiate Training Initiative program described in section 44506(c) of title 49, United States Code.

(viii) The appropriate method for ensuring the curriculum incorporates new entrants into the nationals airspace system.

(ix) Other considerations as determined appropriate by the Administrator.

(D) DUTIES.—The Administrator shall—

(i) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, submit to Congress a copy of the aviation rulemaking committee report provided to the Administrator under subparagraph (A)(iii); and

(ii) not later than 180 days after the date of submission of the report under clause (i), in consultation with other agencies as determined appropriate by the Administrator—

(I) initiate a rulemaking activity or make such policy and guidance updates necessary to address any consensus recommendations reached by the aviation rulemaking committee; or

(II) submit to Congress a supplemental report with an explanation for each such consensus recommendation not adopted by the Administrator through an action under subclause (I).

(E) PROHIBITION ON COMPENSATION.—The members of the aviation rulemaking committee convened under this paragraph shall not receive pay, allowances, or benefits from the Federal Government by reason of their service on such committee. This paragraph shall not be construed to affect the pay, allowances, or benefits of any Federal employee who serves as a member of the aviation rulemaking committee as part of their official duties,

(c) OTHER IMPROVEMENTS.—

(1) AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER MENTAL HEALTH IMPROVEMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Administrator shall establish, in consultation with aviation industry stakeholders and aviation medical professionals, a training course to—

(i) support the development of mental health providers with an innate knowledge and understanding of the FAA criteria and decision making regarding mental health conditions for air traffic controllers; and

(ii) develop advanced training programs for Aviation Medical Examiners with respect to mental health.

(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing the training course under subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall consider—

(i) the feasibility of virtual and in-person course offerings; and

(ii) the need for an advisory board to ensure continuous improvement of the training course.

(2) REPORT ON THE AIRPORT NON-COOPERATIVE SURVEILLANCE RADAR PROGRAM.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Administrator shall submit to the Committees on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and Appropriations of the Senate and the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report on the status of the Airport Non-cooperative Surveillance Radar (in this paragraph referred to as ''ANSR'') program, including—

(A) a determination of funding needs for the ANSR program;

(B) a cost-benefit analysis of the most effective solutions to provide ongoing ANSR services, including a comparison of a sustainment approach versus a replacement approach;

(C) an analysis of how the FAA intends to provide commercial service airports with the necessary equipment, including radar, to detect any threat posed by non-cooperative flying objects, including aircraft, unmanned aircraft systems, balloons, and other objects determined appropriate by the Administrator;

(D) an update on the Radar Divestiture Program;

(E) the projected lifecycle support needs of the existing inventory of non-cooperative Airport Surveillance Radar Models 8, 9, and 11; and

(F) any other information determined appropriate by the Administrator.

SA 3642. Mr. HOEVEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title V, add the following:

SEC. 550. PROVISION OF TUITION ASSISTANCE TO MEMBERS OF AIR NATIONAL GUARD.

The Secretary of the Air Force shall establish a permanent program to pay, under section 2007 of title 10, United States Code, all or a portion of the charges of an educational institution for the tuition or expenses of a member of the Air National Guard who is in compliance with the training requirements under regulations prescribed under section 502(a) of title 32, United States Code.

SA 3643. Mr. HOEVEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 724. SENSE OF SENATE ON TRUE NORTH PROGRAM OF THE AIR FORCE.

It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the True North program of the Department of the Air Force provides important mental health care benefits to members of the Air Force;

(2) making such program available to some members of the Air Force at particular installations without making it available to others may create a perception of disparity; and

(3) in order to avoid the perception of disparity, the True North program should operate on an installation-wide basis, rather than on a unit-by-unit basis within that installation.

SA 3644. Mr. HOEVEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title III, add the following:

SEC. 350. PILOT PROGRAM ON ENHANCED USE OF ADVANCED SENSOR NETWORKS TO IMPROVE COUNTER-UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM CAPABILITIES OF THE AIR FORCE FOR BASE DEFENSE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Beginning not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force, in coordination with the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, shall carry out a pilot program, to be known as the ''Enhancing Cooperation for Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems Program'' (in this section referred to as the ''pilot program''), under which the Secretary shall incorporate the use of civilian civil airspace sensor networks into data processing systems of the Air Force—

(1) to improve defense of installations of the Department of Defense against small unmanned aircraft systems (in this section referred to as ''sUAS'');

(2) to inform the development of counter-unmanned aircraft system capabilities that are suitable for use inside the United States and in the national airspace system; and

(3) to enhance cooperation with law enforcement, State and local partners, and other Federal departments and agencies to counter domestic threats.

(b) LOCATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordination with the Administrator, shall select not fewer than two installations of the Department of Defense located in the United States at which to conduct the pilot program.

(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In selecting installations under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consider the potential for the Air Force—

(A) to access advanced civilian airspace sensor networks;

(B) to leverage public-private partnerships that enable multi-use of airspace awareness capabilities for public safety, defense of critical infrastructure to include installations of the Department of Defense, and protection of civil aviation; and

(C) to minimize the potential for negatively affecting civil aircraft operations in the national airspace system.

(c) OBJECTIVES.—The objectives of the pilot program are—

(1) to demonstrate the efficacy of shared situational awareness data from civilian sensor networks to defense systems of installations of the Department;

(2) to provide the Air Force with access to airspace awareness data derived from civilian airspace sensor networks to increase the ability of the Air Force to defend such installations from the threats posed by sUAS;

(3) to determine any authority, capability, and capacity barriers to enhancing cooperation between the Air Force, civilian partners, and other Federal, State, and local government entities to extend the over-the-horizon identification of potential sUAS threats beyond the current range of existing defense systems for such installations in the United States; and

(4) to improve the data-sharing frameworks for airspace data between the Air Force and various stakeholders for the purpose of defense of such installations.

(d) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—In carrying out the pilot program, the Secretary of the Air Force may enter into one or more contracts for the procurement of additional technologies capable of—

(1) leveraging commercial or Federal Government off-the-shelf detect-track-defeat systems;

(2) integrating and using civilian airspace awareness data to serve as an early warning capability specifically to help identify and monitor non-compliant sUAS; and

(3) informing appropriate communication mechanisms between installations of the Department of Defense and local law enforcement agencies to report and track non-compliant air vehicles, deter incursions, and foster potential prosecution.

(e) BRIEFINGS.—Not later than 90 days after the conclusion of all activities carried out under the pilot program at an installation selected for such program, the Secretary shall provide to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a briefing that includes a description of—

(1) the manner in which the pilot program was conducted at such installation; and

(2) any results achieved under the pilot program at such installation.

(f) TERMINATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The authority to carry out a pilot program under this section shall terminate on the date that is five years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) EARLY TERMINATION OPTION.—The Secretary of the Air Force may request the termination of the pilot program before the date specified in paragraph (1) if the Secretary—

(A) determines that administrative, legal, performance, or other factors indicate the pilot program will not be successful; and

(B) submits to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives notice in writing of such determination.

SA 3645. Mr. WICKER 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___. TRANSFER OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES PROGRAM TO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) TRANSFER.—Not later than the effective date set forth in subsection (d), the Director of National Intelligence and the Secretary of Defense shall take such actions as may be necessary for the Secretary of Defense to carry out the Foreign Languages Program, including such transfer of personnel, assets, and facilities from the Director to the Secretary as the Director and the Secretary jointly consider appropriate.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Part III of subtitle A of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new chapter:

''CHAPTER 114—FOREIGN LANGUAGES PROGRAM

''§ 2200m. Program on advancement of foreign languages critical to the Defense Intelligence Enterprise

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense may carry out a program to advance skills in foreign languages that are critical to the capability of the Defense Intelligence Enterprise to carry out the national security activities of the United States (hereinafter in this chapter referred to as the 'Foreign Languages Program').

''(b) IDENTIFICATION OF REQUISITE ACTIONS.—In order to carry out the Foreign Languages Program, the Secretary of Defense shall identify actions required to improve the education of personnel in the Defense Intelligence Enterprise in foreign languages that are critical to the capability of the Defense Intelligence Enterprise to carry out the national security activities of the United States and to meet the long-term intelligence needs of the United States.

''§ 2200n. Education partnerships

''(a) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the Foreign Languages Program, the head of a covered element of the Defense Intelligence Enterprise may enter into one or more education partnership agreements with educational institutions in the United States in order to encourage and enhance the study in such educational institutions of foreign languages that are critical to the capability of the Defense Intelligence Enterprise to carry out the national security activities of the United States.

''(b) ASSISTANCE PROVIDED UNDER EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS.—Under an educational partnership agreement entered into with an educational institution pursuant to this section, the head of a covered element of the Defense Intelligence Enterprise may provide the following assistance to the educational institution:

''(1) The loan of equipment and instructional materials of the element of the Defense Intelligence Enterprise to the educational institution for any purpose and duration that the head of the element considers appropriate.

''(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law relating to the transfer of surplus property, the transfer to the educational institution of any computer equipment, or other equipment, that is—

''(A) commonly used by educational institutions;

''(B) surplus to the needs of the element of the Defense Intelligence Enterprise; and

''(C) determined by the head of the element to be appropriate for support of such agreement.

''(3) The provision of dedicated personnel to the educational institution—

''(A) to teach courses in foreign languages that are critical to the capability of the Defense Intelligence Enterprise to carry out the national security activities of the United States; or

''(B) to assist in the development for the educational institution of courses and materials on such languages.

''(4) The involvement of faculty and students of the educational institution in research projects of the element of the Defense Intelligence Enterprise.

''(5) Cooperation with the educational institution in developing a program under which students receive academic credit at the educational institution for work on research projects of the element of the Defense Intelligence Enterprise.

''(6) The provision of academic and career advice and assistance to students of the educational institution.

''(7) The provision of cash awards and other items that the head of the element of the Defense Intelligence Enterprise considers appropriate.

''§ 2200o. Voluntary services

''(a) AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT SERVICES.—Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, and subject to subsection (b), the Foreign Languages Program under section 2200m shall include authority for the head of a covered element of the Defense Intelligence Enterprise to accept from any dedicated personnel voluntary services in support of the activities authorized by this subtitle.

''(b) REQUIREMENTS AND LIMITATIONS.—(1) In accepting voluntary services from an individual under subsection (a), the head of a covered element of the Defense Intelligence Enterprise shall—

''(A) supervise the individual to the same extent as the head of the element would supervise a compensated employee of that element providing similar services; and

''(B) ensure that the individual is licensed, privileged, has appropriate educational or experiential credentials, or is otherwise qualified under applicable law or regulations to provide such services.

''(2) In accepting voluntary services from an individual under subsection (a), the head of a covered element of the Defense Intelligence Enterprise may not—

''(A) place the individual in a policymaking position, or other position performing inherently governmental functions; or

''(B) compensate the individual for the provision of such services.

''(c) AUTHORITY TO RECRUIT AND TRAIN INDIVIDUALS PROVIDING SERVICES.—The head of a covered element of the Defense Intelligence Enterprise may recruit and train individuals to provide voluntary services under subsection (a).

''(d) STATUS OF INDIVIDUALS PROVIDING SERVICES.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), while providing voluntary services under subsection (a) or receiving training under subsection (c), an individual shall be considered to be an employee of the Federal Government only for purposes of the following provisions of law:

''(A) Section 552a of title 5 (relating to maintenance of records on individuals).

''(B) Chapter 11 of title 18 (relating to conflicts of interest).

''(2)(A) With respect to voluntary services under paragraph (1) provided by an individual that are within the scope of the services accepted under that paragraph, the individual shall be deemed to be a volunteer of a governmental entity or nonprofit institution for purposes of the Volunteer Protection Act of 1997 (42 U.S.C. 14501 et seq.).

''(B) In the case of any claim against such an individual with respect to the provision of such services, section 4(d) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 14503(d)) shall not apply.

''(3) Acceptance of voluntary services under this section shall have no bearing on the issuance or renewal of a security clearance.

''(e) REIMBURSEMENT OF INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.—(1) The head of a covered element of the Defense Intelligence Enterprise may reimburse an individual for incidental expenses incurred by the individual in providing voluntary services under subsection (a). The head of a covered element of the Defense Intelligence Enterprise shall determine which expenses are eligible for reimbursement under this subsection.

''(2) Reimbursement under paragraph (1) may be made from appropriated or nonappropriated funds.

''(f) AUTHORITY TO INSTALL EQUIPMENT.—(1) The head of a covered element of the Defense Intelligence Enterprise may install telephone lines and any necessary telecommunication equipment in the private residences of individuals who provide voluntary services under subsection (a).

''(2) The head of a covered element of the Defense Intelligence Enterprise may pay the charges incurred for the use of equipment installed under paragraph (1) for authorized purposes.

''(3) Notwithstanding section 1348 of title 31, United States Code, the head of a covered element of the Defense Intelligence Enterprise may use appropriated funds or nonappropriated funds of the element in carrying out this subsection.

''§ 2200p. Regulations

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall prescribe regulations to carry out the Foreign Languages Program.

''(b) ELEMENTS OF THE DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE ENTERPRISE.—The head of each covered element of the Defense Intelligence Enterprise shall prescribe regulations to carry out sections 2200n and 2200o with respect to that element including the following:

''(1) Procedures to be utilized for the acceptance of voluntary services under section 2200o.

''(2) Procedures and requirements relating to the installation of equipment under section 2200o(f).

''§ 2200q. Definitions

''In this chapter:

''(1) The term 'covered element of the Defense Intelligence Enterprise' means an agency, office, bureau, or element referred to in subparagraph (B) of section 426(b)(4) of this title.

''(2) The term 'dedicated personnel' means employees of the Defense Intelligence Enterprise and private citizens (including former civilian employees of the Federal Government who have been voluntarily separated, and members of the United States Armed Forces who have been honorably discharged, honorably separated, or generally discharged under honorable circumstances and rehired on a voluntary basis specifically to perform the activities authorized under this subtitle).

''(3) The term 'Defense Intelligence Enterprise' has the meaning given such term in section 426(b)(4) of this title.

''(4) The term 'educational institution' means—

''(A) a local educational agency (as that term is defined in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965);

''(B) an institution of higher education (as defined in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002) other than institutions referred to in subsection (a)(1)(C) of such section); or

''(C) any other nonprofit institution that provides instruction of foreign languages in languages that are critical to the capability of the Defense Intelligence Enterprise to carry out national security activities of the United States.''.

(c) CONFORMING REPEALS.—

(1) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Title X of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3191 et seq.) is amended by striking subtitle B (50 U.S.C. 3201 et seq.).

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents for such Act, in the matter preceding section 2 of such Act, is amended by striking the items relating to subtitle B of title X.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date that is 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 3646. Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Ms. BALDWIN) 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, add the following:

DIVISION E—COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2025

SEC. 5001. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This division may be cited as the ''Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this division is as follows:

DIVISION E—COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2025

Sec. 5001. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 5002. Commandant defined.

TITLE LI—COAST GUARD

Subtitle A—Authorization of Appropriations

Sec. 5101. Authorization of appropriations.
Sec. 5102. Authorized levels of military strength and training.

Subtitle B—Acquisition

Sec. 5111. Modification of prohibition on use of lead systems integrators.
Sec. 5112. Service life extension programs.
Sec. 5113. Consideration of life-cycle cost estimates for acquisition and procurement.
Sec. 5114. Great Lakes icebreaking.
Sec. 5115. Regular Polar Security Cutter updates.
Sec. 5116. Floating drydock for United States Coast Guard Yard.

Subtitle C—Organization and Authorities

Sec. 5131. Modification of treatment of minor construction and improvement project management.
Sec. 5132. Preparedness plans for Coast Guard properties located in tsunami inundation zones.
Sec. 5133. Public availability of information.
Sec. 5134. Delegation of ports and waterways safety authorities in Saint Lawrence Seaway.
Sec. 5135. Additional Pribilof Island transition completion actions.
Sec. 5136. Policy and briefing on availability of naloxone to treat opioid, including fentanyl, overdoses.
Sec. 5137. Great Lakes and Saint Lawrence River cooperative vessel traffic service.
Sec. 5138. Policy on methods to reduce incentives for illicit maritime drug trafficking.
Sec. 5139. Procurement of tactical maritime surveillance systems.
Sec. 5140. Plan for joint and integrated maritime operational and leadership training for United States Coast Guard and Taiwan Coast Guard Administration.

Sec. 5141. Modification of authority for special purpose facilities.
Sec. 5142. Timely reimbursement of damage claims for Coast Guard property.
Sec. 5143. Enhanced use property pilot program.
Sec. 5144. Coast Guard property provision.
Subtitle D—Personnel
Sec. 5151. Direct hire authority for certain personnel.
Sec. 5152. Temporary exemption from authorized end strength for enlisted members on active duty in Coast Guard in pay grades E–8 and E–9.
Sec. 5153. Additional available guidance and considerations for reserve selection boards.
Sec. 5154. Family leave policies for the Coast Guard.
Sec. 5155. Authorization for maternity uniform allowance for officers.
Sec. 5156. Housing.
Sec. 5157. Uniform funding and management system for morale, well-being, and recreation programs and Coast Guard Exchange.
Sec. 5158. Coast Guard embedded behavioral health technician program.
Sec. 5159. Expansion of access to counseling.
Sec. 5160. Command sponsorship for dependents of members of Coast Guard assigned to Unalaska, Alaska.
Sec. 5161. Travel allowance for members of Coast Guard assigned to Alaska.
Sec. 5162. Consolidation of authorities for college student precommissioning initiative.
Sec. 5163. Tuition Assistance and Advanced Education Assistance Pilot Program.
Sec. 5164. Modifications to career flexibility program.
Sec. 5165. Recruitment, relocation, and retention incentive program for civilian firefighters employed by Coast Guard in remote locations.
Sec. 5166. Reinstatement of training course on workings of Congress; Coast Guard Museum.
Sec. 5167. Modification of designation of Vice Admirals.
Sec. 5168. Commandant Advisory Judge Advocate.
Sec. 5169. Special Advisor to Commandant for Tribal and Native Hawaiian affairs.
Sec. 5170. Notification.
Subtitle E—Coast Guard Academy
Sec. 5171. Modification of Board of Visitors.
Sec. 5172. Study on Coast Guard Academy oversight.
Sec. 5173. Electronic locking mechanisms to ensure Coast Guard Academy cadet room security.
Sec. 5174. Coast Guard Academy student advisory board and access to timely and independent wellness support services for cadets and candidates.
Sec. 5175. Report on existing behavioral health and wellness support services facilities at Coast Guard Academy.
Sec. 5176. Required posting of information.
Sec. 5177. Installation of behavioral health and wellness rooms.
Sec. 5178. Coast Guard Academy room reassignment.
Sec. 5179. Authorization for use of Coast Guard Academy facilities and equipment by covered foundations.
Sec. 5180. Concurrent jurisdiction at Coast Guard Academy.
Subtitle F—Reports
Sec. 5181. Maritime domain awareness in Coast Guard sector for Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands.
Sec. 5182. Report on condition of Missouri River dayboards.
Sec. 5183. Study on Coast Guard missions.
Sec. 5184. Annual report on progress of certain homeporting projects.
Sec. 5185. Report on Bay class icebreaking tug fleet replacement.
Sec. 5186. Feasibility study on supporting additional port visits and deployments in support of Operation Blue Pacific.
Sec. 5187. Study and gap analysis with respect to Coast Guard Air Station Corpus Christi aviation hangar.
Sec. 5188. Report on impacts of joint travel regulations on members of Coast Guard who rely on ferry systems.
Sec. 5189. Report on Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program.
Sec. 5190. Report on and expansion of Coast Guard Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps Program.
TITLE LII—SHIPPING AND NAVIGATION
Subtitle A—Merchant Mariner Credentials
Sec. 5201. Merchant mariner credentialing.
Sec. 5202. Nonoperating individual.
Sec. 5203. Merchant mariner licensing and documentation system requirements.
Subtitle B—Vessel Safety
Sec. 5211. Grossly negligent operations of a vessel.
Sec. 5212. Administrative procedure for security risks.
Sec. 5213. Study of amphibious vessels.
Sec. 5214. Performance driven examination schedule.
Sec. 5215. Ports and waterways safety.
Sec. 5216. Study on Bering Strait vessel traffic projections and emergency response posture at ports of the United States.
Sec. 5217. Underwater inspections brief.
Sec. 5218. St. Lucie River railroad bridge.
Sec. 5219. Authority to establish safety zones for special activities in exclusive economic zone.
Sec. 5220. Improving Vessel Traffic Service monitoring.
Sec. 5221. Designating pilotage waters for the Straits of Mackinac.
Sec. 5222. Receipts; international agreements for ice patrol services.
Sec. 5223. Requirements for certain fishing vessels and fish tender vessels.
Subtitle C—Matters Involving Uncrewed Systems
Sec. 5231. Establishment of National Advisory Committee on Autonomous Maritime Systems.
Sec. 5232. Pilot program for governance and oversight of small uncrewed maritime systems.
Sec. 5233. Coast Guard training course.
Sec. 5234. NOAA membership on Autonomous Vessel Policy Council.
Sec. 5235. Technology pilot program.
Sec. 5236. Uncrewed systems capabilities report and briefing.
Sec. 5237. Definitions.
Subtitle D—Other Matters
Sec. 5241. Controlled substance onboard vessels.
Sec. 5242. Information on type approval certificates.
Sec. 5243. Clarification of authorities.
Sec. 5244. Anchorages.
Sec. 5245. Amendments to passenger vessel security and safety requirements.
Sec. 5246. Cyber-incident training.
Sec. 5247. Extension of pilot program to establish a cetacean desk for Puget Sound region.
Sec. 5248. Suspension of enforcement of use of devices broadcasting on AIS for purposes of marking fishing gear.
Sec. 5249. Classification societies.
Sec. 5250. Abandoned and derelict vessel removals.
TITLE LIII—OIL POLLUTION RESPONSE
Sec. 5301. Salvage and marine firefighting response capability.
Sec. 5302. Use of marine casualty investigations.
Sec. 5303. Timing of review.
Sec. 5304. Online incident reporting system.
Sec. 5305. Investment of Exxon Valdez oil spill court recovery in high yield investments and marine research.
TITLE LIV—SEXUAL ASSAULT AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT RESPONSE
Sec. 5401. Independent review of Coast Guard reforms.
Sec. 5402. Comprehensive policy and procedures on retention and access to evidence and records relating to sexual misconduct and other misconduct.
Sec. 5403. Consideration of request for transfer of a cadet at the Coast Guard Academy who is the victim of a sexual assault or related offense.
Sec. 5404. Designation of officers with particular expertise in military justice or healthcare.
Sec. 5405. Safe-to-Report policy for Coast Guard.
Sec. 5406. Modification of reporting requirements on covered misconduct in Coast Guard.
Sec. 5407. Modifications to the officer involuntary separation process.
Sec. 5408. Review of discharge characterization.
Sec. 5409. Convicted sex offender as grounds for denial.
Sec. 5410. Definition of covered misconduct.
Sec. 5411. Notification of changes to Uniform Code of Military Justice or Manual for Courts Martial relating to covered misconduct.
Sec. 5412. Complaints of retaliation by victims of sexual assault or sexual harassment and related persons.
Sec. 5413. Development of policies on military protective orders.
Sec. 5414. Coast Guard implementation of independent review commission recommendations on addressing sexual assault and sexual harassment in the military.
Sec. 5415. Policy relating to care and support of victims of covered misconduct.
Sec. 5416. Establishment of special victim capabilities to respond to allegations of certain special victim offenses.
Sec. 5417. Members asserting post-traumatic stress disorder, sexual assault, or traumatic brain injury.
Sec. 5418. Participation in CATCH a Serial Offender program.
Sec. 5419. Accountability and transparency relating to allegations of misconduct against senior leaders.
Sec. 5420. Confidential reporting of sexual harassment.
Sec. 5421. Report on policy on whistleblower protections.
Sec. 5422. Review and modification of Coast Guard Academy policy on sexual harassment and sexual violence.

Sec. 5423. Coast Guard and Coast Guard Academy access to defense sexual assault incident database.
Sec. 5424. Director of Coast Guard Investigative Service.
Sec. 5425. Modifications and revisions relating to reopening retired grade determinations.
Sec. 5426. Inclusion and command review of information on covered misconduct in personnel service records.
Sec. 5427. Flag officer review of, and concurrence in, separation of members who have reported sexual misconduct.
Sec. 5428. Expedited transfer in cases of sexual misconduct or domestic violence.
Sec. 5429. Access to temporary separation program for victims of alleged sex-related offenses.
Sec. 5430. Policy and program to expand prevention of sexual misconduct.
Sec. 5431. Continuous vetting of security clearances.
Sec. 5432. Training and education programs for covered misconduct prevention and response.

TITLE LV—COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORTS

Sec. 5501. Comptroller General report on Coast Guard research, development, and innovation program.
Sec. 5502. Comptroller General study on vessel traffic service center employment, compensation, and retention.
Sec. 5503. Comptroller General review of quality and availability of Coast Guard behavioral health care and resources for personnel wellness.
Sec. 5504. Comptroller General study on Coast Guard efforts to reduce prevalence of missing or incomplete medical records and sharing of medical data with Department of Veterans Affairs and other entities.
Sec. 5505. Comptroller General study on Coast Guard training facility infrastructure.
Sec. 5506. Comptroller General study on facility and infrastructure needs of Coast Guard stations conducting border security operations.
Sec. 5507. Comptroller General study on Coast Guard basic allowance for housing.
Sec. 5508. Comptroller General report on safety and security infrastructure at Coast Guard Academy.
Sec. 5509. Comptroller General study on athletic coaching at Coast Guard Academy.
Sec. 5510. Comptroller General study and report on permanent change of station process.

TITLE LVI—AMENDMENTS

Sec. 5601. Amendments.

TITLE LVII—NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Subtitle A—National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps

Sec. 5701. Title and qualifications of head of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps and Office of Marine and Aviation Operations; promotions of flag officers.
Sec. 5702. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration vessel fleet.
Sec. 5703. Cooperative Aviation Centers.
Sec. 5704. Eligibility of former officers to compete for certain positions.
Sec. 5705. Alignment of physical disqualification standard for obligated service agreements with standard for veterans' benefits.
Sec. 5706. Streamlining separation and retirement process.
Sec. 5707. Separation of ensigns found not fully qualified.
Sec. 5708. Repeal of limitation on educational assistance.
Sec. 5709. Disposal of survey and research vessels and equipment of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Subtitle B—South Pacific Tuna Treaty Matters

Sec. 5721. References to South Pacific Tuna Act of 1988.
Sec. 5722. Definitions.
Sec. 5723. Prohibited acts.
Sec. 5724. Exceptions.
Sec. 5725. Criminal offenses.
Sec. 5726. Civil penalties.
Sec. 5727. Licenses.
Sec. 5728. Enforcement.
Sec. 5729. Findings by Secretary of Commerce.
Sec. 5730. Disclosure of information.
Sec. 5731. Closed area stowage requirements.
Sec. 5732. Observers.
Sec. 5733. Fisheries-related assistance.
Sec. 5734. Arbitration.
Sec. 5735. Disposition of fees, penalties, forfeitures, and other moneys.
Sec. 5736. Additional agreements.

Subtitle C—Other Matters

Sec. 5741. North Pacific Research Board enhancement.

SEC. 5002. COMMANDANT DEFINED.

In this division, the term ''Commandant'' means the Commandant of the Coast Guard.

TITLE LI—COAST GUARD

Subtitle A—Authorization of Appropriations

SEC. 5101. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 4902 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking ''fiscal years 2022 and 2023'' and inserting ''fiscal years 2025 and 2026'';

(2) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A) by striking clauses (i) and (ii) and inserting the following:

''(i) $11,287,500,000 for fiscal year 2025; and

''(ii) $11,851,875,000 for fiscal year 2026.'';

(B) in subparagraph (B) by striking ''$23,456,000'' and inserting ''$25,570,000''; and

(C) in subparagraph (C) by striking ''$24,353,000'' and inserting ''$26,848,500'';

(3) in paragraph (2)(A) by striking clauses (i) and (ii) and inserting the following:

''(i) $3,627,600,000 for fiscal year 2025; and

''(ii) $3,651,480,000 for fiscal year 2026.'';

(4) in paragraph (3) by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

''(A) $15,415,000 for fiscal year 2025; and

''(B) $16,185,750 for fiscal year 2026.''; and

(5) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

''(4) For retired pay, including the payment of obligations otherwise chargeable to lapsed appropriations for purposes of retired pay, payments under the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan and the Survivor Benefit Plan, payment for career status bonuses, payment of continuation pay under section 356 of title 37, concurrent receipts, combat-related special compensation, and payments for medical care of retired personnel and their dependents under chapter 55 of title 10, $1,210,840,000 for fiscal year 2025.''.

SEC. 5102. AUTHORIZED LEVELS OF MILITARY STRENGTH AND TRAINING.

Section 4904 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) by striking ''fiscal years 2022 and 2023'' and inserting ''fiscal years 2025 and 2026''; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1) by striking ''2,500'' and inserting ''3,000'';

(B) in paragraph (2) by striking ''165'' and inserting ''200'';

(C) in paragraph (3) by striking ''385'' and inserting ''450''; and

(D) in paragraph (4) by striking ''1,200'' and inserting ''1,300''.

Subtitle B—Acquisition

SEC. 5111. MODIFICATION OF PROHIBITION ON USE OF LEAD SYSTEMS INTEGRATORS.

Section 1105 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(c) LEAD SYSTEMS INTEGRATOR DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'lead systems integrator' has the meaning given such term in section 805(c) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (Public Law 109–163).''.

SEC. 5112. SERVICE LIFE EXTENSION PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 11 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 1138. Service life extension programs

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Requirements for a Level 1 or Level 2 acquisition project or program under sections 1131 through 1134 shall not apply to an acquisition by the Coast Guard that is a service life extension program.

''(b) SERVICE LIFE EXTENSION PROGRAM DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'service life extension program' means a capital investment that is solely intended to extend the service life and address obsolescence of components or systems of a particular capability or asset.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 11 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1137 the following:

''1138. Service life extension programs.''.

(c) MAJOR ACQUISITIONS.—Section 5103 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) by striking ''major acquisition programs'' and inserting ''Level 1 Acquisitions or Level 2 Acquisitions'';

(2) in subsection (b) by striking ''major acquisition program'' and inserting ''Level 1 Acquisition or Level 2 Acquisition''; and

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

''(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) LEVEL 1 ACQUISITION.—The term 'Level 1 Acquisition' has the meaning given such term in section 1171.

''(2) LEVEL 2 ACQUISITION.—The term 'Level 2 Acquisition' has the meaning given such term in section 1171.''.

(d) MAJOR ACQUISITION PROGRAM RISK ASSESSMENT.—Section 5107 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking ''section 5103(f)'' and inserting ''section 1171''.

SEC. 5113. CONSIDERATION OF LIFE-CYCLE COST ESTIMATES FOR ACQUISITION AND PROCUREMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 11 of title 14, United States Code, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 1139. Consideration of life-cycle cost estimates for acquisition and procurement

''In carrying out the acquisition and procurement of vessels and aircraft, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, acting through the Commandant, shall consider the life-cycle cost estimates of vessels and aircraft, as applicable, during the design and evaluation processes to the maximum extent practicable.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 11 of title 14, United States Code,

is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1138 (as added by this Act) the following:

''1139. Consideration of life-cycle cost estimates for acquisition and procurement.''.

SEC. 5114. GREAT LAKES ICEBREAKING.

(a) GREAT LAKES ICEBREAKER.—

(1) STRATEGY.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a strategy detailing how the Coast Guard will complete design and construction of a Great Lakes icebreaker at least as capable as the Coast Guard cutter *Mackinaw* (WLBB–30) as expeditiously as possible after funding is provided for such icebreaker, including providing a cost estimate and an estimated delivery timeline that would facilitate the expedited delivery detailed in the strategy.

(2) GREAT LAKES ICEBREAKER PILOT PROGRAM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—During the 5 ice seasons beginning after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall conduct a pilot program to determine the extent to which the Coast Guard Great Lakes icebreaking cutter fleet is capable of maintaining tier one and tier two waterways open 95 percent of the time during an ice season.

(B) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the end of each of the 5 ice seasons beginning after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report that details—

(i) the results of the pilot program required under subparagraph (A); and

(ii) any relevant new performance measures implemented by the Coast Guard, including the measures described in pages 5 through 7 of the report of the Coast Guard titled ''Domestic Icebreaking Operations'' and submitted to Congress on July 26, 2024, as required by section 11212(a)(3) of the Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–263), and the results of the implementation of such measures.

(b) MODIFICATION TO REPORTING REQUIREMENT RELATING TO ICEBREAKING OPERATIONS IN GREAT LAKES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 11213(f) of the Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–263) is amended to read as follows:

''(f) PUBLIC REPORT.—Not later than July 1 after the first winter in which the Commandant has submitted the report required by paragraph (3) of section 11212(a), the Commandant shall publish on a publicly accessible website of the Coast Guard a report on the cost to the Coast Guard of meeting the proposed standards described in paragraph (2) of such section.''.

(2) PUBLIC REPORT.—Section 11272(c) of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(7) PUBLIC REPORT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025, the Commandant shall brief the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House or Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on the cost to the Coast Guard of meeting the requirements of section 564 of title 14, United States Code, in fiscal year 2024.

''(B) SECONDARY BRIEFINGS.—Not later than November 1, 2025 and November, 1, 2026, the Commandant shall brief the committees described in subparagraph (A) on the cost to the Coast Guard of meeting the requirements of section 564 of title 14, United States Code, in fiscal years 2025 and 2026, respectively.''.

SEC. 5115. REGULAR POLAR SECURITY CUTTER UPDATES.

(a) REPORT.—

(1) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant and the Chief of Naval Operations shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the status of acquisition of Polar Security Cutters.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) a detailed timeline for the acquisition process of Polar Security Cutters, including expected milestones and a projected commissioning date for the first 3 Polar Security Cutters;

(B) an accounting of the previously appropriated funds spent to date on the Polar Security Cutter Program, updated cost projections for Polar Security Cutters, and projections for when additional funds will be required;

(C) potential factors and risks that could further delay or imperil the completion of Polar Security Cutters; and

(D) a review of the acquisition of Polar Security Cutters to date, including factors that led to substantial cost overruns and delivery delays.

(b) BRIEFINGS.—

(1) PROVISION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after the submission of the report under subsection (a), and not less frequently than every 90 days thereafter, the Commandant and the Chief of Naval Operations shall provide to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a briefing on the status of the Polar Security Cutter acquisition process.

(2) TIMELINE.—The briefings under paragraph (1) shall occur after any key milestone in the Polar Security Cutter acquisition process, but not less frequently than every 90 days.

(3) ELEMENTS.—Each briefing under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) a summary of acquisition progress since the most recent previous briefing conducted pursuant to paragraph (1);

(B) an updated timeline and budget estimate for acquisition and building of pending Polar Security Cutters; and

(C) an explanation of any delays or additional costs incurred in the acquisition progress.

(c) NOTIFICATIONS.—In addition to the briefings required under subsection (b), the Commandant and the Chief of Naval Operations shall notify the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives within 3 business days of any significant change to the scope or funding level of the Polar Security Cutter acquisition strategy of such change.

SEC. 5116. FLOATING DRYDOCK FOR UNITED STATES COAST GUARD YARD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 11 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 1159. Floating drydock for United States Coast Guard Yard

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), the Commandant may not acquire, procure, or construct a floating dry dock for the Coast Guard Yard.

''(b) PERMISSIBLE ACQUISITION, PROCUREMENT, OR CONSTRUCTION METHODS.—Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section and section 1105(a), the Commandant may—

''(1) provide for an entity other than the Coast Guard to contract for the acquisition, procurement, or construction of a floating drydock by contract, lease, purchase, or other agreement;

''(2) construct a floating drydock at the Coast Guard Yard; or

''(3) acquire or procure a commercially available floating drydock.

''(c) EXEMPTIONS FROM REQUIREMENTS.—Sections 1131, 1132, 1133, and 1171 shall not apply to an acquisition or procurement under subsection (b).

''(d) DESIGN STANDARDS AND CONSTRUCTION PRACTICES.—To the extent practicable, a floating drydock acquired, procured, or constructed under this section shall reflect commercial design standards and commercial construction practices that are consistent with the best interests of the Federal Government.

''(e) BERTHING REQUIREMENT.—Any floating drydock acquired, procured, or constructed under subsection (b) shall be berthed at the Coast Guard Yard in Baltimore, Maryland, when lifting or maintaining vessels.

''(f) FLOATING DRY DOCK DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'floating dry dock' means equipment that is—

''(1) constructed in the United States; and

''(2) capable of meeting the lifting and maintenance requirements of a vessel that is at least 418 feet in length with a gross tonnage of 4,500 gross tons.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 11 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1158 the following:

''1159. Floating drydock for United States Coast Guard Yard.''.

Subtitle C—Organization and Authorities

SEC. 5131. MODIFICATION OF TREATMENT OF MINOR CONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT MANAGEMENT.

Section 903(d)(1) of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking ''$1,500,000'' and inserting ''$2,000,000''.

SEC. 5132. PREPAREDNESS PLANS FOR COAST GUARD PROPERTIES LOCATED IN TSUNAMI INUNDATION ZONES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant, in consultation with the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the heads of other appropriate Federal agencies, shall develop a location-specific tsunami preparedness plan for each property concerned.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—In developing each preparedness plan under subsection (a), the Commandant shall ensure that the plan—

(1) minimizes the loss of human life;

(2) maximizes the ability of the Coast Guard to meet the mission of the Coast Guard;

(3) is included in the emergency action plan for each Coast Guard unit or sector located within the applicable tsunami inundation zone;

(4) designates an evacuation route to an assembly area located outside the tsunami inundation zone;

(5) takes into consideration near-shore and distant tsunami inundation of the property concerned;

(6) includes—

(A) maps of all applicable tsunami inundation zones;

(B) evacuation routes and instructions for all individuals located on the property concerned;

(C) procedures to begin evacuations as expeditiously as possible upon detection of a seismic or other tsunamigenic event;

(D) evacuation plans for Coast Guard aviation and afloat assets; and

(E)(i) routes for evacuation on foot from any location within the property concerned; or

(ii) if an on-foot evacuation is not possible, an assessment of whether there is a need for vertical evacuation refuges that would allow evacuation on foot;

(7) in the case of a property concerned that is at risk for a near-shore tsunami, is able to be completely executed within 15 minutes of detection of a seismic event, or if complete execution is not possible within 15 minutes, within a timeframe the Commandant considers reasonable to minimize the loss of life; and

(8) not less frequently than annually, is—

(A) exercised by each Coast Guard unit and sector located in the applicable tsunami inundation zone;

(B) communicated through an annual in-person training to Coast Guard personnel and dependents located or living on the property concerned; and

(C) evaluated by the relevant District Commander for each Coast Guard unit and sector located within the applicable tsunami inundation zone.

(c) CONSULTATION.—In developing each preparedness plan under subsection (a), the Commandant shall consult relevant State, Tribal, and local government entities, including emergency management officials.

(d) BRIEFING.—Not later than 14 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall provide a briefing to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives on each plan developed under subsection (a), including the status of implementation and feasibility of each such plan.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) PROPERTY CONCERNED.—The term ''property concerned'' means any real property owned, operated, or leased by the Coast Guard within a tsunami inundation zone.

(2) TSUNAMIGENIC EVENT.—The term ''tsunamigenic event'' means any event, such as an earthquake, volcanic eruption, submarine landslide, coastal rockfall, or other event, with the magnitude to cause a tsunami.

(3) VERTICAL EVACUATION REFUGE.—The term ''vertical evacuation refuge'' means a structure or earthen mound designated as a place of refuge in the event of a tsunami, with sufficient height to elevate evacuees above the tsunami inundation depth, designed and constructed to resist tsunami load effects.

SEC. 5133. PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 11269 of the Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–263) is—

(1) transferred to appear at the end of subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 14, United States Code;

(2) redesignated as section 529; and

(3) amended—

(A) by striking the section enumerator and heading and inserting the following:

''§ 529. Public availability of information'';

(B) by striking ''Not later than'' and inserting the following:

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than'';

(C) by striking ''the number of migrant'' and inserting ''the number of drug and person''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) CONTENTS.—In making information about interdictions publicly available under subsection (a), the Commandant shall include a description of the following:

''(1) The number of incidents in which drugs were interdicted, the amount and type of drugs interdicted, and the Coast Guard sectors and geographic areas of responsibility in which such incidents occurred.

''(2) The number of incidents in which persons were interdicted, the number of persons interdicted, the number of those persons who were unaccompanied minors, and the Coast Guard sectors and geographic areas of responsibility in which such incidents occurred.

''(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this provision shall be construed to require the Coast Guard to collect the information described in subsection (b), and nothing in this provision shall be construed to require the Commandant to publicly release confidential, classified, law enforcement sensitive, or otherwise protected information.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) The analysis for chapter 5 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 528 the following:

''529. Public availability of information on monthly drug and migrant interdictions.''.

(2) The table of sections in section 11001(b) of the Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 (division K of Public Law 117–263) is amended by striking the item relating to section 11269.

SEC. 5134. DELEGATION OF PORTS AND WATERWAYS SAFETY AUTHORITIES IN SAINT LAWRENCE SEAWAY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 70032 of title 46, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 70032. Delegation of ports and waterways authorities in Saint Lawrence Seaway

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), the authority granted to the Secretary under sections 70001, 70002, 70003, 70004, and 70011 may not be delegated with respect to the Saint Lawrence Seaway to any agency other than the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation. Any other authority granted the Secretary under subchapters I through III and this subchapter shall be delegated by the Secretary to the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation to the extent the Secretary determines such delegation is necessary for the proper operation of the Saint Lawrence Seaway.

''(b) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, after consultation with the Secretary or the head of an agency to which the Secretary has delegated the authorities in subsection (a), may—

''(1) issue and enforce special orders in accordance with section 70002;

''(2) establish water or waterfront safety zones, or other measures, for limited, controlled, or conditional access and activity when necessary for the protection of any vessel structure, waters, or shore area, as permitted in section 70011(b)(3); and

''(3) take actions for port, harbor, and coastal facility security in accordance with section 70116.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 700 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 70032 and inserting the following:

''70032. Delegation of ports and waterways authorities in Saint Lawrence Seaway.''.

SEC. 5135. ADDITIONAL PRIBILOF ISLAND TRANSITION COMPLETION ACTIONS.

Section 11221 of the Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–263) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) ADDITIONAL REPORTS ON STATUS OF USE OF FACILITIES AND HELICOPTER BASING.—Beginning with the first quarterly report required under subsection (a) submitted after the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025, the Secretary shall include in each such report—

''(1) the status of the use of recently renovated Coast Guard housing facilities, food preparation facilities, and maintenance and repair facilities on St. Paul Island, Alaska, including a projected date for full use and occupancy of such facilities in support of Coast Guard missions in the Bering Sea; and

''(2) a detailed plan for the acquisition and construction of a hangar in close proximity to existing St. Paul airport facilities for the prosecution of Coast Guard operational missions, including plans for the use of land needed for such hangar.''.

SEC. 5136. POLICY AND BRIEFING ON AVAILABILITY OF NALOXONE TO TREAT OPIOID, INCLUDING FENTANYL, OVERDOSES.

(a) POLICY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall update the policy of the Coast Guard regarding the use, at Coast Guard facilities, onboard Coast Guard assets, and during Coast Guard operations, of medication to treat drug overdoses, including the use of naloxone or other similar medication to treat opioid, including fentanyl, overdoses.

(b) AVAILABILITY.—The updated policy required under subsection (a) shall require naloxone or other similar medication be available—

(1) at each Coast Guard clinic;

(2) at each independently located Coast Guard unit;

(3) onboard each Coast Guard cutter; and

(4) for response to opioid, including fentanyl, overdoses at other appropriate Coast Guard installations and facilities and onboard other Coast Guard assets.

(c) PARTICIPATION IN TRACKING SYSTEM.—Not later than 1 year after the earlier of the date of enactment of this Act or the date on which the tracking system established under section 706 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (10 U.S.C. 1090 note) is established, the Commandant shall ensure the participation of the Coast Guard in the such tracking system.

(d) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—Not later than 1 year after the earlier of the date of enactment of this Act or the date on which the tracking system established under section 706 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (10 U.S.C. 1090 note) is established, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating when not operating as a service in the Navy and the Secretary of Defense shall finalize a memorandum of understanding to facilitate Coast Guard access such tracking system.

(e) BRIEFING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall provide the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a briefing on the use, by members and personnel of the Coast Guard at Coast Guard facilities, onboard Coast Guard assets, and during Coast Guard operations, of—

(A) naloxone or other similar medication to treat opioid, including fentanyl, overdoses; and

(B) opioids, including fentanyl.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The briefing required under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A description of—

(i) the progress made in the implementation of the updated policy required under subsection (a);

(ii) the prevalence and incidence of the illegal use of fentanyl and other controlled substances in the Coast Guard during the 5-year period preceding the briefing;

(iii) processes of the Coast Guard to mitigate substance abuse in the Coast Guard, particularly with respect to fentanyl; and

(iv) the status of the memorandum of understanding required under subsection (d).

(B) For the 5-year period preceding the briefing, a review of instances in which naloxone or other similar medication was used to treat opioid, including fentanyl, overdoses at a Coast Guard facility, onboard a Coast Guard asset, or during a Coast Guard operation.

(f) PRIVACY.—In carrying out the requirements of this section, the Commandant shall ensure compliance with all applicable privacy law, including section 552a of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the ''Privacy Act''), and the privacy regulations promulgated under section 264(c) of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (42 U.S.C. 1320d–2 note).

(g) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—For purposes of the availability requirement under subsection (b), with respect to a Coast Guard installation comprised of multiple Coast Guard facilities or units, naloxone or other similar medication available at a single Coast Guard facility within the installation shall be considered to be available to all Coast Guard facilities or units on the installation if appropriate arrangements are in place to ensure access, at all times during operations, to the naloxone or other similar medication contained within such single Coast Guard facility.

SEC. 5137. GREAT LAKES AND SAINT LAWRENCE RIVER COOPERATIVE VESSEL TRAFFIC SERVICE.

Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall issue or amend regulations to address any applicable arrangements with the Canadian Coast Guard regarding vessel traffic services cooperation and vessel traffic management data exchanges within the Saint Lawrence Seaway and the Great Lakes.

SEC. 5138. POLICY ON METHODS TO REDUCE INCENTIVES FOR ILLICIT MARITIME DRUG TRAFFICKING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commandant, in consultation with the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Secretary of State, and the Secretary of Defense, shall develop a policy, consistent with the Constitution of the United States, as well as domestic and international law, to address, disincentivize, and interdict illicit trafficking by sea of controlled substances (and precursors of controlled substances) being transported to produce illicit synthetic drugs.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The policy required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) include a requirement that, to the maximum extent practicable, a vessel unlawfully transporting a controlled substance or precursors of a controlled substance being transported to produce illicit synthetic drugs, be seized or appropriately disposed of consistent with domestic and international law, as well as any international agreements to which the United States is a party; and

(2) aim to reduce incentives for illicit maritime drug trafficking on a global scale, including in the Eastern Pacific Ocean, the Indo-Pacific region, the Caribbean, and the Middle East.

(c) BRIEFING.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall brief the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives on—

(1) the policy developed pursuant to subsection (a); and

(2) recommendations with respect to—

(A) additional methods for reducing illicit drug trafficking; and

(B) additional resources necessary to implement the policy required under subsection (a) and methods recommended under subparagraph (A).

SEC. 5139. PROCUREMENT OF TACTICAL MARITIME SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b)(2), subject to the availability of appropriations and if the Secretary of Homeland Security determines that there is a need, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall—

(1) procure a tactical maritime surveillance system, or similar technology, for use by the Coast Guard and U.S. Customs and Border Protection in the areas of operation of—

(A) Coast Guard Sector San Diego in California;

(B) Coast Guard Sector San Juan in Puerto Rico; and

(C) Coast Guard Sector Key West in Florida; and

(2) for purposes of data integration and land-based data access, procure for each area of operation described in paragraph (1) and for Coast Guard Station South Padre Island a land-based maritime domain awareness system capable of sharing data with the Coast Guard and U.S. Customs and Border Protection—

(A) to operate in conjunction with—

(i) the system procured under section 11266 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117–263; 136 Stat. 4063) for Coast Guard Station South Padre Island; and

(ii) the tactical maritime surveillance system procured for each area of operation under paragraph (1); and

(B) to be installed in the order in which the systems described in subparagraph (A) are installed.

(b) STUDY; LIMITATION.—

(1) STUDY REQUIRED.—Prior to the procurement or operation of a tactical maritime surveillance system, or similar technology, that is deployed from a property owned by the Department of Defense, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall complete a study, in coordination with Secretary of Defense, analyzing the potential impacts to the national security of the United States of such operation.

(2) LIMITATION.—If it is determined by the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of Defense through the study required under paragraph (1) that the placement or installation of a system described in subsection (a) negatively impacts the national security of the United States, such system shall not be procured or installed.

SEC. 5140. PLAN FOR JOINT AND INTEGRATED MARITIME OPERATIONAL AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AND TAIWAN COAST GUARD ADMINISTRATION.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to require a plan to increase joint and integrated training opportunities for the United States Coast Guard and the Taiwan Coast Guard Administration.

(b) PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense, shall complete a plan to expand opportunities for additional joint and integrated training activities for the United States Coast Guard and the Taiwan Coast Guard Administration.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) The estimated costs for fiscal years 2024 through 2029—

(i) to deploy United States Coast Guard mobile training teams to Taiwan to meaningfully enhance the maritime security, law enforcement, and deterrence capabilities of Taiwan; and

(ii) to accommodate the participation of an increased number of members of the Taiwan Coast Guard Administration in United States Coast Guard-led maritime training courses, including associated training costs for such members, such as costs for lodging, meals and incidental expenses, travel, training of personnel, and instructional materials.

(B) A strategy for increasing the number of seats, as practicable, for members of the Taiwan Coast Guard Administration at each of the following United States Coast Guard training courses:

(i) The International Maritime Officers Course.

(ii) The International Leadership and Management Seminar.

(iii) The International Crisis Command and Control Course.

(iv) The International Maritime Domain Awareness School.

(v) The International Maritime Search and Rescue Planning School.

(vi) The International Command Center School.

(C) An assessment of—

(i) the degree to which integrated and joint United States Coast Guard and Taiwan Coast Guard Administration maritime training would assist in—

(I) preventing, detecting, and suppressing illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing operations in the South China Sea and surrounding waters; and

(II) supporting counter-illicit drug trafficking operations in the South China Sea and surrounding waters; and

(ii) whether the frequency of United States Coast Guard training team visits to Taiwan should be increased to enhance the maritime security, law enforcement, and deterrence capabilities of Taiwan.

(3) BRIEFING.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which the plan required under paragraph (1) is completed, the Commandant shall provide to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a briefing on the contents of the plan.

SEC. 5141. MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITY FOR SPECIAL PURPOSE FACILITIES.

Section 907 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), in the first sentence—

(A) by striking ''20 years'' and inserting ''30 years'';

(B) by striking ''or National'' and inserting ''National''; and

(C) by inserting before the period '', medical facilities, Coast Guard child development centers (as such term is defined in section 2921), and training facilities, including small arms firing ranges''; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking the period and inserting a semicolon;

(B) by striking ''means any facilities'' and inserting ''means—

''(1) any facilities''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) medical facilities;

''(3) Coast Guard child development centers (as such term is defined in section 2921); and

''(4) training facilities, including small arms firing ranges.''.

SEC. 5142. TIMELY REIMBURSEMENT OF DAMAGE CLAIMS FOR COAST GUARD PROPERTY.

Section 546 of title 14, United States Code, is amended in the second sentence by inserting ''and the amounts collected shall be available until expended'' after ''special deposit account''.

SEC. 5143. ENHANCED USE PROPERTY PILOT PROGRAM.

Section 504 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(13) by striking ''five years'' and inserting ''30 years''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(g) ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Amounts received under subsection (a)(13) shall be—

''(A) in addition to amounts otherwise available for the activities described in subsection (a)(13) for any fiscal year; and

''(B) available, without further appropriation, until expended.

''(2) CONSIDERATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), a person or entity entering into a contractual agreement under this section shall provide consideration for the contractual agreement at fair market value, as determined by the Commandant.

''(B) EXCEPTION.—In the case of a contractual agreement under this section between the Coast Guard and any other Federal department or agency, the Federal department or agency concerned shall provide consideration for the contractual agreement that is equal to the full cost borne by the Coast Guard in connection with completing such contractual agreement.

''(C) FORMS.—Consideration under this subsection may take any of the following forms:

''(i) The payment of cash.

''(ii) The maintenance, construction, modification, or improvement of existing or new facilities on real property under the jurisdiction of the Commandant.

''(iii) The use by the Coast Guard of facilities on the property concerned.

''(iv) The provision of services, including parking, telecommunications, and environmental remediation and restoration of real property under the jurisdiction of the Commandant.

''(v) Any other consideration the Commandant considers appropriate.

''(vi) A combination of any forms described in this subparagraph.

''(3) SUNSET.—The authority under paragraph (13) of subsection (a) shall expire on December 31, 2030. The expiration under this paragraph of authority under paragraph (13) of subsection (a) shall not affect the validity or term of contractual agreements under such paragraph or the retention by the Commandant of proceeds from such agreements entered into under such subsection before the expiration of the authority.''.

SEC. 5144. COAST GUARD PROPERTY PROVISION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 7 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 722. Cooperation with eligible entities

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) COAST GUARD INSTALLATION.—The term 'Coast Guard installation' means a base, unit, station, yard, other property under the jurisdiction of the Commandant or, in the case of property in a foreign country, under the operational control of the Coast Guard, without regard to the duration of operational control.

''(2) CULTURAL RESOURCE.—The term 'cultural resource' means any of the following:

''(A) A building, structure, site, district, or object eligible for or included in the National Register of Historic Places maintained under section 302101 of title 54.

''(B) Cultural items, as that term is defined in section 2(3) of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001(3)).

''(C) An archaeological resource, as that term is defined in section 3(1) of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (16 U.S.C. 470bb(1))).

''(D) An archaeological artifact collection and associated records covered by part 79 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations.

''(E) A sacred site, as that term is defined in section 1(b) of Executive Order No. 13007 (42 U.S.C. 1996 note; relating to Indian sacred sites).

''(F) Treaty or trust resources of an Indian Tribe, including the habitat associated with such resources.

''(G) Subsistence resources of an Indian Tribe or a Native Hawaiian organization including the habitat associated with such resources.

''(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity' means any the following:

''(A) A State, or a political subdivision of a State.

''(B) A local government.

''(C) An Indian Tribe.

''(D) A Native Hawaiian organization.

''(E) A Tribal organization.

''(F) A Federal department or agency.

''(4) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term 'Indian Tribe' has the meaning given that term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

''(5) NATIVE HAWAIIAN ORGANIZATION.—The term 'Native Hawaiian organization' has the meaning given such term in section 6207 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7517) except the term includes the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

''(6) NATURAL RESOURCE.—The term 'natural resource' means land, fish, wildlife, biota, air, water, ground water, drinking water supplies, and other such resources belonging to, managed by, held in trust by, appertaining to, or otherwise controlled by the United States (including the resources of the waters of the United States), any State or local government, any Indian Tribe, any Native Hawaiian organization, or any member of an Indian Tribe, if such resources are subject to a trust restriction on alienation and have been categorized into one of the following groups:

''(A) Surface water resources.

''(B) Ground water resources.

''(C) Air resources.

''(D) Geologic resources.

''(E) Biological resources.

''(7) STATE.—The term 'State' includes each of the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the territories and possessions of the United States.

''(8) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term 'Tribal organization' has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

''(b) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS FOR MANAGEMENT OF CULTURAL RESOURCES.—

''(1) AUTHORITY.—The Commandant may enter into a cooperative agreement with an eligible entity (or in the case that the eligible entity is a Federal department or agency, an interagency agreement)—

''(A) to provide for the preservation, management, maintenance, and improvement of natural resources and cultural resources located on a site described under paragraph (2); and

''(B) for the purpose of conducting research regarding the natural resources and cultural resources.

''(2) AUTHORIZED NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES SITES.—To be covered by a cooperative agreement under paragraph (1), the relevant natural resources or cultural resources shall be located—

''(A) on a Coast Guard installation; or

''(B) on a site outside of a Coast Guard installation, but only if the cooperative agreement will directly relieve or eliminate current or anticipated restrictions that would or might restrict, impede, or otherwise interfere, either directly or indirectly, with current or anticipated Coast Guard training, testing, maintenance, or operations on a Coast Guard installation.

''(3) APPLICATION OF OTHER LAWS.—Section 1535 and chapter 63 of title 31 shall not apply to an agreement entered into under paragraph (1).

''(c) AGREEMENTS AND CONSIDERATIONS.—

''(1) AGREEMENTS AUTHORIZED.—The Commandant may enter into an agreement with an eligible entity, and may enter into an interagency agreement with the head of another Federal department or agency, to address the use or development of property in the vicinity of, or ecologically related to, a Coast Guard installation for purposes of—

''(A) limiting any development or use of such property that would be incompatible with the mission of the Coast Guard installation;

''(B) preserving habitat on such property in a manner that—

''(i) is compatible with environmental requirements; and

''(ii) may eliminate or relieve current or anticipated environmental restrictions that would or might otherwise restrict, impede, or interfere, either directly or indirectly, with current or anticipated Coast Guard training or operations on the Coast Guard installation;

''(C) maintaining or improving Coast Guard installation resilience;

''(D) maintaining and improving natural resources, or benefitting natural and historic research, on the Coast Guard installation;

''(E) maintaining access to cultural resources and natural resources, including—

''(i) Tribal treaty fisheries and shellfish harvest, and usual and accustomed fishing areas; and

''(ii) subsistence fisheries, or any other fishery or shellfish harvest, of an Indian Tribe;

''(F) providing a means to replace or repair property or cultural resources of an Indian Tribe or a Native Hawaiian organization if such property is damaged by Coast Guard personnel or operations, in consultation with the affected Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization; or

''(G) maintaining and improving natural resources located outside a Coast Guard installation, including property of an eligible entity, if the purpose of the agreement is to relieve or eliminate current or anticipated

challenges that could restrict, impede, or otherwise interfere with, either directly or indirectly, current or anticipated Coast Guard activities.

''(2) INAPPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS.—Notwithstanding chapter 63 of title 31, an agreement under subsection (b)(1) that is a cooperative agreement and concerns a cultural resource or a natural resource may be used to acquire property or services for the direct benefit or use of the Federal Government.

''(d)(1) An agreement under subparagraph (b)(1) shall provide for—

''(A) the acquisition by an eligible entity or entities of all right, title, and interest in and to any real property, or any lesser interest in the property, as may be appropriate for purposes of this subsection; and

''(B) the sharing by the United States and an eligible entity or entities of the acquisition costs in accordance with paragraph (3).

''(2) Property or interests may not be acquired pursuant to an agreement under subsection (b)(1) unless the owner of the property or interests consents to the acquisition.

''(3)(A) An agreement with an eligible entity under subsection (b)(1) may provide for—

''(i) the management of natural resources on, and the monitoring and enforcement of any right, title, or interest in real property in which the Commandant acquires any right, title, or interest in accordance with this subsection; and

''(ii) for the payment by the United States of all or a portion of the costs of such management, monitoring, or enforcement if the Commandant determines that there is a demonstrated need to preserve or restore habitat for the purposes of subsection (b) or (c).

''(B) Any payment provided for under subparagraph (A) may—

''(i) be paid in a lump sum;

''(ii) include an amount intended to cover the future costs of natural resource management and monitoring and enforcement; and

''(iii) be placed by the eligible entity in an interest-bearing account, so long as any interest is to be applied for the same purposes as the principal.

''(C) Any payments made under this paragraph shall be subject to periodic auditing by the Inspector General of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating.

''(4)(A) In entering into an agreement under subsection (b)(1), the Commandant shall determine the appropriate portion of the acquisition costs to be borne by the United States in the sharing of acquisition costs of real property, or an interest in real property, as required under paragraph (1)(B).

''(B) In lieu of, or in addition to, making a monetary contribution toward the cost of acquiring a parcel of real property, or an interest therein, pursuant to an agreement under subsection (b)(1), the Commandant may convey real property in accordance with applicable law.

''(C) The portion of acquisition costs borne by the United States pursuant to subparagraph (A), either through the contribution of funds, excess real property, or both, may not exceed an amount equal to—

''(i) the fair market value of any property, or interest in property, to be transferred to the United States upon the request of the Commandant under paragraph (5); or

''(ii) the cumulative fair market value of all properties, or all interests in properties, to be transferred to the United States under paragraph (5) pursuant to an agreement under subsection (b)(1).

''(D) The contribution of an eligible entity to the acquisition costs of real property, or an interest in real property, under paragraph (1)(B) may include, with the approval of the Commandant, the following:

''(i) The provision of funds, including funds received by the eligible entity from—

''(I) a Federal agency outside the department in which the Coast Guard is operating; or

''(II) a State or local government in connection with a Federal, State, or local program.

''(ii) The provision of in-kind services, including services related to the acquisition or maintenance of such real property or interest in real property.

''(iii) The exchange or donation of real property or any interest in real property.

''(iv) Any combination of clauses (i) through (iii).

''(5)(A) In entering into an agreement under subsection (b)(1), each eligible entity that is a party to the agreement shall agree, as a term of the agreement, to transfer to the United States, upon request of the Commandant, all or a portion of the property or interest acquired under the agreement or a lesser interest therein, except no such requirement need be included in the agreement if—

''(i) the property or interest is being transferred to a State or another Federal agency, or the agreement requires the property or interest to be subsequently transferred to a State or another Federal agency; and

''(ii) the Commandant determines that the laws and regulations applicable to the future use of such property or interest provide adequate assurance that the property concerned will be developed and used in a manner appropriate for purposes of this subsection.

''(B) The Commandant shall limit a transfer request pursuant to subparagraph (A) to the minimum property or interests necessary to ensure that the property or interest concerned is developed and used in a manner appropriate for purposes of this subsection.

''(C)(i) Notwithstanding paragraph (A), If all or a portion of a property or interest acquired under an agreement under subsection (b)(1) is initially or subsequently transferred to a State or another Federal agency, before that State or other Federal agency may declare the property or interest in excess to its needs or propose to exchange the property or interest, the State or other Federal agency shall give the Commandant reasonable advance notice of its intent to so declare.

''(ii) Upon receiving such reasonable advance notice under clause (i), the Commandant may request, within a reasonable time period, that administrative jurisdiction over the property or interest be transferred to the Commandant, if the Commandant determines such transfer necessary for the preservation of the purposes of this subsection.

''(iii) Upon a request from the Commandant under clause (ii), the administrative jurisdiction over the property or interest be transferred to the Commandant at no cost.

''(iv) If the Commandant does not make a request under clause (ii) within a reasonable time period, all such rights of the Commandant to request transfer of administrative jurisdiction over the property or interest shall remain available to the Commandant with respect to future transfers or exchanges of the property or interest and shall bind all subsequent transferees.

''(D) The Commandant may accept, on behalf of the United States, any property or interest to be transferred to the United States under an agreement under subsection (b)(1).

''(E) For purposes of the acceptance of property or interests under an agreement under subsection (b)(1), the Commandant may accept an appraisal or title documents prepared or adopted by a non-Federal entity as satisfying the applicable requirements of section 301 of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. 4651) or section 3111 of title 40 if the Commandant finds that the appraisal or title documents substantially comply with the requirements of such sections and is reasonably accurate.

''(e) MINIMAL CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL OF AGREEMENTS.—The Commandant may approve a cooperative agreement under subsection (b)(1) if the Commandant determines that—

''(1) the eligible entity has authority to carry out the project;

''(2) the project would be completed without unreasonable delay as determined by the Commandant; and

''(3) the project cannot be effectively completed without the cooperative agreement authority under subsection (b)(1).

''(f) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Commandant may require such additional terms and conditions in an agreement under subsection (b)(1) as the Commandant considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States, in accordance with applicable Federal law.

''(g) NOTIFICATION; AVAILABILITY OF AGREEMENTS TO CONGRESS.—

''(1) NOTIFICATION.—The Commandant shall notify the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation or the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate when the eligible entity is a Tribe, Tribal Organization or Native Hawaiian organization, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives in writing not later than the date that is 3 full business days prior to any day on which the Commandant intends to enter into an agreement under subsection (b)(1), and include in such notification the anticipated costs of carrying out the agreement, to the extent practicable.

''(2) AVAILABILITY OF AGREEMENTS.—A copy of an agreement entered into under subsection (b)(1) shall be provided to any member of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation or the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate or the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives not later than 5 full business days after the date on which such request is submitted to the Commandant.

''(h) CONSULTATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025, the Commandant shall consult with Indian Tribes to improve opportunities for Indian Tribe participation in the development and execution of Coast Guard oil spill response and prevention activities.

''(i) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to undermine the rights of any Indian Tribe to seek full and meaningful government-to-government consultation under this section or under any other law.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 7 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 721 the following:

''722. Cooperation with eligible entities.''.

Subtitle D—Personnel

SEC. 5151. DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN PERSONNEL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 25 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 2517. Direct hire authority for certain personnel

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant may appoint, without regard to the provisions of

subchapter I of chapter 33 (other than sections 3303 and 3328 of such chapter) of title 5, qualified candidates to any of the following positions in the competitive service (as defined in section 2102 of title 5) in the Coast Guard:

''(1) Any category of medical or health professional positions within the Coast Guard.

''(2) Any childcare services position.

''(3) Any position in the Coast Guard housing office of a Coast Guard installation, the primary function of which is supervision of Coast Guard housing covered by subchapter III of chapter 29 of this title.

''(4) Any nonclinical specialist position the purpose of which is the integrated primary prevention of harmful behavior, including suicide, sexual assault, harassment, domestic abuse, and child abuse.

''(5) Any special agent position of the Coast Guard Investigative Service.

''(6) The following positions at the Coast Guard Academy:

''(A) Any civilian faculty member appointed under section 1941.

''(B) A position involving the improvement of cadet health or well-being.

''(b) LIMITATION.—The Commandant shall only appoint qualified candidates under the authority provided by subsection (a) if the Commandant determines that there is a shortage of qualified candidates for the positions described in such subsection or a critical hiring need for such positions.

''(c) BRIEFING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025, and annually thereafter for the following 5 years, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a written briefing which describes the use of the authority provided under this section on an annual basis, including the following:

''(1) The number of employees hired under the authority provided under this section within the year for which the briefing is provided.

''(2) The positions and grades for which employees were hired.

''(3) A justification for the Commandant's determination that such positions involved a shortage of qualified candidates or a critical hiring need.

''(4) The number of employees who were hired under the authority provided under this section who have separated from the Coast Guard.

''(5) Steps the Coast Guard has taken to engage with the Office of Personnel Management under subpart B of part 337 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, for positions for which the Commandant determines a direct hire authority remains necessary.

''(d) SUNSET.—The authority provided under subsection (a) shall expire on September 30, 2030.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 25 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to 2516 the following:

''2517. Direct hire authority for certain personnel.''.

SEC. 5152. TEMPORARY EXEMPTION FROM AUTHORIZED END STRENGTH FOR ENLISTED MEMBERS ON ACTIVE DUTY IN COAST GUARD IN PAY GRADES E–8 AND E–9.

Section 517(a) of title 10, United States Code, shall not apply with respect to the Coast Guard until October 1, 2027.

SEC. 5153. ADDITIONAL AVAILABLE GUIDANCE AND CONSIDERATIONS FOR RESERVE SELECTION BOARDS.

Section 3740(f) of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking ''section 2117'' and inserting ''sections 2115 and 2117''.

SEC. 5154. FAMILY LEAVE POLICIES FOR THE COAST GUARD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2512 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the section heading by striking ''**Leave**'' and inserting ''**Family leave**'';

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking '', United States Code,'' and inserting ''or, with respect to the reserve component of the Coast Guard, the Secretary of Defense promulgates a new regulation for members of the reserve component of the Coast Guard pursuant to section 711 of title 10,'';

(B) by striking ''or adoption of a child'' and inserting ''or placement of a minor child with the member for adoption or long term foster care'';

(C) by striking ''and enlisted members'' and inserting '', enlisted members, and members of the reserve component''; and

(D) by inserting ''or, with respect to members of the reserve component of the Coast Guard, the Secretary of Defense'' after ''provided by the Secretary of the Navy'';

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the subsection heading by striking ''ADOPTION OF CHILD'' and inserting ''PLACEMENT OF MINOR CHILD WITH MEMBER FOR ADOPTION OR LONG TERM FOSTER CARE'';

(B) by striking ''and 704'' and inserting '', 704, and 711'';

(C) by striking ''and enlisted members'' and inserting '', enlisted members, and members of the reserve component'';

(D) by striking ''or adoption'' inserting '', adoption, or long term foster care'';

(E) by striking ''immediately'';

(F) by striking ''or adoption'' and inserting '', placement of a minor child with the member for long-term foster care or adoption,''; and

(G) by striking ''enlisted member'' and inserting '', enlisted member, or member of the reserve component'';

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(c) PERIOD OF LEAVE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, may authorize leave described under subparagraph (b) to be taken after the one-year period described in subparagraph (b) in the case of a member described in subsection (b) who, except for this subparagraph, would lose unused family leave at the end of the one-year period described in subparagraph (A) as a result of—

''(A) operational requirements;

''(B) professional military education obligations; or

''(C) other circumstances that the Secretary determines reasonable and appropriate.

''(2) EXTENDED DEADLINE.—The regulation, rule, policy, or memorandum prescribed under paragraph (a) shall require that any leave authorized to be taken after the one-year period described in subparagraph (c)(1)(A) shall be taken within a reasonable period of time, as determined by the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, after cessation of the circumstances warranting the extended deadline.

''(d) MEMBER OF THE RESERVE COMPONENT OF THE COAST GUARD DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'member of the reserve component of the Coast Guard' means a member of the Coast Guard who is a member of—

''(1) the selected reserve who is entitled to compensation under section 206 of title 37; or

''(2) the individual ready reserve who is entitled to compensation under section 206 of title 37 when attending or participating in a sufficient number of periods of inactive-duty training during a year to count the year as a qualifying year of creditable service toward eligibility for retired pay.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 25 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 2512 and inserting the following:

''2512. Family leave policies for the Coast Guard.''.

(c) COMPENSATION.—Section 206(a)(4) of title 37, United States Code, is amended by inserting before the period at the end ''or family leave under section 2512 of title 14''.

SEC. 5155. AUTHORIZATION FOR MATERNITY UNIFORM ALLOWANCE FOR OFFICERS.

Section 2708 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(c) The Coast Guard may provide a cash allowance, in such amount as the Secretary shall determine by policy, to be paid to pregnant officer personnel for the purchase of maternity-related uniform items, if such uniform items are not so furnished to the member by the Coast Guard.''.

SEC. 5156. HOUSING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 29 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 2948. Authorization for acquisition of existing family housing in lieu of construction

''(a) IN GENERAL.—In lieu of constructing any family housing units authorized by law to be constructed, the Commandant may acquire sole interest in existing family housing units that are privately owned or that are held by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, except that in foreign countries the Commandant may acquire less than sole interest in existing family housing units.

''(b) ACQUISITION OF INTERESTS IN LAND.—When authority provided by law to construct Coast Guard family housing units is used to acquire existing family housing units under subsection (a), the authority includes authority to acquire interests in land.

''(c) LIMITATION ON NET FLOOR AREA.—The net floor area of a family housing unit acquired under the authority of this section may not exceed the applicable limitation specified in section 2826 of title 10. The Commandant may waive the limitation set forth in the preceding sentence for family housing units acquired under this section during the five-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this section.

''§ 2949. Acceptance of funds to cover administrative expenses relating to certain real property transactions

''(a) AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT.—In connection with a real property transaction referred to in subsection (b) with a non-Federal person or entity, the Commandant may accept amounts provided by the person or entity to cover administrative expenses incurred by the Commandant in entering into the transaction.

''(b) COVERED TRANSACTIONS.—Subsection (a) applies to the following transactions involving real property under the control of the Commandant:

''(1) The exchange of real property.

''(2) The grant of an easement over, in, or upon real property of the United States.

''(3) The lease or license of real property of the United States.

''(4) The disposal of real property of the United States for which the Commandant will be the disposal agent.

''(5) The conveyance of real property under section 2945.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 29 of title 14, United States Code,

is amended by adding at the end the following:

''2948. Authorization for acquisition of existing family housing in lieu of construction.

''2949. Acceptance of funds to cover administrative expenses relating to certain real property transactions.''.

(c) REPORT ON GAO RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOUSING PROGRAM.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the status of the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Government Accountability Office titled ''Coast Guard: Better Feedback Collection and Information Could Enhance Housing Program'', and issued February 5, 2024 (GAO–24–106388).

SEC. 5157. UNIFORM FUNDING AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR MORALE, WELL-BEING, AND RECREATION PROGRAMS AND COAST GUARD EXCHANGE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter IV of chapter 5 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 565. Uniform funding and management of morale, well-being, and recreation programs and Coast Guard Exchange

''(a) AUTHORITY FOR UNIFORM FUNDING AND MANAGEMENT.—Under policies issued by the Commandant, funds appropriated to the Coast Guard and available for morale, well-being, and recreation programs and the Coast Guard Exchange may be treated as nonappropriated funds and expended in accordance with laws applicable to the expenditure of nonappropriated funds. When made available for morale, well-being, and recreation programs and the Coast Guard Exchange under such policies, appropriated funds shall be considered to be nonappropriated funds for all purposes and shall remain available until expended.

''(b) CONDITIONS ON AVAILABILITY.—Funds appropriated to the Coast Guard and subject to a policy described in subsection (a) shall only be available in amounts that are determined by the Commandant to be consistent with—

''(1) Coast Guard policy; and

''(2) Coast Guard readiness and resources.

''(c) UPDATED POLICY.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025, the Commandant shall update the policies described in subsection (a) consistent with this section.

''(d) BRIEFING.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Commandant issues the updated policies required under subsection (c), the Commandant shall provide to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a briefing on such policies.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 5 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 564 the following:

''565. Uniform funding and management of morale, well-being, and recreation programs and Coast Guard Exchange.''.

SEC. 5158. COAST GUARD EMBEDDED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TECHNICIAN PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant, in coordination with the Assistant Commandant for Health, Safety, and Work Life, shall establish and conduct a pilot program, to be known as the ''Coast Guard Embedded Behavioral Health Technician Program'' (referred to in this section as the ''Pilot Program''), to integrate behavioral health technicians serving at Coast Guard units for the purposes of—

(A) facilitating, at the clinic level, the provision of integrated behavioral health care for members of the Coast Guard;

(B) providing, as a force extender under the supervision of a licensed behavioral health care provider, at the clinic level—

(i) psychological assessment and diagnostic services, as appropriate;

(ii) behavioral health services, as appropriate;

(iii) education and training related to promoting positive behavioral health and well-being; and

(iv) information and resources, including expedited referrals, to assist members of the Coast Guard in dealing with behavioral health concerns;

(C) improving resilience and mental health care among members of the Coast Guard who respond to extraordinary calls of duty, with the ultimate goals of preventing crises and addressing mental health concerns before such concerns evolve into more complex issues that require care at a military treatment facility;

(D) increasing—

(i) the number of such members served by behavioral health technicians; and

(ii) the proportion of such members returning to duty after seeking behavioral health care; and

(E) positively impacting the Coast Guard in a cost-effective manner by extending behavioral health services to the workforce and improving access to care.

(2) BRIEFING.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall provide the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives with a briefing regarding a plan to establish and conduct the Pilot Program.

(b) SELECTION OF COAST GUARD CLINICS.—The Commandant shall select, for participation in the Pilot Program, 3 or more Coast Guard clinics that support units that have significantly high operational tempos or other force resiliency risks, as determined by the Commandant.

(c) PLACEMENT OF STAFF AT COAST GUARD CLINICS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Under the Pilot Program, a Coast Guard health services technician with a grade of E–5 or higher, or an assigned civilian behavioral health specialist, shall be—

(A) assigned to each selected Coast Guard clinic; and

(B) located at a unit with high operational tempo.

(2) TRAINING.—

(A) HEALTH SERVICES TECHNICIANS.—Before commencing an assignment at a Coast Guard clinic under paragraph (1), a Coast Guard health services technician shall complete behavioral health technician training and independent duty health services training.

(B) CIVILIAN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SPECIALISTS.—To qualify for an assignment at a Coast Guard clinic under paragraph (1), a civilian behavioral health specialist shall have at least the equivalent behavioral health training as the training required for a Coast Guard behavioral health technician under subparagraph (A).

(d) ADMINISTRATION.—The Commandant, in coordination with the Assistant Commandant for Health, Safety, and Work Life, shall administer the Pilot Program through the Health, Safety, and Work-Life Service Center.

(e) DATA COLLECTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant shall collect and analyze data concerning the Pilot Program for purposes of—

(A) developing and sharing best practices for improving access to behavioral health care; and

(B) providing information to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives regarding the implementation of the Pilot Program and related policy issues.

(2) PLAN.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a plan for carrying out paragraph (1).

(f) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than September 1 of each year until the date on which the Pilot Program terminates under subsection (g), the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the Pilot Program that includes the following:

(1) An overview of the implementation of the Pilot Program at each applicable Coast Guard clinic, including—

(A) the number of members of the Coast Guard who received services on site by a behavioral health technician assigned to such clinic;

(B) feedback from all members of the Coast Guard empaneled for their medical care under the Pilot Program;

(C) an assessment of the deployability and overall readiness of members of the applicable operational unit; and

(D) an estimate of potential costs and impacts on other Coast Guard health care services of supporting the Pilot Program at such units and clinics.

(2) The data and analysis required under subsection (e)(1).

(3) A list and detailed description of lessons learned from the Pilot Program as of the date of on which the report is submitted.

(4) The feasibility, estimated cost, and impacts on other Coast Guard health care services of expanding the Pilot Program to all Coast Guard clinics, and a description of the personnel, fiscal, and administrative resources that would be needed for such an expansion.

(g) TERMINATION.—The Pilot Program shall terminate on September 30, 2028.

SEC. 5159. EXPANSION OF ACCESS TO COUNSELING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall hire, train, and deploy not fewer than 5 additional behavioral health specialists, in addition to the personnel required under section 11412(a) of the Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 (14 U.S.C. 504 note).

(b) REQUIREMENT.—The Commandant shall ensure that not fewer than 35 percent of behavioral health specialists required to be deployed under subsection (a) have experience in—

(1) behavioral health care related to military sexual trauma; and

(2) behavioral health care for the purpose of supporting members of the Coast Guard with needs for mental health care and counseling services for post-traumatic stress disorder and co-occurring disorders related to military sexual trauma.

(c) ACCESSIBILITY.—The support provided by the behavioral health specialists hired pursuant to subsection (a)—

(1) may include care delivered via telemedicine; and

(2) shall be made widely available to members of the Coast Guard.

(d) NOTIFICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall notify the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives if the Coast Guard has not completed hiring, training, and deploying—

(A) the personnel referred to in subsections (a) and (b); and

(B) the personnel required under section 11412(a) of the Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 (14 U.S.C. 504 note).

(2) CONTENTS.—The notification required under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) the date of publication of the hiring opportunity for all such personnel;

(B) the General Schedule grade level advertised in the publication of the hiring opportunity for all such personnel;

(C) the number of personnel to whom the Coast Guard extended an offer of employment in accordance with the requirements of this section and section 11412(a) of the Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 (14 U.S.C. 504 note), and the number of such personnel who accepted or declined such offer of employment;

(D) a summary of the efforts by the Coast Guard to publicize, advertise, or otherwise recruit qualified candidates in accordance with the requirements of this section and section 11412(a) of such Act; and

(E) any recommendations and a detailed plan to ensure full compliance with the requirements of this section and section 11412(a) of such Act, which may include special payments discussed in the report of the Government Accountability Office titled ''Federal Pay: Opportunities Exist to Enhance Strategic Use of Special Payments'', published on December 7, 2017 (GAO–18–91), which may be made available to help ensure full compliance with all such requirements in a timely manner.

SEC. 5160. COMMAND SPONSORSHIP FOR DEPENDENTS OF MEMBERS OF COAST GUARD ASSIGNED TO UNALASKA, ALASKA.

On request by a member of the Coast Guard assigned to Unalaska, Alaska, the Commandant shall grant command sponsorship to the dependents of such member.

SEC. 5161. TRAVEL ALLOWANCE FOR MEMBERS OF COAST GUARD ASSIGNED TO ALASKA.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Commandant shall implement a policy that provides for reimbursement to eligible members of the Coast Guard for the cost of airfare for such members to travel to the homes of record of such member during the period specified in subsection (e).

(b) ELIGIBLE MEMBERS.—A member of the Coast Guard is eligible for a reimbursement under subsection (a) if—

(1) the member is assigned to a duty location in Alaska; and

(2) an officer in a grade above O–5 in the chain of command of the member authorizes the travel of the member.

(c) TREATMENT OF TIME AS LEAVE.—The time during which an eligible member is absent from duty for travel reimbursable under subsection (a) shall be treated as leave for purposes of section 704 of title 10, United States Code.

(d) BRIEFING REQUIRED.—Not later than February 1, 2027, the Commandant shall provide to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a briefing on—

(1) the use and effectiveness of reimbursements under subsection (a);

(2) the calculation and use of the cost of living allowance for a member assigned to a duty location in Alaska; and

(3) the use of special pays and other allowances as incentives for cold weather proficiency or duty locations.

(e) PERIOD SPECIFIED.—The period specified in this subsection is the period—

(1) beginning on the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) ending on the later of—

(A) December 31, 2026; or

(B) the date on which the authority under section 352 of title 37, United States Code, to grant assignment or special duty pay to members of the uniform services terminates under subsection (g) of such section.

SEC. 5162. CONSOLIDATION OF AUTHORITIES FOR COLLEGE STUDENT PRECOMMISSIONING INITIATIVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3710 of title 14, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 3710. College student precommissioning initiative

''(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized within the Coast Guard a college student precommissioning initiative program (in this section referred to as the 'Program') for eligible undergraduate students to enlist in the Coast Guard Reserve and receive a commission as a Reserve officer.

''(b) CRITERIA FOR SELECTION.—To be eligible for the Program an applicant shall meet the following requirements upon submitting an application:

''(1) AGE.—The applicant shall be not less than 19 years old and not more than 31 years old as of September 30 of the fiscal year in which the Program selection panel selecting such applicant convenes, or an age otherwise determined by the Commandant.

''(2) CHARACTER.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The applicant shall be of outstanding moral character and meet any other character requirement set forth by the Commandant.

''(B) COAST GUARD APPLICANTS.—Any applicant serving in the Coast Guard may not be commissioned if in the 36 months prior to the first Officer Candidate School class convening date in the selection cycle, such applicant was convicted by a court-martial or assigned nonjudicial punishment, or did not meet performance or character requirements set forth by the Commandant.

''(3) CITIZENSHIP.—The applicant shall be a United States citizen.

''(4) CLEARANCE.—The applicant shall be eligible for a secret clearance.

''(5) EDUCATION.—The applicant shall be enrolled in a college degree program at—

''(A) an institution of higher education described in section 371(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a));

''(B) an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)) that, at the time of the application has had for 3 consecutive years an enrollment of undergraduate full-time equivalent students (as defined in section 312(e) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1058(e))) that is a total of at least 50 percent Black American, Hispanic American, Asian American (as defined in section 371(c) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1067q(c))), Native American Pacific Islander (as defined in such section), or Native American (as defined in such section), among other criteria, as determined by the Commandant; or

''(C) an institution that meets the eligibility requirements for funding as a rural-serving institution of higher education under section 861 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1161q).

''(6) LOCATION.—The institution at which the applicant is an undergraduate shall be within 100 miles of a Coast Guard unit or Coast Guard Recruiting Office unless otherwise approved by the Commandant.

''(7) RECORDS.—The applicant shall meet credit and grade point average requirements set forth by the Commandant.

''(8) MEDICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE.—The applicant shall meet other medical and administrative requirements as set forth by the Commandant.

''(c) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant may provide financial assistance to enlisted members of the Coast Guard Reserve on active duty participating in the Program, for expenses of the enlisted member while the enlisted member is enrolled, on a full-time basis, in a college degree program approved by the Commandant at a college, university, or institution of higher education described in subsection (b)(5) that leads to—

''(A) a baccalaureate degree in not more than 5 academic years; or

''(B) a post-baccalaureate degree.

''(2) WRITTEN AGREEMENTS.—To be eligible for financial assistance under this section, an enlisted member of the Coast Guard Reserve shall enter into a written agreement with the Coast Guard that notifies the Reserve enlisted member of the obligations of that member under this section, and in which the member agrees to the following:

''(A) The member shall complete an approved college degree program at a college, university, or institution of higher education described in subsection (b)(5).

''(B) The member shall satisfactorily complete all required Coast Guard training and participate in monthly military activities of the Program as required by the Commandant.

''(C) Upon graduation from the college, university, or institution of higher education described in subsection (b)(5), the member shall—

''(i) accept an appointment, if tendered, as a commissioned officer in the Coast Guard Reserve; and

''(ii) serve a period of obligated active duty for a minimum of 3 years immediately after such appointment as follows:

''(I) Members participating in the Program shall be obligated to serve on active duty 3 months for each month of instruction for which they receive financial assistance pursuant to this section for the first 12 months and 1 month for each month thereafter, or 3 years, whichever is greater.

''(II) The period of obligated active duty service incurred while participating in the Program shall be in addition to any other obligated service a member may incur due to receiving other bonuses or other benefits as part of any other Coast Guard program.

''(III) If an appointment described in clause (i) is not tendered, the member will remain in the Reserve component until completion of the member's enlisted service obligation.

''(D) The member shall agree to perform such duties or complete such terms under the conditions of service specified by the Coast Guard.

''(3) EXPENSES.—Expenses for which financial assistance may be provided under this section are the following:

''(A) Tuition and fees charged by the college, university, or institution of higher education at which a member is enrolled on a full-time basis.

''(B) The cost of books.

''(C) In the case of a program of education leading to a baccalaureate degree, laboratory expenses.

''(D) Such other expenses as the Commandant considers appropriate, which may not exceed $25,000 for any academic year.

''(4) TIME LIMIT.—Financial assistance may be provided to a member under this section for up to 5 consecutive academic years.

''(5) BREACH OF AGREEMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may retain in the Coast Guard Reserve, and may order to active duty for such period of time as the Secretary prescribes (but not to exceed 4 years), a member who breaches an agreement under paragraph (2). The period of time for which a member is ordered to active duty under this paragraph may be determined without regard to section 651(a) of title 10.

''(B) APPROPRIATE ENLISTED GRADE OR RATING.—A member who is retained in the Coast Guard Reserve under subparagraph (A) shall be retained in an appropriate enlisted grade or rating, as determined by the Commandant.

''(6) REPAYMENT.—A member who does not fulfill the terms of the obligation to serve as specified under paragraph (2), or the alternative obligation imposed under paragraph (5), shall be subject to the repayment provisions of section 303a(e) of title 37.

''(d) BRIEFING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than August 15 of each year following the date of the enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025, the Commandant shall provide a briefing to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives on the Program.

''(2) CONTENTS.—The briefing required under paragraph (1) shall describe—

''(A) outreach and recruitment efforts over the previous year; and

''(B) demographic information of enrollees, including—

''(i) race;

''(ii) ethnicity;

''(iii) gender;

''(iv) geographic origin; and

''(v) educational institution.''.

(b) REPEAL.—Section 2131 of title 14, United States Code, is repealed.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) The analysis for chapter 21 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 2131.

(2) The analysis for chapter 37 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 3710 and inserting the following:

''3710. College student precommissioning initiative.''.

SEC. 5163. TUITION ASSISTANCE AND ADVANCED EDUCATION ASSISTANCE PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, acting through the Commandant, shall establish a tuition assistance pilot program for active-duty members of the Coast Guard, to be known as the ''Tuition Assistance and Advanced Education Assistance Pilot Program for Sea Duty'' (referred to in this section as the ''pilot program'').

(b) FORMAL AGREEMENT.—A member of the Coast Guard participating in the pilot program shall enter into a formal agreement with the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating that provides that, upon the successful completion of a sea duty tour by such member, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall, for a period equal to the length of the sea duty tour, beginning on the date on which the sea duty tour concludes—

(1) reduce by 1 year the service obligation incurred by such member as a result of participation in the advanced education assistance program under section 2005 of title 10, United States Code, or the tuition assistance program under section 2007 of such title; and

(2) increase the tuition assistance cost cap for such member to not more than double the amount of the standard tuition assistance cost cap set by the Commandant for the applicable fiscal year.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the pilot program is established, and annually thereafter through the date on which the pilot program is terminated under subsection (d), the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report that—

(1) evaluates and compares—

(A) the Coast Guard's retention, recruitment, and filling of sea duty billets for all members of the Coast Guard; and

(B) the Coast Guard's retention, recruitment, and filling of sea duty billets for all members of the Coast Guard participating in the pilot program;

(2) includes the number of participants in the pilot program as of the date of the report, disaggregated by officer and enlisted billet type; and

(3) assesses the progress made by such participants in their respective voluntary education programs, in accordance with their degree plans, during the period described in subsection (b).

(d) TERMINATION.—The pilot program shall terminate on the date that is 6 years after the date on which the pilot program is established.

SEC. 5164. MODIFICATIONS TO CAREER FLEXIBILITY PROGRAM.

Section 2514 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(3) by striking ''2 months'' and inserting ''30 days''; and

(2) in subsection (h)—

(A) in paragraph (1) by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in paragraph (2) by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) the entitlement of the member and of the survivors of the member to all death benefits under subchapter II of chapter 75 of title 10;

''(4) the provision of all travel and transportation allowances to family members of a deceased member to attend the repatriation, burial, or memorial ceremony of a deceased member as provided in section 453(f) of title 37;

''(5) the eligibility of the member for general benefits as provided in part II of title 38; and

''(6) in the case of a victim of an alleged sex-related offense (as such term is defined in section 1044e(h) of title 10) to the maximum extent practicable, maintaining access to—

''(A) Coast Guard behavioral health resources;

''(B) sexual assault prevention and response resources and programs of the Coast Guard; and

''(C) Coast Guard legal resources, including, to the extent practicable, special victims' counsel.''.

SEC. 5165. RECRUITMENT, RELOCATION, AND RETENTION INCENTIVE PROGRAM FOR CIVILIAN FIREFIGHTERS EMPLOYED BY COAST GUARD IN REMOTE LOCATIONS.

(a) IDENTIFICATION OF REMOTE LOCATIONS.—The Commandant shall identify locations to be considered remote locations for purposes of this section, which shall include, at a minimum, each Coast Guard fire station located in an area in which members of the Coast Guard and the dependents of such members are eligible for the TRICARE Prime Remote program.

(b) INCENTIVE PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To ensure uninterrupted operations by civilian firefighters employed by the Coast Guard in remote locations, the Commandant shall establish an incentive program for such firefighters consisting of—

(A) recruitment and relocation bonuses consistent with section 5753 of title 5, United States Code; and

(B) retention bonuses consistent with section 5754 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.—The Commandant, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Personnel and Management, shall establish eligibility criteria for the incentive program established under paragraph (1), which shall include a requirement that a firefighter described in paragraph (1) may only be eligible for the incentive program under this section if, with respect to the applicable remote location, the Commandant has made a determination that incentives are appropriate to address an identified recruitment, retention, or relocation need.

(c) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not less frequently than annually for the 5-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report that—

(1) details the use and effectiveness of the incentive program established under this section; and

(2) includes—

(A) the number of participants in the incentive program;

(B) a description of the distribution of incentives under such program; and

(C) a description of the impact of such program on civilian firefighter recruitment and retention by the Coast Guard in remote locations.

SEC. 5166. REINSTATEMENT OF TRAINING COURSE ON WORKINGS OF CONGRESS; COAST GUARD MUSEUM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by—

(1) transferring section 316 to appear after section 323 and redesignating such section as section 324; and

(2) inserting after section 315 the following:

''§ 316. Training course on workings of Congress

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant, and such other individuals and organizations as the Commandant considers appropriate, shall develop a training course on the workings of Congress and offer such training course at least once each year.

''(b) COURSE SUBJECT MATTER.—The training course required by this section shall provide an overview and introduction to Congress and the Federal legislative process, including—

''(1) the history and structure of Congress and the committee systems of the House of Representatives and the Senate, including the functions and responsibilities of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

''(2) the documents produced by Congress, including bills, resolutions, committee reports, and conference reports, and the purposes and functions of such documents;

''(3) the legislative processes and rules of the House of Representatives and the Senate,

including similarities and differences between the 2 processes and 2 sets of rules, including—

''(A) the congressional budget process;

''(B) the congressional authorization and appropriation processes;

''(C) the Senate advice and consent process for Presidential nominees; and

''(D) the Senate advice and consent process for treaty ratification;

''(4) the roles of Members of Congress and congressional staff in the legislative process; and

''(5) the concept and underlying purposes of congressional oversight within the governance framework of separation of powers.

''(c) LECTURERS AND PANELISTS.—

''(1) OUTSIDE EXPERTS.—The Commandant shall ensure that not less than 60 percent of the lecturers, panelists, and other individuals providing education and instruction as part of the training course required under this section are experts on Congress and the Federal legislative process who are not employed by the executive branch of the Federal Government.

''(2) AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT PRO BONO SERVICES.—In satisfying the requirement under paragraph (1), the Commandant shall seek, and may accept, educational and instructional services of lecturers, panelists, and other individuals and organizations provided to the Coast Guard on a pro bono basis.

''(d) EFFECT OF LAW.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The training required by this section shall replace the substantially similar training that was required by the Commandant on the day before the date of the enactment of this section.

''(2) PREVIOUS TRAINING RECIPIENTS.—A Coast Guard flag officer or a Coast Guard Senior Executive Service employee who, not more than 3 years before the date of the enactment of this section, completed the training that was required by the Commandant on the day before such date of enactment, shall not be required to complete the training required by this section.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 3 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking the item relating to section 316 and inserting after the item relating to section 323 the following:

''324. Training for congressional affairs personnel.''.

(2) by inserting after the item relating to section 315 the following:

''316. Training course on workings of Congress.''.

(c) SERVICES AND USE OF FUNDS FOR, AND LEASING OF, THE NATIONAL COAST GUARD MUSEUM.—Section 324 of title 14, United States Code, as transferred and redesignated by subsection (a), 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''; 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 nonprofits entities including the Association,—

''(1) solicit and accept services; and

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

SEC. 5167. MODIFICATION OF DESIGNATION OF VICE ADMIRALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 305(a)(1) of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by striking ''may'' and inserting ''shall''; and

(2) in subparagraph (A)(ii) by striking ''be the Chief of Staff of the Coast Guard'' and inserting ''oversee personnel management, workforce and dependent support, training, and related matters''.

(b) REORGANIZATION.—Chapter 3 of title 14, United States Code, is further amended by redesignating sections 312 through 324 as sections 314 through 326, respectively.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 3 of title 14, United States Code, is further amended by redesignating the items relating to sections 312 through 324 as relating to sections 314 through 326, respectively.

SEC. 5168. COMMANDANT ADVISORY JUDGE ADVOCATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3 of title 14, United States Code, is further amended by inserting after section 311 the following:

''§ 312. Commandant Advisory Judge Advocate

''There shall be in the Coast Guard a Commandant Advisory Judge Advocate who is a judge advocate in a grade of O–6. The Commandant Advisory Judge Advocate shall be assigned to the staff of the Commandant in the first regularly scheduled O–6 officer assignment panel to convene following the date of the enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025 and perform such duties relating to legal matters arising in the Coast Guard as such legal matters relate to the Commandant, as may be assigned.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT .—The analysis for chapter 3 of title 14, United States Code, is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 311 the following item:

''312. Commandant Advisory Judge Advocate.''.

SEC. 5169. SPECIAL ADVISOR TO COMMANDANT FOR TRIBAL AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 312 the following:

''§ 313. Special Advisor to Commandant for Tribal and Native Hawaiian Affairs

''(a) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with Federal trust responsibilities and treaty obligations, laws, and policies relevant to Indian Tribes and in support of the principles of self-determination, self-governance, and co-management with respect to Indian Tribes, and to support engagement with Native Hawaiians, there shall be in the Coast Guard a Special Advisor to the Commandant for Tribal and Native Hawaiian Affairs (in this section referred to as the 'Special Advisor'), who shall—

''(1) be selected by the Secretary and the Commandant through a competitive search process;

''(2) have expertise in Federal Indian law and policy, including government-to-government consultation;

''(3) to the maximum extent practicable, have expertise in legal and policy issues affecting Native Hawaiians; and

''(4) have an established record of distinguished service and achievement working with Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiian organizations.

''(b) CAREER RESERVED POSITION.—The position of Special Advisor shall be a career reserved position at the GS–15 level or greater.

''(c) DUTIES.—The Special Advisor shall—

''(1) ensure the Federal government upholds the Federal trust responsibility and conducts consistent, meaningful, and timely government-to-government consultation and engagement with Indian Tribes, which shall meet or exceed the standards of the Federal Government and the Coast Guard;

''(2) ensure meaningful and timely engagement with—

''(A) Native Hawaiian organizations; and

''(B) Tribal organizations;

''(3) advise the Commandant on all policies of the Coast Guard that have Tribal implications in accordance with applicable law and policy, including Executive Orders;

''(4) work to ensure that the policies of the Federal Government regarding consultation and engagement with Indian Tribes and engagement with Native Hawaiian organizations and Tribal organizations are implemented in a meaningful manner, working through Coast Guard leadership and across the Coast Guard, together with—

''(A) liaisons located within Coast Guard districts;

''(B) the Director of Coast Guard Governmental and Public Affairs; and

''(C) other Coast Guard leadership and programs and other Federal partners; and

''(5) support Indian Tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations, and Tribal organizations in all matters under the jurisdiction of the Coast Guard.

''(d) DIRECT ACCESS TO SECRETARY AND COMMANDANT.—No officer or employee of the Coast Guard or the Department of Homeland Security may interfere with the ability of the Special Advisor to give direct and independent advice to the Secretary and the Commandant on matters related to this section.

''(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term 'Indian Tribe' has the meaning given such term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

''(2) NATIVE HAWAIIAN ORGANIZATION.—The term 'Native Hawaiian organization' has the meaning given such term in section 6207 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7517) except the term includes the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

''(3) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term 'Tribal organization' has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 3 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 312 the following:

''313. Special Advisor to Commandant for Tribal and Native Hawaiian Affairs.''.

(c) BRIEFINGS.—

(1) INITIAL BRIEFING.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall brief the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives on the manner in which the Special Advisor for Tribal and Native Hawaiian Affairs will be incorporated into the governance structure of the Coast Guard, including a timeline for the incorporation that is completed not later than 1 year after date of enactment of this Act.

(2) ANNUAL BRIEFINGS ON SPECIAL ADVISOR TO THE COMMANDANT TOR TRIBAL AND NATIVE

HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the establishment of the position of the Special Advisor to the Commandant for Tribal and Native Hawaiian Affairs under section 313 of title 14, United States Code, and annually thereafter for 2 years, the Commandant shall provide the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Technology and the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives with a briefing on the duties, responsibilities, and actions of the Special Advisor to the Commandant for Tribal and Native Hawaiian Affairs, including management of best practices.

(3) BRIEFING ON COLLABORATION WITH TRIBES ON RESEARCH CONSISTENT WITH COAST GUARD MISSION REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall provide the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Technology and the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives with a briefing on potential collaborations on and research and use of indigenous place-based knowledge and research.

(B) ELEMENT.—In providing the briefing under subparagraph (A), the Commandant shall identify current and potential future opportunities to improve coordination with Indian Tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations, and Tribal organizations to support—

(i) Coast Guard mission needs, such as the potential for research or knowledge to enhance maritime domain awareness, including opportunities through the ADAC–ARCTIC Center of Excellence of the Department of Homeland Security; and

(ii) Coast Guard efforts to protect indigenous place-based knowledge and research.

(4) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ''Indian Tribe'' has the meaning given that term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(B) NATIVE HAWAIIAN ORGANIZATION.—The term ''Native Hawaiian organization'' has the meaning given such term in section 6207 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7517) except the term includes the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

(C) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term ''Tribal organization'' has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section, or an amendment made by this section, shall be construed to impact—

(1) the right of any Indian Tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)); or

(2) any government-to-government consultation.

(e) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 11237 of the Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–263) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking ''section 312 of title 14'' and inserting ''section 315 of title 14''; and

(B) in subsection (b)(2)(A), by striking ''section 312 of title 14'' and inserting ''section 315 of title 14''.

(2) Section 807(a) of the Frank LoBiondo Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–282) is amended by striking ''section 313 of title 14'' and inserting ''section 316 of title 14''.

(3) Section 3533(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118–31) is amended by striking ''section 315 of title 14'' and inserting ''section 318 of title 14''.

(4) Section 311(j)(9)(D) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1321(j)(9)(D)) is amended by striking ''section 323 of title 14'' each place it appears and inserting ''section 325 of title 14'' each such place.

SEC. 5170. NOTIFICATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant shall provide to the appropriate committees of Congress notification as described in subsection (b)—

(1) not later than the date that is 10 days before the final day of each fiscal year; or

(2) in the case of a continuing resolution that, for a period of more than 10 days, provides appropriated funds in lieu of an appropriations Act, not later than the date that is 10 days before the final day of the period that such continuing resolution covers.

(b) ELEMENTS.—Notification under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) the status of funding for the Coast Guard during the subsequent fiscal year or at the end of the continuing resolution if other appropriations measures are not enacted, as applicable;

(2) the status of the Coast Guard as a component of the Armed Forces;

(3) the number of members currently serving overseas and otherwise supporting missions related to title 10, United States Code;

(4) the fact that members of the Armed Forces have service requirements unlike those of other Federal employees, which require them to continue to serve even if unpaid;

(5) the impacts of historical shutdowns of the Federal Government on members of the Coast Guard; and

(6) other relevant matters, as determined by the Commandant.

(c) 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;

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

(3) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives; and

(4) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

Subtitle E—Coast Guard Academy

SEC. 5171. MODIFICATION OF BOARD OF VISITORS.

Section 1903 of title 14, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 1903. Annual Board of Visitors

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant shall establish a Board of Visitors to the Coast Guard Academy to review and make recommendations on the operation of the Academy.

''(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The membership of the Board shall consist of the following:

''(A) The chairperson of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, or a member of such Committee designated by such chairperson.

''(B) The chairperson of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, or a member of such Committee designated by such chairperson.

''(C) 3 Senators appointed by the Vice President.

''(D) 4 Members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

''(E) 2 Senators appointed by the Vice President, each of whom shall be selected from among members of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

''(F) 2 Members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, each of whom shall be selected from among members of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

''(G) 6 individuals designated by the President.

''(2) TIMING OF APPOINTMENTS OF MEMBERS.—

''(A) If any member of the Board described in paragraph (1)(C) is not appointed by the date that is 180 days after the date on which the first session of each Congress convenes, the chair and ranking member of the subcommittee of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate with jurisdiction over the authorization of appropriations of the Coast Guard shall be members of the Board until the date on which the second session of such Congress adjourns sine die.

''(B) If any member of the Board described in paragraph (1)(D) is not appointed by the date that is 180 days after the date on which the first session of each Congress convenes, the chair and ranking member of the subcommittee of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives with jurisdiction over the authorization of appropriations for the Coast Guard shall be members of the Board until the date on which the second session of such Congress adjourns sine die.

''(C) If any member of the Board described in paragraph (1)(E) is not appointed by the date that is 180 days after the date on which the first session of each Congress convenes, the chair and ranking member of the subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate with jurisdiction over appropriations for the Coast Guard shall be members of the Board until the date on which the second session of such Congress adjourns sine die.

''(D) If any member of the Board described in paragraph (1)(F) is not appointed by the date that is 180 days after the date on which the first session of each Congress convenes, the chair and ranking member of the subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives with jurisdiction over appropriations for the Coast Guard shall be members of the Board until the date on which the second session of such Congress adjourns sine die.

''(3) CHAIRPERSON.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—On a biennial basis and subject to paragraph (4), the Board shall select from among the members of the Board a Member of Congress to serve as the Chair of the Board.

''(B) ROTATION.—A Member of the House of Representatives and a Member of the Senate shall alternately be selected as the Chair of the Board.

''(C) TERM.—An individual may not serve as Chairperson of the Board for consecutive terms.

''(4) LENGTH OF SERVICE.—

''(A) MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.—A Member of Congress designated as a member of the Board under paragraph (1) shall be designated as a member in the first session of the applicable Congress and shall serve for the duration of such Congress.

''(B) INDIVIDUALS DESIGNATED BY THE PRESIDENT.—Each individual designated by the President under paragraph (1)(G) shall serve as a member of the Board for 3 years, except that any such member whose term of office has expired shall continue to serve until a successor is appointed by the President.

''(C) DEATH OR RESIGNATION OF A MEMBER.—If a member of the Board dies or resigns, a successor shall be designated for any unexpired portion of the term of the member by the official who designated the member.

''(c) DUTIES.—

''(1) ACADEMY VISITS.—

''(A) ANNUAL VISIT.—The Commandant shall invite each member of the Board, and any designee of a member of the Board, to visit the Coast Guard Academy at least once annually to review the operation of the Academy.

''(B) ADDITIONAL VISITS.—With the approval of the Secretary, the Board or any members of the Board in connection with the duties of the Board may—

''(i) make visits to the Academy in addition to the visits described in subparagraph (A); or

''(ii) consult with—

''(I) the Superintendent of the Academy; or

''(II) the faculty, staff, or cadets of the Academy.

''(C) ACCESS.—The Commandant shall ensure that the Board or any members of the Board who visits the Academy under this paragraph is provided reasonable access to the grounds, facilities, cadets, faculty, staff, and other personnel of the Academy for the purpose of carrying out the duties of the Board.

''(2) OVERSIGHT REVIEW.—In conducting oversight of the Academy under this section, the Board shall review, with respect to the Academy—

''(A) the state of morale and discipline, including with respect to prevention of, response to, and recovery from sexual assault and sexual harassment;

''(B) recruitment and retention, including diversity, inclusion, and issues regarding women specifically;

''(C) the curriculum;

''(D) instruction;

''(E) physical equipment, including infrastructure, living quarters, and deferred maintenance;

''(F) fiscal affairs; and

''(G) any other matter relating to the Academy the Board considers appropriate.

''(d) ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.—

''(1) MEETINGS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than annually, the Board shall meet at a location chosen by the Commandant, in consultation with the Board, to conduct the review required by subsection (c)(2).

''(B) CHAIRPERSON AND CHARTER.—The Federal officer designated under subsection (f)(1)(B) shall organize a meeting of the Board for the purposes of—

''(i) selecting a Chairperson of the Board under subsection (b)(3);

''(ii) adopting an official charter for the Board, which shall establish the schedule of meetings of the Board; and

''(iii) any other matter such designated Federal officer or the Board considers appropriate.

''(C) SCHEDULING.—In scheduling a meeting of the Board, such designated Federal officer shall coordinate, to the greatest extent practicable, with the members of the Board to determine the date and time of the meeting.

''(D) NOTIFICATION.—Not less than 30 days before each scheduled meeting of the Board, such designated Federal officer shall notify each member of the Board of the time, date, and location of the meeting.

''(2) STAFF.—

''(A) DESIGNATION.—The chairperson and the ranking member of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the chairperson and the ranking member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives may each designate 1 staff member of each such Committees.

''(B) ROLE.—Staff designated under subparagraph (A)—

''(i) may attend and participate in visits and carry out consultations described under subsection (c)(1) and attend and participate in meetings described under paragraph (1); and

''(ii) may not otherwise carry out duties or take actions reserved to members of the Board under this section.

''(3) ADVISORS.—If approved by the Secretary, the Board may consult with advisors in carrying out the duties of the Board under this section.

''(4) REPORTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which the Board conducts a meeting of the Board under paragraph (1), the Deputy Commandant for Mission Support, in consultation with the Board, shall submit a report on the actions of the Board during the meeting and the recommendations of the Board pertaining to the Academy to—

''(i) the Secretary;

''(ii) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; and

''(iii) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

''(B) PUBLICATION.—Each report submitted under this paragraph shall be published on a publicly accessible website of the Coast Guard.

''(e) DISCLOSURE.—The Commandant and the Superintendent of the Academy shall ensure candid and complete disclosure to the Board, consistent with applicable laws relating to disclosure of information, with respect to—

''(1) each issue described in subsection (c)(2); and

''(2) any other issue the Board or the Commandant considers appropriate.

''(f) COAST GUARD SUPPORT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant shall—

''(A) provide support to the Board, as Board considers necessary for the performance of the duties of the Board;

''(B) designate a Federal officer to support the performance of the duties of the Board; and

''(C) in cooperation with the Superintendent of the Academy, advise the Board of any institutional issues, consistent with applicable laws concerning the disclosure of information.

''(2) REIMBURSEMENT.—Each member of the Board and each advisor consulted by the Board under subsection (d)(3) shall be reimbursed, to the extent permitted by law, by the Coast Guard for actual expenses incurred while engaged in duties as a member or advisor.

''(g) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the first session of each Congress convenes, the Commandant shall provide to the chairperson and ranking member of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the chairperson and ranking member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, and the President notification of the requirements of this section.''.

SEC. 5172. STUDY ON COAST GUARD ACADEMY OVERSIGHT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant, shall enter into an agreement with a federally funded research and development center with relevant expertise under which such center shall conduct an assessment of the oversight and governance of the Coast Guard Academy, including—

(1) examining the—

(A) authorities regarding Coast Guard and Departmental oversight of the Coast Guard Academy, including considerations of how these may impact accreditation review at the academy;

(B) roles and responsibilities of the Board of Trustees of such Academy;

(C) Coast Guard roles and responsibilities with respect to management and facilitation of the Board of Trustees of such Academy;

(D) advisory functions of the Board of Trustees of such Academy; and

(E) membership of the Board of Trustees for the 10-year period preceding the date of the enactment of this Act, to include expertise, objectiveness, and effectiveness in conducting oversight of such Academy; and

(2) an analysis of the involvement of the Board of Trustees during the Operation Fouled Anchor investigation, including to what extent the Board members were informed, involved, or made decisions regarding the governance of the academy based on that investigation.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Commandant enters into an agreement under subsection (a), the federally funded research and development center selected under such subsection shall submit to the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, the Commandant, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report that contains—

(1) the results of the assessment required under subsection (a); and

(2) recommendations to improve governance of the Coast Guard Academy and the Board of Trustees.

SEC. 5173. ELECTRONIC LOCKING MECHANISMS TO ENSURE COAST GUARD ACADEMY CADET ROOM SECURITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant, in consultation with the Superintendent of the Coast Guard Academy (referred to in this section as the ''Superintendent''), shall—

(1) install an electronic locking mechanism for each room at the Coast Guard Academy within which 1 or more Coast Guard Academy cadets reside overnight;

(2) test each such mechanism not less than once every 6 months for proper function and maintained in proper working order; and

(3) use a system that electronically records the date, time, and identity of each individual who accesses a cadet room using an electronic access token, code, card, or other electronic means, which shall be maintained in accordance with the general schedule for records retention, or a period of five years, whichever is later.

(b) ELECTRONIC LOCKING MECHANISMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each electronic locking mechanism described in subsection (a) shall be coded in a manner that provides access to a room described in such subsection only to—

(A) the 1 or more cadets assigned to the room; and

(B) such Coast Guard Academy officers, administrators, staff, or security personnel, including personnel of the Coast Guard Investigative Service, as are necessary to access the room in the event of an emergency.

(2) EXISTING MECHANISMS.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Superintendent shall ensure that electronic locking mechanisms installed in academic buildings of the Coast Guard Academy, Chase Hall common spaces, and in any other location at the Coast Guard Academy are maintained in proper working order.

(c) ACCESS POLICY INSTRUCTION.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Superintendent shall promulgate a policy regarding cadet room security policies and procedures, which shall include, at a minimum—

(1) a prohibition on sharing with any other cadet, employee, or other individual electronic access tokens, codes, cards, or other electronic means of accessing a cadet room;

(2) procedures for resetting electronic locking mechanisms in the event of a lost, stolen, or otherwise compromised electronic access token, code, card, or other electronic means of accessing a cadet room;

(3) procedures to maintain the identity of each individual who accesses a cadet room using an electronic access token, code, card, or other electronic means, while ensuring the security of personally identifiable information and protecting the privacy of any such individual, as appropriate;

(4) procedures by which cadets may report to the chain of command the malfunction of an electronic locking mechanism; and

(5) a schedule of testing to ensure the proper functioning of electronic locking mechanisms.

(d) MINIMUM TRAINING REQUIREMENTS.—The Superintendent shall ensure that each Coast Guard Academy cadet receives, not later than 1 day after the date of the initial arrival of the cadet at the Coast Guard Academy, an initial training session, and any other training the Superintendent considers necessary, on—

(1) the use of electronic locking mechanisms installed under this section; and

(2) the policy promulgated under subsection (c).

SEC. 5174. COAST GUARD ACADEMY STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD AND ACCESS TO TIMELY AND INDEPENDENT WELLNESS SUPPORT SERVICES FOR CADETS AND CANDIDATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of Chapter 19 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 1907. Coast Guard Academy Student and Women Advisory Board

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Commandant shall establish within the Coast Guard Academy an advisory board to be known as the 'Coast Guard Academy Student and Women Advisory Board' (in this section referred to as the 'Advisory Board').

''(b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Advisory Board shall be composed of not fewer than 12 cadets of the Coast Guard Academy who are enrolled at the Coast Guard Academy at the time of appointment, including not fewer than 3 cadets from each class.

''(c) APPOINTMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Cadets shall be appointed to the Advisory Board by the Provost, in consultation with the Superintendent of the Coast Guard Academy.

''(2) APPLICATION.—Cadets who are eligible for appointment to the Advisory Board shall submit an application for appointment to the Provost of the Coast Guard Academy, or a designee of the Provost, for consideration.

''(d) SELECTION.—The Provost shall select eligible applicants who—

''(1) are best suited to fulfill the duties described in subsection (g); and

''(2) best represent the student body makeup at the Coast Guard Academy.

''(e) TERM.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Appointments shall be made not later than 60 days after the date of the swearing in of a new class of cadets at the Coast Guard Academy.

''(2) TERM.—The term of membership of a cadet on the Advisory Board shall be 1 academic year.

''(f) MEETINGS.—The Advisory Board shall meet in person with the Superintendent not less frequently than twice each academic year to discuss the activities of the Advisory Board.

''(g) DUTIES.—The Advisory Board shall—

''(1) identify challenges facing Coast Guard Academy cadets, including cadets who are women, relating to—

''(A) health and wellbeing;

''(B) cadet perspectives and information with respect to sexual assault, sexual harassment and sexual violence prevention, response, and recovery at the Coast Guard Academy;

''(C) the culture of, and leadership development and access to health care for, cadets at the Academy who are women; and

''(D) any other matter the Advisory Board considers important;

''(2) discuss and propose possible solutions to such challenges, including improvements to leadership development at the Coast Guard Academy; and

''(3) periodically review the efficacy of Coast Guard Academy academic, wellness, and other relevant programs and provide recommendations to the Commandant for improvement of such programs.

''(h) WORKING GROUPS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory Board shall establish 2 working groups of which—

''(A) 1 working group shall be composed, at least in part, of Coast Guard Academy cadets who are not current members of the Advisory Board and members of the Cadets Against Sexual Assault, or any similar successor organization, to assist the Advisory Board in carrying out its duties under subsection (g)(1)(B); and

''(B) 1 working group shall be composed, at least in part, of Coast Guard Academy cadets who are not current members of the Advisory Board to assist the Advisory Board in carrying out its duties under subsection (g)(1)(C).

''(2) OTHER WORKING GROUPS.—The Advisory Board may establish such other working groups (which may be composed, at least in part, of Coast Guard Academy cadets who are not current members of the Advisory Board) as the Advisory Board finds to be necessary to carry out the Board's duties other than the duties in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of subsection (g)(1).

''(i) REPORTING.—

''(1) COMMANDANT AND SUPERINTENDENT.—The Advisory Board shall regularly submit a report or provide a briefing to the Commandant and the Superintendent on the results of the activities carried out in furtherance of the duties of the Advisory Board under subsection (g), including recommendations for actions to be taken based on such results, not less than once per academic semester.

''(2) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Advisory Board shall transmit to the Commandant, through the Provost and the Superintendent an annual report at the conclusion of the academic year, containing the information and materials that were presented to the Commandant or Superintendent, or both, during the regularly occurring briefings under paragraph (1).

''(3) CONGRESS.—The Commandant shall provide to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives any report or other materials provided to the Commandant and Superintendent under paragraph (1) and any other information related to the Advisory requested by the Committees.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 19 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1906 the following:

''1907. Coast Guard Academy Student and Women Advisory Board.''.

SEC. 5175. REPORT ON EXISTING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS SUPPORT SERVICES FACILITIES AT COAST GUARD ACADEMY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant, shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on existing behavioral health and wellness support services facilities at the Coast Guard Academy in which Coast Guard Academy cadets and officer candidates, respectively, may receive timely and independent behavioral health and wellness support services, including via telemedicine.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include—

(1) an identification of each building at the Coast Guard Academy that contains a dormitory or other overnight accommodations for cadets or officer candidates; and

(2)(A) an identification of additional behavioral health or wellness support services that would be beneficial to cadets and officer candidates, such as additional facilities with secure access to telemedicine;

(B) a description of the benefits that such services would provide to cadets and officer candidates, particularly to cadets and officer candidates who have experienced sexual assault or sexual harassment; and

(C) a description of the resources necessary to provide such services.

SEC. 5176. REQUIRED POSTING OF INFORMATION.

The Commandant shall ensure that, in each building at the Coast Guard Academy that contains a dormitory or other overnight accommodations for cadets or officer candidates, written information is posted in a visible location with respect to—

(1) the methods and means by which a cadet or officer candidate may report a crime, including harassment, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and any other offense;

(2) the contact information for the Coast Guard Investigative Service;

(3) external resources for—

(A) wellness support;

(B) work-life;

(C) medical services; and

(D) support relating to behavioral health, civil rights, sexual assault, and sexual harassment; and

(4) cadet and officer candidate rights with respect to reporting incidents to the Coast Guard Investigative Service, civilian authorities, the Office of the Inspector General of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, and any other applicable entity.

SEC. 5177. INSTALLATION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS ROOMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall install or construct at the Coast Guard Academy 2 rooms to be used for the purpose of supporting cadet and officer candidate behavioral health and wellness.

(b) STANDARDS OF ROOMS.—Each room installed or constructed under this section—

(1) shall be—

(A) equipped—

(i) in a manner that ensures the protection of the privacy of cadets and officer candidates, consistent with law and policy;

(ii) with a telephone and computer to allow for the provision of behavioral health and wellness support or other services; and

(iii) with an accessible and private wireless internet connection for the use of personal communications devices at the discretion of the cadet or officer candidate concerned; and

(B) to the extent practicable and consistent with good order and discipline, accessible to cadets and officer candidates at all times; and

(2) shall contain the written information described in section 5176, which shall be posted in a visible location.

SEC. 5178. COAST GUARD ACADEMY ROOM REASSIGNMENT.

Section 1902 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) ROOM REASSIGNMENT.—Coast Guard Academy cadets may request room reassignment if experiencing discomfort due to Coast Guard Academy rooming assignments, consistent with policy.''.

SEC. 5179. AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF COAST GUARD ACADEMY FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT BY COVERED FOUNDATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 19 of title 14, United States Code, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 1908. Authorization for use of Coast Guard Academy facilities and equipment by covered foundations

''(a) AUTHORITY.—Subject to subsections (b) and (c), the Secretary, with the concurrence of the Superintendent of the Coast Guard Academy, may authorize a covered foundation to use, on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis as determined by the Secretary, facilities or equipment of the Coast Guard Academy.

''(b) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary may not authorize any use of facilities or equipment under subsection (a) if such use may jeopardize the health, safety, or well-being of any member of the Coast Guard or cadet of the Coast Guard Academy.

''(c) LIMITATIONS.—The Secretary may only authorize the use of facilities or equipment under subsection (a) if such use—

''(1) is without any liability of the United States to the covered foundation;

''(2) does not—

''(A) affect the ability of any official or employee of the Coast Guard, or any member of the armed forces, to carry out any responsibility or duty in a fair and objective manner;

''(B) compromise the integrity or appearance of integrity of any program of the Coast Guard, or any individual involved in any such program; or

''(C) include the participation of any cadet of the Coast Guard Academy at an event of the covered foundation, other than participation of such a cadet in an honor guard;

''(3) complies with any applicable ethics regulation; and

''(4) has been reviewed and approved by an attorney of the Coast Guard.

''(d) ISSUANCE OF POLICIES.—The Secretary shall issue Coast Guard policies to carry out this section.

''(e) BRIEFING.—For any fiscal year in which the Secretary exercises the authority under subsection (a), not later than the last day of such fiscal year, the Commandant shall provide a briefing to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives on the number of events or activities of a covered foundation supported by such exercise of authority during the fiscal year.

''(f) COVERED FOUNDATION DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'covered foundation' means an organization that—

''(1) is a charitable, educational, or civic nonprofit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

''(2) the Secretary determines operates exclusively to support—

''(A) recruiting activities with respect to the Coast Guard Academy;

''(B) parent or alumni development in support of the Coast Guard Academy;

''(C) academic, leadership, or character development of Coast Guard Academy cadets;

''(D) institutional development of the Coast Guard Academy; or

''(E) athletics in support of the Coast Guard Academy.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 19 of title 14, United States Code, is further amended by inserting after the item relating to item 1907 the following:

''1908. Authorization for use of Coast Guard Academy facilities and equipment by covered foundations.''.

SEC. 5180. CONCURRENT JURISDICTION AT COAST GUARD ACADEMY.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may establish concurrent jurisdiction between the Federal Government and the State of Connecticut over the lands constituting the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut, as necessary to facilitate the ability of the State of Connecticut and City of New London to investigate and prosecute any crimes cognizable under Connecticut law that are committed on such Coast Guard Academy property.

Subtitle F—Reports

SEC. 5181. MARITIME DOMAIN AWARENESS IN COAST GUARD SECTOR FOR PUERTO RICO AND VIRGIN ISLANDS.

Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report containing—

(1) an overview of the maritime domain awareness in the area of responsibility of the Coast Guard sector responsible for Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands, including—

(A) the average volume of known maritime traffic that transited the area during fiscal years 2020 through 2023;

(B) current sensor platforms deployed by such sector to monitor illicit activity occurring at sea in such area;

(C) the number of illicit activity incidents at sea in such area that the sector responded to during fiscal years 2020 through 2023;

(D) an estimate of the volume of traffic engaged in illicit activity at sea in such area and the type and description of any vessels used to carry out illicit activities that such sector responded to during fiscal years 2020 through 2023; and

(E) the maritime domain awareness requirements to effectively meet the mission of such sector;

(2) a description of current actions taken by the Coast Guard to partner with Federal, regional, State, and local entities to meet the maritime domain awareness needs of such area;

(3) a description of any gaps in maritime domain awareness within the area of responsibility of such sector resulting from an inability to meet the enduring maritime domain awareness requirements of the sector or adequately respond to maritime disorder;

(4) an identification of current technology and assets the Coast Guard has to mitigate the gaps identified in paragraph (3);

(5) an identification of capabilities needed to mitigate such gaps, including any capabilities the Coast Guard currently possesses that can be deployed to the sector;

(6) an identification of technology and assets the Coast Guard does not currently possess and are needed to acquire in order to address such gaps; and

(7) an identification of any financial obstacles that prevent the Coast Guard from deploying existing commercially available sensor technology to address such gaps.

SEC. 5182. REPORT ON CONDITION OF MISSOURI RIVER DAYBOARDS.

(a) PROVISION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the condition of dayboards and the placement of buoys on the Missouri River.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report under paragraph (1) shall include—

(1) a list of the most recent date on which each dayboard and buoy was serviced by the Coast Guard;

(2) an overview of the plan of the Coast Guard to systematically service each dayboard and buoy on the Missouri River; and

(3) assigned points of contact.

(c) LIMITATION.—Beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant may not remove the aids to navigation covered in subsection (a), unless there is an imminent threat to life or safety, until a period of 180 days has elapsed following the date on which the Commandant submits the report required under subsection (a).

SEC. 5183. STUDY ON COAST GUARD MISSIONS.

(a) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall seek to enter into an agreement with a federally funded research and development center with relevant expertise under which such center shall conduct an assessment of the operational capabilities and ability of the Coast Guard to conduct the primary duties of the Coast Guard under section 102 of title 14, United States Code, and missions under section 888 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 468).

(2) ELEMENTS.—In carrying out the assessment required under paragraph (1), the federally funded research and development center selected under such subsection shall, with respect to the primary duties and missions described in paragraph (1), include the following:

(A) An analysis of the extent to which the Coast Guard is able to effectively carry out such duties and missions.

(B) An analysis of any budgetary, policy, and manpower factors that may constrain the Coast Guard's ability to carry out such duties and missions,

(C) An analysis of the impacts to safety, national security, and the economy, of any shortfalls in the Coast Guards ability to meet such missions.

(D) Recommendations for the Coast Guard to more effectively carry out such duties and missions, in light of manpower and asset constraints.

(E) Identification of any duties and missions that are being conducted by the Coast Guard on behalf of other Department of Homeland Security components, the Department of Defense, and other Federal agencies.

(F) An analysis of the benefits and drawbacks of the Coast Guard conducting missions on behalf of other agencies identified in subparagraph (E), including—

(i) the budgetary impact of the duties and missions identified in such subparagraph;

(ii) data on the degree to which the Coast Guard is reimbursed for the costs of such missions; and

(iii) recommendations to minimize the impact of the missions identified in such subparagraph to the Coast Guard budget, including improving reimbursements and budget autonomy of the Coast Guard.

(b) ASSESSMENT TO COMMANDANT.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which Commandant enters into an agreement under section (a), the federally funded research and development center selected under such subsection shall submit to the Commandant, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of

Representatives, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate the assessment required under subsection (a).

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after receipt of the assessment under subsection (b), the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that includes recommendations included in the assessment to strengthen the ability of the Coast Guard to carry out such duties and missions.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) The assessment received by the Commandant under subsection (b).

(B) For each recommendation included in the such assessment—

(i) an assessment by the Commandant of the feasibility and advisability of implementing such recommendation; and

(ii) if the Commandant considers the implementation of such recommendation feasible and advisable, a description of the actions taken, or to be taken, to implement such recommendation.

SEC. 5184. ANNUAL REPORT ON PROGRESS OF CERTAIN HOMEPORTING PROJECTS.

(a) INITIAL REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall issue a report detailing the progress of all approved Coast Guard cutter homeporting projects within Coast Guard District 17 with respect to each of the following:

(A) Fast Response Cutters.

(B) Offshore Patrol Cutters.

(C) The commercially available polar icebreaker procured pursuant to section 11223 of Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 (14 U.S.C. 561 note).

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include, with respect to each homeporting project described in such paragraph, the following:

(A) A description of—

(i) the status of funds appropriated for the project;

(ii) activities carried out toward completion of the project; and

(iii) activities anticipated to be carried out during the subsequent 1-year period to advance completion of the project.

(B) An updated timeline, including key milestones, for the project.

(b) SUBSEQUENT REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than July 1 of the first calendar year after the year in which the report required under subsection (a) is submitted, and each July 1 thereafter until the date specified in paragraph (2), the Commandant shall issue an updated report containing, with respect to each Coast Guard cutter homeporting project described in subsection (a)(1) (including any such project approved on a date after the date of the enactment of this Act and before the submission of the applicable report), each element described in subsection (a)(2).

(2) DATE SPECIFIED.—The date specified in this paragraph is the earlier of—

(A) July 2, 2031; or

(B) the date on which all projects described in subsection (a)(1) are completed.

(c) REPORT ON CAPACITY OF COAST GUARD BASE KETCHIKAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall complete a report detailing the cost of and time frame for expanding the industrial capacity of Coast Guard Base Ketchikan to do out of water repairs on Fast Response Cutters.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate the report required under paragraph (1).

(d) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Commandant shall publish each report issued under this section on a publicly accessible website of the Coast Guard.

(e) HOMEPORTING PROJECT DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''homeporting project''—

(1) means the facility infrastructure modifications, upgrades, new construction, and real property and land acquisition associated with homeporting new or modified cutters; and

(2) includes shoreside and waterfront facilities, cutter maintenance facilities, housing, child development facilities, and any other associated infrastructure directly required as a result of homeporting new or modified cutters.

SEC. 5185. REPORT ON BAY CLASS ICEBREAKING TUG FLEET REPLACEMENT.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives—

(1) a report that describes the strategy of the Coast Guard with respect to the replacement of the Bay class icebreaking tug fleet;

(2) in the case of such a strategy that results in the replacement of the last Bay class icebreaking tug on a date that is more than 15 years after such date of enactment, a plan to maintain the operational capabilities of the Bay class icebreaking tug fleet until the date on which such fleet is projected to be replaced; and

(3) in the case of such a plan that does not include the replacement of the main propulsion engines and marine gear components of the Bay class icebreaking tug fleet, an assessment of the manner in which not replacing such engines and gear components will effect the future operational availability of such fleet.

SEC. 5186. FEASIBILITY STUDY ON SUPPORTING ADDITIONAL PORT VISITS AND DEPLOYMENTS IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION BLUE PACIFIC.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating when not operating as a service in the Navy, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall—

(1) complete a study on the feasibility and advisability of supporting additional Coast Guard port visits and deployments in support of Operation Blue Pacific, or any successor operation oriented toward Oceania; and

(2) submit to the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the findings of such study.

SEC. 5187. STUDY AND GAP ANALYSIS WITH RESPECT TO COAST GUARD AIR STATION CORPUS CHRISTI AVIATION HANGAR.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall commence a study and gap analysis with respect to the aviation hangar at Coast Guard Air Station Corpus Christi and the capacity of such hangar to accommodate the aircraft currently assigned to Coast Guard Air Station Corpus Christi and any aircraft anticipated to be so assigned in the future.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The study and gap analysis required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An identification of hangar infrastructure requirements needed—

(A) to meet mission requirements for all aircraft currently assigned to Coast Guard Air Station Corpus Christi; and

(B) to accommodate the assignment of an additional HC–144 Ocean Sentry aircraft to Coast Guard Air Station Corpus Christi.

(2) An assessment as to whether the aviation hangar at Coast Guard Air Station Corpus Christi is sufficient to accommodate all rotary-wing assets assigned to Coast Guard Air Station Corpus Christi.

(3) In the case of an assessment that such hangar is insufficient to accommodate all such rotary-wing assets, a description of the facility modifications that would be required to do so.

(4) An assessment of the facility modifications of such hangar that would be required to accommodate all aircraft assigned to Coast Guard Air Station Corpus Christi upon completion of the transition from the MH–65 rotary-wing aircraft to the MH–60T rotary-wing aircraft.

(5) An evaluation with respect to which fixed-wing assets assigned to Coast Guard Air Station Corpus Christi should be enclosed in such hangar so as to most effectively mitigate the effects of corrosion while meeting mission requirements.

(6) An evaluation as to whether, and to what extent, the storage of fixed-wing assets outside such hangar would compromise the material condition and safety of such assets.

(7) An evaluation of the extent to which any material condition and safety issue identified under paragraph (6) may be mitigated through the use of gust locks, chocks, tiedowns, or related equipment.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the commencement of the study and gap analysis required under subsection (a), the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the results of the study and gap analysis.

SEC. 5188. REPORT ON IMPACTS OF JOINT TRAVEL REGULATIONS ON MEMBERS OF COAST GUARD WHO RELY ON FERRY SYSTEMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant, in coordination with the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the impacts of the Joint Travel Regulations on members of the Coast Guard who are commuting, on permanent change of station travel, or on other official travel to or from locations served by ferry systems.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include an analysis of the impacts on such members of the Coast Guard of the following policies under the Joint Travel Regulations:

(1) The one-vehicle shipping policy.

(2) The unavailability of reimbursement of costs incurred by such members due to ferry schedule unavailability, sailing cancellations, and other sailing delays during commuting, permanent change of station travel, or other official travel.

(3) The unavailability of local infrastructure to support vehicles or goods shipped to duty stations in locations outside the contiguous United States that are not connected by the road system, including locations served by the Alaska Marine Highway System.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

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

(B) the Committee on Armed Services and the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

(2) JOINT TRAVEL REGULATIONS.—The term ''Joint Travel Regulations'', with respect to official travel, means the terms, rates, conditions, and regulations maintained under section 464 of title 37, United States Code.

SEC. 5189. REPORT ON JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A description of the standards and criteria prescribed by the Coast Guard for educational institution participation in the Coast Guard Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program.

(2) With respect to each educational institution offering a Coast Guard Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program—

(A) a description of—

(i) the training and course of military instruction provided to students;

(ii) the facilities and drill areas used for the program;

(iii) the type and amount of Coast Guard Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program resources provided by the Coast Guard;

(iv) the type and amount of Coast Guard Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program resources provided by the educational institution; and

(v) any other matter relating to program requirements the Commandant considers appropriate;

(B) an assessment as to whether the educational institution is located in an educationally and economically deprived area (as described in section 2031 of title 10, United States Code);

(C) beginning with the year in which the program was established at the educational institution, the number of students who have participated in the program, disaggregated by gender, race, and grade of student participants; and

(D) an assessment of the participants in the program, including—

(i) the performance of the participants in the program;

(ii) the number of participants in the program who express an intent to pursue a commission or enlistment in the Coast Guard; and

(iii) a description of any other factor or matter considered by the Commandant to be important in assessing the success of program participants at the educational institution.

(3) With respect to any unit of the Coast Guard Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps suspended or placed on probation pursuant to section 2031(h) of title 10, United States Code—

(A) a description of the unit;

(B) the reason for such suspension or placement on probation;

(C) the year the unit was so suspended or placed on probation; and

(D) with respect to any unit that was reinstated after previously being suspended or placed on probation, a justification for the reinstatement of such unit.

(4) A description of the resources and personnel required to maintain, implement, and provide oversight for the Coast Guard Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program at each participating educational institution and within the Coast Guard, including the funding provided to each such educational institution, disaggregated by educational institution and year.

(5) A recommendation with respect to—

(A) whether the number of educational institutions participating in the Coast Guard Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program should be increased; and

(B) in the case of a recommendation that such number should be increased, additional recommendations relating to such an increase, including—

(i) the number of additional educational institutions that should be included in the program;

(ii) the locations of such institutions;

(iii) any additional authorities or resources necessary for such an increase; and

(iv) any other matter the Commandant considers appropriate.

(6) Any other matter the Commandant considers necessary in order to provide a full assessment of the effectiveness of the Coast Guard Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program.

SEC. 5190. REPORT ON AND EXPANSION OF COAST GUARD JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS PROGRAM.

(a) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the status of the Coast Guard Junior Reserve Officers' Training Program.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A review and timeline of Coast Guard outreach efforts in Coast Guard districts that do not have a Coast Guard Junior Reserve Officers' Training Program.

(B) A review and timeline of Coast Guard outreach efforts in Coast Guard districts in which there are multiple Coast Guard Junior Reserve Officers' Training Programs.

(C) Policy recommendations regarding future expansion of the Coast Guard Junior Reserve Officers' Training Program.

(b) EXPANSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on December 31, 2026, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall maintain at all times a Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps Program with not fewer than 20 such programs.

(2) COST ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall provide Congress with an estimate of the costs associated with implementing this subsection.

TITLE LII—SHIPPING AND NAVIGATION

Subtitle A—Merchant Mariner Credentials

SEC. 5201. MERCHANT MARINER CREDENTIALING.

(a) REVISING MERCHANT MARINER DECK TRAINING REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) GENERAL DEFINITIONS.—Section 2101 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (20) through (56) as paragraphs (21), (22), (24), (25), (26), (27), (28), (29), (30), (31), (32), (33), (34), (35), (36), (37), (38), (39), (40), (41), (42), (43), (44), (45), (46), (47), (48), (49), (50), (51), (52), (53), (54), (55), (56), (57), and (58), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (19) the following:

''(20) 'merchant mariner credential' means a merchant mariner license, certificate, or document that the Secretary is authorized to issue pursuant to this title.''; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (22), as so redesignated, the following:

''(23) 'nautical school program' means a program that—

''(A) offers a comprehensive program of training that includes substantial sea service on nautical school vessels or merchant vessels of the United States primarily to train individuals for service in the merchant marine; and

''(B) is approved by the Secretary for purposes of section 7315, in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Secretary.''.

(2) EXAMINATIONS.—Section 7116 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (c).

(3) MERCHANT MARINERS DOCUMENTS.—

(A) GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.—Section 7306 of title 46, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 7306. General requirements and classifications for members of deck departments

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may issue a merchant mariner credential, to members of the deck department in the following classes:

''(1) Able Seaman-Unlimited.

''(2) Able Seaman-Limited.

''(3) Able Seaman-Special.

''(4) Able Seaman-Offshore Supply Vessels.

''(5) Able Seaman-Sail.

''(6) Able Seaman-Fishing Industry.

''(7) Ordinary Seaman.

''(b) CLASSIFICATION OF CREDENTIALS.—The Secretary may classify the merchant mariner credential issued under subsection (a) based on—

''(1) the tonnage and means of propulsion of vessels;

''(2) the waters on which vessels are to be operated; or

''(3) other appropriate standards.

''(c) QUALIFICATIONS.—To qualify for a credential under this section, an applicant shall provide satisfactory proof that the applicant—

''(1) is at least 18 years of age;

''(2) has the service required by the applicable section of this part;

''(3) is qualified professionally as demonstrated by an applicable examination or educational requirements;

''(4) is qualified as to sight, hearing, and physical condition to perform the seafarer's duties; and

''(5) has satisfied any additional requirements established by the Secretary, including career patterns and service appropriate to the particular service, industry, or job functions the individual is engaged.''.

(B) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall implement the requirements under subsection (c) of section 7306 of title 46, United States Code (as amended by this section), without regard to chapters 5 and 6 of title 5, United States Code, and Executive Orders 12866 and 13563 (5 U.S.C. 601 note).

(C) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 73 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 7306 and inserting the following:

''7306. General requirements and classifications for members of deck departments.''.

(b) GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERS OF ENGINE DEPARTMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 7313 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (b) by striking ''and coal passer''; and

(B) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

''(c) CLASSIFICATION OF CREDENTIALS.—The Secretary may classify the merchant mariner credential issued under subsection (a) based on—

''(1) the tonnage and means of propulsion of vessels;

''(2) the waters on which vessels are to be operated; or

''(3) other appropriate standards.

''(d) QUALIFICATIONS.—To qualify for an credential under this section, an applicant shall provide satisfactory proof that the applicant—

''(1) is at least 18 years of age;

''(2) has a minimum of 6-months service in the related entry rating;

''(3) is qualified professionally as demonstrated by an applicable examination or educational requirements; and

''(4) is qualified as to sight, hearing, and physical condition to perform the member's duties.''.

(2) REPEAL.—Section 7314 of title 46, United States Code, and the item relating to such section in the analysis for chapter 73 of such title, are repealed.

(c) TRAINING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 7315 of title 46, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 7315. Training

''(a) NAUTICAL SCHOOL PROGRAM.—Graduation from a nautical school program may be substituted for the sea service requirements under sections 7307 through 7311a and 7313 of this title.

''(b) OTHER APPROVED TRAINING PROGRAMS.—The satisfactory completion of a training program approved by the Secretary may be substituted for not more than one-half of the sea service requirements under sections 7307 through 7311a and 7313 of this title in accordance with subsection (c).

''(c) TRAINING DAYS.—For purposes of subsection (b), training days undertaken in connection with training programs approved by the Secretary may be substituted for days of required sea service under sections 7307 through 7311a and 7313 of this title as follows:

''(1) Each shore-based training day in the form of classroom lectures may be substituted for 2 days of sea service requirements.

''(2) Each training day of laboratory training, practical demonstrations, and other similar training, may be substituted for 4 days of sea service requirements.

''(3) Each training day of full mission simulator training may be substituted for 6 days of sea service requirements.

''(4) Each training day underway on a vessel while enrolled in an approved training program may be substituted for 1½ days of sea service requirements, as long as—

''(A) the structured training provided while underway on a vessel is—

''(i) acceptable to the Secretary as part of the approved training program; and

''(ii) fully completed by the individual; and

''(B) the tonnage of such vessel is appropriate to the endorsement being sought.

''(d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term 'training day' means a day that consists of not less than 7 hours of training.''.

(2) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall implement the requirements of section 7315 of title 46, United States Code, as amended by this subsection, without regard to chapters 5 and 6 of title 5, United States Code, and Executive Orders 12866 and 13563 (5 U.S.C. 601 note) and 14094 (88 Fed. Reg. 21879).

(3) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) TITLE 46.—Title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(i) in section 2113(3) by striking ''section 2101(53)(A)'' and inserting ''section 2101(55)(A)'';

(ii) in section 3202(a)(1)(A) by striking ''section 2101(29)(A)'' and inserting ''section 2101(31)(A)'';

(iii) in section 3507(k)(1) by striking ''section 2101(31)'' and inserting ''section 2101(33)'';

(iv) in section 4105(d) by striking ''section 2101(53)(A)'' and inserting ''section 2101(55)(A)'';

(v) in section 12119(a)(3) by striking ''section 2101(26)'' and inserting ''section 2101(28)''; and

(vi) in section 51706(c)(6)(C)(ii) by striking ''section 2101(24)'' and inserting ''section 2101(26)''.

(B) OTHER LAWS.—

(i) Section 3(3) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1802(3)) is amended by striking ''2101(30) of title 46'' and inserting ''2101 of title 46''.

(ii) Section 1992(d)(7) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking ''section 2101(31) of title 46'' and inserting ''section 2101 of title 46''.

(iii) Section 311(a)(26)(D) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1321(a)(26)(D)) is amended by striking ''section 2101(23)'' and inserting ''section 2101''.

(iv) Section 1101 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''Section 2101(23)'' and inserting ''Section 2101(24)''.

(d) AMENDMENTS.—

(1) MERCHANT MARINER CREDENTIALS.—The heading for part E of subtitle II of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking ''**MERCHANT SEAMEN LICENSES, CERTIFICATES, AND DOCUMENTS**'' and inserting ''**MERCHANT MARINER CREDENTIALS**''.

(2) ABLE SEAFARERS—UNLIMITED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The section heading for section 7307 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking ''**seamen**'' and inserting ''**seafarers**''.

(B) REDUCTION OF LENGTH OF CERTAIN PERIOD OF SERVICE.—Section 7307 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking ''3 years'' and inserting ''18 months''.

(C) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 73 of title 46, United States Code, is further amended in the item relating to section 7307 by striking ''seamen'' and inserting ''seafarers''.

(3) ABLE SEAMEN—LIMITED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The section heading for section 7308 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking ''**seamen**'' and inserting ''**seafarers**''.

(B) REDUCTION OF LENGTH OF CERTAIN PERIOD OF SERVICE.—Section 7308 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking ''18 months'' and inserting ''12 months''.

(C) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 73 of title 46, United States Code, is further amended in the item relating to section 7308 by striking ''seamen'' and inserting ''seafarers''.

(4) ABLE SEAFARERS—SPECIAL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The section heading for section 7309 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking ''**seamen**'' and inserting ''**seafarers**''.

(B) REDUCTION OF LENGTH OF CERTAIN PERIOD OF SERVICE.—Section 7309 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking ''12 months'' and inserting ''6 months''.

(C) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 73 of title 46, United States Code, is further amended in the item relating to section 7309 by striking ''seamen'' and inserting ''seafarers''.

(5) ABLE SEAFARERS—OFFSHORE SUPPLY VESSELS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The section heading for section 7310 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking ''**seamen**'' and inserting ''**seafarers**''.

(B) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 73 of title 46, United States Code, is further amended in the item relating to section 7310 by striking ''seamen'' and inserting ''seafarers''.

(6) ABLE SEAFARERS—SAIL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The section heading for section 7311 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking ''**seamen**'' and inserting ''**seafarers**''.

(B) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 73 of title 46, United States Code, is further amended in the item relating to section 7311 by striking ''seamen'' and inserting ''seafarers''.

(7) ABLE SEAMEN—FISHING INDUSTRY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The section heading for section 7311a of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking ''**seamen**'' and inserting ''**seafarers**''.

(B) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 73 of title 46, United States Code, is further amended in the item relating to section 7311a by striking ''seamen'' and inserting ''seafarers''.

(8) PARTS E AND F.—Parts E and F of subtitle II of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking ''seaman'' and inserting ''seafarer'' each place it appears; and

(B) by striking ''seamen'' and inserting ''seafarers'' each place it appears.

(9) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The analysis for subtitle II of title 46, United States Code, is amended in the item relating to part E by striking ''**MERCHANT SEAMEN LICENSES, CERTIFICATES, AND DOCUMENTS**'' and inserting ''**MERCHANT MARINER CREDENTIALS**''.

(10) TEMPORARY REDUCTION OF LENGTHS OF CERTAIN PERIODS OF SERVICE.—Section 3534(j) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118–31) is repealed.

(11) MERCHANT MARINER CREDENTIALS.—Section 7510 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (d).

(e) RENEWAL OF MERCHANT MARINER LICENSES AND DOCUMENTS.—Section 7507 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(d) RENEWAL.—With respect to any renewal of an active merchant mariner credential issued under this part that is not an extension under subsection (a) or (b), such credential shall begin the day after the expiration of the active credential of the credential holder.''.

(f) MERCHANT SEAMEN LICENSES, CERTIFICATES, AND DOCUMENTS; MANNING OF VESSELS.—

(1) CITIZENSHIP OR NONCITIZEN NATIONALITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 7102 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(i) in the section heading by inserting ''**or noncitizen nationality**'' after ''**Citizenship**''; and

(ii) by inserting ''or noncitizen nationals (as such term is described in section 308 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1408))'' after ''citizens''.

(B) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 71 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 7102 and inserting the following:

''7102. Citizenship or noncitizen nationality.''.

(2) CITIZENSHIP OR NONCITIZEN NATIONALITY NOTATION ON MERCHANT MARINERS' DOCUMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 7304 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(i) in the section heading by inserting ''**or noncitizen nationality**'' after ''**Citizenship**''; and

(ii) by inserting ''or noncitizen national (as such term is described in section 308 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1408))'' after ''citizen''.

(B) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 73 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 7304 and inserting the following:

''7304. Citizenship or noncitizen nationality notation on merchant mariners' documents.''.

(3) CITIZENSHIP OR NONCITIZEN NATIONALITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 8103 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(i) in the section heading by inserting ''**or noncitizen nationality**'' after ''**Citizenship**'';

(ii) in subsection (a) by inserting ''or noncitizen national'' after ''citizen'';

(iii) in subsection (b)—

(I) in paragraph (1)(A)(i) by inserting ''or noncitizen national'' after ''citizen'';

(II) in paragraph (3) by inserting ''or noncitizen nationality'' after ''citizenship''; and

(III) in paragraph (3)(C) by inserting ''or noncitizen nationals'' after ''citizens'';

(iv) in subsection (c) by inserting ''or noncitizen nationals'' after ''citizens'';

(v) in subsection (d)—

(I) in paragraph (1) by inserting ''or noncitizen nationals'' after ''citizens''; and

(II) in paragraph (2) by inserting ''or noncitizen national'' after ''citizen'' each place it appears;

(vi) in subsection (e) by inserting ''or noncitizen national'' after ''citizen'' each place it appears;

(vii) in subsection (i)(1)(A) by inserting ''or noncitizen national'' after ''citizen'';

(viii) in subsection (k)(1)(A) by inserting ''or noncitizen national'' after ''citizen''; and

(ix) by adding at the end the following:

''(l) NONCITIZEN NATIONAL DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'noncitizen national' means an individual described in section 308 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1408).''.

(B) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 81 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 8103 and inserting the following:

''8103. Citizenship or noncitizen nationality and Navy Reserve requirements.''.

(4) COMMAND OF DOCUMENTED VESSELS.—Section 12131(a) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''or noncitizen national (as such term is described in section 308 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1408))'' after ''citizen''.

(5) INVALIDATION OF CERTIFICATES OF DOCUMENTATION.—Section 12135(2) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''or noncitizen national (as such term is described in section 308 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1408))'' after ''citizen''.

SEC. 5202. NONOPERATING INDIVIDUAL.

Section 8313(b) of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116–283) is amended by striking ''2025'' and inserting ''2027''.

SEC. 5203. MERCHANT MARINER LICENSING AND DOCUMENTATION SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 75 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 7512. Requirements of electronic merchant mariner credentialing system

''(a) DEFINITION OF MERCHANT MARINER CREDENTIAL.—In this section, the term 'merchant mariner credential' means a merchant mariner license, certificate, or document that the Secretary is authorized to issue pursuant to this title.

''(b) NECESSARY CONSIDERATIONS.—In implementing any electronic merchant mariner credentialing system for purposes of this chapter, the Secretary shall consider how to allow, to the maximum extent practicable—

''(1) the electronic submission of the components of merchant mariner credential applications (such as sea service documentation, professional qualifications, course completion certificates, safety and suitability documents, and medical records) and course approval requests;

''(2) the direct electronic and secure submission of—

''(A) sea service verification documentation from employers;

''(B) course completion certificates from training providers; and

''(C) necessary documentation from other stakeholders; and

''(3) the electronic processing and evaluation of information for the issuance of merchant mariner credentials and course approvals, including the capability for the Secretary to complete remote evaluation of information submitted through the system.

''(c) ACCESS TO DATA.—The Secretary shall ensure that the Maritime Administration and other Federal agencies, as authorized by the Secretary, have access to anonymized and aggregated data from the electronic system described in subsection (b) and that such data include, at a minimum—

''(1) the total amount of sea service for individuals with a valid merchant mariner credential;

''(2) the number of mariners with valid merchant mariner credentials for each rating, including the capability to filter data based on credential endorsements;

''(3) demographic information including age, gender, and region or address;

''(4) the estimated times for the Coast Guard to process merchant mariner credential applications, mariner medical certificates, and course approvals;

''(5) the number of providers approved to provide training for purposes of this part and, for each such training provider, the number of classes taken by individuals with, or applying for, a merchant mariner credential; and

''(6) if applicable, the branch of the uniformed services (as defined in section 101(a) of title 10) and duty status of applicants for a merchant mariner credential.

''(d) PRIVACY REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall collect the information required under subsection (b) in a manner that protects the privacy rights of individuals who are the subjects of such information.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 75 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''7512. Requirements of electronic merchant mariner credentialing system.''.

Subtitle B—Vessel Safety

SEC. 5211. GROSSLY NEGLIGENT OPERATIONS OF A VESSEL.

Section 2302(b) of title 46, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(b) GROSSLY NEGLIGENT OPERATION.—

''(1) MISDEMEANOR.—A person operating a vessel in a grossly negligent manner that endangers the life, limb, or property of a person commits a class A misdemeanor.

''(2) FELONY.—A person operating a vessel in a grossly negligent manner that results in serious bodily injury, as defined in section 1365(h)(3) of title 18—

''(A) commits a class E felony; and

''(B) may be assessed a civil penalty of not more than $35,000.''.

SEC. 5212. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE FOR SECURITY RISKS.

(a) SECURITY RISK.—Section 7702(d)(1) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B) by redesignating clauses (i) through (iv) as subclauses (I) through (IV), respectively (and by conforming the margins accordingly);

(2) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively (and by conforming the margins accordingly);

(3) by striking ''an individual if—'' and inserting the following: ''an individual—

''(A) if—'';

(4) in subparagraph (A)(ii)(IV), as so redesignated, by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) if there is probable cause to believe that the individual has violated company policy and is a security risk that poses a threat to other individuals on the vessel.''.

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 2101(47)(B) of title 46, United States Code (as so redesignated), is amended by striking ''; and'' and inserting ''; or''.

SEC. 5213. STUDY OF AMPHIBIOUS VESSELS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant shall conduct a study to determine the applicability of current safety regulations that apply to commercial amphibious vessels.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The study required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An overview and analysis that identifies safety regulations that apply to commercial amphibious vessels;

(2) An evaluation of whether safety gaps and risks exist associated with the application of regulations identified in subsection (b)(1) to the operation of commercial amphibious vessels;

(3) An evaluation of whether aspects of the regulations established in section 11502 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (46 U.S.C. 3306 note) should apply to amphibious commercial vessels; and

(4) Recommendations on whether potential regulations that should apply to commercial amphibious vessels.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report containing the findings, conclusions, and recommendations from the study required under subsection (a).

(d) DEFINITION OF AMPHIBIOUS VESSEL.—In this section, the term ''amphibious vessel'' means a vessel which is operating as a small passenger vessel in waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, as defined in section 2.38 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation) and is operating as a motor vehicle as defined in section 216 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7550) that is not a DUKW amphibious passenger vessel as defined in section 11502 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (46 U.S.C. 3306 note).

SEC. 5214. PERFORMANCE DRIVEN EXAMINATION SCHEDULE.

(a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 3714 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1) by striking ''The Secretary'' and inserting ''Except as provided in subsection (c), the Secretary'';

(2) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

''(c) PERFORMANCE-DRIVEN EXAMINATION SCHEDULE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to examinations of foreign vessels to which this chapter applies, and subject to paragraph (3), the Secretary may adopt a performance-driven examination schedule to which such vessels are to be examined and the frequency with which such examinations occur, including the frequency of examinations for each vessel. Such schedule shall be consistent with the Secretary's assessment of the safety performance of such vessels, including each vessel participating in the performance-driven examination schedule, in accordance with paragraph (2).

''(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing an examination schedule under paragraph (1) and subject to paragraph (3), with respect to each vessel in determining eligibility to participate in the performance based examination schedule—

''(A) the Secretary shall consider—

''(i) certificate of compliance and examination history, to include those conducted by foreign countries;

''(ii) history of violations, vessel detentions, incidents, and casualties;

''(iii) history of notices of violation issued by the Coast Guard;

''(iv) safety related information provided by the flag state of the vessel;

''(v) owner and operator history;

''(vi) historical classification society data, which may include relevant surveys;

''(vii) cargo-specific documentation;

''(viii) data from port state control safety exams; and

''(ix) relevant repair and maintenance history; and

''(B) the Secretary may consider—

''(i) data from relevant vessel quality assurance and risk assessment programs including Quality Shipping for the 21st Century (QUALSHIP 21);

''(ii) data from industry inspection regimes;

''(iii) data from vessel self assessments submitted to the International Maritime Organization or other maritime organizations; and

''(iv) other safety relevant data or information as determined by the Secretary.

''(3) ELIGIBILITY.—In developing an examination schedule under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall not consider a vessel eligible to take part in a performance-driven examination schedule under paragraph (1) if, within the last 36 months, the vessel has—

''(A) been detained by the Coast Guard;

''(B) a record of a violation issued by the Coast Guard against the owners or operators with a finding of proved; or

''(C) suffered a marine casualty that, as determined by the Secretary, involves the safe operation of the vessel and overall performance of the vessel.

''(4) RESTRICTIONS.—The Secretary may not adopt a performance-driven examination schedule under paragraph (1) until the Secretary has—

''(A) conducted the assessment recommended in the Government Accountability Office report submitted under section 8254(a) of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116–283);

''(B) concluded through such assessment that a performance-driven examination schedule provides not less than the level of safety provided by the annual examinations required under subsection (a)(1); and

''(C) provided the results of such assessment to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.''.

(b) CAREER INCENTIVE PAY FOR MARINE INSPECTORS.—Subsection (a) of section 11237 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117–263) is amended as follows:

''(a) AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE ASSIGNMENT PAY OR SPECIAL DUTY PAY.—For the purposes of addressing an identified shortage of marine inspectors, the Secretary may provide assignment pay or special duty pay under section 352 of title 37, United States Code, to a member of the Coast Guard serving in a prevention position that—

''(1) is assigned in support of or is serving as a marine inspector pursuant to section 312 of title 14, United States Code; and

''(2) is assigned to a billet that is difficult to fill due to geographic location, requisite experience or certifications, or lack of sufficient candidates, as determined by the Commandant, in an effort to address inspector workforce gaps.''.

(c) BRIEFING.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually for 2 years after the implementation of a performance-driven examination schedule program under section 3714(c) of title 46, United States Code, the Commandant shall brief the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives on—

(1) the status of utilizing the performance-driven examination schedule program, including the quantity of examinations conducted and duration between examinations for each individual vessel examined under the performance-driven examination schedule;

(2) an overview of the size of the Coast Guard marine inspector workforce, including any personnel shortages assessed by the Coast Guard, for inspectors that conduct inspections under section 3714 of such title; and

(3) recommendations for the inspection, governance, or oversight of vessels inspected under section 3714 of such title.

SEC. 5215. PORTS AND WATERWAYS SAFETY.

(a) WATERFRONT SAFETY.—Section 70011(a) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1) by inserting '', including damage or destruction resulting from cyber incidents, transnational organized crime, or foreign state threats'' after ''adjacent to such waters''; and

(2) in paragraph (2) by inserting ''or harm resulting from cyber incidents, transnational organized crime, or foreign state threats'' after ''loss''.

(b) REGULATION OF ANCHORAGE AND MOVEMENT OF VESSELS DURING NATIONAL EMERGENCY.—Section 70051 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''or cyber incidents, or transnational organized crime, or foreign state threats,'' after ''threatened war, or invasion, or insurrection, or subversive activity,''.

(c) FACILITY VISIT BY STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM.—Section 70011(b) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3) by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (4) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) prohibiting a representative of a government of country that the Secretary of State has determined has repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism under section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371) from visiting a facility for which a facility security plan is required under section 70103(c).''.

SEC. 5216. STUDY ON BERING STRAIT VESSEL TRAFFIC PROJECTIONS AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE POSTURE AT PORTS OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation, acting through the United States Committee on the Marine Transportation System, and in coordination with the Commandant, shall—

(1) complete an analysis regarding commercial vessel traffic, at the time of the study, that transits through the Bering Strait and projections for the growth of such traffic over the next decade; and

(2) assess the adequacy of emergency response capabilities and infrastructure at the ports of the United States that are in proximity to the vessel traffic that transits the Bering Strait, including the port facilities at Point Spencer, Alaska, Nome, Alaska, and Kotzebue, Alaska, to—

(A) address future navigation safety risks; and

(B) conduct emergency maritime response operations in the Arctic environment.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The study under this section shall include the following:

(1) An analysis of the volume and types of commercial vessel traffic, including—

(A) oil and gas tankers, cargo vessels, barges, fishing vessels, and cruise lines, both domestic and international;

(B) projected growth of such traffic through the Bering Strait;

(C) the seasonality of vessel transits of the Bering Strait; and

(D) a summation of the sizes, ages, and the country of registration or documentation of such vessels transiting the Arctic, including oil and product tankers either documented in transit to or from Russia or China or owned or operated by a Russian or Chinese entity.

(2) An assessment of the state and adequacy of vessel traffic services and oil spill and emergency response capabilities in the vicinity of the Bering Strait and its southern and northern approaches in the Chukchi Sea and the Bering Sea.

(3) A risk assessment of the projected growth in commercial vessel traffic in the Bering Strait and potential of increased frequency in the number of maritime accidents, including spill events, and the potential impacts to the Arctic maritime environment and Native Alaskan village communities in the vicinity of the vessel traffic in Western Alaska, including the Bering Strait.

(4) An evaluation of the extent to which Point Spencer can serve as a port of refuge and as a staging, logistics, and operations center from which to conduct and support maritime emergency and spill response activities.

(5) Recommendations for practical actions that can be taken by Congress, Federal agencies, the State of Alaska, vessel carriers and operators, the marine salvage and emergency response industry, and other relevant stakeholders to mitigate risks identified in the study carried out under this section.

(c) CONSULTATION.—In the preparation of the study under this section, the United States Committee on the Marine Transportation System shall consult with—

(1) the Maritime Administration;

(2) the Coast Guard;

(3) the Army Corps of Engineers;

(4) the Department of State;

(5) the National Transportation Safety Board;

(6) the Government of Canada, as appropriate;

(7) the Port Coordination Council for the Port of Point Spencer;

(8) State and local governments;

(9) other maritime industry participants, including carriers, shippers, ports, labor, fishing, or other entities; and

(10) nongovernmental entities with relevant expertise monitoring and characterizing vessel traffic or the environment in the Arctic.

(d) TRIBAL CONSULTATION.—In addition to the entities described in subsection (c), in preparing the study under this section, the Secretary of Transportation shall consult with Indian Tribes, including Alaska Native Corporations, and Alaska Native communities.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after initiating the study under this section, the United States Committee on the Marine Transportation System shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the findings and recommendations of the study.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ARCTIC.—The term ''Arctic'' has the meaning given such term in section 112 of the Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984 (15 U.S.C. 4111).

(2) PORT COORDINATION COUNCIL FOR THE PORT OF POINT SPENCER.—The term ''Port Coordination Council for the Port of Point Spencer'' means the Council established under section 541 of Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–120).

SEC. 5217. UNDERWATER INSPECTIONS BRIEF.

Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant, or a designated individual, shall brief the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on the underwater inspection in lieu of drydock program established under section 176.615 of title 46, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act).

SEC. 5218. ST. LUCIE RIVER RAILROAD BRIDGE.

Regarding Docket Number USCG–2022–0222, before adopting a final rule, the Commandant shall conduct an independent boat traffic study at mile 7.4 of the St. Lucie River.

SEC. 5219. AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH SAFETY ZONES FOR SPECIAL ACTIVITIES IN EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE.

(a) SPECIAL ACTIVITIES IN EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE.—Subchapter I of chapter 700 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 70008. Special activities in exclusive economic zone

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may establish safety zones to address special activities in the exclusive economic zone.

''(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) SAFETY ZONE.—The term 'safety zone'—

''(A) means a water area, shore area, or water and shore area to which, for safety or environmental purposes, access is limited to authorized persons, vehicles, or vessels; and

''(B) may be stationary and described by fixed limits or may be described as a zone around a vessel in motion.

''(2) SPECIAL ACTIVITIES.—The term 'special activities' includes—

''(A) space activities, including launch and reentry (as such terms are defined in section 50902 of title 51) carried out by United States citizens; and

''(B) offshore energy development activities, as described in section 8(p)(1)(C) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1337(p)(1)(C)), on or near fixed platforms.

''(3) UNITED STATES CITIZEN.—The term 'United States citizen' has the meaning given the term 'eligible owners' in section 12103.

''(4) FIXED PLATFORM.—The term 'fixed platform' means an artificial island, installation, or structure permanently attached to the sea-bed for the purpose of exploration or exploitation of resources or for other economic purposes.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 700 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 70007 the following:

''70008. Special activities in exclusive economic zone.''.

(c) REPEAL.—Section 8343 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116–283) is repealed.

(d) RETROACTIVE EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) of this section shall take effect as if enacted on February 1, 2024.

SEC. 5220. IMPROVING VESSEL TRAFFIC SERVICE MONITORING.

(a) PROXIMITY OF ANCHORAGES TO PIPELINES.—

(1) IMPLEMENTATION OF RESTRUCTURING PLAN.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall implement the November 2021 proposed plan of the Vessel Traffic Service Los Angeles-Long Beach for restructuring the Federal anchorages in San Pedro Bay described on page 54 of the Report of the National Transportation Safety Board titled ''Anchor Strike of Underwater Pipeline and Eventual Crude Oil Release'' and issued January 2, 2024.

(2) STUDY.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall conduct a study to identify any anchorage grounds other than the San Pedro Bay Federal anchorages in which the distance between the center of an approved anchorage ground and a pipeline is less than 1 mile.

(3) REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the results of the study required under paragraph (2).

(B) CONTENTS.—The report under subparagraph (A) shall include—

(i) a list of the anchorage grounds described under paragraph (2);

(ii) whether it is possible to move each such anchorage ground to provide a minimum distance of 1 mile; and

(iii) a recommendation of whether to move any such anchorage ground and explanation for the recommendation.

(b) PROXIMITY TO PIPELINE ALERTS.—

(1) AUDIBLE AND VISUAL ALARMS.—The Commandant shall consult with the providers of vessel monitoring systems to add to the monitoring systems for vessel traffic services audible and visual alarms that alert the watchstander when an anchored vessel is encroaching on a pipeline.

(2) NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall develop procedures for all vessel traffic services to notify pipeline and utility operators following potential incursions on submerged pipelines within the vessel traffic service area of responsibility.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually for the subsequent 3 years, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the implementation of paragraphs (1) and (2).

SEC. 5221. DESIGNATING PILOTAGE WATERS FOR THE STRAITS OF MACKINAC.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 9302(a)(1)(A) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking ''in waters'' and inserting ''in the Straits of Mackinac and in all other waters''.

(b) DEFINITION OF THE STRAITS OF MACKINAC.—Section 9302 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(g) DEFINITION OF THE STRAITS OF MACKINAC.—In this section, the term 'Straits of Mackinac' includes all of the United States navigable waters bounded by longitudes 84 degrees 20 minutes west and 85 degrees 10 minutes west and latitudes 45 degrees 39 minutes north and 45 degrees 54 minutes north, including Gray's Reef Passage, the South Channel, and Round Island Passage, and approaches thereto.''.

SEC. 5222. RECEIPTS; INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS FOR ICE PATROL SERVICES.

Section 80301(c) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting ''and shall remain available until expended for the purpose of the Coast Guard international ice patrol program under this chapter.''.

SEC. 5223. REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN FISHING VESSELS AND FISH TENDER VESSELS.

(a) EXCEPTIONS TO REGULATIONS FOR TOWING VESSELS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, acting through the relevant Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection, may grant temporary waivers from the towing vessel requirements of chapters 33 and 89 of title 46, United States Code, including the regulations issued under such chapters, for fishing vessels and fish tender vessels.

(2) APPLICATION.—A temporary waiver issued under paragraph (1) shall be issued at the discretion of the relevant Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection, to a fishing vessel or fish tender vessel that—

(A) performs towing operations of net pens, and associated work platforms, to or from aquaculture or hatchery worksites;

(B) is less than 200 gross tons;

(C) does not tow a net pen, or associated work platform, that is carrying cargo or hazardous material, including oil, on board;

(D) is operating shoreward of the Boundary Line in either—

(i) Southeast Alaska; or

(ii) Prince William Sound; and

(E) complies with all applicable laws for its use in the usual purpose for which it is normally and substantially operated, including any applicable inspection requirements under section 3301 of title 46, United States Code, and exemptions under section 3302 of such title.

(3) IMPLEMENTATION.—

(A) REQUEST PROCESS.—The owner or operator of a fishing vessel or fish tender vessel seeking a waiver under paragraph (1) shall submit a request to the relevant Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection.

(B) CONTENTS.—The request submitted under subparagraph (A) shall include—

(i) a description of the intended towing operations;

(ii) the time periods and frequency of the intended towing operations;

(iii) the location of the intended operations;

(iv) a description of the manning of the fishing vessel or fish tender vessel during the intended operations; and

(v) any additional safety, operational, or other relevant information requested by the relevant Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection.

(4) POLICY.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating

may issue policy to facilitate the implementation of this subsection.

(5) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) BOUNDARY LINE.—The term ''Boundary Line'' has the meaning given such term in section 103 of title 46, United States Code.

(B) FISHING VESSEL.—The term ''fishing vessel'' has the meaning given such term in section 2101 of title 46, United States Code.

(C) FISH TENDER VESSEL.—The term ''fish tender vessel'' has the meaning given such term in section 2101 of title 46, United States Code.

(D) OFFICER IN CHARGE, MARINE INSPECTION.—The term ''Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection'' has the meaning given such term in section 3305 of title 46, United States Code.

(E) PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND.—The term ''Prince William Sound'' means all State and Federal waters within Prince William Sound, Alaska, including the approach to Hinchenbrook Entrance out to, and encompassing, Seal Rocks.

(F) SOUTHEAST ALASKA.—The term ''Southeast Alaska'' means the area along the coast of the State of Alaska from latitude 5440'00'' N to 6018'24'' N.

(6) SUNSET.—The authorities under this section shall expire on January 1, 2027.

(b) LOAD LINES.—Section 11325(a) of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117–263; 136 Stat. 4095) is amended by striking ''3'' and inserting ''5''.

Subtitle C—Matters Involving Uncrewed Systems

SEC. 5231. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AUTONOMOUS MARITIME SYSTEMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 151 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 15110. Establishment of National Advisory Committee on Autonomous Maritime Systems

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a National Advisory Committee on Autonomous Maritime Systems (in this section referred to as the 'Committee').

''(b) FUNCTION.—The Committee shall advise the Secretary on matters relating to the regulation and use of Autonomous Systems within the territorial waters of the United States.

''(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall consist of 15 members appointed by the Secretary in accordance with this section and section 15109.

''(2) EXPERTISE.—Each member of the Committee shall have particular expertise, knowledge, and experience in matters relating to the function of the Committee.

''(3) REPRESENTATION.—Each of the following groups shall be represented by at least 1 member on the Committee:

''(A) Marine safety or security entities.

''(B) Vessel design and construction entities.

''(C) Entities engaged in the production or research of uncrewed vehicles, including drones, autonomous or semi-autonomous vehicles, or any other product or service integral to the provision, maintenance, or management of such products or services.

''(D) Port districts, authorities, or terminal operators.

''(E) Vessel operators.

''(F) National labor unions representing merchant mariners.

''(G) Maritime pilots.

''(H) Commercial space transportation operators.

''(I) Academic institutions.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The analysis for chapter 151 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''15110. Establishment of National Advisory Committee on Autonomous Maritime Systems.''.

(c) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall establish the Committee under section 15110 of title 46, United States Code (as added by this section).

SEC. 5232. PILOT PROGRAM FOR GOVERNANCE AND OVERSIGHT OF SMALL UNCREWED MARITIME SYSTEMS.

(a) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the date that is 2 years after such date of enactment, small uncrewed maritime systems owned, operated, or chartered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or that are performing specified oceanographic surveys on behalf of and pursuant to a contract or other written agreement with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, shall not be subject to any vessel inspection, design, operations, navigation, credentialing, or training requirement, law, or regulation, that the Assistant Administrator of the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration determines will harm real-time operational extreme weather oceanographic and atmospheric data collection and predictions.

(b) OTHER AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this section shall limit the authority of the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, acting through the Commandant, if there is an immediate safety or security concern regarding small uncrewed maritime systems.

SEC. 5233. COAST GUARD TRAINING COURSE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the date that is 3 years after such date of enactment, the Commandant, or such other individual or organization as the Commandant considers appropriate, shall develop a training course on small uncrewed maritime systems and offer such training course at least once each year for Coast Guard personnel working with or regulating small uncrewed maritime systems.

(b) COURSE SUBJECT MATTER.—The training course developed under subsection (a) shall—

(1) provide an overview and introduction to small uncrewed maritime systems, including examples of those used by the Federal Government, in academic settings, and in commercial sectors;

(2) address the benefits and disadvantages of use of small uncrewed maritime systems;

(3) address safe navigation of small uncrewed maritime systems, including measures to ensure collision avoidance;

(4) address the ability of small uncrewed maritime systems to communicate with and alert other vessels in the vicinity;

(5) address the ability of small uncrewed maritime systems to respond to system alarms and failures to ensure control commensurate with the risk posed by the systems;

(6) provide present and future capabilities of small uncrewed maritime systems; and

(7) provide an overview of the role of the International Maritime Organization in the governance of small uncrewed maritime systems.

SEC. 5234. NOAA MEMBERSHIP ON AUTONOMOUS VESSEL POLICY COUNCIL.

Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant, with the concurrence of the Assistant Administrator of the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, shall establish the permanent membership of a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration employee to the Automated and Autonomous Vessel Policy Council of the Coast Guard.

SEC. 5235. TECHNOLOGY PILOT PROGRAM.

Section 319(b)(1) of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking ''2 or more existing Coast Guard small boats deployed at operational units'' and inserting ''2 or more Coast Guard small boats deployed at operational units and 2 or more existing Coast Guard small boats''.

SEC. 5236. UNCREWED SYSTEMS CAPABILITIES REPORT AND BRIEFING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that outlines a plan for establishing an uncrewed systems capabilities office within the Coast Guard responsible for the acquisition and development of uncrewed system and counter-uncrewed system technologies and to expand the capabilities of the Coast Guard with respect to such technologies.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A management strategy for the acquisition, development, and deployment of uncrewed system and counter-uncrewed system technologies.

(B) A service-wide coordination strategy to synchronize and integrate efforts across the Coast Guard in order to—

(i) support the primary duties of the Coast Guard pursuant to section 102 of title 14, United States Code; and

(ii) pursue expanded research, development, testing, and evaluation opportunities and funding to expand and accelerate identification and transition of uncrewed system and counter-uncrewed system technologies.

(C) The identification of contracting and acquisition authorities needed to expedite the development and deployment of uncrewed system and counter-uncrewed system technologies.

(D) A detailed list of commercially available uncrewed system and counter-uncrewed system technologies with capabilities determined to be useful for the Coast Guard.

(E) A cross-agency collaboration plan to engage with the Department of Defense and other relevant agencies to identify common requirements and opportunities to partner in acquiring, contracting, and sustaining uncrewed system and counter-uncrewed system capabilities.

(F) Opportunities to obtain and share uncrewed system data from government and commercial sources to improve maritime domain awareness.

(G) The development of a concept of operations for a data system that supports and integrates uncrewed system and counter-uncrewed system technologies with key enablers, including enterprise communications networks, data storage and management, artificial intelligence and machine learning tools, and information sharing and dissemination capabilities.

(b) BRIEFINGS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for a period of 3 years, the Commandant, in coordination with the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Executive Director of the Office of Naval Research, the Director of the National Science Foundation, and the Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, shall brief

the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, on the future operation and governance of small uncrewed maritime systems.

SEC. 5237. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) COUNTER-UNCREWED SYSTEM.—The term ''counter-uncrewed system'' means a system or device capable of lawfully and safely disabling, disrupting, or seizing control of an uncrewed system, including a counter-UAS system (as such term is defined in section 44801 of title 49, United States Code).

(2) SMALL UNCREWED MARITIME SYSTEMS.—The term ''small uncrewed maritime systems'' means unmanned maritime systems (as defined in section 2 of the CENOTE Act of 2018 (33 U.S.C. 4101)), that—

(A) are not greater than 35 feet overall in length;

(B) are operated remotely or autonomously; and

(C) exclusively perform oceanographic surveys or scientific research.

(3) UNCREWED SYSTEM.—The term ''uncrewed system'' means an uncrewed surface, undersea, or aircraft and associated elements (including communication links and the components that control the uncrewed system) that are required for the operator to operate the system safely and efficiently, including an unmanned aircraft system (as such term is defined in section 44801 of title 49, United States Code).

Subtitle D—Other Matters

SEC. 5241. CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE ONBOARD VESSELS.

Section 70503(a) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking ''While on board a covered vessel, an'' and inserting ''An'';

(2) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

''(1) manufacture or distribute, possess with intent to manufacture or distribute, or place or cause to be placed with intent to manufacture or distribute a controlled substance on board a covered vessel;'';

(3) in paragraph (2) by inserting ''on board a covered vessel'' before the semicolon; and

(4) in paragraph (3) by inserting ''while on board a covered vessel'' after ''such individual''.

SEC. 5242. INFORMATION ON TYPE APPROVAL CERTIFICATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title IX of the Frank LoBiondo Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–282) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 904. INFORMATION ON TYPE APPROVAL CERTIFICATES.

''Unless otherwise prohibited by law, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall, upon request by any State, the District of Columbia, any Indian Tribe, or any territory of the United States, provide all data possessed by the Coast Guard for a ballast water management system with a type approval certificate approved by the Coast Guard pursuant to subpart 162.060 of title 46, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025 pertaining to—

''(1) challenge water (as defined in section 162.060–3 of title 46, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025) quality characteristics;

''(2) post-treatment water quality characteristics;

''(3) challenge water (as defined in section 162.060–3 of title 46, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025) biologic organism concentrations data; and

''(4) post-treatment water biologic organism concentrations data.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Frank LoBiondo Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–282) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 903 the following:

''Sec. 904. Information on type approval certificates.''.

SEC. 5243. CLARIFICATION OF AUTHORITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5(a) of the Deepwater Port Act of 1974 (33 U.S.C. 1504(a)) is amended by striking the first sentence and inserting ''Notwithstanding section 888(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 468(b)), the Secretary shall have the authority to issue regulations to carry out the purposes and provisions of this Act, in accordance with the provisions of section 553 of title 5, United States Code, without regard to subsection (a) thereof.''.

(b) NEPA COMPLIANCE.—Section 5 of the Deepwater Port Act of 1974 (33 U.S.C. 1504) is amended by striking subsection (f) and inserting the following:

''(f) NEPA COMPLIANCE.—

''(1) DEFINITION OF LEAD AGENCY.—In this subsection, the term 'lead agency' has the meaning given the term in section 111 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4336e).

''(2) LEAD AGENCY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For all applications, the Maritime Administration shall be the Federal lead agency for purposes of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

''(B) EFFECT OF COMPLIANCE.—Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) in accordance with subparagraph (A) shall fulfill the requirement of the Federal lead agency in carrying out the responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) pursuant to this Act.''.

(c) REGULATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall transfer the authorities provided to the Coast Guard in part 148 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act), except as provided in paragraph (2), to the Secretary of Transportation.

(2) RETENTION OF AUTHORITY.—The Commandant shall retain responsibility for authorities pertaining to design, construction, equipment, and operation of deepwater ports and navigational safety.

(3) UPDATES TO AUTHORITY.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall issue such regulations as are necessary to reflect the updates to authorities prescribed by this subsection.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section, or the amendments made by this section, may be construed to limit the authorities of other governmental agencies previously delegated authorities of the Deepwater Port Act of 1974 (33 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.) or any other law.

(e) APPLICATIONS.—Nothing in this section, or the amendments made by this section, shall apply to any application submitted before the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 5244. ANCHORAGES.

Section 8437 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116–283) is amended—

(1) by striking subsections (d) and (e);

(2) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

''(c) PROHIBITION.—The Commandant shall prohibit any vessel anchoring on the reach of the Hudson River described in subsection (a) unless such anchoring is within any anchorage established before January 1, 2021.''.

SEC. 5245. AMENDMENTS TO PASSENGER VESSEL SECURITY AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS.

(a) MAINTENANCE OF SUPPLIES THAT PREVENT SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES.—Section 3507(d)(1) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''(taking into consideration the length of the voyage and the number of passengers and crewmembers that the vessel can accommodate)'' after ''a sexual assault''.

(b) CREW ACCESS TO PASSENGER STATEROOMS; PROCEDURES AND RESTRICTIONS.—Section 3507 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A) by striking ''and'' at the end; and

(ii) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

''(C) a system that electronically records the date, time, and identity of each crew member accessing each passenger stateroom; and''; and

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) ensure that the procedures and restrictions are—

''(A) fully and properly implemented;

''(B) reviewed annually; and

''(C) updated as necessary.''.

SEC. 5246. CYBER-INCIDENT TRAINING.

Section 70103(c) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(9) The Secretary may conduct no-notice exercises in Captain of the Port Zones (as described in part 3 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations as in effect on the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025) involving a facility or vessel required to maintain a security plan under this subsection.''.

SEC. 5247. EXTENSION OF PILOT PROGRAM TO ESTABLISH A CETACEAN DESK FOR PUGET SOUND REGION.

Section 11304(a)(2)(A)(i) of the Don Young Coast Guard Reauthorization Act of 2022 (division K of Public Law 117–263; 16 U.S.C. 1390 note) is amended by striking ''4 years'' and inserting ''6 years''.

SEC. 5248. SUSPENSION OF ENFORCEMENT OF USE OF DEVICES BROADCASTING ON AIS FOR PURPOSES OF MARKING FISHING GEAR.

Section 11320 of the Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–263; 136 Stat. 4092) is amended by striking ''during the period'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ''until December 31, 2029.''.

SEC. 5249. CLASSIFICATION SOCIETIES.

Section 3316(d) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (2)(B)(i) to read as follows:

''(i) the government of the foreign country in which the foreign society is headquartered—

''(I) delegates that authority to the American Bureau of Shipping; or

''(II) does not delegate that authority to any classification society; or''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) CLARIFICATION ON AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this subsection authorizes the Secretary to make a delegation under paragraph (2) to a classification society from the People's Republic of China.''.

SEC. 5250. ABANDONED AND DERELICT VESSEL REMOVALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 47 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the chapter heading by striking ''**BARGES**'' and inserting ''**VESSELS**'';

(2) by inserting before section 4701 the following:

''SUBCHAPTER I—BARGES''; AND

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''SUBCHAPTER II—NON-BARGE VESSELS

''§ 4710. Definitions

''In this subchapter:

''(1) ABANDON.—The term 'abandon' means to moor, strand, wreck, sink, or leave a covered vessel unattended for longer than 45 days.

''(2) COVERED VESSEL.—The term 'covered vessel' means a vessel that is not a barge to which subchapter I applies.

''(3) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term 'Indian Tribe' has the meaning given such term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

''(4) NATIVE HAWAIIAN ORGANIZATION.—The term 'Native Hawaiian organization' has the meaning given such term in section 6207 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7517) except the term includes the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

''§ 4711. Abandonment of vessels prohibited

''(a) IN GENERAL.—An owner or operator of a covered vessel may not abandon such vessel on the navigable waters of the United States.

''(b) DETERMINATION OF ABANDONMENT.—

''(1) NOTIFICATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a covered vessel that appears to be abandoned, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall—

''(i) attempt to identify the owner using the vessel registration number, hull identification number, or any other information that can be reasonably inferred or gathered; and

''(ii) notify such owner—

''(I) of the penalty described in subsection (c); and

''(II) that the vessel will be removed at the expense of the owner if the Commandant determines that the vessel is abandoned and the owner does not remove or account for the vessel.

''(B) FORM.—The Commandant shall provide the notice required under subparagraph (A)—

''(i) if the owner can be identified, via certified mail or other appropriate forms determined by the Commandant; or

''(ii) if the owner cannot be identified, via an announcement in a local publication and on a website maintained by the Coast Guard.

''(2) DETERMINATION.—The Commandant shall make a determination not earlier than 45 days after the date on which the Commandant provides the notification required under paragraph (1) of whether a covered vessel described in such paragraph is abandoned.

''(c) PENALTY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant may assess a civil penalty of not more than $500 against an owner or operator of a covered vessel determined to be abandoned under subsection (b) for a violation of subsection (a).

''(2) LIABILITY IN REM.—The owner or operator of a covered vessel shall also be liable in rem for a penalty imposed under paragraph (1).

''(3) LIMITATION.—The Commandant shall not assess a penalty if the Commandant determines the vessel was abandoned due to major extenuating circumstances of the owner or operator of the vessel, including long term medical incapacitation of the owner or operator.

''(d) VESSELS NOT ABANDONED.—The Commandant may not determine that a covered vessel is abandoned under this section if—

''(1) such vessel is located at a federally approved or State approved mooring area;

''(2) such vessel is located on private property with the permission of the owner of such property;

''(3) the owner or operator of such vessel provides a notification to the Commandant that—

''(A) indicates the location of the vessel;

''(B) indicates that the vessel is not abandoned; and

''(C) contains documentation proving that the vessel is allowed to be in such location; or

''(4) the Commandant determines that such an abandonment determination would not be in the public interest.

''§ 4712. Inventory of abandoned vessels

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025, the Commandant, in consultation with the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and relevant State agencies, shall establish and maintain a national inventory of covered vessels that are abandoned.

''(b) CONTENTS.—The inventory established and maintained under subsection (a) shall include data on each vessel, including geographic information system data related to the location of each such vessel.

''(c) PUBLICATION.—The Commandant shall make the inventory established under subsection (a) publicly available on a website of the Coast Guard.

''(d) REPORTING OF POTENTIALLY ABANDONED VESSELS.—In carrying out this section, the Commandant shall develop a process by which—

''(1) a State, Indian Tribe, Native Hawaiian organization, or person may report a covered vessel that may be abandoned to the Commandant for potential inclusion in the inventory established under subsection (a);

''(2) the Commandant shall review any such report and add such vessel to the inventory if the Commandant determines that the reported vessel is abandoned pursuant to section 4711.

''(e) CLARIFICATION.—Except in a response action carried out under section 311(j) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1321) or in the case of imminent threat to life and safety, the Commandant shall not be responsible for removing any covered vessels listed on the inventory established and maintained under subsection (a).''.

(b) RULEMAKING.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, in consultation with the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, and the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, shall issue regulations with respect to the procedures for determining that a vessel is abandoned for the purposes of subchapter II of chapter 47 of title 46, United States Code (as added by this section).

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Chapter 47 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 4701—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking ''chapter'' and inserting ''subchapter''; and

(B) in paragraph (2) by striking ''chapter'' and inserting ''subchapter'';

(2) in section 4703 by striking ''chapter'' and inserting ''subchapter'';

(3) in section 4704 by striking ''chapter'' each place it appears and inserting ''subchapter''; and

(4) in section 4705 by striking ''chapter'' and inserting ''subchapter''.

(d) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The analysis for chapter 47 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting before the item relating to section 4701 the following:

''SUBCHAPTER I—BARGES''; AND

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''SUBCHAPTER II—NON-BARGE VESSELS

''4710. Definitions.

''4711. Abandonment of vessels prohibited.

''4712. Inventory of abandoned vessels.''.

TITLE LIII—OIL POLLUTION RESPONSE

SEC. 5301. SALVAGE AND MARINE FIREFIGHTING RESPONSE CAPABILITY.

(a) SALVAGE AND MARINE FIREFIGHTING RESPONSE CAPABILITY.—Section 311(j) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1321(j)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(10) SALVAGE AND MARINE FIREFIGHTING RESPONSE CAPABILITY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The President, acting through the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating unless otherwise delegated by the President, may require—

''(i) periodic inspection of vessels and salvage equipment, firefighting equipment, and other major marine casualty response equipment on or associated with vessels;

''(ii) periodic verification of capabilities to appropriately, and in a timely manner, respond to a marine casualty, including—

''(I) drills, with or without prior notice;

''(II) review of contracts and relevant third-party agreements;

''(III) testing of equipment;

''(IV) review of training; and

''(V) other evaluations of marine casualty response capabilities, as determined appropriate by the President; and

''(iii) carrying of appropriate response equipment for responding to a marine casualty that employs the best technology economically feasible and that is compatible with the safe operation of the vessel.

''(B) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

''(i) MARINE CASUALTY.—The term 'marine casualty' means a marine casualty that is required to be reported pursuant to paragraph (3), (4), or (5) of section 6101 of title 46, United States Code.

''(ii) SALVAGE EQUIPMENT.—The term 'salvage equipment' means any equipment that is capable of being used to assist a vessel in potential or actual danger in order to prevent loss of life, damage or destruction of the vessel or its cargo, or release of its contents into the marine environment.''.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on—

(A) the state of marine firefighting authorities, jurisdiction, and plan review; and

(B) other considerations with respect to fires at waterfront facilities (including vessel fires) and vessel fires on the navigable waters (as such term is defined in section 502 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1362)).

(2) CONTENTS.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Comptroller General shall—

(A) examine—

(i) collaboration among Federal and non-Federal entities for purposes of reducing the risks to local communities of fires described in paragraph (1);

(ii) the prevalence and frequency of such fires; and

(iii) the extent to which firefighters and marine firefighters are aware of the dangers of lithium-ion battery fires, including lithium-ion batteries used for vehicles, and how to respond to such fires;

(B) review methods of documenting and sharing best practices throughout the maritime community for responding to vessel fires; and

(C) make recommendations for—

(i) preparing for, responding to, and training for such fires;

(ii) clarifying roles and responsibilities of Federal and non-Federal entities in preparing for, responding to, and training for such fires; and

(iii) other topics for consideration.

SEC. 5302. USE OF MARINE CASUALTY INVESTIGATIONS.

Section 6308 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) by striking ''initiated'' and inserting ''conducted''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(e) For purposes of this section, an administrative proceeding conducted by the United States includes proceedings under section 7701 and claims adjudicated under section 1013 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2713).''.

SEC. 5303. TIMING OF REVIEW.

Section 1017 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2717) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(g) TIMING OF REVIEW.—Before the date of completion of a removal action, no person may bring an action under this Act, section 311 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1321), or chapter 7 of title 5, United States Code, challenging any decision relating to such removal action that is made by an on-scene coordinator appointed under the National Contingency Plan.''.

SEC. 5304. ONLINE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the National Response Center shall submit to Congress a plan to design, fund, and staff the National Response Center to develop and maintain a web-based application by which the National Response Center may receive notifications of oil discharges or releases of hazardous substances.

(b) DEVELOPMENT OF APPLICATION.—Not later than 2 years after the date on which the plan is submitted under subsection (a), the National Response Center shall—

(1) complete development of the application described in such subsection; and

(2) allow notifications described in such subsection that are required under Federal law or regulation to be made online using such application.

(c) USE OF APPLICATION.—In carrying out subsection (b), the National Response Center may not require the notification of an oil discharge or release of a hazardous substance to be made using the application developed under such subsection.

SEC. 5305. INVESTMENT OF EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL COURT RECOVERY IN HIGH YIELD INVESTMENTS AND MARINE RESEARCH.

Section 350 of Public Law 106–113 (43 U.S.C. 1474b note) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (5);

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (2), (3), (4), (6), and (7) as subsections (c), (d), (e), (f), and (g), respectively, and indenting the subsections appropriately;

(3) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking ''(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law and subject to the provisions of paragraphs (5) and (7)'' and inserting the following:

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) CONSENT DECREE.—The term 'Consent Decree' means the consent decree issued in United States v. Exxon Corporation, et al. (No. A91-082 CIV) and State of Alaska v. Exxon Corporation, et al. (No. A91–083 CIV).

''(2) FUND.—The term 'Fund' means the Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Fund established pursuant to title I of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1992 (43 U.S.C. 1474b).

''(3) OUTSIDE ACCOUNT.—The term 'outside account' means any account outside the United States Treasury.

''(4) TRUSTEE.—The term 'Trustee' means a Federal or State natural resource trustee for the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

''(b) DEPOSITS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law and subject to subsection (g)'';

(4) in subsection (b)(1) (as so designated)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by striking ''issued in United States v. Exxon Corporation, et al. (No. A91–082 CIV) and State of Alaska v. Exxon Corporation, et al. (No. A91–083 CIV) (hereafter referred to as the 'Consent Decree'),'';

(B) by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

''(A) the Fund;

''(B) an outside account; or''; and

(C) in the undesignated matter following subparagraph (C)—

(i) by striking ''the Federal and State natural resource trustees for the Exxon Valdez oil spill ('trustees')'' and inserting ''the Trustees''; and

(ii) by striking ''Any funds'' and inserting the following:

''(2) REQUIREMENT FOR DEPOSITS IN OUTSIDE ACCOUNTS.—Any funds'';

(5) in subsection (c) (as redesignated by paragraph (2)) by striking ''(C) Joint'' and inserting the following:

''(c) TRANSFERS.—Any joint'';

(6) in subsection (d) (as redesignated by paragraph (2)) by striking ''(D) The transfer'' and inserting the following:

''(d) NO EFFECT ON JURISDICTION.—The transfer'';

(7) in subsection (e) (as redesignated by paragraph (2))—

(A) by striking ''**(E)** Nothing herein shall affect'' and inserting the following:

''(e) EFFECT ON OTHER LAW.—Nothing in this section affects''; and

(B) by striking ''trustees'' and inserting ''Trustees'';

(8) in subsection (f) (as redesignated by paragraph (2))—

(A) by striking ''(F) The Federal trustees and the State trustees'' and inserting the following:

''(f) GRANTS.—The Trustees''; and

(B) by striking ''this program'' and inserting ''this section, prioritizing the issuance of grants to facilitate habitat protection and habitat restoration programs''; and

(9) in subsection (g) (as redesignated by paragraph (2))—

(A) in the second sentence, by striking ''Upon the expiration of the authorities granted in this section all'' and inserting the following:

''(2) RETURN OF FUNDS.—On expiration of the authority provided in this section, all''; and

(B) by striking ''(G) The authority'' and inserting the following:

''(g) EXPIRATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The authority''.

TITLE LIV—SEXUAL ASSAULT AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT RESPONSE

SEC. 5401. INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF COAST GUARD REFORMS.

(a) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall report to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on the efforts of the Coast Guard to mitigate cases of sexual assault and sexual harassment within the service.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) evaluate—

(i) the efforts of the Commandant to implement the directed actions from enclosure 1 of the memorandum titled ''Commandant's Directed Actions—Accountability and Transparency'' dated November 27, 2023;

(ii) whether the Commandant met the reporting requirements under section 5112 of title 14, United States Code; and

(iii) the effectiveness of the actions of the Coast Guard, including efforts outside of the actions described in the memorandum titled ''Commandant's Directed Actions—Accountability and Transparency'' dated November 27, 2023, to mitigate instances of sexual assault and sexual harassment and improve the enforcement relating to such instances within the Coast Guard, and how the Coast Guard is overcoming challenges in implementing such actions;

(B) make recommendations to the Commandant for improvements to the efforts of the service to mitigate instances of sexual assault and sexual harassment and improve the enforcement relating to such instances within the Coast Guard; and

(C) make recommendations to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate to mitigate instances of sexual assault and sexual harassment in the Coast Guard and improve the enforcement relating to such instances within the Coast Guard, including proposed changes to any legislative authorities.

(b) REPORT BY COMMANDANT.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Comptroller General completes all actions under subsection (a), the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that includes the following:

(1) A plan for Coast Guard implementation, including interim milestones and timeframes, of any recommendation made by the Comptroller General under subsection (a)(2)(B) with which the Commandant concurs.

(2) With respect to any recommendation made under subsection (a)(2)(B) with which the Commandant does not concur, an explanation of the reasons why the Commandant does not concur.

SEC. 5402. COMPREHENSIVE POLICY AND PROCEDURES ON RETENTION AND ACCESS TO EVIDENCE AND RECORDS RELATING TO SEXUAL MISCONDUCT AND OTHER MISCONDUCT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 9 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 955. Comprehensive policy and procedures on retention and access to evidence and records relating to sexual misconduct and other misconduct

''(a) ISSUANCE OF POLICY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025, the Secretary, in consultation with the Office of the Inspector General of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating and the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, shall issue a comprehensive policy for the Coast Guard on the retention of and access to evidence and records relating to covered misconduct involving members of the Coast Guard.

''(b) OBJECTIVES.—The comprehensive policy required by subsection (a) shall revise existing policies and procedures, including systems of records, as necessary to ensure preservation of such evidence and records for periods sufficient—

''(1) to ensure that members of the Coast Guard who were victims of covered misconduct are able to pursue claims for veterans benefits;

''(2) to support administrative processes, criminal proceedings, and civil litigation conducted by military or civil authorities; and

''(3) for such other purposes relating to the documentation of an incident of covered misconduct in the Coast Guard as the Secretary considers appropriate.

''(c) ELEMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In developing the comprehensive policy required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall, at a minimum—

''(A) identify records relating to an incident of covered misconduct that shall be retained;

''(B) with respect to records relating to covered misconduct involving members of the Coast Guard that are not records of the Coast Guard, identify such records known to or in the possession of the Coast Guard, and set forth procedures for Coast Guard coordination with the custodian of such records for proper retention of the records;

''(C) set forth criteria for the collection and retention of records relating to covered misconduct involving members of the Coast Guard;

''(D) identify physical evidence and nondocumentary forms of evidence relating to covered misconduct that shall be retained;

''(E) set forth the period for which evidence and records relating to covered misconduct involving members of the Coast Guard, including Coast Guard Form 6095, shall be retained, except that—

''(i) any physical or forensic evidence relating to rape or sexual assault, as described in sections 920(a) and 920(b) of title 10 (articles 120(a) and 120(b) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), shall be retained not less than 50 years, and for other covered misconduct not less than the statute of limitations of the alleged offense under the Uniform Code of Military Justice; and

''(ii) documentary evidence relating to rape or sexual assault, as described in sections 920(a) and 920(b) of title 10 (articles 120(a) and 120(b) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), shall be retained not less than 50 years;

''(F) consider locations in which such records shall be stored;

''(G) identify media and methods that may be used to preserve and ensure access to such records, including electronic systems of records;

''(H) ensure the protection of privacy of—

''(i) individuals named in records and status of records under section 552 of title 5 (commonly referred to as the 'Freedom of Information Act') and section 552a of title 5 (commonly referred to as the 'Privacy Act'); and

''(ii) individuals named in restricted reporting cases;

''(I) designate the 1 or more positions within the Coast Guard that shall have the responsibility for such record retention by the Coast Guard;

''(J) require education and training for members and civilian employees of the Coast Guard on record retention requirements under this section;

''(K) set forth criteria for access to such records relating to covered misconduct involving members of the Coast Guard, including whether the consent of the victim should be required, by—

''(i) victims of covered misconduct;

''(ii) law enforcement authorities;

''(iii) the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

''(iv) other individuals and entities, including alleged assailants;

''(L) require uniform collection of data on—

''(i) the incidence of covered misconduct in the Coast Guard; and

''(ii) disciplinary actions taken in substantiated cases of covered misconduct in the Coast Guard; and

''(M) set forth standards for communications with, and notifications to, victims, consistent with—

''(i) the requirements of any applicable Department of Defense policy; and

''(ii) to the extent practicable, any applicable policy of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating.

''(2) RETENTION OF CERTAIN FORMS AND EVIDENCE IN CONNECTION WITH RESTRICTED REPORTS AND UNRESTRICTED REPORTS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT INVOLVING MEMBERS OF THE COAST GUARD.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The comprehensive policy required by subsection (a) shall require all unique or original copies of Coast Guard Form 6095 filed in connection with a restricted or unrestricted report on an alleged incident of rape or sexual assault, as described in sections 920(a) and 920(b) of title 10 (articles 120(a) and 120(b) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), involving a member of the Coast Guard to be retained for the longer of—

''(i) 50 years commencing on the date of signature of the covered person on Coast Guard Form 6095; or

''(ii) the time provided for the retention of such form in connection with unrestricted and restricted reports on incidents of sexual assault involving members of the Coast Guard under Coast Guard policy.

''(B) PROTECTION OF CONFIDENTIALITY.—Any Coast Guard form retained under subparagraph (A) shall be retained in a manner that protects the confidentiality of the member of the Coast Guard concerned in accordance with Coast Guard policy.

''(3) RETENTION OF CASE NOTES IN INVESTIGATIONS OF COVERED MISCONDUCT INVOLVING MEMBERS OF THE COAST GUARD.—

''(A) REQUIRED RETENTION OF ALL INVESTIGATIVE RECORDS.—The comprehensive policy required by subsection (a) shall require, for all criminal investigations relating to an alleged incident of covered misconduct involving a member of the Coast Guard, the retention of all elements of the case file.

''(B) ELEMENTS.—The elements of the case file to be retained under subparagraph (A) shall include, at a minimum—

''(i) the case activity record;

''(ii) the case review record;

''(iii) investigative plans; and

''(iv) all case notes made by any investigating agent.

''(C) RETENTION PERIOD.—All elements of the case file shall be retained for not less than 50 years for cases involving rape or sexual assault, as described in sections 920(a) and 920(b) of title 10 (articles 120(a) and 120(b) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), and not less than the statute of limitations of the alleged offense under the Uniform Code of Military Justice for other covered misconduct, and no element of any such case file may be destroyed until the expiration of such period.

''(4) RETURN OF PERSONAL PROPERTY UPON COMPLETION OF RELATED PROCEEDINGS IN UNRESTRICTED REPORTING CASES.—Notwithstanding the records and evidence retention requirements described in paragraphs (1)(E) and (2), personal property retained as evidence in connection with an incident of rape or sexual assault, as described in sections 920(a) and 920(b) of title 10 (articles 120(a) and 120(b) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), involving a member of the Coast Guard may be returned to the rightful owner of such property after the conclusion of all legal, adverse action, and administrative proceedings related to such incident, as determined by the Commandant.

''(5) RETURN OF PERSONAL PROPERTY IN RESTRICTED REPORTING CASES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall prescribe procedures under which a victim who files a restricted report of an incident of sexual assault may request, at any time, the return of any personal property of the victim obtained as part of the sexual assault forensic examination.

''(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The procedures required by subparagraph (A) shall ensure that—

''(i) a request by a victim for the return of personal property described under subparagraph (A) may be made on a confidential basis and without affecting the restricted nature of the restricted report; and

''(ii) at the time of the filing of the restricted report, a Special Victims' Counsel, Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, or Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Victim Advocate—

''(I) informs the victim that the victim may request the return of personal property as described in such subparagraph; and

''(II) advises the victim that such a request for the return of personal property may negatively impact a subsequent case adjudication if the victim later decides to convert the restricted report to an unrestricted report.

''(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Except with respect to personal property returned to a victim under this paragraph, nothing in this paragraph may be construed to affect the requirement to retain a sexual assault forensic examination kit for the period specified in paragraph (2).

''(6) VICTIM ACCESS TO RECORDS.—With respect to victim access to records after all final disposition actions and any appeals have been completed, as applicable, the comprehensive policy required by subsection (a) shall provide that, to the maximum extent practicable, and in such a manner that will not jeopardize an active investigation or an active case—

''(A) a victim of covered misconduct in a case in which either the victim or alleged perpetrator is a covered person shall have access to all records that are directly related to the victim's case, or related to the victim themselves, in accordance with the policy issued under subsection (a) and subject to required protections under sections 552 and 552a of title 5;

''(B) a victim of covered misconduct who requests access to records under section 552 or 552a of title 5 concerning the victim's case shall be determined to have a compelling need, and the records request shall be processed under expedited processing procedures, if in the request for such records the victim indicates that the records concerned are related to the covered misconduct case;

''(C) in applying sections 552 and 552a of title 5 to the redaction of information related to a records request by a victim of covered misconduct made under such sections after all final disposition actions and any appeals have been completed—

''(i) any such redaction shall be applied to the minimum extent possible so as to ensure the provision of the maximum amount of unredacted information to the victim that is permissible by law; and

''(ii) any such redaction shall not be applied to—

''(I) receipt by the victim of the victim's own statement; or

''(II) the victim's information from an investigation; and

''(D) in the case of such a records request for which the timelines for expedited processing are not met, the Commandant shall provide to the Secretary, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a briefing that explains the reasons for the denial or the delay in processing, as applicable.

''(d) DEFINITION OF COVERED PERSON.—In this section, the term 'covered person' includes—

''(1) a member of the Coast Guard on active duty;

''(2) a member of the Coast Guard Reserve with respect to crimes investigated by or reported to the Secretary on any date on which such member is in a military status under section 802 of title 10 (article 2 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice);

''(3) a former member of the Coast Guard with respect to crimes investigated by or reported to the Secretary; and

''(4) in the case of an investigation of covered misconduct conducted by, or an incident of covered misconduct reported to, the Coast Guard involving a civilian employee of the Coast Guard, any such civilian employee of the Coast Guard.

''(e) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section authorizes or requires, or shall be construed to authorize or require, the discovery, inspection, or production of reports, memoranda, or other internal documents or work product generated by counsel, an attorney for the Government, or their assistants or representatives.''.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 9 of title 14, United States Code, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 956. Requirement to maintain certain records

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant shall maintain all work product related to documenting a disposition decision on an investigation by the Coast Guard Investigative Service or other law enforcement entity investigating a Coast Guard member accused of an offense against chapter 47 of title 10.

''(b) RECORD RETENTION PERIOD.—Work product documents and the case action summary described in subsection (c) shall be maintained for a period of not less than 7 years from the date of the disposition decision.

''(c) CASE ACTION SUMMARY.—Upon a final disposition action for cases described in subsection (a), except for offenses of wrongful use or possession of a controlled substance under section 912a of title 10 (article 112a of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), where the member accused is an officer of pay grade O–4 and below or an enlisted member of pay grade E–7 and below, a convening authority shall sign a case action summary that includes the following:

''(1) The disposition actions.

''(2) The name and command of the referral authority.

''(3) Records documenting when a referral authority consulted with a staff judge advocate or special trial counsel, as applicable, before a disposition action was taken, to include the recommendation of the staff judge advocate or special trial counsel.

''(4) A reference section listing the materials reviewed in making a disposition decision.

''(5) The Coast Guard Investigative Service report of investigation.

''(6) The completed Coast Guard Investigative Service report of adjudication included as an enclosure.

''(d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term 'work product' includes—

''(1) a prosecution memorandum;

''(2) emails, notes, and other correspondence related to a disposition decision; and

''(3) the contents described in paragraphs (1) through (6) of subsection (c).

''(e) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section authorizes or requires, or shall be construed to authorize or require, the discovery, inspection, or production of reports, memoranda, or other internal documents or work product generated by counsel, an attorney for the Government, or their assistants or representatives.''.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 9 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''Sec. 955. Comprehensive policy and procedures on retention and access to evidence and records relating to sexual misconduct and other misconduct.

''Sec. 956. Requirement to maintain certain records.''.

SEC. 5403. CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF A CADET AT THE COAST GUARD ACADEMY WHO IS THE VICTIM OF A SEXUAL ASSAULT OR RELATED OFFENSE.

Section 1902 of title 14, United States Code, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(g) CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF CADET WHO IS THE VICTIM OF SEXUAL ASSAULT OR RELATED OFFENSE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant shall provide for timely consideration of and action on a request submitted by a cadet appointed to the Coast Guard Academy who is the victim of an alleged sexual assault or other offense covered by section 920, 920c, or 930 of title 10 (article 120, 120c, or 130 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice) for transfer to another military service academy or to enroll in a Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program affiliated with another institution of higher education.

''(2) REGULATIONS.—The Commandant, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall establish policies to carry out this subsection that—

''(A) provide that the Superintendent shall ensure that any cadet who has been appointed to the Coast Guard Academy is informed of the right to request a transfer pursuant to this subsection, and that any formal request submitted by a cadet who alleges an offense referred to in paragraph (1) is processed as expeditiously as practicable through the chain of command for review and action by the Superintendent;

''(B) direct the Superintendent, in coordination with the Superintendent of the military service academy to which the cadet requests to transfer—

''(i) to take action on a request for transfer under this subsection not later than 72 hours after receiving the formal request from the cadet;

''(ii) to approve such request for transfer unless there are exceptional circumstances that require denial of the request;

''(iii) upon approval of such request for transfer, to take all necessary and appropriate action to effectuate the transfer of the cadet to the military service academy concerned as expeditiously as possible, subject to the considerations described in clause (iv); and

''(iv) in determining the transfer date of the cadet to the military service academy concerned, to take into account—

''(I) the preferences of the cadet, including any preference to delay transfer until the completion of any academic course in which the cadet is enrolled at the time of the request for transfer; and

''(II) the well-being of the cadet; and

''(C) direct the Superintendent of the Coast Guard Academy, in coordination with the Secretary of the military department that sponsors the Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program at the institution of higher education to which the cadet requests to transfer—

''(i) to take action on a request for transfer under this subsection not later than 72 hours after receiving the formal request from the cadet;

''(ii) subject to the cadet's acceptance for admission to the institution of higher education to which the cadet wishes to transfer, to approve such request for transfer unless there are exceptional circumstances that require denial of the request;

''(iii) to take all necessary and appropriate action to effectuate the cadet's enrollment in the institution of higher education to which the cadet wishes to transfer and to process the cadet for participation in the relevant Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program as expeditiously as possible, subject to the considerations described in clause (iv); and

''(iv) in determining the transfer date of the cadet to the institution of higher education to which the cadet wishes to transfer, to take into account—

''(I) the preferences of the cadet, including any preference to delay transfer until the completion of any academic course in which the cadet is enrolled at the time of the request for transfer; and

''(II) the well-being of the cadet.

''(3) REVIEW.—If the Superintendent denies a request for transfer under this subsection, the cadet may request review of the denial by the Secretary, who shall take action on such request for review not later than 72 hours after receipt of such request.

''(4) CONFIDENTIALITY.—The Secretary shall ensure that all records of any request, determination, transfer, or other action under this subsection remain confidential, consistent with applicable law and regulation.

''(5) EFFECT OF OTHER LAW.—A cadet who transfers under this subsection may retain the cadet's appointment to the Coast Guard Academy or may be appointed to the military service academy to which the cadet transfers without regard to the limitations and requirements set forth in sections 7442, 8454, and 9442 of title 10.

''(6) COMMISSION AS OFFICER IN THE COAST GUARD.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Upon graduation, a graduate of the United States Military Academy, the United States Air Force Academy, or the United States Naval Academy who transferred to that academy under this subsection is entitled to be accepted for appointment as a permanent commissioned officer in the Regular Coast Guard in the same manner as graduates of the Coast Guard Academy, as set forth in section 2101 of this title.

''(B) COMMISSION AS OFFICER IN OTHER ARMED FORCE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—A cadet who transfers under this subsection to the United States Military Academy, the United States Air Force Academy, or the United States Naval Academy and indicates a preference pursuant to clause (ii) may be appointed as a commissioned officer in an armed force associated with the academy from which the cadet graduated.

''(ii) STATEMENT OF PREFERENCE.—A cadet seeking appointment as a commissioned officer in an armed force associated with the academy from which the cadet graduated under clause (i) shall, before graduating from that academy, indicate to the Commandant that the cadet has a preference for appointment to that armed force.

''(iii) CONSIDERATION BY COAST GUARD.—The Commandant shall consider a preference of a cadet indicated pursuant to clause (ii), but may require the cadet to serve as a permanent commissioned officer in the Regular Coast Guard instead of being appointed as a commissioned officer in an armed force associated with the academy from which the cadet graduated.

''(iv) TREATMENT OF SERVICE AGREEMENT.—With respect to a service agreement entered into under section 1925 of this title by a cadet who transfers under this subsection to the United States Military Academy, the United States Air Force Academy, or the United States Naval Academy and is appointed as a commissioned officer in an armed force associated with that academy, the service obligation undertaken under such agreement shall be considered to be satisfied upon the completion of 5 years of active duty service in the service of such armed force.

''(C) SENIOR RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS PROGRAM.—A cadet who transfers under this subsection to a Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program affiliated with another institution of higher education is entitled upon graduation from the Senior Reserve Officers' Training program to commission into the Coast Guard, as set forth in section 3738a of this title.''.

SEC. 5404. DESIGNATION OF OFFICERS WITH PARTICULAR EXPERTISE IN MILITARY JUSTICE OR HEALTHCARE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 21 of title 14, United States Code is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 2132. Designation of officers with particular expertise in military justice or healthcare

''(a) SECRETARY DESIGNATION.—The Secretary may designate a limited number of officers of the Coast Guard as having particular expertise in—

''(1) military justice; or

''(2) healthcare.

''(b) PROMOTION AND GRADE.—An individual designated under this section—

''(1) shall not be included on the active duty promotion list;

''(2) shall be promoted under section 2126; and

''(3) may not be promoted to a grade higher than captain.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 21 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2131 the following:

''2132. Designation of officers with particular expertise in military justice or healthcare.''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 2102(a) of title 14, United States Code, is amended, in the second sentence by striking ''and officers of the permanent commissioned teaching staff of the Coast Guard Academy'' and inserting ''officers of the permanent commissioned teaching staff of the Coast Guard Academy, and officers designated by the Secretary pursuant this section''.

(2) Subsection (e) of section 2103 of title 14, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(e) SECRETARY TO PRESCRIBE NUMBERS FOR CERTAIN OFFICERS.—The Secretary shall prescribe the number of officers authorized to be serving on active duty in each grade of—

''(1) the permanent commissioned teaching staff of the Coast Guard Academy;

''(2) the officers designated by the Secretary pursuant to this section; and

''(3) the officers of the Reserve serving in connection with organizing, administering, recruiting, instructing, or training the reserve components.''.

(3) Section 2126 of title 14, United States Code, is amended, in the second sentence, by inserting ''and as to officers designated by the Secretary pursuant to this section'' after ''reserve components''.

(4) Section 3736(a) of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in the first sentence by striking ''promotion list and the'' and inserting ''promotion list, officers designated by the Secretary pursuant to this section, and the officers on the''; and

(B) in the second sentence by striking ''promotion list or the'' and inserting ''promotion list, officers designated by the Secretary pursuant to this section, or the officers on the''.

SEC. 5405. SAFE-TO-REPORT POLICY FOR COAST GUARD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 19 of title 14, United States Code, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 1909. Safe-to-Report policy for Coast Guard

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025, the Commandant shall, in consultation with the Secretaries of the military departments, establish and maintain a safe-to-report policy described in subsection (b) that applies with respect to all members of the Coast Guard (including members of the reserve and auxiliary components of the Coast Guard), cadets at the Coast Guard Academy, and any other individual undergoing training at an accession point of the Coast Guard.

''(b) SAFE-TO-REPORT POLICY.—The safe-to-report policy described in this subsection is a policy that—

''(1) prescribes the handling of minor collateral misconduct, involving a member of the Coast Guard who is the alleged victim or reporting witness of a sexual assault; and

''(2) applies to all such individuals, regardless of—

''(A) to whom the victim makes the allegation or who receives the victim's report of sexual assault; or

''(B) whether the report, investigation, or prosecution is handled by military or civilian authorities.

''(c) MITIGATING AND AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES.—In issuing the policy under subsection (a), the Commandant shall specify mitigating circumstances that decrease the gravity of minor collateral misconduct or the impact of such misconduct on good order and discipline and aggravating circumstances that increase the gravity of minor collateral misconduct or the impact of such misconduct on good order and discipline for purposes of the safe-to-report policy.

''(d) TRACKING OF COLLATERAL MISCONDUCT INCIDENTS.—In conjunction with the issuance of the policy under subsection (a), the Commandant shall develop and implement a process to anonymously track incidents of minor collateral misconduct that are subject to the safe-to-report policy.

''(e) MINOR COLLATERAL MISCONDUCT DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'minor collateral misconduct' means any minor misconduct that is potentially punishable under chapter 47 of title 10 that—

''(1) is committed close in time to or during a sexual assault and directly related to the incident that formed the basis of the allegation of sexual assault allegation;

''(2) is discovered as a direct result of the report of sexual assault or the ensuing investigation into such sexual assault; and

''(3) does not involve aggravating circumstances (as specified in the policy issued under subsection (a)) that increase the gravity of the minor misconduct or the impact of such misconduct on good order and discipline.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 19 of title 14, United States Code, is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1908 (as added by this Act) the following:

''1909. Safe-to-Report policy for Coast Guard.''.

SEC. 5406. MODIFICATION OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ON COVERED MISCONDUCT IN COAST GUARD.

(a) ASSESSMENT OF POLICY ON COVERED MISCONDUCT.—Section 1902 of title 14, United States Code, is further amended—

(1) in the section heading by striking ''**Policy on sexual harassment and sexual violence**'' and inserting ''**Academy policy and report on covered misconduct**''; and

(2) by striking subsections (c) through (e) and inserting the following:

''(c) ASSESSMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant shall direct the Superintendent of the Coast Guard Academy to conduct at the Coast Guard Academy during each Academy program year an assessment to determine the effectiveness of the policies of the Academy with respect to covered misconduct involving cadets or other military or civilian personnel of the Academy.

''(2) BIENNIAL SURVEY.—For the assessment at the Academy under paragraph (1) with respect to an Academy program year that begins in an odd-numbered calendar year, the Superintendent shall conduct a survey of cadets and other military and civilian personnel of the Academy—

''(A) to measure the incidence, during such program year—

''(i) of covered misconduct events, on or off the Academy campus, that have been reported to an official of the Academy;

''(ii) of covered misconduct events, on or off the Academy campus, that have not been reported to an official of the Academy; and

''(iii) of retaliation related to a report of a covered misconduct event, on or off the Academy campus; and

''(B) to assess the perceptions of the cadets and other military and civilian personnel of the Academy with respect to—

''(i) the Academy's policies, training, and procedures on covered misconduct involving cadets and other military and civilian personnel of the Academy;

''(ii) the enforcement of such policies;

''(iii) the incidence of covered misconduct involving cadets and other military and civilian personnel of the Academy; and

''(iv) any other issues relating to covered misconduct involving cadets and other military and civilian personnel of the Academy.

''(d) REPORT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not earlier than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025, and each March 1 thereafter through March 1, 2031, the Commandant shall direct the Superintendent to submit to the Commandant a report on incidents of covered misconduct and retaliation for reporting of covered misconduct involving cadets or other military and civilian personnel of the Academy.

''(2) ELEMENTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Each report required under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

''(i) Information and data on all incidents of covered misconduct and retaliation described in paragraph (1) reported to the Superintendent or any other official of the Academy during the preceding Academy program year (referred to in this subsection as a 'reported incident'),

''(ii) The number of reported incidents committed against a cadet or any other military or civilian personnel of the Academy.

''(iii) The number of reported incidents committed by a cadet or any other military or civilian personnel of the Academy.

''(iv) Information on reported incidents, in accordance with the policy prescribed under section 549G(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (10 U.S.C. 1561 note), to the maximum extent practicable.

''(v) The number of reported incidents that were entered into the Catch a Serial Offender system, including the number of such incidents that resulted in the identification of a potential or confirmed match.

''(vi) The number of reported incidents that were substantiated (referred to in this subsection as a 'substantiated reported incident').

''(vii) A synopsis of each substantiated reported incident that includes—

''(I) a brief description of the nature of the incident;

''(II) whether the accused cadet or other military or civilian personnel of the Academy had previously been convicted of sexual assault; and

''(III) whether alcohol or other controlled or prohibited substances were involved in the incident, and a description of the involvement.

''(viii) The type of case disposition associated with each substantiated reported incident, such as—

''(I) conviction and sentence by court-martial, including charges and specifications for which convicted;

''(II) acquittal of all charges at court-martial;

''(III) as appropriate, imposition of a nonjudicial punishment under section 815 of title 10 (article 15 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice);

''(IV) as appropriate, administrative action taken, including a description of each type of such action imposed;

''(V) dismissal of all charges, including a description of each reason for dismissal and the stage at which dismissal occurred; and

''(VI) whether the accused cadet or other military or civilian personnel of the Academy was administratively separated or, in the case of an officer, allowed to resign in lieu of court martial, and the characterization (honorable, general, or other than honorable) of the service of the military member upon separation or resignation.

''(ix) With respect to any incident of covered misconduct involving cadets or other military and civilian personnel of the Academy reported to the Superintendent or any other official of the Academy during the preceding Academy program year that involves a report of retaliation relating to the incident—

''(I) a narrative description of the retaliation claim;

''(II) the nature of the relationship between the complainant and the individual accused of committing the retaliation; and

''(III) the nature of the relationship between the individual accused of committing the covered misconduct and the individual accused of committing the retaliation.

''(x) With respect to any investigation of a reported incident—

''(I) whether the investigation is in open or completed status;

''(II) an identification of the investigating entity;

''(III) whether a referral has been made to outside law enforcement entities;

''(IV) in the case of an investigation that is complete, a description of the results of such an investigation and information with respect to whether the results of the investigation were provided to the complainant; and

''(V) whether the investigation substantiated an offense under chapter 47 of title 10 (the Uniform Code of Military Justice).

''(B) FORMAT.—With respect to the information and data required under subparagraph (A), the Commandant shall report such information and data separately for each type of covered misconduct offense, and shall not aggregate the information and data for multiple types of covered misconduct offenses.

''(3) TRENDS.—Subject to subsection (f), beginning on the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025, each report required under paragraph (1) shall include an analysis of trends in incidents described in paragraph (1), as applicable, since the date of the enactment of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–213).

''(4) RESPONSE.—Each report required under paragraph (1) shall include, for the preceding Academy program year, a description of the policies, procedures, processes, initiatives, investigations (including overarching investigations), research, or studies implemented by the Commandant in response to any incident described in paragraph (1) involving a cadet or any other military or civilian personnel of the Academy.

''(5) PLAN.—Each report required under paragraph (1) shall include a plan for actions to be taken during the year following the Academy program year covered by the report to enhance the prevention of and response to incidents of covered misconduct and retaliation for reporting of covered misconduct involving cadets or other military or civilian personnel of the Academy.

''(6) COVERED MISCONDUCT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE ACTIVITIES.—Each report required under paragraph (1) shall include an assessment of the adequacy of covered misconduct prevention and response carried out by the Academy during the preceding Academy program year.

''(7) CONTRIBUTING FACTORS.—Each report required under paragraph (1) shall include, for incidents of covered misconduct and retaliation for reporting of covered misconduct involving cadets or other military or civilian personnel of the Academy—

''(A) an analysis of the factors that may have contributed to such incidents;

''(B) an assessment of the role of such factors in contributing to such incidents during such Academy program year; and

''(C) recommendations for mechanisms to eliminate or reduce such contributing factors.

''(8) BIENNIAL SURVEY.—Each report under paragraph (1) for an Academy program year that begins in an odd-numbered calendar year shall include the results of the survey conducted under subsection (c)(2) in such Academy program year.

''(9) FOCUS GROUPS.—For each Academy program year with respect to which the Superintendent is not required to conduct a survey at the Academy under subsection (c)(2), the Commandant shall require focus groups to be conducted at the Academy for the purpose of ascertaining information relating to covered misconduct issues at the Academy.

''(10) SUBMISSION OF REPORT; BRIEFING.—

''(A) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 270 days after the date on which the Commandant receives a report from the Superintendent under paragraph (1), the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, as an enclosure or appendix to the report required by section 5112—

''(i) the report of the Superintendent;

''(ii) the comments of the Commandant with respect to the report; and

''(iii) relevant information gathered during a focus group under subparagraph (A) during the Academy program year covered by the report, as applicable.

''(B) BRIEFING.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Commandant submits a report under subparagraph (A), the Commandant shall provide a briefing on the report submitted under subparagraph (A) to—

''(i) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives; and

''(ii) the Secretary of Homeland Security.

''(e) VICTIM CONFIDENTIALITY.—To the extent that information collected or reported under the authority of this section, such information shall be provided in a form that is consistent with applicable privacy protections under Federal law and does not jeopardize the confidentiality of victims.

''(f) CONTINUITY OF DATA AND REPORTING.—In carrying out this section, the Commandant shall ensure the continuity of data collection and reporting such that the ability to analyze trends is not compromised.''.

(b) COVERED MISCONDUCT IN COAST GUARD.—Section 5112 of title 14, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 5112. Covered misconduct in Coast Guard

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than March 1 each year, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on incidents of covered misconduct involving members of the Coast Guard, including recruits and officer candidates, and claims of retaliation related to the reporting of any such incident.

''(b) CONTINUITY OF DATA AND REPORTING.—In carrying out this section, the Commandant shall ensure the continuity of data collection and reporting such that the ability to analyze trends is not compromised.

''(c) CONTENTS.—

''(1) INCIDENTS INVOLVING MEMBERS.—

''(A) INFORMATION AND DATA.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Each report required under subsection (a) shall include, for the preceding calendar year, information and data on—

''(I) incidents of covered misconduct; and

''(II) incidents of retaliation against a member of the Coast Guard related to the reporting of covered misconduct, disaggregated by type of retaliation claim.

''(ii) INCLUSIONS.—The information and data on the incidents described in clause (i) shall include the following:

''(I) All incidents of covered misconduct and retaliation described in clause (i) reported to the Commandant or any other official of the Coast Guard during the preceding calendar year (referred to in this subsection as a 'reported incident').

''(II) The number of reported incidents committed against members of the Coast Guard.

''(III) The number of reported incidents committed by members of the Coast Guard.

''(IV) Information on reported incidents, in accordance with the policy prescribed under section 549G(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (10 U.S.C. 1561 note), to the maximum extent practicable.

''(V) The number of reported incidents that were entered into the Catch a Serial Offender system, including the number of such incidents that resulted in the identification of a potential or confirmed match.

''(VI) The number of reported incidents that were substantiated (referred to in this subsection as a 'substantiated reported incident').

''(VII) A synopsis of each substantiated reported incident that includes—

''(aa) a brief description of the nature of the incident;

''(bb) whether the accused member has previously been convicted of sexual assault; and

''(cc) whether alcohol or other controlled or prohibited substances were involved in the incident, and a description of the involvement.

''(VIII) The type of case disposition associated with each substantiated reported incident, such as—

''(aa) conviction and sentence by court-martial, including charges and specifications for which convicted;

''(bb) acquittal of all charges at court-martial;

''(cc) as appropriate, imposition of a nonjudicial punishment under section 815 of title 10 (article 15 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice);

''(dd) as appropriate, administrative action taken, including a description of each type of such action imposed;

''(ee) dismissal of all charges, including a description of each reason for dismissal and the stage at which dismissal occurred; and

''(ff) whether the accused member was administratively separated or, in the case of an officer, allowed to resign in lieu of court-martial, and the characterization (honorable, general, or other than honorable) of the service of the member upon separation or resignation.

''(IX) With respect to any incident of covered misconduct reported to the Commandant or any other official of the Coast Guard during the preceding calendar year that involves a report of retaliation relating to the incident—

''(aa) a narrative description of the retaliation claim;

''(bb) the nature of the relationship between the complainant and the individual accused of committing the retaliation; and

''(cc) the nature of the relationship between the individual accused of committing the covered misconduct and the individual accused of committing the retaliation.

''(X) The disposition of or action taken by the Coast Guard or any other Federal, State, local, or Tribal entity with respect to a substantiated reported incident.

''(XI) With respect to any investigation of a reported incident—

''(aa) the status of the investigation or information relating to any referral to outside law enforcement entities;

''(bb) the official or office of the Coast Guard that received the complaint;

''(cc) a description of the results of such an investigation or information with respect to whether the results of the investigation were provided to the complainant; or

''(dd) whether the investigation substantiated an offense under chapter 47 of title 10 (the Uniform Code of Military Justice).

''(iii) FORMAT.—With respect to the information and data required under clause (i), the Commandant shall report such information and data separately for each type of covered misconduct offense, and shall not aggregate the information and data for multiple types of covered misconduct offenses.

''(B) TRENDS.—Subject to subsection (b), beginning on the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025, each report required by subsection (a) shall include, for the preceding calendar year, an analysis or assessment of trends in the occurrence, as applicable, of incidents described in subparagraph (A)(i), since the date of enactment of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–213).

''(C) RESPONSE.—Each report required under subsection (a) shall include, for the preceding calendar year, a description of the policies, procedures, processes, initiatives, investigations (including overarching investigations), research, or studies implemented by the Commandant in response to any incident described in subparagraph (A)(i) involving a member of the Coast Guard.

''(D) PLAN.—Each report required under subsection (a) shall include a plan for actions to be taken during the year following the year covered by the report to enhance the prevention of and response to incidents described in subparagraph (A)(i) involving members of the Coast Guard.

''(E) COVERED MISCONDUCT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE ACTIVITIES.—Each report required under subsection (a) shall include an assessment of the adequacy of covered misconduct prevention and response activities related to incidents described in subparagraph (A)(i) carried out by the Coast Guard during the preceding calendar year.

''(F) CONTRIBUTING FACTORS.—Each report required under subsection (a) shall include, for incidents described in subparagraph (A)(i)—

''(i) an analysis of the factors that may have contributed to such incidents;

''(ii) an assessment of the role of such factors in contributing to such incidents during such year; and

''(iii) recommendations for mechanisms to eliminate or reduce such contributing factors.

''(2) INCIDENTS INVOLVING RECRUITS AND OFFICER CANDIDATES.—

''(A) INFORMATION AND DATA.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), each report required under subsection (a) shall include, as a separate appendix or enclosure, for the preceding calendar year, information and data on—

''(I) incidents of covered misconduct involving a recruit of the Coast Guard at Training Center Cape May or an officer candidate at the Coast Guard Officer Candidate School; and

''(II) incidents of retaliation against such a recruit or officer candidate related to the reporting of covered misconduct, disaggregated by type of retaliation claim.

''(ii) INCLUSIONS.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—The information and data on the incidents described in clause (i) shall include the following:

''(aa) All incidents of covered misconduct and retaliation described in clause (i) reported to the Commandant or any other official of the Coast Guard during the preceding calendar year (referred to in this subsection as a 'reported incident').

''(bb) The number of reported incidents committed against recruits and officer candidates described in clause (i)(I).

''(cc) The number of reported incidents committed by such recruits and officer candidates.

''(dd) Information on reported incidents, in accordance with the policy prescribed under section 549G(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (10 U.S.C. 1561 note), to the maximum extent practicable.

''(ee)(AA) The number of reported incidents that were entered into the Catch a Serial Offender system.

''(BB) Of such reported incidents entered into such system, the number that resulted in the identification of a potential or confirmed match.

''(ff) The number of reported incidents that were substantiated (referred to in this subsection as a 'substantiated reported incident').

''(gg) A synopsis of each substantiated reported incident that includes—

''(AA) a brief description of the nature of the incident; and

''(BB) whether alcohol or other controlled or prohibited substances were involved in the incident, and a description of the involvement.

''(hh) The type of case disposition associated with each substantiated reported incident, such as—

''(AA) conviction and sentence by court-martial, including charges and specifications for which convicted;

''(BB) acquittal of all charges at court-martial;

''(CC) as appropriate, imposition of a nonjudicial punishment under section 815 of title 10 (article 15 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice);

''(DD) as appropriate, administrative action taken, including a description of each type of such action imposed;

''(EE) dismissal of all charges, including a description of each reason for dismissal and the stage at which dismissal occurred; and

''(FF) whether the accused member was administratively separated or, in the case of an officer, allowed to resign in lieu of court-martial, and the characterization (honorable, general, or other than honorable) of the service of the member upon separation or resignation.

''(ii) With respect to any incident of covered misconduct involving recruits or officer candidates reported to the Commandant or any other official of the Coast Guard during the preceding calendar year that involves a report of retaliation relating to the incident—

''(AA) a narrative description of the retaliation claim;

''(BB) the nature of the relationship between the complainant and the individual accused of committing the retaliation; and

''(CC) the nature of the relationship between the individual accused of committing the covered misconduct and the individual accused of committing the retaliation.

''(jj) The disposition of or action taken by the Coast Guard or any other Federal, State, local, or Tribal entity with respect to a substantiated reported incident.

''(kk) With respect to any investigation of a reported incident—

''(AA) the status of the investigation or information relating to any referral to outside law enforcement entities;

''(BB) the official or office of the Coast Guard that received the complaint;

''(CC) a description of the results of such an investigation or information with respect to whether the results of the investigation were provided to the complainant; or

''(DD) whether the investigation substantiated an offense under chapter 47 of title 10 (the Uniform Code of Military Justice).

''(II) FORMAT.—With respect to the information and data required under clause (i), the Commandant shall report such information and data separately for each type of covered misconduct offense, and shall not aggregate the information and data for multiple types of covered misconduct offenses.

''(B) TRENDS.—Subject to subsection (b), beginning on the date of enactment of Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025, each report required by subsection (a) shall include, for the preceding calendar year, an analysis or assessment of trends in the occurrence, as applicable, of incidents described in subparagraph (A)(i), since the date of enactment of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–213).

''(C) RESPONSE.—Each report required under subsection (a) shall include, for the preceding calendar year, a description of the policies, procedures, processes, initiatives,

investigations (including overarching investigations), research, or studies implemented by the Commandant in response to any incident described in subparagraph (A)(i) involving—

''(i) a recruit of the Coast Guard at Training Center Cape May; or

''(ii) an officer candidate at the Coast Guard Officer Candidate School.

''(D) PLAN.—Each report required under subsection (a) shall include a plan for actions to be taken during the year following the year covered by the report to enhance the prevention of and response to incidents described in subparagraph (A)(i) involving a recruit of the Coast Guard at Training Center Cape May or an officer candidate at the Coast Guard Officer Candidate School.

''(E) COVERED MISCONDUCT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE ACTIVITIES.—Each report required under subsection (a) shall include an assessment of the adequacy of covered misconduct prevention and response activities related to incidents described in subparagraph (A)(i) of this paragraph carried out by the Coast Guard during the preceding calendar year.

''(F) CONTRIBUTING FACTORS.—Each report required under subsection (a) shall include, for incidents described in subparagraph (A)(i)—

''(i) an analysis of the factors that may have contributed to such incidents;

''(ii) an assessment of the role of such factors in contributing to such incidents during such year; and

''(iii) recommendations for mechanisms to eliminate or reduce such contributing factors.

''(3) IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY REVIEW DIRECTED ACTIONS.—Each report required under subsection (a) submitted during the 5-year period beginning on March 1, 2025, shall include information on the implementation by the Commandant of the directed actions described in the memorandum of the Coast Guard titled 'Commandant's Directed Actions—Accountability and Transparency', issued on November 27, 2023, including—

''(A) a description of actions taken to address each directed action during the year covered by the report;

''(B) the implementation status of each directed action;

''(C) in the case of any directed action that has not been implemented—

''(i) a detailed action plan for implementation of the recommendation;

''(ii) an estimated timeline for implementation of the recommendation;

''(iii) description of changes the Commandant intends to make to associated Coast Guard policies so as to enable the implementation of the recommendation; and

''(iv) any other information the Commandant considers appropriate;

''(D) a description of the metrics and milestones used to measure completion, accountability, and effectiveness of each directed action;

''(E) a description of any additional actions the Commandant is taking to mitigate instances of covered misconduct within the Coast Guard;

''(F) any legislative change proposal necessary to implement the directed actions; and

''(G) a detailed list of funding necessary to implement the directed actions in a timely and effective manner, including a list of personnel needed for such implementation.

''(d) VICTIM CONFIDENTIALITY.—To the extent that information collected under the authority of this section is reported or otherwise made available to the public, such information shall be provided in a form that is consistent with applicable privacy protections under Federal law and does not jeopardize the confidentiality of victims.

''(e) SUBSTANTIATED DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'substantiated' has the meaning given the term under section 1631(c) of the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 (10 U.S.C. 1561 note).''.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) CHAPTER 19.—The table of sections for chapter 19 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 1902 and inserting the following new item:

''1902. Academy policy and report on covered misconduct.''.

(2) CHAPTER 51.—The table of sections for chapter 51 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 5112 and inserting the following new item:

''5112. Covered misconduct in the Coast Guard.''.

SEC. 5407. MODIFICATIONS TO THE OFFICER INVOLUNTARY SEPARATION PROCESS.

(a) REVIEW OF RECORDS.—Section 2158 of title 14, United States Code, is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking ''may at any time convene a board of officers'' and inserting ''shall prescribe, by regulation, procedures''.

(b) BOARDS OF INQUIRY.—Section 2159(c) of such title is amended by striking ''send the record of its proceedings to a board of review'' and inserting ''recommend to the Secretary that the officer not be retained on active duty''.

(c) REPEAL OF BOARDS OF REVIEW.—Section 2160 of title 14, United States Code, is repealed.

(d) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in section 2161 by striking ''section 2158, 2159, or 2160'' each place it appears and inserting ''section 2158 or 2159'';

(B) in section 2163, in the first sentence by striking ''board of review under section 2160 of this title'' and inserting ''board of inquiry under section 2159 of this title''; and

(C) in section 2164(a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking ''or 2160''.

(2) The analysis at the beginning of chapter 21 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 2160.

SEC. 5408. REVIEW OF DISCHARGE CHARACTERIZATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 25 of title 14, United States Code, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 2518. Review of discharge characterization

''(a) DOWNGRADE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The decision to conduct a case review under this section shall be at the discretion of the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating.

''(2) BOARD OF REVIEW.—In addition to the requirements of section 1553 of title 10, a board of review for a former member of the Coast Guard established pursuant to such section and under part 51 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025), may upon a motion of the board and subject to review by the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, downgrade an honorable discharge to a general (under honorable conditions) discharge upon a finding that a former member of the Coast Guard, while serving on active duty as a member of the armed forces, committed sexual assault or sexual harassment in violation of section 920, 920b, or 934 of title 10 (article 120, 120b, or 134 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice).

''(3) EVIDENCE.—Any downgrade under paragraph (2) shall be supported by clear and convincing evidence.

''(4) LIMITATION.—The review board under paragraph (2) may not downgrade a discharge of a former member of the Coast Guard if the same action described in paragraph (2) was considered prior to separation from active duty by an administrative board in determining the characterization of discharge as otherwise provided by law and in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating.

''(b) PROCEDURAL RIGHTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A review by a board established under section 1553 of title 10 and under part 51 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025), shall be based on the records of the Coast Guard, and with respect to a member who also served in another one of the armed forces, the records of the armed forces concerned and such other evidence as may be presented to the board.

''(2) EVIDENCE BY WITNESS.—A witness may present evidence to the board in person or by affidavit.

''(3) APPEARANCE BEFORE BOARD.—A person who requests a review under this section may appear before the board in person or by counsel or an accredited representative of an organization recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under chapter 59 of title 38.

''(4) NOTIFICATION.—A former member of the Coast Guard who is subject to a downgrade in discharge characterization review under subsection (b)(3) shall be notified in writing of such proceedings, afforded the right to obtain copies of records and documents relevant to the proceedings, and the right to appear before the board in person or by counsel or an accredited representative of an organization recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under chapter 59 of title 38.''.

(b) RULEMAKING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall initiate a rulemaking to implement this section.

(2) DEADLINE FOR REGULATIONS.—The regulations issued under paragraph (1) shall take effect not later than 180 days after the date on which the Commandant promulgates a final rule pursuant to such paragraph.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 25 of title 14, United States Code, is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2517 (as added by this Act) the following:

''2518. Review of discharge characterization.''.

SEC. 5409. CONVICTED SEX OFFENDER AS GROUNDS FOR DENIAL.

Section 7511(a) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1) by striking ''or'';

(2) in paragraph (2) by striking ''State, local, or Tribal law'' and inserting ''Federal, State, local, or Tribal law'';

(3) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(4) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

''(2) section 920 or 920b of title 10 (article 120 and 120b of the Uniform Code of Military Justice); or''.

SEC. 5410. DEFINITION OF COVERED MISCONDUCT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 25 of title 14, United States Code, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 2519. Covered misconduct defined

''In this title, the term 'covered misconduct' means—

''(1) rape and sexual assault, as described in sections 920(a) and 920(b) of title 10 (articles 120(a) and 120(b) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice);

''(2) sexual harassment, as described in Executive Order 14062 dated January 26, 2022, and enumerated under section 934 of title 10 (article 134 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice);

''(3) abusive sexual contact and aggravated sexual contact, as described in sections 920(c) and 920(d) of title 10 (articles 120(c) and 120(d) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice);

''(4) wrongful broadcast, dissemination, or creation of content as described in sections 917 and 920c of title 10 (articles 117a and 120c of the Uniform Code of Military Justice);

''(5) the child pornography offenses as described in section 934 of title 10 (article 134 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice);

''(6) rape and sexual assault of a child, other sexual misconduct, and stalking, as described in sections 920b, 920c(a), and 930 of title 10 (articles 120b, 120c, and 130 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice); and

''(7) domestic violence, as described in section 928b of title 10 (article 128b of the Uniform Code of Military Justice).''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 25 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2518 the following:

''2519. Covered misconduct defined.''.

SEC. 5411. NOTIFICATION OF CHANGES TO UNIFORM CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE OR MANUAL FOR COURTS MARTIAL RELATING TO COVERED MISCONDUCT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 51 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 5116. Notification of changes to Uniform Code of Military Justice or Manual for Courts Martial relating to covered misconduct

''Beginning on March 30, 2026, and annually thereafter, the Commandant shall notify the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives with respect to each of the following:

''(1) Whether the Uniform Code of Military Justice (chapter 47 of title 10) has been amended—

''(A) to add any sex-related offense as a new article; or

''(B) to remove an article relating to covered misconduct described in any of paragraphs (1) through (7) of section 301.

''(2) Whether the Manual for Courts Martial has been modified—

''(A) to add any sex-related offense as an offense described under an article of the Uniform Code of Military Justice; or

''(B) to remove as an offense described under an article of the Uniform Code of Military Justice covered misconduct described in any of paragraphs (1) through (7) of section 301.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 51 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''5116. Notification of changes to Uniform Code of Military Justice Or Manual for Courts Martial relating to covered misconduct.''.

SEC. 5412. COMPLAINTS OF RETALIATION BY VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT OR SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND RELATED PERSONS.

Section 1562a of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking ''The Secretary of Defense shall'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) COAST GUARD.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall designate the Commandant of the Coast Guard to be responsible for carrying out the requirements of this section with respect to members of the Coast Guard when the Coast Guard is not operating as a service in the Navy.'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by inserting ''and the Commandant of the Coast Guard'' after ''Secretary'';

(B) in paragraph (8) by inserting before the period at the end ''or with respect to the Coast Guard, the component designated by the Commandant of the Coast Guard''; and

(C) in paragraph (4) by striking ''Department of Defense''; and

(3) in subsection (c)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A) by inserting '', the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security,'' before ''or any other inspector general'';

(B) in subparagraph (D) by striking ''military'' and inserting ''armed force''; and

(C) in subparagraph (E) by inserting ''or department in which the Coast Guard is operating when not operating as a service in the Navy for members of the Coast Guard'' after ''Department of Defense''.

SEC. 5413. DEVELOPMENT OF POLICIES ON MILITARY PROTECTIVE ORDERS.

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall issue updated policies of the Coast Guard relating to military protective orders that are consistent with the law and policies of the Department of Defense.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The policies developed under paragraph (1) shall require—

(A) that any denial of a request for a military protective order shall include a written explanation for the denial, which shall be—

(i) forwarded to the next flag officer in the chain of command of the commanding officer or other approving authority who denied the request; and

(ii) provided to the member who submitted the request; and

(B) the recusal of an approving authority from participating in the granting or denying of a military protective order, if such authority was, at any time—

(i) the subject of a complaint of any form of assault, harassment, or retaliation filed by the member requesting the military protective order or the member who is the subject of the military protective order; or

(ii) associated with the member requesting the military protective order or the member who is the subject of the military protective order in a manner that presents as an actual or apparent conflict of interest.

(3) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—The Commandant shall develop a policy to ensure that sexual assault response coordinators, victim advocates, and other appropriate personnel shall inform victims of the process by which the victim may request an expedited transfer, a no-contact order, or a military or civilian protective order.

SEC. 5414. COAST GUARD IMPLEMENTATION OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS ON ADDRESSING SEXUAL ASSAULT AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THE MILITARY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall review the report of the Independent Review Commission titled ''Hard Truths and the Duty to Change: Recommendations from the Independent Review Commission on Sexual Assault in the Military'' referred to in the memorandum of the Department of Defense titled ''Memorandum for Senior Pentagon Leadership Commanders of the Combatant Commands Defense Agency and DoD Field Activity Directors'', dated September 22, 2021, (relating to commencing Department of Defense actions and implementation of the recommendations of the Independent Review Commission to address sexual assault and sexual harassment in the military).

(b) STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN.—On completion of the review required under subsection (a), and not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a strategy and action plan that—

(1)(A) identifies any recommendation set forth in the report by the Independent Review Commission described in subsection (a) that addresses a matter that is not within the jurisdiction of the Coast Guard, does not apply to the Coast Guard, or otherwise would not be beneficial to members of the Coast Guard, as determined by the Commandant; and

(B) includes a brief rationale for such determination; and

(2) with respect to each recommendation set forth in such report that is not identified under paragraph (1), includes—

(A)(i) a detailed action plan for implementation of the recommendation;

(ii) a description of changes the Commandant will make to associated Coast Guard policies so as to enable the implementation of the recommendation;

(iii) an estimated timeline for implementation of the recommendation;

(iv) the estimated cost of the implementation;

(v) legislative proposals for such implementation, as appropriate; and

(vi) any other information the Commandant considers appropriate; or

(B) in the case of such a recommendation that the Commandant is unable to implement, an explanation of the reason the recommendation cannot be implemented.

(c) BRIEFING.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter through 2028, the Commandant shall provide the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives with a briefing on the status of the implementation of this section and any modification to the strategy and plan submitted under subsection (b).

SEC. 5415. POLICY RELATING TO CARE AND SUPPORT OF VICTIMS OF COVERED MISCONDUCT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall issue Coast Guard policy relating to the care and support of members of the Coast Guard who are alleged victims covered misconduct.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The policy required by subsection (a) shall require, to the maximum extent practicable, that—

(1) a member of the Coast Guard who is an alleged victim of covered misconduct and discloses such covered misconduct to the appropriate individual of the Coast Guard responsible for providing victim care and support—

(A) shall receive care and support from such individual; and

(B) such individual shall not deny or unreasonably delay providing care and support; and

(2) in the case of such an alleged victim to whom care and support cannot be provided

by the appropriate individual contacted by the alleged victim based on programmatic eligibility criteria or any other reason that affects the ability of such appropriate individual to provide care and support (such as being stationed at a remote unit or serving on a vessel currently underway) the alleged victim shall receive, with the permission of the alleged victim—

(A) an in-person introduction to appropriate service providers, for which the alleged victim is physically present, which shall occur at the discretion of the alleged victim; and

(B) access to follow-up services from the appropriate 1 or more service providers.

(c) APPLICABILITY.—The policy issued under subsection (a) shall apply to—

(1) all Coast Guard personnel responsible for the care and support of victims of covered misconduct; and

(2) any other Coast Guard personnel the Commandant considers appropriate.

(d) REVISION OF POLICY RELATING TO DOMESTIC ABUSE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall issue or revise any Coast Guard policy or process relating to domestic abuse so as to define the term ''intimate partner'' to have the meaning given such term in section 930 of title 10, United States Code.

(e) TRAINING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—All Coast Guard personnel responsible for the care and support of members of the Coast Guard who are alleged victims of covered misconduct shall receive training in accordance with professional standards of practice to ensure that such alleged victims receive adequate care that is consistent with the policy issued under subsection (a).

(2) ELEMENTS.—The training required by paragraph (1)—

(A) shall include—

(i) instructions on specific procedures for implementing the policy issued under subsection (a); and

(ii) information on resources and personnel critical for the implementation of such policy; and

(B) to the maximum extent practicable, shall be provided in person.

(f) COVERED MISCONDUCT.—In this section, the term ''covered misconduct'' shall have the meaning given such term in section 2519 of title 14, United States Code (as added by this Act).

SEC. 5416. ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL VICTIM CAPABILITIES TO RESPOND TO ALLEGATIONS OF CERTAIN SPECIAL VICTIM OFFENSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 573 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (10 U.S.C. 1561 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by inserting ''or the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating when not operating as a service in the Navy'' after ''Secretary of Defense''; and

(B) by striking ''Secretary of each military department'' and inserting ''Secretary concerned'';

(2) in subsection (b) by striking ''or Air Force Office of Special Investigations'' and inserting '', Air Force Office of Special Investigations, or Coast Guard Investigative Services'';

(3) in subsection (c) by inserting ''or the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating when not operating as a service in the Navy'' after ''Secretary of Defense'';

(4) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by inserting ''or the Commandant of the Coast Guard'' after ''Secretary of a military department''; and

(ii) by inserting ''or the Coast Guard'' after ''within the military department'';

(B) in paragraph (2) by inserting ''or the Coast Guard'' after ''within a military department''; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

''(h) TIME FOR ESTABLISHMENT FOR COAST GUARD.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report containing all the items described in subsections (e) and (f) as applied to the Coast Guard.''.

(b) BRIEFING.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall provide the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives with a briefing on the Commandant's assessment and implementation, as appropriate, of the recommendations included in the Center for Naval Analyses report titled ''Assessing the USCG's Special Victims' Counsel Program'', issued in June 2024, including—

(1) the implementation status of each adopted recommendation, as appropriate;

(2) for each adopted recommendation, a description of actions taken to implement such recommendation;

(3) in the case of an adopted recommendation that has not been fully implemented—

(A) a description of actions taken or planned to address such recommendation;

(B) an estimated completion date; and

(C) a description of the milestones necessary to complete the recommendation;

(4) a description of any recommendation that will not be adopted and an explanation of the reason the recommendation will not be adopted;

(5) a description of the metrics and milestones used to ensure completion and effectiveness of each adopted recommendation;

(6) a description of any additional actions the Commandant is taking to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Special Victims' Counsel program of the Coast Guard;

(7) any legislative change proposal necessary to implement the adopted recommendations; and

(8) an overview of any funding or resource necessary to implement each adopted recommendation in a timely and effective manner, including a list of personnel needed for such implementation.

SEC. 5417. MEMBERS ASSERTING POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER, SEXUAL ASSAULT, OR TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY.

Section 2516 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking ''or has been sexually assaulted during the preceding 2-year period''; and

(ii) by striking ''or based on such sexual assault, the influence of'' and inserting ''the signs and symptoms of either'';

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (4) as paragraphs (3) through (5), respectively;

(C) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

''(2) MENTAL, BEHAVIORAL, OR EMOTIONAL DISORDER.—A member of the Coast Guard who has been sexually assaulted during the preceding 5-year period and who alleges, based on such sexual assault, the signs and symptoms of a diagnosable mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder described within the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders published by the American Psychiatric Association—

''(A) is provided the opportunity to request a medical examination to clinically evaluate such signs and symptoms; and

''(B) receives such a medical examination to evaluate a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, or diagnosable mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder described within the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders published by the American Psychiatric Association.'';

(D) in paragraph (3) by striking ''paragraph (1)'' and inserting ''this subsection''; and

(E) in paragraph (4), as so redesignated—

(i) by inserting ''or a diagnosable mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder'' before ''under this subsection'';

(ii) by inserting ''performed by'' after ''shall be''; and

(iii) by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

''(A) a board-certified psychiatrist;

''(B) a licensed doctorate-level psychologist;

''(C) any other appropriate licensed or certified healthcare professional designated by the Commandant; or

''(D) a psychiatry resident or board-eligible psychologist who—

''(i) has completed a 1-year internship or residency; and

''(ii) is under the close supervision of a board-certified psychiatrist or licensed doctorate-level psychologist.'';

(2) in subsection (b) by inserting ''or a diagnosable mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder'' after ''traumatic brain injury''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(e) NOTIFICATION OF RIGHT TO REQUEST MEDICAL EXAMINATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Any member of the Coast Guard who receives a notice of involuntary administrative separation shall be advised at the time of such notice of the right of the member to request a medical examination under subsection (a) if any condition described in such subsection applies to the member.

''(2) POLICY.—The Commandant shall—

''(A) develop and issue a clear policy for carrying out the notification required under paragraph (1) with respect to any member of the Coast Guard described in that paragraph who has made an unrestricted report of sexual assault; and

''(B) provide information on such policy to sexual assault response coordinators of the Coast Guard for the purpose of ensuring that such policy is communicated to members of the Coast Guard who may be eligible for a medical examination under this section.''.

SEC. 5418. PARTICIPATION IN CATCH A SERIAL OFFENDER PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating when not operating as a service in the Navy, acting through the Commandant, shall ensure the participation of the Coast Guard in the Catch a Serial Offender program (referred to in this section as the ''CATCH program'') of the Department of Defense established in accordance with section 543 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. ''Buck'' McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291).

(b) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating and the Secretary of Defense shall finalize a memorandum of agreement to facilitate Coast Guard access to and participation in the CATCH program.

SEC. 5419. ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY RELATING TO ALLEGATIONS OF MISCONDUCT AGAINST SENIOR LEADERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 25 of title 14, United States Code, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 2520. Accountability and transparency relating to allegations of misconduct against senior leaders

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025, the Secretary shall establish a policy to improve oversight, investigations, accountability, and public transparency regarding alleged misconduct of senior leaders of the Coast Guard.

''(b) ELEMENTS.—The policy required by subsection (a)—

''(1) shall require that—

''(A) any allegation of alleged misconduct made against a senior leader of the Coast Guard shall be reported to the Office of the Inspector General of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating not later than 72 hours after the allegation is reported to the Coast Guard or the department in which the Coast Guard is operating; and

''(B) the Inspector General of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall notify the head of the Coast Guard office in which the senior leader is serving with respect to the receipt of such allegation, or, in a case where the senior leader is the head of such Coast Guard office, the next in the chain of command, as appropriate, except in a case in which the Inspector General determines that such notification would risk impairing an ongoing investigation, would unnecessarily compromise the anonymity of the individual making the allegation, or would otherwise be inappropriate; and

''(2) to the extent practicable, shall be consistent with Department of Defense directives, including Department of Defense Directive 5505.06.

''(c) FIRST RIGHT TO EXCLUSIVE INVESTIGATION.—The Inspector General of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating—

''(1) shall have the first right to investigate an allegation described in subsection (b)(1)(A); and

''(2) in cases with concurrent jurisdiction involving an allegation described in subsection (b)(1)(A), may investigate such an allegation to the exclusion of any other Coast Guard criminal or administrative investigation if the Inspector General determines that an exclusive investigation is necessary to maintain the integrity of the investigation.

''(d) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY AND BROAD DISSEMINATION.—The policy established under subsection (a) shall be made available to the public and incorporated into training and curricula across the Coast Guard at all levels to ensure broad understanding of the policy among members and personnel of the Coast Guard.

''(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) ALLEGED MISCONDUCT.—The term 'alleged misconduct'—

''(A) means a credible allegation that, if proven, would constitute a violation of—

''(i) a provision of criminal law, including the Uniform Code of Military Justice (chapter 47 of title 10); or

''(ii) a recognized standard, such as the Department of Defense Joint Ethics Regulation or other Federal regulation, including any other Department of Defense regulation and any Department of Homeland Security regulation; or

''(B) could reasonably be expected to be of significance to the Secretary or the Inspector General of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, particularly in a case in which there is an element of misuse of position or of unauthorized personal benefit to the senior official, a family member, or an associate.

''(2) SENIOR LEADER OF THE COAST GUARD.—The term 'senior leader of the Coast Guard' means—

''(A) an active duty, retired, or reserve officer of the Coast Guard in the grade of O–7 or higher;

''(B) an officer of the Coast Guard selected for promotion to the grade of O–7;

''(C) a current or former civilian member of the Senior Executive Service employed by the Coast Guard; or

''(D) any civilian member of the Coast Guard whose position is deemed equivalent to that of a member of the Senior Executive Service, as determined by the Office of the Inspector General of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, in concurrence with the Secretary acting through the Commandant.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 25 of title 14, United States Code, is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2519 (as added by this Act) the following:

''2520. Accountability and transparency relating to allegations of misconduct against senior leaders.''.

SEC. 5420. CONFIDENTIAL REPORTING OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT.

Section 1561b of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by inserting ''and the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating when not operating as a service in the Navy'' after ''Secretary of Defense''; and

(B) by inserting ''or the Commandant'' after ''Secretary of a military department'';

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by inserting ''or the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating when not operating as a service in the Navy'' after ''Secretary of Defense''; and

(B) in paragraph (1) by inserting ''departments or the Commandant'' after ''Secretaries of the military''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(e) REPORTS FOR THE COAST GUARD.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than April 30, 2025, and April 30 every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report containing data on the complaints of sexual harassment alleged pursuant to the process under subsection (a) during the previous 2 calendar years.

''(2) PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION.—Any data on complaints described in paragraph (1) shall not contain any personally identifiable information.''.

SEC. 5421. REPORT ON POLICY ON WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the Committees on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the policy of the Coast Guard on whistleblower protections.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A discussion of the policy of the Coast Guard as of the date of enactment of this Act with respect to—

(A) whistleblower protections;

(B) accountability measures for reprisal against whistleblowers;

(C) the applicable professional standards and potential types of support provided to whistleblowers by members of the Coast Guard personnel, such as the members in the Coast Guard Investigative Service; and

(D) the content and frequency of training provided to members of the Coast Guard on active duty, members of the Coast Guard Reserve, and civilian personnel of the Coast Guard with respect to the applicable professional standards and potential types of support offered to whistleblowers.

(2) A description of the responsibilities of commanders and equivalent civilian supervisors with respect to whistleblower complaints and measures used by the Coast Guard to ensure compliance with such responsibilities, such as—

(A) the mechanisms to ensure that—

(i) any such commander complies with section 1034 of title 10, United States Code, including subsection (a)(1) of that section;

(ii) any such equivalent civilian supervisor complies with section 2302 of title 5, United States Code; and

(iii) any such commander or supervisor protects the constitutional right of whistleblowers to speak with Members of Congress;

(B) actions to be taken against any a commander or equivalent civilian supervisor who fails to act on a whistleblower complaint or improperly interferes with a whistleblower after a complaint is filed or during the preparation of a complaint;

(C) the role of Coast Guard attorneys in ensuring that such commanders comply with responsibilities under section 1034 of title 10, United States Code; and

(D) the role of Coast Guard civilian attorneys and administrative law judges in ensuring that such civilian supervisors comply with responsibilities under section 2302 of title 5, United States Code.

(3) A discussion of the availability of Coast Guard staff, including civilian staff, assigned to providing, in accordance with professional standards or practice, behavioral health care to whistleblowers, including—

(A) the number and type of such staff;

(B) a description of the specific care responsibilities of such staff;

(C) an identification of any limitation existing as of the date of enactment of this Act to the provision of such care;

(D) a description of any plan to increase capacity of such staff to provide such care, as applicable; and

(E) a description of any additional resources necessary to provide such care.

(4) An assessment of the manner in which the policies discussed in paragraph (1), the responsibilities of commanders and civilian supervisors described in paragraph (2), and the availability of Coast Guard staff as discussed in paragraph (3) apply specifically to cadets and leadership at the Coast Guard Academy.

(5) Recommendations (including, as appropriate, proposed legislative changes and a plan to publish in the Federal Register not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act a request for information seeking public comment and recommendations) of the Commandant regarding manners in which Coast Guard policies and procedures may be strengthened—

(A) to prevent whistleblower discrimination and harassment;

(B) to better enforce prohibitions on retaliation, including reprisal, restriction, ostracism, and maltreatment, set forth in section 1034 of title 10, United States Code, and section 2302 of title 5, United States Code; and

(C) to hold commanding officers and civilian supervisors accountable for enforcing and complying with prohibitions on any form of retaliation described in such section.

SEC. 5422. REVIEW AND MODIFICATION OF COAST GUARD ACADEMY POLICY ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Superintendent of the Coast Guard Academy (referred to in this section as the ''Superintendent'') shall—

(1) not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, commence a review of the Coast Guard Academy policy on sexual harassment and sexual violence established in accordance with section 1902 of title 14, United States Code, that includes an evaluation as to whether any long-standing Coast Guard Academy tradition, system, process, or internal policy impedes the implementation of necessary evidence-informed best practices followed by other military service academies in prevention, response, and recovery relating to sexual harassment and sexual violence; and

(2) not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act—

(A) complete such review; and

(B) modify such policy in accordance with subsection (b).

(b) MODIFICATIONS TO POLICY.—In modifying the Coast Guard Academy policy on sexual harassment and sexual violence referred to in subsection (a), the Superintendent shall ensure that such policy includes the following:

(1) Each matter required to be specified by section 1902(b) of title 14, United States Code.

(2) Updates to achieve compliance with chapter 47 of title 10, United States Code (Uniform Code of Military Justice).

(3) A description of the roles and responsibilities of staff of the Coast Guard Academy Sexual Assault Prevention, Response, and Recovery program, including—

(A) the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator;

(B) the Victim Advocate Program Specialist;

(C) the Volunteer Victim Advocate; and

(D) the Primary Prevention Specialist, as established under subsection (c).

(4) A description of the role of the Coast Guard Investigative Service with respect to sexual harassment and sexual violence prevention, response, and recovery at the Coast Guard Academy.

(5) A description of the role of support staff at the Coast Guard Academy, including chaplains, with respect to sexual harassment and sexual violence prevention, response, and recovery.

(6) Measures to promote awareness of dating violence.

(7) A delineation of the relationship between—

(A) cadet advocacy groups organized for the prevention of, response to, and recovery from sexual harassment and sexual violence, including Cadets Against Sexual Assault; and

(B) the staff of the Coast Guard Academy Sexual Assault Prevention, Response, and Recovery program.

(8) A provision that requires cadets and Coast Guard Academy personnel to participate in not fewer than one in-person training each academic year on the prevention of, responses to, and resources relating to incidents of sexual harassment and sexual violence, to be provided by the staff of the Coast Guard Academy Sexual Assault Prevention, Response, and Recovery program.

(9) The establishment, revision, or expansion, as necessary, of an anti-retaliation Superintendent's Instruction for cadets who—

(A) report incidents of sexual harassment or sexual violence;

(B) participate in cadet advocacy groups that advocate for the prevention of, response to, and recovery from sexual harassment and sexual violence; or

(C) seek assistance from a company officer, company senior enlisted leader, athletic coach, or other Coast Guard Academy staff member with respect to a mental health or other medical emergency.

(10) A provision that explains the purpose of and process for issuance of a no-contact order at the Coast Guard Academy, including a description of the manner in which such an order shall be enforced.

(11) A provision that explains the purpose of and process for issuance of a military protective order at the Coast Guard Academy, including a description of—

(A) the manner in which such an order shall be enforced; and

(B) the associated requirement to notify the National Criminal Information Center of the issuance of such an order.

(c) PRIMARY PREVENTION SPECIALIST.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Superintendent shall hire a Primary Prevention Specialist, to be located and serve at the Coast Guard Academy.

(d) TEMPORARY LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO RECEIVE MEDICAL SERVICES AND MENTAL HEALTH AND RELATED SUPPORT SERVICES.—The Superintendent shall ensure that the Academy's policy regarding a cadet who has made a restricted or unrestricted report of sexual harassment to request a leave of absence from the Coast Guard Academy is consistent with other military service academies.

SEC. 5423. COAST GUARD AND COAST GUARD ACADEMY ACCESS TO DEFENSE SEXUAL ASSAULT INCIDENT DATABASE.

(a) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall enter into a memorandum of understanding to enable the criminal offender case management and analytics database of the Coast Guard to have system interface access with the Defense Sexual Assault Incident Database (referred to in this section as the ''Database'') established by section 563 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (10 U.S.C. 1561 note).

(b) PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after entering into the memorandum of understanding required under subsection (a), the Commandant, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a plan to carry out the terms of such memorandum.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The plan required under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) Measures to ensure that authorized staff of the Coast Guard have system interface access to the Database, and a description of any barrier to such access.

(B) Measures to ensure that authorized staff of the Coast Guard Academy have system interface access to the Database, and a description of any barrier to such access that is unique to the Coast Guard Academy.

(C) Measures to facilitate formal or informal communication between the Coast Guard and the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office of the Department of Defense, or any other relevant Department of Defense component, to identify or seek a resolution to barriers to Database access.

(D) A description of the steps, measures, and improvements necessary to remove any barrier encountered by staff of the Coast Guard or the Coast Guard Academy in accessing the Database, including any failure of system interface access necessitating manual entry of investigative data.

(E) An assessment of the technical challenges, timeframes, and costs associated with providing authorized staff of the Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Academy with system interface access for the Database that is substantially similar to such system interface access possessed by other branches of the Armed Forces.

(3) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

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

(B) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 5424. DIRECTOR OF COAST GUARD INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 325. Director of Coast Guard Investigative Service

''(a) IN GENERAL.—There shall be a Director of the Coast Guard Investigative Service.

''(b) CHAIN OF COMMAND.—The Director of the Coast Guard Investigative Service shall report directly to and be under the general supervision of the Commandant, acting through the Vice Commandant of the Coast Guard.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for Chapter 3 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 324 the following:

''325. Director of Coast Guard Investigative Service.''.

SEC. 5425. MODIFICATIONS AND REVISIONS RELATING TO REOPENING RETIRED GRADE DETERMINATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2501(d)(2) of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B) by inserting ''a'' before ''competent authority'';

(2) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) through (E) as subparagraphs (F) through (H), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

''(C) substantial evidence comes to light that, during the commissioned service of the officer, the officer failed to carry out applicable laws, with an intent to deceive or defraud;

''(D) substantial evidence comes to light after the retirement that the officer committed rape or sexual assault, as described in sections 920(a) and 920(b) of title 10 (articles 120(a) and 120(b) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice) at any time during the commissioned service of the officer;

''(E) substantial evidence comes to light after the retirement that the commissioned officer knew of and failed to report through proper channels, in accordance with existing law at the time of the alleged incident, any known instances of sexual assault by a member of the Coast Guard under the command of the officer during the officer's service;''.

(b) ISSUANCE AND REVISION OF REGULATIONS RELATING TO GOOD CAUSE TO REOPEN RETIRED GRADE DETERMINATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall issue or revise, as applicable, and at the discretion of the Secretary consistent with this section, regulations of the Coast Guard to do the following:

(1) Define what constitutes good cause to reopen a retired grade determination referred to in subparagraph (H) of section 2501(d)(2) of title 14, United States Code, as redesignated by subsection (a), to ensure that the following shall be considered good cause for such a reopening:

(A) Circumstances that constitute a failure to carry out applicable laws regarding a report of sexual assault with an intent to deceive by a commissioned officer, that relate to a response made to a report of sexual assault, during the commissioned service of the officer.

(B) Substantial evidence of sexual assault by the commissioned officer concerned, at any time during the commissioned service of such officer, or such evidence that was not considered by the Coast Guard in a manner consistent with law.

(2) Identify the standard for making, and the evidentiary showing required to support, an adverse determination on the retired grade of a commissioned officer.

(c) REVISION OF LIMITATIONS ON REOPENING RETIRED GRADE DETERMINATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall revise applicable guidance in section K.10 of chapter 3 of Commandant Instruction 1000.4A to remove any restriction that limits the ability to reopen the retired grade of a commissioned officer based on—

(1) whether new evidence is discovered contemporaneously with or within a short time period after the date of retirement of the officer concerned; and

(2) whether the misconduct concerned was not discoverable through due diligence.

(d) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—No provision of this section or the amendments made by this section shall be construed to permit a review of conduct that was not in violation of law or policy at the time of the alleged conduct.

SEC. 5426. INCLUSION AND COMMAND REVIEW OF INFORMATION ON COVERED MISCONDUCT IN PERSONNEL SERVICE RECORDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 25 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subchapter II, by redesignating section 2521 as section 2531; and

(2) in subchapter I, as amended by this Act, by adding at the end the following:

''§ 2521. Inclusion and command review of information on covered misconduct in personnel service records

''(a) INFORMATION ON REPORTS ON COVERED MISCONDUCT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—If a complaint of covered misconduct is made against a member of the Coast Guard and the member is convicted by court-martial or receives nonjudicial punishment or punitive administrative action for such covered misconduct, a notation to that effect shall be placed in the personnel service record of the member, regardless of the grade of the member.

''(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the inclusion of information in personnel service records under paragraph (1) is to alert supervisors and commanders to any member of their command who has received a court-martial conviction, nonjudicial punishment, or punitive administrative action for covered misconduct in order—

''(A) to reduce the likelihood that repeat offenses will escape the notice of supervisors and commanders; and

''(B) to help inform commissioning or promotability of the member;

''(3) LIMITATION ON PLACEMENT.—A notation under paragraph (1) may not be placed in the restricted section of the personnel service record of a member.

''(4) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed to prohibit or limit the capacity of a member of the Coast Guard to challenge or appeal the placement of a notation, or location of placement of a notation, in the personnel service record of the member in accordance with procedures otherwise applicable to such challenges or appeals.

''(b) COMMAND REVIEW OF HISTORY OF COVERED MISCONDUCT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Under policy to be prescribed by the Secretary, the commanding officer of a unit or facility to which a covered member is assigned or transferred shall review the history of covered misconduct as documented in the personnel service record of a covered member in order to become familiar with such history of the covered member.

''(2) COVERED MEMBER DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term 'covered member' means a member of the Coast Guard who, at the time of assignment or transfer as described in paragraph (1), has a history of 1 or more covered misconduct offenses as documented in the personnel service record of such member or such other records or files as the Commandant shall specify in the policy prescribed under subparagraph (A).

''(c) REVIEW OF PERSONNEL SERVICE RECORD TO DETERMINE SUITABILITY FOR CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT.—Under policy to be prescribed by the Secretary, the Commandant shall establish procedures that are consistent with the law, policies, and practices of the Department of Defense in effect on the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025 to consider and review the personnel service record of a former member of the Armed Forces to determine the suitability of the individual for civilian employment in the Coast Guard.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 25 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking the item relating to section 2521 and inserting the following:

''2531. Advisory Board on Women in the Coast Guard.''; and

(2) by inserting after the item relating to section 2520 (as added by this Act) the following:

''2521. Inclusion and command review of information on covered misconduct in personnel service records.''.

SEC. 5427. FLAG OFFICER REVIEW OF, AND CONCURRENCE IN, SEPARATION OF MEMBERS WHO HAVE REPORTED SEXUAL MISCONDUCT.

(a) POLICY TO REQUIRE REVIEW OF CERTAIN PROPOSED INVOLUNTARY SEPARATIONS.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall establish, with respect to any proposed involuntary separation under chapter 59 of title 10, United States Code, a Coast Guard policy to review the circumstances of, and grounds for, such a proposed involuntary separation of any member of the Coast Guard who—

(1) made a restricted or unrestricted report of covered misconduct (as such term is defined in section 2519 of title 14, United States Code);

(2) within 2 years after making such a report, is recommended for involuntary separation from the Coast Guard; and

(3) requests the review on the grounds that the member believes the recommendation for involuntary separation from the Coast Guard was initiated in retaliation for making the report.

(b) RECUSAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The policy established under subsection (a) shall set forth a process for the recusal of commanding officers and the flag officer described in subsection (c)(2) from making initial or subsequent decisions on proposed separations or from reviewing proposed separations.

(2) CRITERIA.—The recusal process established under paragraph (1) shall specify criteria for recusal, including mandatory recusal from making a decision on a proposed separation, and from reviewing a proposed separation, if the commanding officer or the flag officer described in subsection (c)(2) was, at any time—

(A) the subject of a complaint of any form of assault, harassment, or retaliation, filed by the member of the Coast Guard described in subsection (a) who is the subject of a proposed involuntary separation or whose proposed separation is under review; or

(B) associated with the individual suspected or accused of perpetrating the incident of covered misconduct reported by such member.

(c) CONCURRENCE OF FLAG OFFICER REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The policy established under subsection (a) shall require the concurrence of the flag officer described in paragraph (2) in order to separate the member of the Coast Guard described in such subsection.

(2) FLAG OFFICER DESCRIBED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the flag officer described in this paragraph is—

(i) the Deputy Commandant for Mission Support or the successor Vice Admiral that oversees personnel policy; or

(ii) a designee of the Deputy Commandant for Mission Support (or the successor Vice Admiral that oversees personnel policy) who is in a grade not lower than O–7.

(B) CHAIN OF COMMAND EXCEPTION.—In the case of a member of the Coast Guard described in subsection (a) who is in the immediate chain of command of the Deputy Commandant for Mission Support or the successor Vice Admiral that oversees personnel policy or the designee of the Deputy Commandant for Mission Support or the successor Vice Admiral that oversees personnel policy, the flag officer described in this paragraph is a flag officer outside the chain of command of such member, as determined by the Commandant consistent with the policy established under subsection (a).

(d) NOTIFICATION REQUIRED.—Any member of the Coast Guard who has made a report of covered misconduct and who receives a proposal for involuntary separation shall be notified at the time of such proposal of the right of the member to a review under this section.

SEC. 5428. EXPEDITED TRANSFER IN CASES OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT OR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

(a) EXPEDITED TRANSFER POLICY UPDATE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall update Coast Guard policy as necessary to implement—

(1) an expedited transfer process for covered individuals consistent with—

(A) Department of Defense policy on expedited transfers of victims of sexual assault or domestic violence in place on the date of enactment of this Act; and

(B) subsection (b); and

(2) a process by which—

(A) a covered individual, the commanding officer of a covered individual, or any other Coast Guard official may initiate a request that a subject be administratively assigned to another unit in accordance with military assignments and authorized absence policy for the duration of the investigation and, if applicable, prosecution of such subject;

(B) the Coast Guard shall ensure that any administrative assignment action in response to a request under subparagraph (A) will be taken not as a punitive measure, but

solely for the purpose of maintaining good order and discipline within the unit of the covered individual or the subject; and

(C) protection of due process for the subject is preserved.

(b) RECUSAL.—The expedited transfer process implemented under this section shall require the recusal of any official involved in the approval or denial of an expedited transfer request if the official was, at any time—

(1) the subject of a complaint of any form of assault, harassment, or retaliation, or any other type of complaint, filed by the covered individual; or

(2) associated, beyond workplace interactions, with the subject in a manner that may present an actual or apparent conflict of interest.

(c) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—With respect to a member of the Coast Guard who makes an unrestricted report of sexual assault or a report of domestic violence, the updated policy required under subsection (a) shall specify the appropriate officials of the Coast Guard who shall provide such member with information regarding expedited transfer authority.

(d) REPORT.—

(1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than March 1 of the year that is not less than 1 year after the date on which the updates required under subsection (a) are completed, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, as an enclosure or appendix to the report required by section 5112 of title 14, United States Code, a report on such updates that includes—

(A) a copy of the updated policies of the Coast Guard relating to expedited transfers;

(B) a summary of such updated policies;

(C) for the preceding year, the number of covered individuals who have requested an expedited transfer, disaggregated by gender of the requester and whether the request was granted or denied;

(D) for each denial of an expedited transfer request during the preceding year, a description of the rationale for the denial; and

(E) any other matter the Commandant considers appropriate.

(2) SUBSEQUENT REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the Commandant submits the report required under paragraph (1), and annually thereafter for 3 years, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, as an enclosure or appendix to the report required by section 5112 of title 14, United States Code, a report on the updates required under subsection (a) that includes—

(A) any policies of the Coast Guard relating to expedited transfers that have been updated since the previous report submitted under this subsection;

(B) a summary of any such updated policies; and

(C) the information described under subparagraphs (C) through (E) of paragraph (1).

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—The term ''covered individual'' means—

(A) a member of the Coast Guard who is a victim of sexual assault in a case handled under the Sexual Assault Prevention, Response, and Recovery Program or the Family Advocacy Program;

(B) a member of the Coast Guard who is a victim of domestic violence (as defined by the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating in the policies prescribed under this section) committed by the spouse or intimate partner of the member, regardless of whether the spouse or intimate partner is a member of the Coast Guard; and

(C) a member of the Coast Guard whose dependent is a victim of sexual assault or domestic violence.

(2) SUBJECT.—The term ''subject'' means a member of the Coast Guard who is the subject of an investigation related to alleged incidents of sexual assault or domestic violence and is stationed at the same installation as, or in close proximity to, the covered individual involved.

SEC. 5429. ACCESS TO TEMPORARY SEPARATION PROGRAM FOR VICTIMS OF ALLEGED SEX-RELATED OFFENSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall update the Coast Guard policy relating to temporary separation of members of the Coast Guard who are victims of alleged sex-related offenses as required under subsection (b).

(b) ELIGIBILITY.—The updated policy required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a provision that allows a member of the Coast Guard to request to participate in the temporary separation program if the member has reported, in an unrestricted format or to the greatest extent practicable, a restricted format, being the victim of an alleged sex-related offense on a date that is during—

(A) the 5-year period preceding the requested date of separation; and

(B) the military service of the member;

(2) a provision that provides eligibility for a member of the Coast Guard to request temporary separation if the member has reported being the victim of an alleged sex-related offense, even if—

(A) the member has had a previous temporary separation including a previous temporary separation as the victim of a previous unrelated alleged sex-related offense; or

(B) the enlistment period of the member is not nearing expiration or the tour or contract of the member is not nearing completion;

(3) an updated standard of review consistent with the application of, and purposes of, this section; and

(4) the establishment of a process—

(A) for eligible members to make requests for temporary separation under this section; and

(B) that allows the Commandant to consider whether to allow a member granted temporary separation under this section to fulfill the enlistment period or tour or contract obligation of the member after the end of the temporary separation period.

(c) EXCEPTION FROM REPAYMENT OF BONUSES, INCENTIVE PAY, OR SIMILAR BENEFITS AND TERMINATION OF REMAINING PAYMENTS.—For any temporary separation granted under the updated policy required under subsection (a), the Secretary concerned may conduct a review to determine whether to exercise discretion in accordance with section 373(b)(1) of title 37, United States Code.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term ''Secretary concerned'' has the meaning given such term in section 101 of title 37, United States Code.

(2) SEX-RELATED OFFENSE.—The term ''sex-related offense'' has the meaning given such term in section 1044e(h) of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 5430. POLICY AND PROGRAM TO EXPAND PREVENTION OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall develop and issue a comprehensive policy for the Coast Guard to reinvigorate the prevention of misconduct involving members and civilians of the Coast Guard that contains the policy elements described in section 1561 of title 10, United States Code.

(b) PROGRAMS REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the issuance of the policy required under paragraph (1), the Commandant shall develop and implement for the Coast Guard a program to reinvigorate the prevention of misconduct involving members and civilians of the Coast Guard.

SEC. 5431. CONTINUOUS VETTING OF SECURITY CLEARANCES.

Section 1564(c) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by inserting '', and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall conduct an investigation or adjudication under subsection (a) of any individual described in paragraph (3),'' after ''paragraph (2)''; and

(B) in subparagraph (A)(iv) by striking ''the Secretary'' and inserting ''the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of Homeland Security, as the case may be,'';

(2) in paragraph (2) by inserting ''(other than an individual described in paragraph (3))'' after ''is an individual'';

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively;

(4) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraph:

''(3) An individual described in this paragraph is an individual who has a security clearance and is—

''(A) a flag officer of the Coast Guard; or

''(B) an employee of the Coast Guard in the Senior Executive Service.''; and

(5) in paragraph (4), as redesignated by paragraph (3), by striking ''Secretary'' and all that follows through ''paragraph (2)'' and inserting the following: ''Secretary of Defense, in the case of an individual described in paragraph (2), and the Secretary of Homeland Security, in the case of an individual described in paragraph (3), shall ensure that relevant information on the conviction or determination described in paragraph (1) of such an individual''.

SEC. 5432. TRAINING AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR COVERED MISCONDUCT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE.

(a) MODIFICATION OF CURRICULUM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall revise the curriculum of the Coast Guard with respect to covered misconduct prevention and response training—

(A) to include—

(i) information on procedures and responsibilities with respect to reporting requirements, investigations, survivor health and safety (including expedited transfers, no-contact orders, military and civilian protective orders, and temporary separations), and whistleblower protections;

(ii) information on Department of Veterans Affairs resources available to veterans, active-duty personnel, and reserve personnel;

(iii) information on the right of any member of the Coast Guard to seek legal resources outside the Coast Guard;

(iv) general information regarding the availability of legal resources provided by civilian legal services organizations, presented in an organized and consistent manner that does not endorse any particular legal services organization; and

(v) information on the capability, operations, reporting structure, and requirements with respect to the Chief Prosecutor of the Coast Guard; and

(B) to address the workforce training recommendations set forth in the memorandum of the Coast Guard titled ''Commandant's Directed Actions—Accountability and Transparency'', issued on November 27, 2023.

(2) COLLABORATION.—In revising the curriculum under this subsection, the Commandant shall solicit input from individuals outside the Coast Guard who are experts in sexual assault and sexual harassment prevention and response training.

(b) COVERED MISCONDUCT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TRAINING AND EDUCATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall ensure that all members and civilian employees of the Coast Guard are provided with annual covered misconduct prevention and response training and education for the purpose of strengthening individual knowledge, skills, and capacity relating to the prevention of and response to covered misconduct.

(2) SCOPE.—The training and education referred to in paragraph (1)—

(A) shall be provided as part of—

(i) initial entry and accession training;

(ii) annual refresher training;

(iii) initial and recurring training courses for covered first responders;

(iv) new and prospective commanding officer and executive officer training; and

(v) specialized leadership training; and

(B) shall be tailored for specific leadership levels, positions, pay grades, and roles.

(3) CONTENT.—The training and education referred to in paragraph (1) shall include the information described in subsection (a)(1)(A).

(c) COVERED FIRST RESPONDER TRAINING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall ensure that—

(A) training for covered first responders includes the covered misconduct prevention and response training described in subsection (b); and

(B) such covered misconduct prevention and response training is provided to covered first responders on a recurring basis.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In addition to the information described in subsection (a)(1)(A), the initial and recurring covered misconduct prevention and response training for covered first responders shall include information on procedures and responsibilities with respect to—

(A) the provision of care to a victim of covered misconduct, in accordance with professional standards or practice, that accounts for trauma experienced by the victim and associated symptoms or events that may exacerbate such trauma; and

(B) the manner in which such a victim may receive such care.

(d) TRAINING FOR PROSPECTIVE COMMANDING OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall ensure that training for prospective commanders and executive officers at all levels of command includes the covered misconduct prevention and response training described in subsection (b).

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In addition to the information described in subsection (a)(1)(A), the covered misconduct prevention and response training for prospective commanding officers and executive officers shall be—

(A) tailored to the responsibilities and leadership requirements of members of the Coast Guard as they are assigned to command positions; and

(B) revised, as necessary, to include information on—

(i) fostering a command climate—

(I) that does not tolerate covered misconduct;

(II) in which individuals assigned to the command are encouraged to intervene to prevent potential incidents of covered misconduct; and

(III) that encourages victims of covered misconduct to report any incident of covered misconduct;

(ii) the possible variations in the effect of trauma on individuals who have experienced covered misconduct;

(iii) potential differences in the procedures and responsibilities, Department of Veterans Affairs resources, and legal resources described in subsection (a)(1)(A) depending on the operating environment in which an incident of covered misconduct occurred;

(iv) the investigation of alleged incidents of covered misconduct, including training on understanding evidentiary standards;

(v) available disciplinary options, including administrative action and deferral of discipline for collateral misconduct, and examples of disciplinary options in civilian jurisdictions; and

(vi) the capability, operations, reporting structure, and requirements with respect to the Chief Prosecutor of the Coast Guard.

(e) ENTRY AND ACCESSION TRAININGS.—

(1) INITIAL TRAINING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall provide for the inclusion of an initial covered misconduct prevention and response training module in the training for each new member of the Coast Guard, which shall be provided not later than 14 duty days after the date of accession.

(B) REQUIREMENT.—In addition to the information described in subsection (a)(1)(A), the initial training module referred to in subparagraph (A) shall include a comprehensive explanation of Coast Guard—

(i) policy with respect to covered misconduct; and

(ii) procedures for reporting covered misconduct.

(2) SUBSEQUENT TRAINING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant shall provide for the inclusion of a detailed covered misconduct prevention and response training module in the training for each new member of the Coast Guard, which shall be provided not later than 60 duty days after the date on which the initial training module described in paragraph (1)(A) is provided.

(B) CONTENT.—The detailed training module referred to in subparagraph (A) shall include the information described in subsection (a)(1)(A).

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED FIRST RESPONDER.—The term ''covered first responder'' includes sexual assault response coordinators, victim advocates, Coast Guard medical officers, Coast Guard security forces, Coast Guard Investigative Service agents, judge advocates, special victims' counsel, chaplains, and related personnel.

(2) COVERED MISCONDUCT.—The term ''covered misconduct'' has the meaning given such term in section 2519 of title 14, United States Code.

TITLE LV—COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORTS

SEC. 5501. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT ON COAST GUARD RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND INNOVATION PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the state of the research, development, and innovation program of the Coast Guard during the 5-year period ending on such date of enactment.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An evaluation and description of the process for selecting projects to be carried out under the research, development, and innovation program of the Coast Guard.

(2) An analysis of the manner in which funding needs are determined and requested for such program, and for the activities and projects of such program, in alignment with the appropriate fiscal year.

(3) An assessment of the manner in which the Coast Guard determines desired outcomes, and measures the impact, of successful projects on the execution of the operations and mission of the Coast Guard.

(4) An assessment of the manner in which the Coast Guard evaluates impacts and benefits of partnerships between the Coast Guard and the Department of Defense and other entities, and a description of the extent to which and manner in which the Coast Guard is leveraging such benefits and identifying and managing any potential challenge.

(5) An analysis of the manner in which the Commandant is working with partners to accelerate project transition from research, testing, evaluation, and prototype to production.

(6) An assessment of the manner in which the authority to enter into transactions other than contracts and grants pursuant to sections 719 and 1158 of title 14, United States Code, has been exercised by the Commandant, and a description of any training or resources necessary (including additional agreements for officers and training) to more fully exercise such authority.

(7) An evaluation of the role of the Blue Tech Center of Expertise established in section 302 of the Coast Guard Blue Technology Center of Expertise Act (Public Law 115–265).

(8) Recommendations regarding authorization, personnel, infrastructure, and other requirements necessary for the expeditious transition of technologies developed under such program from prototype to production in the field.

(c) CONSULTATION.—In developing the report required under subsection (a), the Comptroller General may consult with—

(1) the maritime and aviation industries;

(2) the Secretary of Defense;

(3) the intelligence community; and

(4) any relevant—

(A) federally funded research institutions;

(B) nongovernmental organizations; and

(C) institutions of higher education.

SEC. 5502. COMPTROLLER GENERAL STUDY ON VESSEL TRAFFIC SERVICE CENTER EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION, AND RETENTION.

(a) DEFINITION OF VESSEL TRAFFIC SERVICE CENTER.—In this section, the term ''vessel traffic service center'' has the meaning given the term in section 70001(m) of title 46, United States Code.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall commence a study on employment compensation, competitiveness, assignment, and retention of civilian and military personnel assigned to or otherwise employed at vessel traffic service centers in the United States.

(c) ELEMENTS.—The study required under subsection (b) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the extent to which the classification, assignment, selection, and pay rates of personnel assigned to or otherwise employed at vessel traffic service centers are commensurate with the required experience, duties, safety functions, and responsibilities of such positions.

(2) An assessment of the appropriate classification, assignment, selection, and pay rate,

as well as nonmonetary employment incentives, that would foster a robust and competitive civilian candidate pool for employment opportunities in civilian positions at vessel traffic service centers.

(3) An analysis of the average civilian employment retention rate and average term of employment of civilian personnel, by position, at vessel traffic service centers.

(4) An analysis of existing special payments, as discussed in the report by the Government Accountability Office entitled ''Federal Pay: Opportunities Exist to Enhance Strategic Use of Special Payments'' (published December 7, 2017; GAO–18–91), that may be available to personnel assigned to or otherwise employed at vessel traffic service centers.

(5) An evaluation of all assignment parameters and civilian hiring authority codes used by the Coast Guard in assigning and hiring personnel assigned to or otherwise employed at vessel traffic service centers.

(6) An analysis of whether opportunities exist to refine, consolidate, or expand Coast Guard civilian hiring authorities for purposes of hiring personnel at the vessel traffic service centers.

(7) An assessment of the ability of the composition, as in effect on the first day of the study, of military and civilian personnel assigned to or otherwise employed at vessel traffic service centers to ensure safety on the waterways and to manage increasing demand for vessel traffic services, taking into account the ranks and grades of such personnel, the respective experience levels and training of such personnel, and the respective duties, safety functions, and responsibilities of such personnel.

(8) An assessment of, and recommendations to improve, the Coast Guard's efforts to support the career progression of and advancement opportunities for officers and enlisted members of the Coast Guard assigned to vessel traffic service centers.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after commencing the study required under subsection (b), the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the findings of the study.

SEC. 5503. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW OF QUALITY AND AVAILABILITY OF COAST GUARD BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE AND RESOURCES FOR PERSONNEL WELLNESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall commence a review of the quality and availability of behavioral health care and related resources for Coast Guard personnel at the locations described in subsection (b).

(b) LOCATIONS TO BE REVIEWED.—In conducting the review under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall—

(1) first review the practices and policies relating to the availability of behavioral health care and related resources at Training Center Cape May; and

(2) review such practices and policies at—

(A) the Coast Guard Academy, including Officer Candidate School; and

(B) other Coast Guard training locations, as applicable.

(c) ELEMENTS.—The review conducted under subsection (a) shall include, for each location described in subsection (b), an assessment, and a description of available trend information (as applicable) for the 10-year period preceding the date of the review, with respect to each of the following:

(1) The nature of Coast Guard resources directed toward behavioral health services at the location.

(2) The manner in which the Coast Guard has managed treatment for recruits, cadets, officer candidates, or other personnel who may be experiencing a behavioral health crisis at the location (including individuals who have transferred to other buildings or facilities within the location).

(3) The extent to which the Coast Guard has identified the resources, such as physical spaces and facilities, necessary to manage behavioral health challenges and crises that Coast Guard personnel may face at the location.

(4) The behavioral health screenings required by the Coast Guard for recruits, cadets, officer candidates, or other personnel at the location, and the manner in which such screenings compare with screenings required by the Department of Defense for military recruits, service academy cadets, officer candidates, or other personnel at military service accession points.

(5) Whether the Coast Guard has assessed the adequacy of behavioral health resources and services for recruits, cadets, officer candidates, and other personnel at the location, and if so, the additional services and resources (such as resilience and life skills coaching), if any, needed to address any potential gaps.

(6) The manner in which the Coast Guard manages care transfers related to behavior health at the location, including command and other management input and privacy policies.

(7) The extent to which the Coast Guard has evaluated contributing factors or reasons for behavioral health crises experienced by newly enlisted personnel, cadets, officer candidates, or other personnel at the location.

(8) The extent to which the Coast Guard has addressed, at the location, provider care staffing standards and credentialing deficiencies identified in the report of the Comptroller General titled ''Coast Guard Health Care: Improvements Needed for Determining Staffing Needs and Monitoring Access to Care'', issued on February 4, 2022.

(d) REPORTS.—The Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives—

(1) as soon as practicable but not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, a report relating to the results of the review conducted under subsection (a) relating to Training Center Cape May, including any recommendations the Comptroller General considers appropriate; and

(2) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act—

(A) a report on the results of the review conducted under subsection (a) relating to—

(i) the Coast Guard Academy, including Officer Candidate School; and

(ii) other Coast Guard training locations, as applicable; and

(B) any recommendations the Comptroller General considers appropriate.

SEC. 5504. COMPTROLLER GENERAL STUDY ON COAST GUARD EFFORTS TO REDUCE PREVALENCE OF MISSING OR INCOMPLETE MEDICAL RECORDS AND SHARING OF MEDICAL DATA WITH DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND OTHER ENTITIES.

(a) STUDY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall commence a study assessing the efforts of the Commandant—

(1) to reduce the prevalence of missing or incomplete medical records;

(2) to share medical data of members of the Coast Guard with the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

(3) to ensure that electronic health records are provided in a format that is user friendly and easy to access.

(b) ELEMENTS.—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall review the following:

(1) The steps the Commandant has taken to reduce the prevalence of missing or incomplete medical records of members of the Coast Guard.

(2) How implementation of an electronic health record system has affected the ability of the Commandant to manage health records of members of the Coast Guard, including—

(A) how the Commandant adds records from private medical providers to the electronic health record system;

(B) the progress of the Commandant toward implementing the electronic health record system in shipboard sick bays of the Coast Guard;

(C) how the Coast Guard shares medical records with the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

(D) any other matter the Comptroller General considers appropriate with respect to medical record storage, use, and sharing and the associated consequences for member health and well-being.

(3) The ability of members of the Coast Guard, medical professionals of the Coast Guard and of the Department of Defense, personnel of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other personnel to access and search, as appropriate, the electronic health records of individuals, including the ability to search or quickly find information within electronic health records.

(c) REPORT.—Upon completion of the study under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report containing the results of the study under subsection (a).

SEC. 5505. COMPTROLLER GENERAL STUDY ON COAST GUARD TRAINING FACILITY INFRASTRUCTURE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall commence a study on Coast Guard training facility infrastructure, including the specific needs of the Coast Guard training facilities described in subsection (c).

(b) ELEMENTS.—The study required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) With respect to each Coast Guard training facility described in subsection (c)—

(A) a summary of capital needs, including construction and repair;

(B) a summary of equipment upgrade backlogs;

(C) an assessment of necessary improvements, including improvements to essential training equipment (including swimming pools, operational simulators, and marksmanship training ranges) to enable the Coast Guard to achieve all operational training objectives;

(D) a description of the resources necessary to fully address all training needs;

(E) an assessment of any security deficiency, including with respect to base access, training facility access, and trainee berthing area access;

(F) an identification of any exposed hazard that does not serve a training purpose;

(G) an identification of the presence of hazardous or toxic materials, including—

(i) lead-based paint;

(ii) asbestos or products that contain asbestos;

(iii) black mold;

(iv) radon; and

(v) contaminated drinking water; and

(H) an assessment of the need for, and estimated cost of, remediation of such toxic materials.

(2) An evaluation of the process used by the Coast Guard to identify, monitor, and construct Coast Guard training facilities.

(c) COAST GUARD TRAINING FACILITIES DESCRIBED.—The Coast Guard training facilities described in this subsection are the following:

(1) The Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut.

(2) The Leadership Development Center in New London, Connecticut.

(3) Training Center Cape May, New Jersey.

(4) Training Center Petaluma, California.

(5) Training Center Yorktown, Virginia.

(6) The Maritime Law Enforcement Academy in Charleston, South Carolina.

(7) The Special Missions Training Center at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina.

(8) The Gulf Regional Fisheries Training Center (GRFTC) in New Orleans, Louisiana.

(9) The North Pacific Regional Fisheries Training Center (NPRFTC) in Kodiak, Alaska.

(10) The Northeast Regional Fisheries Training Center (NRFTC) at Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

(11) The Southeast Regional Fisheries Training Center (SRFTC) in Charleston, South Carolina.

(12) The Pacific Regional Fisheries Training Center (PRFTC) in Alameda, California.

(13) The National Motor Lifeboat School at Cape Disappointment, Washington.

(14) The Aviation Technical Training Center in Elizabeth City, North Carolina.

(15) The Aviation Training Center in Mobile, Alabama.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after commencing the study required under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the findings of the study.

SEC. 5506. COMPTROLLER GENERAL STUDY ON FACILITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS OF COAST GUARD STATIONS CONDUCTING BORDER SECURITY OPERATIONS.

(a) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall commence a study on the facility and infrastructure needs of the Coast Guard stations and units described in paragraph (3).

(2) ELEMENTS.—The study required under paragraph (1) shall include, with respect to each Coast Guard station and unit described in paragraph (3), the following:

(A) An assessment of capital needs, including personnel capacity, construction, and repair.

(B) An assessment of equipment upgrade backlogs.

(C) An identification of any necessary improvement, including any improvement to operational and training equipment necessary to conduct safe and effective maritime border security operations.

(D) An identification of any resource necessary to fully address all operational and training needs.

(E) An identification of any physical security deficiency.

(F) An identification of any exposed hazard.

(G) An identification of the presence of any hazardous or toxic material, including—

(i) lead-based paint;

(ii) asbestos or any product that contains asbestos;

(iii) black mold;

(iv) radon; and

(v) contaminated drinking water.

(H) An assessment of the need for, and estimated cost of, remediation of any toxic material identified under subparagraph (G).

(3) COAST GUARD STATIONS DESCRIBED.—The Coast Guard stations and units described in this paragraph are the following:

(A) Coast Guard Station South Padre Island, Texas.

(B) Coast Guard Station Port Aransas, Texas.

(C) Coast Guard Station Port O″Connor, Texas.

(D) Coast Guard Station Bellingham, Washington.

(E) Coast Guard Station Neah Bay, Washington.

(F) Coast Guard Station Port Angeles, Washington.

(G) Coast Guard Station Ketchikan, Alaska.

(H) Coast Guard Station San Diego, California.

(I) Coast Guard Station Key West, Florida.

(J) Coast Guard Station Marathon, Florida.

(K) Coast Guard Station Islamorada, Florida.

(L) Coast Guard Station Jonesport, Maine.

(M) Coast Guard Station Bayfield, Wisconsin.

(N) Coast Guard Station Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin.

(O) Coast Guard Marine Safety Detachment Santa Barbara.

(P) Any other Coast Guard station the Comptroller General considers appropriate.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after commencing the study required under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, and the Commandant a report on the findings of the study, including any recommendation the Comptroller General considers appropriate.

(c) BRIEFINGS.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the report required under subsection (b) is submitted to the Commandant, the Commandant shall provide a briefing to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives on—

(1) the actions the Commandant has taken, or has ceased to take, as a result of the findings, including any recommendation, set forth in the report; and

(2) a plan for addressing such findings and any such recommendation.

SEC. 5507. COMPTROLLER GENERAL STUDY ON COAST GUARD BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR HOUSING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Department of Defense issues the report on the Fourteenth Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation, the Comptroller General of the United States shall commence a study of Coast Guard involvement in, and efforts to support, the determination of the cost of adequate housing and the calculation of the basic allowance for housing under section 403 of title 37, United States Code.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The study required under subsection (a) shall include, to the extent practicable, the following:

(1) An identification of Coast Guard duty locations in which there is a misalignment between the basic allowance for housing rate and the prevailing housing cost for members of the Coast Guard such that the basic allowance for housing is less than 95 percent of the monthly cost of adequate housing for such members in the corresponding military housing area.

(2) An analysis of each of the following:

(A) Anchor points, including—

(i) the methodology for the establishment of anchor points; and

(ii) with respect to housing provided as part of a public-private venture and Government-owned and Government-leased housing, the disparities between established anchor points and housing standards across the armed forces (as such term is defined in section 101 of title 10, United States Code).

(B) Existing military housing boundary areas that affect the Coast Guard.

(C) Actions taken by the Commandant to comprehensively monitor basic allowance for housing rates for Coast Guard duty locations.

(D) The frequency of reviews conducted by the Commandant of the site visits used by the Department of Defense to inform military housing area boundaries.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the study required under subsection (a) commences, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, and the Commandant a report on the findings of the study, including any recommendation the Comptroller General considers appropriate.

(d) PLAN.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the report required by subsection (c) is submitted to the Commandant, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives—

(1) an implementation plan, including timeframes and milestones, addressing any recommendation made by the Comptroller General in such report, as the Commandant considers appropriate; and

(2) with respect to any recommendation set forth in such report that the Commandant declines to implement, a written justification for the decision.

(e) ANCHOR POINT DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''anchor point''—

(1) means the minimum housing standard reference benchmark used to establish the basic allowance for housing under section 403 of title 37, United States Code; and

(2) includes housing type and size based on pay grade and dependent status.

SEC. 5508. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT ON SAFETY AND SECURITY INFRASTRUCTURE AT COAST GUARD ACADEMY.

(a) GAO REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the safety and security infrastructure at the Coast Guard Academy.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include an assessment of each of the following:

(A) Existing security infrastructure for the grounds, buildings, athletic facilities, and any other facility of the Coast Guard Academy, including access points, locks, surveillance, and other security methods, as appropriate.

(B) Coast Guard policies with respect to the management, data storage and access, and operational capacity of the security infrastructure and methods evaluated under subparagraph (A).

(C) Special security needs relating to events at the Coast Guard Academy, such as large athletic events and other widely attended events.

(D) Coast Guard policies and procedures with respect to access to Coast Guard Academy grounds by—

(i) current or former members of the Coast Guard;

(ii) current or former civilian employees of the Coast Guard;

(iii) Coast Guard personnel that reside at the Academy and families of cadets; and

(iv) members of the public.

(E) Existing processes by which the Commandant, the Superintendent of the Coast Guard Academy, or a designated individual may prohibit or restrict access to Coast Guard Academy grounds by any current or former member or civilian employee of the Coast Guard who—

(i) has been subject to court-martial under the Uniform Code of Military Justice for sexual misconduct; or

(ii) has been administratively disciplined for sexual misconduct.

(F) Enforcement processes regarding access to Coast Guard Academy grounds for individuals (including current and former cadets, members, and civilian employees of the Coast Guard) who are or have been subject to a no-contact order relating to—

(i) a cadet or member of the faculty of the Academy; or

(ii) any other individual with access to Academy grounds.

(G) Recommendations to improve—

(i) the security of the Coast Guard Academy; and

(ii) the safety of—

(I) cadets at the Coast Guard Academy; and

(II) members of the Coast Guard stationed at, and civilian employees of, the Coast Guard Academy.

(b) ACTIONS BY COMMANDANT.—

(1) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Comptroller General submits the report required under subsection (a), the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

(A) a detailed plan to improve the security of, and the safety of cadets at, the Coast Guard Academy; and

(B) a detailed timeline for implementation of—

(i) the recommendations made by the Comptroller General in such report; and

(ii) any other safety improvement the Commandant considers appropriate.

(2) POLICY.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Comptroller General submits the report required under subsection (a), the Commandant, in a manner that maintains good order and discipline, shall update Coast Guard policy relating to access to the Coast Guard Academy grounds to include procedures by which individuals may be prohibited from accessing the Coast Guard Academy—

(A) as the Commandant considers appropriate; and

(B) consistent with the recommendations made by the Comptroller General in such report.

SEC. 5509. COMPTROLLER GENERAL STUDY ON ATHLETIC COACHING AT COAST GUARD ACADEMY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States, in consultation with the Superintendent of the Coast Guard Academy, shall commence a study on the number of administratively determined billets for teaching and coaching necessary to support Coast Guard Academy recruitment, intercollegiate athletics, health and physical education, and leadership development programs.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The study required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An identification of the number of full-time and part-time employees performing coaching functions at the Coast Guard Academy whose positions are funded by a non-appropriated fund instrumentality of the Coast Guard.

(2) An identification of the number of full-time and part-time employees whose positions are funded by a nonappropriated fund instrumentality performing coaching functions at the following:

(A) The United States Military Academy.

(B) The United States Naval Academy.

(C) The United States Air Force Academy.

(D) The United States Merchant Marine Academy.

(3) An analysis of the roles performed by athletic coaches with respect to officer development at the Coast Guard Academy, including the specific functions of athletic coaches within the health and physical education and leadership development program curriculums.

(4) An identification of any adverse impacts on or deficiencies in cadet training and officer development resulting from an inadequate number of administratively determined billets for teaching and coaching at the Coast Guard Academy.

(c) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Comptroller General may consult a federally funded research and development center.

(d) REPORT.—The Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee of Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the results of the study conducted under this section.

SEC. 5510. COMPTROLLER GENERAL STUDY AND REPORT ON PERMANENT CHANGE OF STATION PROCESS.

(a) STUDY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall commence a study to evaluate the effectiveness of the permanent change of station process of the Coast Guard.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after commencing the study required by subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the findings of the study.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A description of the permanent change of station policies of the Coast Guard.

(B) A description of Coast Guard spending on permanent change of station moves and associated support costs.

(C) An evaluation of the effectiveness of using contracted movers for permanent change of station moves, including the estimated costs associated with—

(i) lost or damaged personal property of members of the Coast Guard;

(ii) delays in scheduling such a move through a contracted mover;

(iii) delayed delivery of household goods; and

(iv) other related challenges.

(D) A review of changes to permanent change of station policies implemented during the 10-year period ending on the date of enactment of this Act, and the costs or savings to the Coast Guard directly associated with such changes.

(E) Recommendations to improve the permanent change of station process of the Coast Guard.

(F) Any additional information or related matter arising from the study, as the Comptroller General considers appropriate.

TITLE LVI—AMENDMENTS

SEC. 5601. AMENDMENTS.

(a) PROHIBITION ON ENTRY AND OPERATION.—Section 70022(b)(1) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking ''Federal Register'' and inserting ''the Federal Register''.

(b) PORT, HARBOR, AND COASTAL FACILITY SECURITY.—Section 70116(b) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1) by striking ''terrorism cyber'' and inserting ''terrorism, cyber''; and

(2) in paragraph (2) by inserting a comma after ''acts of terrorism''.

(c) ENFORCEMENT BY STATE AND LOCAL OFFICERS.—Section 70118(a) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''section 1 of title II of the Act of June 15, 1917 (chapter 30; 50 U.S.C. 191)'' and inserting ''section 70051''; and

(2) by striking ''section 7(b) of the Ports and Waterways Safety Act (33 U.S.C. 1226(b))'' and inserting ''section 70116(b)''.

(d) CHAPTER 701 DEFINITIONS.—Section 70131(2) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''section 1 of title II of the Act of June 15, 1917 (50 U.S.C. 191)'' and inserting ''section 70051''; and

(2) by striking ''section 7(b) of the Ports and Waterways Safety Act (33 U.S.C. 1226(b))'' and inserting ''section 70116(b)''.

(e) NOTICE OF ARRIVAL REQUIREMENTS FOR VESSELS ON THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF.—

(1) PREPARATORY CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 70001 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by redesignating subsections (l) and (m) as subsections (m) and (n), respectively.

(2) TRANSFER OF PROVISION.—Section 704 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act 2012 (Public Law 112–213; 46 U.S.C. 70001 note) is—

(A) amended by striking ''of title 46, United States Code,'';

(B) amended by striking ''(33 U.S.C. 1223 note)'' and inserting ''(46 U.S.C. 70001 note)'';

(C) transferred to appear after 70001(k) of title 46, United States Code; and

(D) redesignated as subsection (l).

(f) TITLE 46.—Title 46, United States Code, is amended as follows:

(1) Section 2101(2) is amended by striking ''section 1'' and inserting ''section 101''.

(2) Section 2116(b)(1)(D) is amended by striking ''section 93(c)'' and inserting ''section 504(c)''.

(3) In the analysis for subtitle VII by striking the period after ''70001'' in the item relating to chapter 700.

(4) In the analysis for chapter 700 by striking the item relating to section 70006 and inserting the following:

''70006. Establishment by Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating of anchorage grounds and regulations generally.''.

(5) In the heading for subchapter IV in the analysis for chapter 700 by inserting a comma after ''DEFINITIONS''.

(6) In the heading for subchapter VI in the analysis for chapter 700 by striking ''OF THE UNITED''and inserting ''OF UNITED''.

(7) Section 70052(e)(1) is amended by striking ''section 4197 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (46 U.S.C. App. 91)'' and inserting ''section 60105''.

(g) OIL POLLUTION ACT OF 1990.—The Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.) is amended as follows:

(1) Section 1001 (33 U.S.C. 2701) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (32)(G) by striking ''pipeline'' and all that follows through ''offshore facility'' and inserting ''pipeline, offshore facility'';

(B) in paragraph (39) by striking ''section 101(20)(G)(i)'' and inserting ''section 101(20)(H)(i)'';

(C) in paragraph (40) by striking ''section 101(20)(G)(ii)'' and inserting ''section 101(20)(H)(ii)'';

(D)) in paragraph (41) by striking ''section 101(20)(G)(iii)'' and inserting ''section 101(20)(H)(iii)'';

(E) in paragraph (42) by striking ''section 101(20)(G)(iv)'' and inserting ''section 101(20)(H)(iv)'';

(F) in paragraph (43) by striking ''section 101(20)(G)(v)'' and inserting ''section 101(20)(H)(v)''; and

(G) in paragraph (44) by striking ''section 101(20)(G)(vi)'' and inserting ''section 101(20)(H)(vi)''.

(2) Section 1003(d)(6) (33 U.S.C. 2703(d)(6)) is amended by striking ''this paragraph'' and inserting ''this subsection''.

(3) Section 1016 (33 U.S.C. 2716) is amended—

(A) by redesignating subsections (e) through (i) as subsections (d) through (h), respectively; and

(B) in subsection (e)(1)(B), as redesignated by subparagraph (A), by striking ''subsection (e)'' and inserting ''subsection (d)''.

(4) Section 1012(b)(2) (33 U.S.C. 2712(b)(2)) is amended by striking ''section 1016(f)(1)'' and inserting ''section 1016(e)(1)''.

(5) Section 1005(b)(5)(B) (33 U.S.C. 2716(b)(5)(B)) is amended by striking ''section 1016(g)'' and inserting ''section 2716(f)''.

(6) Section 1018(c) (33 U.S.C. 2718(c)) is amended by striking ''the Act of March 3, 1851 (46 U.S.C. 183 et seq.)'' and inserting ''chapter 305 of title 46, United States Code''.

(7) Section 7001(h)(1) (33 U.S.C. 2761(h)(1)) is amended by striking ''subsection (c)(4)'' and inserting ''subsection (e)(4)''.

TITLE LVII—NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Subtitle A—National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps

SEC. 5701. TITLE AND QUALIFICATIONS OF HEAD OF NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION COMMISSIONED OFFICER CORPS AND OFFICE OF MARINE AND AVIATION OPERATIONS; PROMOTIONS OF FLAG OFFICERS.

(a) TITLE AND QUALIFICATIONS OF HEAD.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 228(c) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002 (33 U.S.C. 3028(c)) is amended—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking ''CORPS AND OFFICE OF'' and inserting ''COMMISSIONED OFFICER CORPS AND ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR'';

(B) in the second sentence, by striking ''serving in'' and all that follows through ''half)'' and inserting ''who has served, on the date of such appointment, in the grade of captain or above for not less than one year''; and

(C) in the fourth sentence, by striking ''Director of the Office of'' and inserting ''Assistant Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 4(a) of the Commercial Engagement Through Ocean Technology Act of 2018 (33 U.S.C. 4103(a)) is amended by striking ''Director of the Office of'' and inserting ''Assistant Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for''.

(b) PROMOTIONS OF FLAG OFFICERS.—Section 226 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002 (33 U.S.C. 3026) is amended—

(1) by striking ''Appointments'' and inserting the following:

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Appointments'';

(2) by inserting after ''all permanent grades'' the following: '', other than a grade described in subsection (b),''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) FLAG OFFICERS.—Appointments in and promotions to the grade of rear admiral (upper half) or above shall be made by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.''.

SEC. 5702. NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION VESSEL FLEET.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The NOAA Fleet Modernization Act (33 U.S.C. 891 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 603 (33 U.S.C. 891a)—

(A) in the section heading, by striking ''**FLEET**'' and all that follows through ''**PROGRAM**'' and inserting ''**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF NOAA FLEET**''; and

(B) by striking ''is authorized'' and all that follows and inserting the following: '', acting through the Assistant Administrator of NOAA for Marine and Aviation Operations, shall operate and maintain a fleet of vessels to meet the requirements of NOAA in carrying out the mission and functions of NOAA, subject to the requirements of this title.'';

(2) in section 604 (33 U.S.C. 891b)—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking ''Secretary'' and all that follows and inserting ''Secretary, acting through the Assistant Administrator of NOAA for Marine and Aviation Operations, shall develop and submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a replacement and modernization plan for the NOAA fleet not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025, and every 2 years thereafter.'';

(B) by striking subsections (b) and (d);

(C) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (b);

(D) in subsection (b), as so redesignated—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking ''proposed'' and all that follows and inserting the following: ''in operation in the NOAA fleet as of the date of submission of the Plan, a description of the status of those vessels, and a statement of the planned and anticipated service life of those vessels;'';

(ii) by striking paragraph (6);

(iii) by redesignating paragraphs (2), (3), (4), and (5) as paragraphs (4), (5), (6), and (7), respectively;

(iv) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

''(2) a plan with respect to operation, maintenance, and replacement of vessels described in paragraph (1), including the schedule for maintenance or replacement and anticipated funding requirements;

''(3) the number of vessels proposed to be constructed by NOAA;'';

(v) in paragraph (4), as so redesignated, by striking ''constructed, leased, or chartered'' and inserting ''acquired, leased, or chartered by NOAA'';

(vi) in paragraph (6), as so redesignated—

(I) by striking ''or any other federal official'' and inserting ''the Director of the National Science Foundation, or any other Federal official''; and

(II) by striking ''their availability'' and inserting ''the availability of those vessels'';

(vii) in paragraph (7), as so redesignated, by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon; and

(viii) by adding at the end the following:

''(8) a plan for using small vessels, uncrewed systems, and partnerships to augment the requirements of NOAA for days at sea;

''(9) the number of officers of the NOAA commissioned officer corps and professional wage mariners needed to operate and maintain the NOAA fleet, including the vessels identified under paragraph (3); and

''(10) current and potential challenges with meeting the requirements under paragraph (9) and proposed solutions to those challenges.''; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

''(c) VESSEL PROCUREMENT APPROVAL.—The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration may not procure vessels that are more than 65 feet in length without the approval of the Assistant Administrator of NOAA for Marine and Aviation Operations.'';

(3) in section 605 (33 U.S.C. 891c)—

(A) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''working through the Office of the NOAA Corps Operations and the Systems Procurement Office'' and inserting ''acting through the Assistant Administrator of NOAA for Marine and Aviation Operations''; and

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) by striking ''shall'' and all that follows through ''submit to Congress'' and inserting '', acting through the Assistant Administrator of NOAA for Marine and Aviation Operations, shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives,''; and

(ii) by striking ''subsequent'';

(4) in section 608 (33 U.S.C. 891f)—

(A) by striking subsection (b);

(B) by striking ''(a) VESSEL AGREEMENTS.—''; and

(C) by inserting after ''Secretary'' the following: '', acting through the Assistant Administrator of NOAA for Marine and Aviation Operations,''; and

(5) in section 610 (33 U.S.C. 891h)—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking ''for carrying'' and all that follows and inserting the following: ''$93,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2025 through 2026 to carry out this title and section 302 of the Fisheries Survey Vessel Authorization Act of 2000 (title III of Public Law 106–450; 114 Stat. 1945; 33 U.S.C. 891b note).''; and

(B) in subsection (b), by striking ''National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration fleet modernization'' and inserting ''NOAA fleet modernization,''.

(b) FISHERY SURVEY VESSELS.—Section 302(a) of the Fisheries Survey Vessel Authorization Act of 2000 (title III of Public Law 106–450; 114 Stat. 1945; 33 U.S.C. 891b note) is amended—

(1) by striking ''may in accordance with this section'' and inserting ''may'';

(2) by striking ''up to six''; and

(3) by inserting after ''this section'' the following: ''and the NOAA Fleet Modernization Act (33 U.S.C. 891 et seq.)''.

(c) NOTIFICATIONS OF PROPOSED DEACTIVATION OF VESSELS.—Section 401(b)(4) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Authorization Act of 1992 (Public Law 102–567; 106 Stat. 4291; 33 U.S.C. 891b note) is amended—

(1) by striking ''(A)'' and all that follows through ''The Secretary'' and inserting ''The Secretary'';

(2) by striking ''the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries'' and inserting ''the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology''; and

(3) by striking '', if an equivalent'' and all that follows through ''deactivation''.

SEC. 5703. COOPERATIVE AVIATION CENTERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 218 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002 (33 U.S.C. 3008) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking ''**AVIATION ACCESSION TRAINING PROGRAMS**'' and inserting ''**COOPERATIVE AVIATION CENTERS**'';

(2) in subsection (a), by striking paragraphs (2) and (3) and inserting the following:

''(2) COOPERATIVE AVIATION CENTER.—The term 'Cooperative Aviation Center' means a Cooperative Aviation Center designated under subsection (b)(1).'';

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking ''AVIATION ACCESSION TRAINING PROGRAMS'' and inserting ''COOPERATIVE AVIATION CENTERS'';

(B) by striking paragraphs (3) and (4);

(C) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3);

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

''(1) DESIGNATION REQUIRED.—The Administrator shall designate one or more Cooperative Aviation Centers for the commissioned officer corps of the Administration at institutions described in paragraph (3).

''(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of Cooperative Aviation Centers is to facilitate the development and recruitment of aviators for the commissioned officer corps of the Administration.''; and

(E) in paragraph (3), as so redesignated—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), inserting ''that'' after ''educational institution'';

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''that requests'' and inserting ''applies'';

(iii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking ''that has'' and inserting ''has''; and

(II) by striking the semicolon and inserting ''; and'';

(iv) in subparagraph (C)—

(I) by striking ''that is located'' and inserting ''is located'';

(II) by striking clause (ii);

(III) by striking ''that—'' and all that follows through ''experiences'' and inserting ''that experiences''; and

(IV) by striking ''; and'' and inserting a period; and

(v) by striking subparagraph (D); and

(4) by striking subsections (c), (d), and (e) and inserting the following:

''(c) COOPERATIVE AVIATION CENTERS ADVISOR.—

''(1) ASSIGNMENT.—The Administrator shall assign an officer or employee of the commissioned officer corps of the Administration to serve as the Cooperative Aviation Centers Advisor.

''(2) DUTIES.—The Cooperative Aviation Centers Advisor shall—

''(A) coordinate all engagement of the Administration with Cooperative Aviation Centers, including assistance with curriculum development; and

''(B) serve as the chief aviation recruiting officer for the commissioned officer corps of the Administration.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1 of the Act entitled ''An Act to reauthorize the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998, and for other purposes'' (Public Law 107–372) is amended by striking the item relating to section 218 and inserting the following:

''Sec. 218.Cooperative Aviation Centers.''.

SEC. 5704. ELIGIBILITY OF FORMER OFFICERS TO COMPETE FOR CERTAIN POSITIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002 (33 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 269B the following new section:

''SEC. 269C. ELIGIBILITY OF FORMER OFFICERS TO COMPETE FOR CERTAIN POSITIONS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—An individual who was separated from the commissioned officer corps of the Administration under honorable conditions after not fewer than 3 years of active service may not be denied the opportunity to compete for a vacant position with respect to which the agency in which the position is located will accept applications from individuals outside the workforce of that agency under merit promotion procedures.

''(b) TYPE OF APPOINTMENT.—If selected for a position pursuant to subsection (a), an individual described in that subsection shall receive a career or career-conditional appointment, as appropriate.

''(c) ANNOUNCEMENTS.—The area of consideration for a merit promotion announcement with respect to a position that includes consideration of individuals within the Federal service for that position shall—

''(1) indicate that individuals described in subsection (a) are eligible to apply for the position; and

''(2) be publicized in accordance with section 3327 of title 5, United States Code.

''(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to confer an entitlement to veterans' preference that is not otherwise required by any statute or regulation relating to veterans' preference.

''(e) REGULATIONS.—The Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall prescribe regulations necessary for the administration of this section.

''(f) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025, the Administrator shall submit to the Committees on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committees on Natural Resources and Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report which includes the following:

''(1) A description of how the Administrator has utilized the authority granted under this section, including the number and locations of individuals hired utilizing the authority granted under this section.

''(2) An overview of the impact to Federal employment for former members of the commissioned officer corps of the Administration as a result of the authority granted under this section.

''(g) SUNSET.—This section shall be repealed on the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1 of such Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 269B the following new item:

''Sec. 269C.Eligibility of former officers to compete for certain positions.''.

SEC. 5705. ALIGNMENT OF PHYSICAL DISQUALIFICATION STANDARD FOR OBLIGATED SERVICE AGREEMENTS WITH STANDARD FOR VETERANS' BENEFITS.

Section 216(c)(2)(B) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002 (33 U.S.C. 3006(c)(2)(B)) is amended by striking ''misconduct or grossly negligent conduct'' and inserting ''willful misconduct''.

SEC. 5706. STREAMLINING SEPARATION AND RETIREMENT PROCESS.

Section 241(c) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002 (33 U.S.C. 3041(c)) is amended to read as follows:

''(c) EFFECTIVE DATE OF RETIREMENTS AND SEPARATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), a retirement or separation under subsection (a) shall take effect on such date as is determined by the Secretary.

''(2) DETERMINATION OF DATE.—The effective date determined under paragraph (1) for a retirement or separation under subsection (a) shall be—

''(A) except as provided by subparagraph (B), not earlier than 60 days after the date on which the Secretary approves the retirement or separation; or

''(B) if the officer concerned requests an earlier effective date, such earlier date as is determined by the Secretary.''.

SEC. 5707. SEPARATION OF ENSIGNS FOUND NOT FULLY QUALIFIED.

Section 223(b) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002 (30 U.S.C. 3023(b)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''permanent''; and

(2) by striking ''the officer's commission shall be revoked and''.

SEC. 5708. REPEAL OF LIMITATION ON EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 204 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Amendments Act of 2020 (33 U.S.C. 3079–1) is repealed.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Amendments Act of 2020 (Public Law 116–259; 134 Stat. 1153) is amended by striking the item relating to section 204.

SEC. 5709. DISPOSAL OF SURVEY AND RESEARCH VESSELS AND EQUIPMENT OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION.

Section 548 of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''The Maritime'' and inserting ''(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), the Maritime''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION VESSELS AND EQUIPMENT.—

''(1) AUTHORITY.—The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration may dispose of covered vessels and equipment, which would otherwise be disposed of under subsection (a), through sales or transfers under this title.

''(2) USE OF PROCEEDS.—During the 2-year period beginning of the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025, notwithstanding section 571 of this title or section 3302 of title 31, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration may—

''(A) retain the proceeds from the sale or transfer of a covered vessel or equipment under paragraph (1) until expended under subparagraph (B); and

''(B) use such proceeds, without fiscal year limitation, for the acquisition of new covered vessels and equipment or the repair and maintenance of existing covered vessels and equipment.

''(3) COVERED VESSELS AND EQUIPMENT DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term 'covered vessels and equipment' means survey and research vessels and related equipment owned by the Federal Government and under the control of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.''.

Subtitle B—South Pacific Tuna Treaty Matters

SEC. 5721. REFERENCES TO SOUTH PACIFIC TUNA ACT OF 1988.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, wherever in this subtitle an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to

be made to a section or other provision of the South Pacific Tuna Act of 1988 (16 U.S.C. 973 et seq.).

SEC. 5722. DEFINITIONS.

(a) APPLICABLE NATIONAL LAW.—Section 2(4) (16 U.S.C. 973(4)) is amended by striking ''described in paragraph 1(a) of Annex I of'' and inserting ''noticed and in effect in accordance with''.

(b) CLOSED AREA.—Section 2(5) (16 U.S.C. 973(5)) is amended by striking ''of the closed areas identified in Schedule 2 of Annex I of'' and inserting ''area within the jurisdiction of a Pacific Island Party that is closed to vessels pursuant to a national law of that Pacific Island Party and is noticed and in effect in accordance with''.

(c) FISHING.—Section 2(6) (16 U.S.C. 973(6)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C), by inserting ''for any purpose'' after ''harvesting of fish''; and

(2) by amending subparagraph (F) to read as follows:

''(F) use of any other vessel, vehicle, aircraft, or hovercraft for any activity described in this paragraph except for emergencies involving the health or safety of the crew or the safety of a vessel.''.

(d) FISHING VESSEL; VESSEL.—Section 2(7) (16 U.S.C. 973(7)) is amended by striking ''commercial fishing'' and inserting ''commercial purse seine fishing for tuna''.

(e) LICENSING AREA.—Section 2(8) (16 U.S.C. 973(8)) is amended by striking ''in the Treaty Area'' and all that follows and inserting ''under the jurisdiction of a Pacific Island Party, except for internal waters, territorial seas, archipelagic waters, and any Closed Area.''.

(f) LIMITED AREA; PARTY; TREATY AREA.—Section 2 (16 U.S.C. 973) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraphs (10), (13), and (18);

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (11) and (12) as paragraphs (10) and (11), respectively;

(3) by redesignating paragraph (14) as paragraph (12); and

(4) by redesignating paragraphs (15) through (17) as paragraphs (14) through (16), respectively.

(g) REGIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—Section 2 (16 U.S.C. 973) is amended by inserting after paragraph (12), as redesignated by subsection (f)(3), the following:

''(13) The term 'regional terms and conditions' means any of the terms or conditions attached by the Administrator to a license issued by the Administrator, as notified by the Secretary.''.

SEC. 5723. PROHIBITED ACTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5(a) (16 U.S.C. 973c(a)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''Except as provided in section 6 of this Act, it'' and inserting ''It'';

(2) by striking paragraphs (3) and (4);

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (5) through (13) as paragraphs (3) through (11), respectively;

(4) in paragraph (3), as so redesignated, by inserting '', except in accordance with an agreement pursuant to the Treaty'' after ''Closed Area'';

(5) in paragraph (10), as so redesignated, by striking ''or'' at the end;

(6) in paragraph (11), as so redesignated, by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(7) by adding at the end the following:

''(12) to violate any of the regional terms and conditions; or

''(13) to violate any limit on an authorized fishing effort or catch.''.

(b) IN THE LICENSING AREA.—Section 5(b) (16 U.S.C. 973c(b)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''Except as provided in section 6 of this Act, it'' and inserting ''It'';

(2) by striking paragraph (5); and

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (6) and (7) as paragraphs (5) and (6), respectively.

SEC. 5724. EXCEPTIONS.

Section 6 (16 U.S.C. 973d) is repealed.

SEC. 5725. CRIMINAL OFFENSES.

Section 7(a) (16 U.S.C. 973e(a)) is amended by striking ''section 5(a) (8), (10), (11), or (12)'' and inserting ''paragraph (6), (8), (9), or (10) of section 5(a)''.

SEC. 5726. CIVIL PENALTIES.

(a) AMOUNT.—Section 8(a) (16 U.S.C. 973f(a)) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence, by striking ''Code'' after ''liable to the United States''; and

(2) in the fourth sentence, by striking ''Except for those acts prohibited by section 5(a)(4), (5), (7), (8), (10), (11), and (12), and section 5(b) (1), (2), (3), and (7) of this Act, the'' and inserting ''The''.

(b) WAIVER OF REFERRAL TO ATTORNEY GENERAL.—Section 8(g) (16 U.S.C. 973f(g)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''section 5(a)(1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), or (13)'' and inserting ''paragraph (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (11), (12), or (13) of section 5(a)''; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking '', all Limited Areas closed to fishing,'' after ''outside of the Licensing Area''.

SEC. 5727. LICENSES.

(a) FORWARDING OF VESSEL LICENSE APPLICATION.—Section 9(b) (16 U.S.C. 973g(b)) is amended to read as follows:

''(b) In accordance with subsection (e), and except as provided in subsection (f), the Secretary shall forward a vessel license application to the Administrator whenever such application is in accordance with application procedures established by the Secretary.''.

(b) FEES AND SCHEDULES.—Section 9(c) (16 U.S.C. 973g(c)) is amended to read as follows:

''(c) Fees required under the Treaty shall be paid in accordance with the Treaty and any procedures established by the Secretary.''.

(c) MINIMUM FEES REQUIRED TO BE RECEIVED IN INITIAL YEAR; GROUNDS FOR DENIAL OF FORWARDING OF LICENSE APPLICATION; GRANDFATHERING OF CERTAIN VESSELS.—Section 9 (16 U.S.C. 973g) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (f);

(2) by redesignating subsections (g) and (h) as subsections (f) and (g), respectively;

(3) by amending subsection (f), as so redesignated, to read as follows:

''(f) The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State, may determine that a license application should not be forwarded to the Administrator if—

''(1) the application is not in accordance with the Treaty or the procedures established by the Secretary; or

''(2) the owner or charterer—

''(A) is the subject of proceedings under the bankruptcy laws of the United States, unless reasonable financial assurances have been provided to the Secretary;

''(B) has not established to the satisfaction of the Secretary that the fishing vessel is fully insured against all risks and liabilities normally provided in maritime liability insurance; or

''(C) has not paid any penalty which has become final, assessed by the Secretary in accordance with this Act.''; and

(4) in subsection (g), as redesignated by paragraph (2)—

(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

''(1) section 12113 of title 46, United States Code;'';

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting ''of 1972'' after ''Marine Mammal Protection Act'';

(C) in paragraph (3), by inserting ''of 1972'' after ''Marine Mammal Protection Act''; and

(D) in the matter following paragraph (3), by striking ''any vessel documented'' and all that follows and inserting the following:

''any vessel documented under the laws of the United States as of the date of enactment of the Fisheries Act of 1995 (Public Law 104–43) for which a license has been issued under subsection (a) may fish for tuna in the Licensing Area, and on the high seas and in waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States west of 146 west longitude and east of 129.5 east longitude in accordance with international law, subject to the provisions of the Treaty, this Act, and other applicable law, provided that no such vessel intentionally deploys a purse seine net to encircle any dolphin or other marine mammal in the course of fishing.''.

SEC. 5728. ENFORCEMENT.

(a) NOTICE REQUIREMENTS TO PACIFIC ISLAND PARTY CONCERNING INSTITUTION OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.—Section 10(c)(1) (16 U.S.C. 973h(c)(1)) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence, by striking ''paragraph 8 of Article 4 of''; and

(2) in the third sentence, by striking ''Article 10 of''.

(b) SEARCHES AND SEIZURES BY AUTHORIZED OFFICERS.—Section 10(d)(1)(A) (16 U.S.C. 973h(d)(1)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (ii), by striking ''or'' at the end; and

(2) in clause (iii), by adding ''or'' at the end.

SEC. 5729. FINDINGS BY SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.

(a) ORDER OF VESSEL TO LEAVE WATERS UPON FAILURE TO SUBMIT TO JURISDICTION OF PACIFIC ISLAND PARTY; PROCEDURE APPLICABLE.—Section 11(a) (16 U.S.C. 973i(a)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking '', all Limited Areas,'';

(2) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''paragraph 2 of Article 3 of''; and

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''within the Treaty Area'' and inserting ''under the jurisdiction''; and

(3) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''section 5 (a)(4), (a)(5), (b)(2), or (b)(3)'' and inserting ''paragraph (3) of section 5(a) or paragraph (2) or (3) of section 5(b)'';

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''section 5(b)(7)'' and inserting ''section 5(b)(6)''; and

(C) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''section 5(a)(7)'' and inserting ''section 5(a)(5)''.

(b) ORDER OF VESSEL TO LEAVE WATERS WHERE PACIFIC ISLAND PARTY INVESTIGATING ALLEGED TREATY INFRINGEMENT.—Section 11(b) (16 U.S.C. 973i(b)) is amended by striking ''paragraph 7 of Article 5 of''.

SEC. 5730. DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION.

Section 12 (16 U.S.C. 973j) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 12. DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION.

''(a) PROHIBITED DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN INFORMATION.—Pursuant to section 552(b)(3) of title 5, United States Code, except as provided in subsection (b), the Secretary shall keep confidential and may not disclose the following information:

''(1) Information provided to the Secretary by the Administrator that the Administrator has designated confidential.

''(2) Information collected by observers.

''(3) Information submitted to the Secretary by any person in compliance with the requirements of this Act.

''(b) AUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN INFORMATION.—The Secretary may disclose information described in subsection (a)—

''(1) if disclosure is ordered by a court;

''(2) if the information is used by a Federal employee—

''(A) for enforcement; or

''(B) in support of the homeland security missions and non-homeland security missions of the Coast Guard as defined in section 888 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 468);

''(3) if the information is used by a Federal employee or an employee of a Fishery Management Council for the administration of the Treaty or fishery management and monitoring;

''(4) to the Administrator, in accordance with the requirements of the Treaty and this Act;

''(5) to the secretariat or equivalent of an international fisheries management organization of which the United States is a member, in accordance with the requirements or decisions of such organization, and insofar as possible, in accordance with an agreement that prevents public disclosure of the identity of any person that submits such information;

''(6) if the Secretary has obtained written authorization from the person providing such information, and disclosure does not violate other requirements of this Act; or

''(7) in an aggregate or summary form that does not directly or indirectly disclose the identity of any person that submits such information.

''(c) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—

''(1) Nothing in this section shall be construed to adversely affect the authority of Congress, including a Committee or Member thereof, to obtain any record or information.

''(2) The absence of a provision similar to paragraph (1) in any other provision of law shall not be construed to limit the ability of the Senate or the House of Representatives, including a Committee or Member thereof, to obtain any record or information.''.

SEC. 5731. CLOSED AREA STOWAGE REQUIREMENTS.

Section 13 (16 U.S.C. 973k) is amended by striking ''. In particular, the boom shall be lowered'' and all that follows and inserting ''and in accordance with any requirements established by the Secretary.''.

SEC. 5732. OBSERVERS.

Section 14 (16 U.S.C. 973l) is repealed.

SEC. 5733. FISHERIES-RELATED ASSISTANCE.

Section 15 (16 U.S.C. 973m) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 15. FISHERIES-RELATED ASSISTANCE.

''The Secretary and the Secretary of State may provide assistance to a Pacific Island Party to benefit such Pacific Island Party from the development of fisheries resources and the operation of fishing vessels that are licensed pursuant to the Treaty, including—

''(1) technical assistance;

''(2) training and capacity building opportunities;

''(3) facilitation of the implementation of private sector activities or partnerships; and

''(4) other activities as determined appropriate by the Secretary and the Secretary of State.''.

SEC. 5734. ARBITRATION.

Section 16 (16 U.S.C. 973n) is amended—

(1) by striking ''Article 6 of'' after ''arbitral tribunal under''; and

(2) by striking ''paragraph 3 of that Article'' and all that follows through ''under such paragraph'' and inserting ''the Treaty, shall determine the location of the arbitration, and shall represent the United States in reaching agreement under the Treaty''.

SEC. 5735. DISPOSITION OF FEES, PENALTIES, FORFEITURES, AND OTHER MONEYS.

Section 17 (16 U.S.C. 973o) is amended by striking ''Article 4 of''.

SEC. 5736. ADDITIONAL AGREEMENTS.

Section 18 (16 U.S.C. 973p) is amended by striking ''Within 30 days after'' and all that follows and inserting ''The Secretary may establish procedures for review of any agreements for additional fishing access entered into pursuant to the Treaty.''.

Subtitle C—Other Matters

SEC. 5741. NORTH PACIFIC RESEARCH BOARD ENHANCEMENT.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''North Pacific Research Board Enhancement Act''.

(b) AMENDMENTS.—Section 401(e) of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998 (43 U.S.C. 1474d(e)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in subparagraph (L), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon;

(B) in subparagraph (M), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(C) in subparagraph (N), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and'';

(D) by inserting after subparagraph (N) the following:

''(O) one member who shall represent Alaska Natives and possesses personal knowledge of, and direct experience with, subsistence uses and shall be nominated by the Board and appointed by the Secretary.''; and

(E) by adding at the end the following: ''Board members appointed under subparagraphs (N) and (O) shall serve for 3-year terms, and may be reappointed once.'';

(2) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (6); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

''(5) If the amount made available for a fiscal year under subsection (c)(2) is less than the amount made available in the previous fiscal year, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration may increase the 15 percent cap on administrative expenses provided under paragraph (4)(B) for that fiscal year to prioritize—

''(A) continuing operation of the Board;

''(B) maximizing the percentage of funds directed to research; and

''(C) maintaining the highest quality standards in administering grants under this subsection.''.

(c) WAIVER.—Beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the date that is 5 years after such date of enactment, the 15 percent cap on funds to provide support for the North Pacific Research Board and administer grants under section 401(e)(4)(B) of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998 (43 U.S.C. 1474d(e)(4)(B)) shall be waived.

SA 3647. Mr. HAGERTY (for himself and Mr. KAINE) 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. ___. MODERNIZING THE DEFENSE CAPABILITIES OF THE PHILIPPINES.

(a) PURPOSE.—In addition to the purposes otherwise authorized for Foreign Military Financing with respect to the Philippines, the Secretary of State shall use the authorities under this section to—

(1) strengthen the United States-Philippines alliance in accordance with the historic agreement reached at the United States-Philippines 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue on August 2, 2024;

(2) enable the acceleration of phase three of the modernization of the Armed Forces of the Philippines;

(3) provide additional information to the Chairs of the United States-Philippine Bilateral Security Dialogue to enable planning and prioritization of Joint Capability Areas (JCA);

(4) support the execution of the Philippines-Security Sector Assistance Roadmap (P–SSAR); and

(5) provide assistance, including equipment, training, and other support, to modernize the defense capabilities of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in order to—

(A) safeguard the territorial sovereignty of the Philippines;

(B) improve maritime domain awareness;

(C) counter coercive military activities;

(D) improve the military and civilian infrastructure and capabilities necessary to prepare for regional contingencies; and

(E) strengthen cooperation between the United States and the Philippines on counterterrorism-related efforts.

(b) ANNUAL SPENDING PLAN.—Not later than March 1, 2026, and annually thereafter for a period of 4 years, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a plan describing how amounts authorized to be appropriated pursuant to subsection (e), if made available, would be used to achieve the purpose described in subsection (a).

(c) ANNUAL REPORT ON ENHANCING THE UNITED STATES-PHILIPPINES DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP.—

(1) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for a period of 4 years, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, and in consultation with such other heads of Federal departments and agencies as the Secretary of State considers appropriate, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that describes steps taken to enhance the United States-Philippines defense relationship.

(2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—Each report required under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A description of the capabilities and defense infrastructure improvements needed to modernize the defense capabilities of the Philippines, including with respect to—

(i) coastal defense;

(ii) long-range fires;

(iii) integrated air defenses;

(iv) maritime security;

(v) manned and unmanned aerial systems;

(vi) mechanized ground mobility vehicles;

(vii) intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance;

(viii) defensive cybersecurity;

(ix) military construction;

(x) maintenance and sustainment of military capabilities; and

(xi) any other defense capabilities that the Secretary of State determines, including jointly with the Philippines, are crucial to the defense of the Philippines.

(B) An assessment of the absorptive capacity of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, including the coast guard, over the next 5 years.

(C) A description of how statutory authorities under title 10, United States Code, including under section 333 of such title and authorities relating to unspecified minor military construction and overseas humanitarian, disaster, and civic aid, will be used to provide support for the Philippines-Security Sector Assistance Roadmap and the defense capabilities described in subparagraph (A),

prioritized according to the assessment of the absorptive capacity of the Armed Forces of the Philippines required under subparagraph (B).

(3) FORM.—Each report required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

(d) FOREIGN MILITARY FINANCING LOAN AND LOAN GUARANTEE AUTHORITY.—

(1) DIRECT LOANS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—During fiscal years 2026 through 2030, the Secretary of State may make direct loans available for the Philippines pursuant to section 23 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2763).

(B) MAXIMUM OBLIGATIONS.—Gross obligations for the principal amounts of loans authorized under subparagraph (A) may not exceed $1,000,000,000.

(C) SOURCE OF FUNDS.—

(i) DEFINED TERM.—In this subparagraph, the term ''cost''—

(I) has the meaning given such term in section 502(5) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 661a(5));

(II) shall include the cost of modifying a loan authorized under subparagraph (A); and

(III) may include the costs of selling, reducing, or cancelling any amounts owed to the United States or to any agency of the United States.

(ii) IN GENERAL.—Funds made available under the appropriations heading ''Foreign Military Financing Program'' in any Act making appropriations for the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs may be made available to pay for the cost of loans authorized under subparagraph (A).

(D) FEES AUTHORIZED.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Government of the United States may charge processing and origination fees for a loan made pursuant to subparagraph (A), not to exceed the cost to the Government of making such loan, which shall be collected from borrowers through a financing account (as defined in section 502(7) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 661a(7)).

(ii) LIMITATION ON FEE PAYMENTS.—Amounts made available under any appropriations Act for any fiscal year may not be used to pay any fees associated with a loan authorized under subparagraph (A).

(E) REPAYMENT.—Loans made pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall be repaid not later than 17 years after the loan is received by the borrower, including a grace period of not more than 1 year on repayment of principal.

(F) INTEREST.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 23(c)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2763(c)(1)), interest for loans made pursuant to subparagraph (A) may be charged at a rate determined by the Secretary of State.

(ii) TREATMENT OF LOAN AMOUNTS USED TO PAY INTEREST.—Amounts made available under this paragraph for interest costs shall not be considered assistance for the purposes of any statutory limitation on assistance to a country.

(2) LOAN GUARANTEES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Funds made available under the appropriations heading ''Foreign Military Financing Program'' in any Act making appropriations for the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs may be made available for the costs of loan guarantees for the Philippines under section 24 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2764) for the Philippines to subsidize gross obligations for the principal amount of commercial loans and total loan principal, any part of which may be guaranteed.

(B) MAXIMUM AMOUNTS.—Loan guarantees authorized under subparagraph (A)—

(i) may be made only to the extent that the total loan principal, any part of which is guaranteed, does not exceed $1,000,000,000; and

(ii) may not exceed 80 percent of the loan principal with respect to any single borrower.

(C) SUBORDINATION.—Any loan guaranteed pursuant to subparagraph (A) may not be subordinated to—

(i) another debt contracted by the borrower; or

(ii) any other claims against the borrower in the case of default.

(D) REPAYMENT.—Repayment in United States dollars of any loan guaranteed under this paragraph shall be required not later than 17 years after the loan agreement is signed.

(E) FEES.—Notwithstanding section 24 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2764), the Government of the United States may charge processing and origination fees for a loan guarantee authorized under subparagraph (A), not to exceed the cost to the Government of such loan guarantee, which shall be collected from borrowers, or from third parties on behalf of such borrowers, through a financing account (as defined in section 502(7) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 661a(7)).

(F) TREATMENTS OF LOAN GUARANTEES.—Amounts made available under this paragraph for the costs of loan guarantees authorized under subparagraph (A) shall not be considered assistance for the purposes of any statutory limitation on assistance to a country.

(G) COMMERCIAL FLEXIBILITY.—Loan guarantees authorized under subparagraph (A) may be provided to entities doing business inside or outside the United States, notwithstanding any provision of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.) that would otherwise limit eligibility for such guarantees based on geographic location or business operations.

(3) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—Amounts authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection may not be expended without prior notification of the appropriate committees of Congress.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to amounts otherwise authorized to be appropriated for Foreign Military Financing, there is authorized to be appropriated to the Department of State for Foreign Military Financing grant assistance for the Philippines up to $500,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030.

(2) TRAINING.—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated pursuant to paragraph (1), the Secretary of State shall obligate and expend not less than $500,000 each fiscal year for one or more blanket order agreements for Foreign Military Financing training programs related to the defense needs of the Philippines.

(f) SUNSET PROVISION.—Assistance may not be provided under this section after September 30, 2035.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) BLANKET ORDER AGREEMENT.—The term ''blanket order agreement'' means an agreement between a foreign customer and the United States Government for a specific category of items or services (including training) that—

(A) does not include a definitive list of items or quantities; and

(B) specifies a dollar ceiling against which orders may be placed.

SA 3648. Mr. HAGERTY 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 section 846, add the following:

(c) AMENDMENTS RELATED TO SOURCING OF MATERIAL.—

(1) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 4872 of title 10, United States Code, as amended by this section, is further amended—

(i) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (g); and

(ii) by inserting after subsection (e) the following new subsection:

''(f) NOTIFICATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the selection or award of a contract, grant, loan, or use of other transaction authority to address strategic and critical materials production of a covered material or for integration into a covered material as described in paragraph (2), the Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, shall notify the congressional defense committees.

''(2) APPLICABILITY OF REQUIREMENT.—The notification requirement under paragraph (1) applies to the selection or award of a contract, grant, loan, or use of other transaction authority if the underlying project is—

''(A) located outside of the United States;

''(B) not anticipated to use primarily domestic feedstock; or

''(C) not anticipated to use entirely domestic processing and refining capacity.

''(3) ELEMENTS.—The notification required under paragraph (1) shall include—

''(A) identification of the investment, including the location and amount;

''(B) the anticipated location and sources of processing and refining; and

''(C) for processing, refining, manufacturing, and recycling, a description of the anticipated sources and locations of feedstock.''.

(B) APPLICABILITY TO GERMANIUM AND GALLIUM.—For the purposes of subsection (f) of section 4872 of title 10, United States Code, as added subparagraph (A), covered material shall include germanium and gallium regardless of the delayed effective date specified under subsection (b) of this section.

(2) PREFERENCE FOR DOMESTIC INTEGRATED SOURCING.—Section 848 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116–283; 10 U.S.C. 4811 note) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(c) PREFERENCE FOR DOMESTIC INTEGRATED SOURCING OF CRITICAL MINERALS.—The Secretary of Defense shall, to the maximum extent practicable, when investing in strategic and critical mineral production, prioritize defense industrial base investment in integrated sources that currently, or as a result of the investment, produce minerals in the United States and process and refine

such minerals in the United States. Such prioritization shall include—

''(1) investments made via the Industrial Base Fund established under section 4817 of title 10, United States Code;

''(2) the use of authorities under title III of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4531 et seq.); and

''(3) programs such as the National Defense Stockpile.''.

SA 3649. Mr. HAGERTY (for himself and Ms. ALSOBROOKS) 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. _____. TRANSACTION ACCOUNT INSURANCE.

(a) DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 11(a)(1) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1821(a)(1)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by striking ''The net amount'' and inserting the following:

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), the net amount''; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

''(ii) INSURANCE FOR NONINTEREST-BEARING TRANSACTION ACCOUNTS.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding clause (i), the Corporation shall insure the net amount, in an amount that is not more than $20,000,000, that any depositor maintains, in the aggregate, in 1 or more noninterest-bearing transaction accounts at—

''(aa) an insured depository institution that is a subsidiary of a depository institution holding company that has total assets of less than $250,000,000,000; or

''(bb) an insured depository institution that has total assets of less than $250,000,000,000 if the insured depository institution is not a subsidiary of a depository institution holding company.

''(II) EXCLUSION.—The amount described in subclause (II) shall not be taken into account when computing the net amount due to a depositor described in that subclause under clause (i).''.

(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3(m) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813(m)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting '', including deposits in a noninterest-bearing transaction account,'' after ''deposits''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) NONINTEREST-BEARING TRANSACTION ACCOUNT.—The term 'noninterest-bearing transaction account' means a deposit or account maintained at an insured depository institution—

''(A) with respect to which interest is neither accrued nor paid;

''(B) on which the depositor or account holder is permitted to make withdrawals by negotiable or transferable instrument, payment orders of withdrawal, telephone or other electronic media transfers, or other similar items for the purpose of making payments or transfers to third parties or others; and

''(C) on which the insured depository institution does not reserve the right to require advance notice of an intended withdrawal.''.

(b) CREDIT UNIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 207(k)(1)(A) of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1787(k)(1)(A)) is amended—

(A) by striking ''Subject to the provisions of paragraph (2), the net amount'' and inserting the following:

''(i) NET AMOUNT OF INSURANCE PAYABLE.—Subject to clause (ii) and the provisions of paragraph (2), the net amount''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(ii) INSURANCE FOR NONINTEREST-BEARING TRANSACTION ACCOUNTS.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding clause (i), the Board shall insure the net amount, in an amount that is not more than $20,000,000, that any member, or any person with funds lawfully held in a member account, maintains, in the aggregate, in 1 or more noninterest-bearing transaction accounts at—

''(aa) an insured credit union that is a subsidiary of a credit union holding company that has total assets of less than $250,000,000,000; or

''(bb) an insured credit union that has total assets of less than $250,000,000,000 if the insured credit union is not a subsidiary of a credit union holding company.

''(II) EXCLUSION.—The amount described in subclause (I) shall not be taken into account when computing the net amount due to a member described in that subclause under clause (i).''.

(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 101 of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1752) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (8), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in paragraph (9), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(10) The term 'insured deposit' includes deposit in a noninterest-bearing transaction account; and

''(11) The term 'noninterest-bearing transaction account' means a deposit or account maintained at an insured credit union—

''(A) with respect to which interest is neither accrued nor paid;

''(B) on which the member or account holder is permitted to make withdrawals by negotiable or transferable instrument, payment orders of withdrawal, telephone or other electronic media transfers, or other similar items for the purpose of making payments or transfers to third parties or others; and

''(C) on which the insured credit union does not reserve the right to require advance notice of an intended withdrawal.''.

(c) TRANSITION PERIOD.—

(1) DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, insured deposits in noninterest-bearing transaction accounts, as defined in clause (ii) of section 11(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1821(a)(1)(B)), as added by subsection (a)(1) of this section, shall be included in the determination of the value of the estimated insured deposits described in section 7(b)(3)(B) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1817(b)(3)(B)) in accordance with the plan required under subparagraph (B).

(B) PLAN.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation shall publish in the Federal Register a plan for gradually including, during the period ending on the date that is 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the insured deposits described in subparagraph (A) in the determination described in that subparagraph.

(2) CREDIT UNIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, insured deposits in noninterest-bearing transaction accounts, as defined in clause (ii) of section 207(k)(1) of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1787(k)(1)), as added by subsection (b)(1) of this subsection, shall be included in the determination of the value of the aggregate amount of the insured shares described in paragraphs (1)(B) and (2)(B) of section 202(h) of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1782(h)) in accordance with the plan required under subparagraph (B).

(B) PLAN.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Credit Union Administration Board shall publish in the Federal Register a plan for gradually including, during the period ending on the date that is 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the insured deposits described in subparagraph (A) in the determination described in that subparagraph.

(d) REGULATIONS.—The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the National Credit Union Administration Board shall promulgate regulations carrying out the amendments made by this section, including prohibiting insured depository institutions, as defined in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813), insured credit unions, as defined in section 101 of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1752), and third parties, as applicable, from bypassing the limitation of insurance established under those amendments to—

(1) only noninterest-bearing transaction accounts; and

(2) only deposits or accounts at insured depository institutions that are subsidiaries of depository institution holding companies that have total assets of less than $250,000,000,000 (or insured depository institutions that have total assets of less than $250,000,000,000 if the insured depository institutions are not subsidiaries of depository institution holding companies).

SA 3650. Mr. HAGERTY 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. ___. DOLLAR AMOUNT THRESHOLDS UNDER THE ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT.

The Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 36(a)(10), by striking ''$250,000'' each place it appears and inserting ''$500,000'';

(2) in section 25(a)(1)—

(A) by striking ''$7,000,000'' and inserting ''$30,000,000''; and

(B) by striking ''25,000,000'' and inserting ''105,000,000'';

(3) in sections 3(d)(1), 3(d)(3)(A), 36(b)(1), 36(b)(5)(C), 36(c)(1), and 63(a)(1), by striking ''$14,000,000'' each place it appears and inserting ''$30,000,000'';

(4) in sections 3(d)(5)(A), 36(b)(6)(A), 36(c)(5)(A), and 63(a)(2)(A), by striking ''$25,000,000'' each place it appears and inserting ''$55,000,000'';

(5) in sections 3(d)(1), 3(d)(3)(A), 36(b)(1), 36(b)(5)(C), 36(c)(1), 47(6), 63(a)(1), and 71(d), by striking ''$50,000,000'' each place it appears and inserting ''$105,000,000'';

(6) in sections 3(d)(5)(B), 36(b)(6)(B), 36(c)(5)(B), and 63(a)(2)(B), by striking ''$100,000,000'' each place it appears and inserting ''$205,000,000'';

(7) in sections 36(b)(1), 36(b)(5)(C), and 47(6), by striking ''$200,000,000'' each place it appears and inserting ''$410,000,000''; and

(8) in section 36(b)(6)(C), by striking ''$300,000,000'' and inserting ''$615,000,000''.

SA 3651. Mr. HAGERTY (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BUDD, and Ms. ALSOBROOKS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1265. IDENTIFICATION AND PROHIBITIONS WITH RESPECT TO PROPERTY NATIONALIZED OR EXPROPRIATED BY CERTAIN FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Finance, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Ways and Means, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

(2) COVERED FOREIGN TRADE PARTNER.—The term ''covered foreign trade partner'' means a country in the Western Hemisphere that has in effect a free trade agreement with the United States.

(3) PASSENGER VESSEL.—The term ''passenger vessel'' means a vessel that—

(A) is authorized to carry 149 or more passengers;

(B) has onboard sleeping facilities for each passenger;

(C) is on a voyage that embarks or disembarks passengers; and

(D) is not engaged in a coastwise voyage subject to chapter 105 of title 46, United States Code.

(4) PROHIBITED PROPERTY.—The term ''prohibited property'' means any port, harbor, or marine terminal, including any relevant port infrastructure—

(A) that is located within the territory of a covered foreign trade partner;

(B) that is accessible only through land that is owned, held, or controlled, directly or indirectly, by a United States person; and

(C) if an agency or official of the government of the covered foreign trade partner has, on or after January 1, 2024—

(i) nationalized, forcibly limited, or expropriated the land described in subparagraph (B);

(ii) repudiated or nullified any contract, permit, concession, easement, or similar authorization with a United States person related to that land; or

(iii) taken any other action that has the effect of seizing ownership or control of that land.

(5) RELEVANT PORT INFRASTRUCTURE.—The term ''relevant port infrastructure'' means the following infrastructure at a port or harbor:

(A) Conveyors and other equipment used to load or unload freight or passenger vessels.

(B) Roads and pathways used to load or unload freight or passenger vessels.

(C) Docks and piers used to load or unload freight or passenger vessels.

(D) Moorings, dolphins, or other structures used for anchoring freight or passenger vessels.

(E) Silos, domes, or other structures used for the storage of any good, ware, article, merchandise, or other freight.

(F) Offices, facilities, and other buildings used for the administration and security of the port or harbor.

(6) UNITED STATES.—The term ''United States'' includes the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and any territory or possession of the United States.

(7) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term ''United States person'' means—

(A) a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States; or

(B) an entity not less than 50 percent of the ownership interest in which is owned by United States citizens.

(b) DESIGNATION OF PROHIBITED PROPERTY.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with and with the concurrence of the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of State, shall—

(1) identify and designate all prohibited property;

(2) provide a list of all prohibited property designated under paragraph (1) to—

(A) the agencies and officials within the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of the Treasury, and the Department of State responsible for the implementation of subsection (c); and

(B) the appropriate congressional committees; and

(3) publish the list required under paragraph (2) in the Federal Register.

(c) PROHIBITIONS ON USE OF PROHIBITED PROPERTY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall prohibit any vessel loaded or previously held at a port, harbor, or marine terminal that is designated as prohibited property under subsection (b)(1) from—

(A) making a port of call in the United States;

(B) releasing into the United States any good;

(C) docking any passenger vessel in the United States;

(D) releasing into the United States any passenger from a passenger vessel; or

(E) dry docking, completing repair work, refurbishing, victualing, refueling, or conducting any other servicing or maintenance-related activities.

(2) EXCEPTION FOR EMERGENCIES.—The prohibitions under paragraph (1) shall not apply in the case of an emergency being experienced by a vessel or an individual on the vessel.

SA 3652. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title X, add the following new subtitle:

Subtitle H—Rotorcraft Operations Transparency and Oversight Reform

SEC. 1091. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Rotorcraft Operations Transparency and Oversight Reform Act'' or the ''ROTOR Act''.

SEC. 1092. REVISION TO EXCEPTION FOR ADS–B OUT TRANSMISSION.

(a) RULEMAKING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration (in this subtitle referred to as the ''Administrator'') shall issue or revise regulations to clarify that, with respect to the exception described in section 91.225(f)(1) of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, the term ''sensitive government mission'' shall not include any proficiency evaluation or training mission operated within the lateral boundaries of the surface area of Class B or Class C airspace, unless such operation is for a national security event.

(2) REPORT.—If the Administrator fails to issue or revise regulations pursuant to paragraph (1), the Administrator shall, within 30 days, submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the status of such regulations, including the reasons that the Administrator has failed to issue or revise such regulations.

(b) GUIDANCE ON USE OF TECHNOLOGY OTHER THAN ADS–B.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall issue guidance to clarify that, to the extent practicable, all aircraft operating for purposes of national defense, homeland security intelligence, or law enforcement should utilize Traffic Information Services–Broadcast (''TIS–B'') and the Traffic Alert and Collision Avoidance System (''TCAS'').

(c) REPORTS.—

(1) TO THE ADMINISTRATOR.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, each agency required to operate Automatic Dependent Surveillance–Broadcast Out (in this subtitle referred to as ''ADS–B Out'') in transmit mode in accordance with section 91.225 of such title 14 shall submit to the Administrator, on a quarterly basis until the date described in paragraph (3), a report that includes—

(A) an attestation that such operations are regularly transmitting ADS–B Out and are conducted with proper consideration to aviation safety; and

(B) a summary of operations in which the ADS–B Out equipment is not in transmit mode, including the date, time, duration, and mission type of such operations.

(2) TO CONGRESS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, and biannually thereafter until the date described in paragraph (3), the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the frequency and nature of the ADS–B Out exceptions granted to Federal, State, local, and tribal agencies under section 91.225(f)(1) of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations. Such report shall include—

(i) aggregated data on the operations in which ADS–B Out equipment is not in transmit mode by each agency described in paragraph (1); and

(ii) a determination from the Administrator whether such operations jeopardize aviation safety.

(B) SPECIAL NOTIFICATION.—If the Administrator determines that an agency described in paragraph (1) is too frequently, at the discretion of the Administrator, using exceptions granted under section 91.225(f)(1) of such title 14, the Administrator shall notify the Committee on Commerce, Science, and

Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives of such determination within 14 days of such determination.

(3) SUNSET.—The reporting requirements described in this subsection shall terminate on the date that is 10 years after the date of enactment of this section.

SEC. 1093. ADS–B IN REQUIREMENTS.

(a) REQUIREMENT FOR NEWLY MANUFACTURED MANNED AIRCRAFT.—Subject to subsection (c), not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall issue a final rule that has an effective date which is not later than 3 years of the date on which such final rule is issued to require that any newly manufactured aircraft (other than an unmanned aircraft as defined in section 44801 of title 49, United States Code) registered in the United States shall be equipped with Automatic Dependent Surveillance–Broadcast In (referred to in this section as ''ADS–B In'').

(b) ADS–B IN REQUIRED IN DESIGNATED AIRSPACE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (c), not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall issue a final rule that has an effective date which is not later than 3 years of the date on which such final rule is issued to require that any aircraft (other than an unmanned aircraft as defined in section 44801 of title 49, United States Code) manufactured as of the date of enactment of this section that is required to be equipped with ADS–B Out when operating in an airspace described in section 91.225(d) of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, shall also be required to install and operate ADS–B In.

(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—

(A) ADDITIONAL TIME.—In conducting the rulemaking under paragraph (1), the Administrator may consider whether any aircraft described in paragraph (1) would require additional time, not to exceed an additional 2 years after the effective date described in paragraph (1), to implement such requirement.

(B) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—If the Administrator determines there is a need to provide additional time as described in subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall—

(i) notify Congress not later than 14 days after making such determination; and

(ii) include a justification for such determination, as well as the date on which full compliance is expected.

(3) SPECIAL DETERMINATION.—For purposes of meeting the requirements of paragraph (1), the Administrator shall determine whether the use of a non-Technical Standard Order receiver is permissible for aircraft with a maximum certificated takeoff weight of fewer than 12,500 pounds.

(c) EXCEPTION.—The requirements of subsections (a) and (b) shall not apply to any aircraft described in section 91.225(e) of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, including balloons and gliders not certified with an electrical system.

SEC. 1094. STUDY ON DYNAMIC RESTRICTED AREA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall initiate a study on the feasibility, costs, and benefits of establishing a dynamic restricted area for rotorcraft and powered-lift (as such terms are defined in section 1.1 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this section) over the Potomac River to the north, south, and east of DCA. Such study's final report shall be—

(1) completed not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section; and

(2) submitted to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In conducting the study required under subsection (a), the Administrator shall review, but is not limited to—

(1) terrestrial and aircraft-based technology or equipment improvements required to operationalize a dynamic restricted area inside the FRZ and in proximity to DCA;

(2) the training requirements to enable the use of an automated visual warning system in a way that functions as a traffic signal that is similar to the system deployed in the FRZ, as of the date of enactment of this section, to warn aircraft that they are entering a dynamic restricted airspace that is active or inactive;

(3) the ways in which the dynamic restricted area can be depicted on various paper and electronic aeronautical charts and other navigational materials;

(4) the feasibility of using automated audio sounds to indicate active or inactive restricted area, including a continuous tone being generated on a certain aviation VHF and UHF radio communication and VOR and TACAN frequencies that are modulated in tone frequency and tone length (such as Instrument Landing System marker sounds) such that they are received by existing aviation VHF or UHF radio communications transceivers and an automated visual warning system deployed in the FRZ;

(5) the potential and mitigation steps for pilot and air traffic controller distraction;

(6) procedures to allow air traffic controllers to override any automatic function of the system for manual control;

(7) the creation of an indication or other signal in the air traffic control tower at DCA and the Potomac Terminal Radar Approach Control Facility (''TRACON'') to communicate the status of whether the dynamic restricted area is active or inactive;

(8) the creation of methods to anticipate fixed wing aircraft taking off from DCA so to provide sufficient warning to rotorcraft and powered-lift aircraft of the imminent activation of the dynamic restricted area; and

(9) any other matters determined appropriate by the Administrator.

(c) BRIEFING.—Not later than 30 days after completing the study required by subsection (a), the Administrator shall brief the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives on the results of the study.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DCA.—The term ''DCA'' means Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport.

(2) DYNAMIC RESTRICTED AREA.—The term ''dynamic restricted area'' means an area of restriction placed on specific areas of airspace, which is contemplated to be an area over the Potomac River that is 4 miles north, south, and east of DCA, to prevent the transit of rotorcraft and powered lift aircraft that activates independently from air traffic controller action and automatically by computer action based on criteria that uses position, altitude, and velocity data from fixed wing aircraft.

(3) FRZ.—The term ''FRZ'' means the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area Flight Restricted Zone, as defined by section 93.335 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this subtitle).

(4) TACAN.—The term ''TACAN'' means tactical air navigation pursuant to Appendix 3 Abbreviation/Acronyms of the Aeronautical Information Manual.

(5) UHF.—The term ''UHF'' means ultra high frequency pursuant to Appendix 3 Abbreviation/Acronyms of the Aeronautical Information Manual.

(6) VHF.—The term ''VHF'' means very high frequency pursuant to Appendix 3 Abbreviation/Acronyms of the Aeronautical Information Manual.

(7) VOR.—The term ''VOR'' means VHF Omnidirectional Range pursuant to Appendix 3 Abbreviation/Acronyms of the Aeronautical Information Manual.

SEC. 1095. INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE ARMY AUDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Inspector General of the Army shall initiate an audit to evaluate the Army's coordination with the Federal Aviation Administration, pilot training, and qualification standards, and the Army's use of ADS–B Out and whether it adheres to Army policy, regulation, and law.

(b) ASSESSMENT.—In conducting the audit required by subsection (a), the Inspector General of the Army shall assess practices and recommendations for the Army, including—

(1) whether Army policy and United States law was adhered to, and the Army's coordination with the Federal Aviation Administration, during National Capitol Region (in this subsection referred to as the ''NCR'') operations of pilot training and qualifications standards in the NCR;

(2) the Army's policy on ADS–B Out equipage, usage, and activation;

(3) maintenance protocols for UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters operated by the 12th Army Aviation Brigade including, but not limited to, the calibration of any system that transmits altitude and position information outside the aircraft and the calibration of systems that sends altitude and position information to the pilots inside the aircraft;

(4) compliance with the September 29, 2021, Letter of Agreement executed between the Pentagon Heliport Air Traffic Control Tower and the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport Air Traffic Control Tower regarding flight operations in the NCR; and

(5) the Army's review of loss of separation incidents involving its rotorcraft in the NCR along with possible mitigations to prevent future mishaps.

(c) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE.—Not later than 14 days after the audit required by subsection (a) is concluded, the Secretary of the Army shall—

(1) transmit a report on the results of the audit, without redactions, to the Committee on the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives; and

(2) publicly release the report without redactions, except to the extent required for national security reasons.

SEC. 1096. REVIEW OF ROTORCRAFT TRAFFIC SURROUNDING COMMERCIAL SERVICE AIRPORTS.

(a) REVIEW.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall initiate a review of all currently charted helicopter routes where flight paths of fixed-wing aircraft and rotorcraft (as defined in section 1.1 of such title 14) may not provide sufficient separation, as determined by the Administrator.

(b) MODIFICATION OF FLIGHT ROUTES.—Based on the results of the review conducted under subsection (a), the Administrator shall evaluate and modify flight routes, as necessary, to improve separation between fixed-wing aircraft and rotorcraft (as so defined).

(c) BRIEFING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the

Administrator shall brief the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives on the results of the review conducted under subsection (a) and any modifications to flight routes made under subsection (b).

SEC. 1097. REPEAL OF PROVISION REGARDING ADS–B EQUIPMENT ON CERTAIN AIRCRAFT OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

Section 1046 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (49 U.S.C. 40101 note) is repealed.

SEC. 1098. AMENDED REQUIREMENTS FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS NEAR COMMERCIAL AIRPORTS.

Section 324 of this Act is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (a);

(2) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as subsections (a) and (b), respectively; and

(3) in subsection (b), as so redesignated, by inserting '', the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives'' after ''the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives'' each place it appears.

SA 3653. Mr. CRUZ 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:

In section 1504, striking subsection (b) and insert the following:

(b) NOTICE AND BRIEFING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the assessment guide required by subsection (a) is published, the Secretary shall—

(A) notify the appropriate committees of Congress of such publication; and

(B) provide the appropriate committees of Congress with a briefing on the contents of the assessment guide.

(2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

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

(B) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives.

SA 3654. Mr. CRUZ 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:

In section 1502, strike subsections (c) and (d) and insert the following:

(c) CONSULTATION.—The study required by subsection (a) shall be conducted in consultation with the Administrator of National Aeronautics and Space Administration and relevant stakeholders, including commercial space industry representatives, environmental agencies, and local governments.

(d) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than March 31, 2026, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report on the findings of the study required by subsection (a).

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) Recommendations on the future use of heavy and super heavy space launch sites at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Vandenberg Space Force Base, and alternate locations.

(B) A summary of findings and recommendations on the continued use of Cape Canaveral Space Force Station and Vandenberg Space Force Base for heavy and super heavy space launches.

(C) A detailed analysis of alternate launch sites, including strategic, operational, and financial considerations.

(D) Policy recommendations for addressing infrastructure needs, environmental concerns, and regulatory challenges for heavy and super heavy space launch operations.

(E) A summary of stakeholder input and any proposed legislative or regulatory changes based on the findings of the study.

SA 3655. Mr. CRUZ 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:

Beginning on page 1372, strike line 20 and all that follows through page 1373, line 6, and insert the following:

SEC. 3116. PROTECTION OF CERTAIN NUCLEAR FACILITIES AND ASSETS FROM UNMANNED AIRCRAFT.

Section 4510(e)(1) of the Atomic Energy Defense Act (50 U.S.C. 2661(e)(1)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (C) as subparagraphs (B) through (D), respectively;

(2) by inserting after the matter preceding subparagraph (B), as so redesignated, the following new subparagraph (A):

''(A) identified by the Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation with respect to potentially impacted airspace, through a risk-based assessment for the purposes of this section;''; and

(3) by striking subparagraph (D), as so redesignated, and inserting the following:

''(D)(i) owned by or contracted to the National Nuclear Security Administration, including any facility that stores or uses special nuclear material; or

''(ii) a national security laboratory or nuclear weapons production facility.''.

SA 3656. Mr. CRUZ 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:

In section 842(d)(2), strike subparagraph (B) and insert the following:

(B) CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days after receipt of the report described in subparagraph (A), the Secretary of Defense shall submit the report, along with any comments of the Secretary, to the appropriate congressional committees.

(C) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—In this paragraph, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(i) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and

(ii) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

SA 3657. Mr. CRUZ 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:

Strike section 1518.

SA 3658. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XII, add the following:

Subtitle F—DFC Modernization and Reauthorization Act of 2025

SEC. 1270. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''DFC Modernization and Reauthorization Act of 2025''.

PART I—DEFINITIONS AND LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRY FOCUS

SEC. 1271. DEFINITIONS.

Section 1402 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9601) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), (3), and (4) as paragraphs (2), (5), (6), and (7), respectively;

(2) by inserting before paragraph (2), as so redesignated, the following:

''(1) ADVANCING INCOME COUNTRY.—The term 'advancing income country', with respect to a fiscal year for the Corporation, means a country the gross national income per capita of which at the start of such fiscal year is—

''(A) greater than the World Bank threshold for initiating the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development graduation process; and

''(B) is equal to or less than the per capita income threshold for classification as a high-income economy (as defined by the World Bank).'';

(3) by inserting after paragraph (2), as so redesignated, the following:

''(3) COUNTRY OF CONCERN.—The term 'country of concern' means any of the following countries:

''(A) The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

''(B) The Republic of Cuba.

''(C) The Democratic People's Republican of Korea.

''(D) The Islamic Republic of Iran.

''(E) The People's Republic of China.

''(F) The Russian Federation.

''(G) Belarus.

''(4) HIGH-INCOME COUNTRY.—The term 'high-income country', with respect to a fiscal year for the Corporation, means a country with a high-income economy (as defined by the World Bank) at the start of such fiscal year.''; and

(4) by striking paragraph (5), as so redesignated, and inserting the following:

''(5) LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRY.—The term 'less developed country', with respect to a fiscal year for the Corporation, means a country the gross national income per capita of which at the start of such fiscal year is equal to or less than the World Bank threshold for initiating the International Bank for Reconstruction Development graduation process.''.

SEC. 1272. LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRY FOCUS.

Section 1412 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9612) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), in the first sentence, by striking ''and countries in transition from nonmarket to market economies'' and inserting ''countries in transition from nonmarket to market economies, and other eligible countries''; and

(2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

''(c) ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES.—

''(1) LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRY FOCUS.—The Corporation shall prioritize the provision of support under title II in less developed countries.

''(2) ADVANCING INCOME COUNTRIES.—The Corporation may provide support for a project under title II in an advancing income country if, before providing such support, the Chief Executive Officer certifies in writing to the appropriate congressional committees, that such support will be provided in accordance with the policy established pursuant to subsection (d)(2). Such certification may be included as an appendix to the report required by section 1446.

''(3) HIGH-INCOME COUNTRIES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation may provide support for a project under title II in a high-income country if, before providing such support, the Chief Executive Officer certifies in writing to the appropriate congressional committees that such support will be provided in accordance with the policy established pursuant to subsection (d)(3). Such certification may be included as an appendix to the report required by section 1446.

''(B) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of the DFC Modernization and Reauthorization Act of 2025, and annually thereafter, the Corporation shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report, which may be submitted in classified form, that includes—

''(i) a list of all high-income countries in which the Corporation anticipates providing support in the subsequent fiscal year (and, with respect to the first such report, the then-current fiscal year); and

''(ii) to the extent practicable, a description of the type of projects anticipated to receive such support.

''(C) PROJECTS IN HIGH-INCOME COUNTRIES NOT PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED IN REPORT.—The Corporation may not provide support for a project in a high-income country in any year for which that high-income country is not included on the list required by subparagraph (B)(i), unless, not later than 15 days before commencing the full due diligence process on such project, the Corporation submits to the appropriate congressional committees a notification describing how the proposed project advances the foreign policy interests of the United States.

''(4) CONTINUATION OF ELIGIBILITY.—Projects previously justified to Congress and approved by the Board shall remain eligible for support notwithstanding any change in the income classification of the country for which project support has been approved.

''(d) STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS POLICY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall establish policies, which shall be applied on a project-by-project basis, to evaluate and determine the strategic merits of providing support for projects and investments in advancing income countries and high-income countries.

''(2) INVESTMENT POLICY FOR ADVANCING INCOME COUNTRIES.—Any policy used to evaluate and determine the strategic merits of providing support for projects in an advancing income country shall require that such projects—

''(A) advance—

''(i) the national security interests of the United States in accordance with United States foreign policy, as determined by the Secretary of State; or

''(ii) significant strategic economic competitiveness imperatives;

''(B) are designed in a manner to produce significant developmental outcomes or provide developmental benefits to the poorest populations of such country; and

''(C) are structured in a manner that maximizes private capital mobilization.

''(3) INVESTMENT POLICY FOR HIGH-INCOME COUNTRIES.—Any policy used to evaluate and determine the strategic merits of providing support for projects in high-income countries shall require that—

''(A) each such project meets the requirements described in paragraph (2);

''(B) with respect to each project in a high-income country—

''(i) private sector entities have been afforded an opportunity to support the project on viable terms in place of support by the Corporation; and

''(ii) such support does not exceed more than 25 percent of the total cost of the project;

''(C) with respect to support for all projects in all high-income countries, the aggregate amount of such support does not exceed 8 percent of the total contingent liability of the Corporation outstanding as of the date on which any such support is provided in a high-income country; and

''(D) the Chief Executive Officer submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that—

''(i) certifies that the Corporation has applied the policy to each supported project in a high-income country; and

''(ii) describes whether such support—

''(I) is a preferred alternative to state-directed investments by a foreign country of concern; or

''(II) otherwise furthers the strategic interest of the United States to counter or limit the influence of foreign countries of concern.

''(e) INELIGIBLE COUNTRIES.—The Corporation shall not provide support for a project in a country of concern.''.

PART II—MANAGEMENT OF CORPORATION

SEC. 1273. STRUCTURE OF CORPORATION.

Section 1413(a) of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9613(a)) is amended by inserting ''a Chief Strategic Investment Officer,'' after ''Chief Development Officer,''.

SEC. 1274. BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Section 1413 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9613) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2)(A)(iii), by striking ''5 individuals'' each place it appears and inserting ''3 individuals''; and

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

''(6) SUNSHINE ACT COMPLIANCE.—Meetings of the Board are subject to section 552b of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the 'Government in the Sunshine Act').''; and

(2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

''(c) PUBLIC HEARINGS.—The Board shall—

''(1) hold at least 2 public hearings each year in order to afford an opportunity for any person to present views with respect to whether—

''(A) the Corporation is carrying out its activities in accordance with this division; and

''(B) any support provided by the Corporation under title II in any country should be suspended, expanded, or extended;

''(2) as necessary and appropriate, provide responses to the issues and questions discussed during each such hearing following the conclusion of the hearing;

''(3) post the minutes from each such hearing on a website of the Corporation and, consistent with applicable laws related to privacy and the protection of proprietary business information, the responses to issues and questions discussed in the hearing; and

''(4) implement appropriate procedures to ensure the protection from unlawful disclosure of the proprietary information submitted by private sector applicants marked as business confidential information unless—

''(A) the party submitting the confidential business information waives such protection or consents to the release of the information; or

''(B) to the extent some form of such protected information may be included in official documents of the Corporation, a nonconfidential form of the information may be provided, in which the business confidential information is summarized or deleted in a manner that provides appropriate protections for the owner of the information.''.

SEC. 1275. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.

Section 1413(d)(3) of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9613(d)(3)) is amended to read as follows:

''(3) RELATIONSHIP TO BOARD.—The Chief Executive Officer shall—

''(A) report to and be under the direct authority of the Board; and

''(B) take input from the Board when assessing the performance of the Chief Risk Officer, established pursuant to subsection (f), the Chief Development Officer, established pursuant to subsection (g), and the Chief Strategic Investment Officer, established pursuant to subsection (h).''.

SEC. 1276. CHIEF RISK OFFICER.

Section 1413(f) of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9613(f)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking ''who—'' and inserting ''who shall be removable only by a majority vote of the Board.''; and

(B) by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B); and

(2) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Chief Risk Officer shall—

''(A) concurrently report to the Chief Executive Officer and the Board;

''(B) support the risk committee of the Board established under section 1441 in carrying out its responsibilities as set forth in subsection (b) of that section, including by—

''(i) developing, implementing, and managing a comprehensive framework and process for identifying, assessing, and monitoring risk;

''(ii) developing a transparent risk management framework designed to evaluate

risks to the Corporation's overall portfolio, giving due consideration to the policy imperatives of ensuring investment and regional diversification of the Corporation's overall portfolio;

''(iii) assessing the Corporation's overall risk tolerance, including recommendations for managing and improving the Corporation's risk tolerance and regularly advising the Board on recommended steps the Corporation may take to responsibly increase risk tolerance; and

''(iv) regularly collaborating with the Chief Development Officer and the Chief Strategic Investments Officer to ensure the Corporation's overall portfolio is appropriately balancing risk tolerance with development and strategic impact.''.

SEC. 1277. CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER.

Section 1413(g) of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9613) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''in development'' in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) and all that follows through ''shall be'' subparagraph (B) and inserting ''in international development and development finance, who shall be''; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by inserting ''AND RESPONSIBILITIES'' after ''DUTIES'';

(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), (D), (E), and (F) as subparagraphs (D), (E), (F), (G), (H), and (I), respectively;

(C) by inserting before subparagraph (D), as so redesignated, the following:

''(A) advise the Chief Executive Officer and the Deputy Chief Executive Officer on international development policy matters and concurrently report to the Chief Executive Officer and to the Board;

''(B) in addition to the Chief Executive Officer and the Deputy Chief Executive Officer, represent the Corporation in interagency meetings and processes relating to international development;

''(C) work with other relevant Federal departments and agencies to identify projects that advance United States international development interests;'';

(D) in subparagraph (D), as so redesignated, by striking ''United States Government'' and all that follows and inserting ''Federal departments and agencies, including by directly liaising with the relevant members of United States country teams serving overseas, to ensure that such Federal departments, agencies, and country teams have the training and awareness necessary to fully leverage the Corporation's development tools overseas;'';

(E) in subparagraph (E), as so redesignated—

(i) by striking ''under the guidance of the Chief Executive Officer,'';

(ii) by inserting ''the development impact of Corporation transactions, including'' after ''evaluating''; and

(iii) by striking ''United States Government'' and inserting ''Federal'';

(F) by striking subparagraph (F), as so redesignated, and inserting the following:

''(F) coordinate implementation of funds or other resources transferred to and from such Federal departments, agencies, or overseas country teams in support of the Corporation's international development projects or activities;'';

(G) in subparagraph (G), as so redesignated, by inserting ''manage the reporting responsibilities of the Corporation under'' after ''1442(b) and'';

(H) in subparagraph (H), as so redesignated, by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(I) in subparagraph (I), as so redesignated—

(i) by striking ''subsection (i)'' and inserting ''subsection (j)''; and

(ii) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(J) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

''(J) oversee implementation of the Corporation's development impact strategy and work to ensure development impact at the transaction level and portfolio-wide;

''(K) foster and maintain relationships both within and external to the Corporation that enhance the capacity of the Corporation to achieve its mission to advance United States international development policy and interests;

''(L) coordinate within the Corporation to ensure United States international development policy and interests are considered together with the Corporation's foreign policy and national security goals; and

''(M) coordinate with other Federal departments and agencies to explore investment opportunities that bring evidence-based, cost effective development innovations to scale in a manner that can be sustained by markets.''.

SEC. 1278. CHIEF STRATEGIC INVESTMENT OFFICER.

Section 1413 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9613) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (h) and (i) as subsections (i) and (j), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (g) the following:

''(h) CHIEF STRATEGIC INVESTMENT OFFICER.—

''(1) APPOINTMENT.—Subject to the approval of the Board, the Chief Executive Officer shall appoint a Chief Strategic Investment Officer, from among individuals with experience in United States national security matters and foreign investment, who shall be removable only by a majority vote of the Board.

''(2) DUTIES.—The Chief Strategic Investment Officer shall—

''(A) advise the Chief Executive Officer and the Deputy Chief Executive Officer on foreign policy matters and concurrently report to the Chief Executive Officer and to the Board;

''(B) in addition to the Chief Executive Officer and the Deputy Chief Executive Officer, represent the Corporation in interagency meetings and processes relating to United States national security;

''(C) coordinate efforts to develop the Corporation's strategic investment initiatives—

''(i) to counter predatory state-directed investment and coercive economic practices of adversaries of the United States;

''(ii) to preserve the sovereignty of partner countries; and

''(iii) to advance economic growth through the highest standards of transparency, accessibility, and competition;

''(D) provide input into the establishment of performance measurement frameworks and reporting on development outcomes of strategic investments, consistent with sections 1442 and 1443;

''(E) work with other relevant Federal departments and agencies to identify projects that advance United States national security priorities, including by complementing United States domestic investments in critical and emerging technologies;

''(F) manage employees of the Corporation that are dedicated to ensuring that the Corporation's activities advance United States national security interests, including through—

''(i) long-term strategic planning;

''(ii) issue and crisis management;

''(iii) the advancement of strategic initiatives; and

''(iv) strategic planning on how the Corporation's foreign investments may complement United States domestic production of critical and emerging technologies;

''(G) manage employees that are dedicated to ensuring that the Corporation's activities advance United States foreign policy and national security interests and diplomatic strategy, including through—

''(i) long-term strategic planning;

''(ii) issue and crisis management; and

''(iii) the advancement of foreign policy initiatives;

''(H) foster and maintain relationships both within and external to the Corporation that enhance the capacity of the Corporation to achieve its mission to advance United States national security interests; and

''(I) collaborate with the Chief Development Officer to ensure United States national security interests are considered together with the Corporation's development goals.''.

SEC. 1279. OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES.

Section 1413(i) of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9613(i)), as so redesignated, is amended—

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

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this section, officers, employees, and agents shall be selected and appointed by, or under the authority of, the Chief Executive Officer, and shall be vested with such powers and duties as the Chief Executive Officer may determine.'';

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking ''50'' and inserting ''70''; and

(ii) by inserting '', and such positions shall be reserved for individuals meeting the executive qualifications established by the Corporation's qualification review board'' after ''United States Code''; and

(B) in subparagraph (D), by inserting '', provided that no such officer or employee may be compensated at a rate exceeding level II of the Executive Schedule'' after ''respectively''; and

(3) in paragraph (3)(C) by striking ''subsection (i)'' and inserting ''subsection (j)''.

SEC. 1280. DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL.

Section 1413(j) of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9613(j)), as so redesignated, is amended—

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

''(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established a Development Advisory Council (in this subsection referred to as the 'Council') that shall advise the Board and the Congressional Strategic Advisory Group established by subsection (k) on the development priorities and objectives of the Corporation.'';

(2) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (6); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

''(4) BOARD MEETINGS.—The Board shall meet with the Council at least twice each year and engage directly with the Board on its recommendations to improve the policies and practices of the Corporation to achieve the development priorities and objectives of the Corporation.

''(5) ADMINISTRATION.—The Board shall—

''(A) prioritize maintaining the full membership and composition of the Council;

''(B) inform the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives when a vacancy of the Council occurs, including the date that the vacancy occurred; and

''(C) for any vacancy on the Council that remains for 60 days or more, submit a report to the Committee on Foreign Relations of

the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives explaining why a vacancy is not being filled and provide an update on progress made toward filling such vacancy, including a reasonable estimation for when the Board expects to have the vacancy filled.''.

SEC. 1281. STRATEGIC ADVISORY GROUP.

Section 1413 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9613) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(k) CONGRESSIONAL STRATEGIC ADVISORY GROUP.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the enactment of the DFC Modernization and Reauthorization Act of 2025, there shall be established a Congressional Strategic Advisory Group (referred to in this subsection as the 'Group'), which shall meet not less frequently than annually, including after the budget of the President submitted under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, for a fiscal year.

''(2) COMPOSITION.—The Group shall be composed of the following:

''(A) The Chief Executive Officer.

''(B) The Chief Development Officer.

''(C) The Chief Strategic Investment Officer.

''(D) The Strategic Advisors of the Senate, as described in paragraph (3)(A).

''(E) The Strategic Advisors of the House of Representatives, as described in paragraph (3)(B).

''(3) STRATEGIC ADVISORS OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—

''(A) STRATEGIC ADVISORS OF THE SENATE.—

''(i) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a group to be known as the 'Strategic Advisors of the Senate'.

''(ii) COMPOSITION.—The group established by clause (i) shall be composed of the following:

''(I) The chair of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, who shall serve as chair of the Strategic Advisors of the Senate.

''(II) The ranking member of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, who shall serve as vice-chair of the Strategic Advisors of the Senate.

''(III) Not more than 6 additional individuals who are members of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, designated by the chair, with the consent of the ranking member.

''(B) STRATEGIC ADVISORS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—

''(i) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a group to be known as the 'Strategic Advisors of the House of Representatives'.

''(ii) COMPOSITION.—The group established by clause (i) shall be composed of the following:

''(I) The chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, who shall serve as chair of the Strategic Advisors of the House.

''(II) The ranking member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, who shall serve as vice-chair of the Strategic Advisors of the House.

''(III) Not more than 6 additional individuals who are members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, designated by the chair, with the consent of the ranking member.

''(4) OBJECTIVES.—The Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Development Officer, and the Chief Strategic Investment Officer of the Corporation shall consult with the Strategic Advisors of the Senate and the Strategic Advisors of the House of Representatives established under paragraph (3) in order to solicit and receive congressional views and advice on the strategic priorities and investments of the Corporation, including—

''(A) the challenges presented by adversary countries to the national security interests of the United States and strategic objectives of the Corporation's investments;

''(B) priority regions, countries, and sectors that require focused consideration for strategic investment;

''(C) the priorities and trends pursued by similarly-situated development finance institutions of friendly nations, including opportunities for partnerships, complementarity, or co-investment;

''(D) evolving methods of financing projects, including efforts to partner with public sector and private sector institutional investors;

''(E) institutional or policy changes required to improve efficiencies within the Corporation; and

''(F) potential legislative changes required to improve the Corporation's performance in meeting strategic and development imperatives.

''(5) MEETINGS.—

''(A) TIMES.—The chair and the vice-chair of the Strategic Advisors of the Senate and the chair and the vice-chair of the Strategic Advisors of the House of Representatives shall determine the meeting times of the Group, which may be arranged separately or on a bicameral basis by agreement.

''(B) AGENDA.—Not later than 7 days before each meeting of the Group, the Chief Executive Officer shall submit a proposed agenda for discussion to the chair and the vice-chair of each strategic advisory group referred to in subparagraph (A).

''(C) QUESTIONS.—To ensure a robust flow of information, members of the Group may submit questions for consideration before any meeting. A question submitted orally or in writing shall receive a response not later than 15 days after the conclusion of the first meeting convened wherein such question was asked or submitted in writing.

''(D) CLASSIFIED SETTING.—At the request of the Chief Executive Officer or the chair and vice-chair of a strategic advisory group established under paragraph (3), business of the Group may be conducted in a classified setting, including for the purpose of protecting business confidential information and to discuss sensitive information with respect to foreign competitors.''.

SEC. 1282. BIENNIAL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1413 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9613) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(l) BIENNIAL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES PLAN.—

''(1) PLAN REQUIRED.—Based upon guidance received from the Group established pursuant to section 1413(k), the Chief Executive Officer shall develop a Biennial Strategic Priorities Plan, which shall provide—

''(A) guidance for the Corporation's strategic investments portfolio and the identification and engagement of priority strategic investment sectors and regions of importance to the United States; and

''(B) justifications for the certifications of such investments in accordance with section 1412(c).

''(2) EVALUATIONS.—The Biennial Strategic Priorities Plan should determine the objectives and goals of the Corporation's strategic investment portfolio by evaluating economic, security, and geopolitical dynamics affecting United States strategic interests, including—

''(A) determining priority countries, regions, sectors, and related administrative actions;

''(B) plans for the establishment of regional offices outside of the United States;

''(C) identifying countries where the Corporation's support—

''(i) is necessary;

''(ii) would be the preferred alternative to state-directed investments by foreign countries of concern; or

''(iii) otherwise furthers the strategic interests of the United States to counter or limit the influence of foreign countries of concern;

''(D) evaluating the interest and willingness of potential private finance institutions and private sector project implementers to partner with the Corporation on strategic investment projects; and

''(E) identifying bilateral and multilateral project finance partnership opportunities for the Corporation to pursue with United States partner and ally countries.

''(3) REVISIONS.—At any time during the relevant biennial period, the Chief Executive Officer may request to convene a meeting of the Congressional Strategic Advisory Group for the purpose of discussing revisions to the Biennial Strategic Priorities Plan.

''(4) TRANSPARENCY.—The Chief Executive Officer shall publish, on a website of the Corporation—

''(A) descriptions of entities that may be eligible to apply for support from the Corporation;

''(B) procedures for applying for products offered by the Corporation; and

''(C) any other appropriate guidelines and compliance restrictions with respect to designated strategic priorities.''.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that the Corporation, during the 2-year period beginning on October 1, 2025, should consider—

(1) advancing secure supply chains to meet the critical minerals needs of the United States and its allies and partners;

(2) making investments to promote and secure the telecommunications sector, particularly undersea cables; and

(3) establishing, maintaining, and supporting regional offices outside the United States for the purpose of identifying and supporting priority investment opportunities.

SEC. 1283. INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM.

Section 1415 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9614) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting ''and maintain the operation of'' after ''establish'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) provide a public forum and process for hearing and resolving concerns regarding the impacts of specific Corporation-supported projects with respect to the standards detailed in paragraph (1) of this subsection;''; and

(B) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

''(3) provide advice to the Board regarding Corporation policies and practices''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subsections:

''(c) STAFFING AND BUDGET.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The independent accountability mechanism should have at least 4 full-time staff, the ability to hire independent consultants, and maintain an independent budget.

''(2) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the DFC Modernization and Reauthorization Act of 2025, the Corporation shall submit to Congress a report detailing the staffing plan, budget, and the account that will provide funds.

''(d) REPORTING.—The Corporation shall provide regular explanations and updates on the implementation of this section in the Corporation's annual report.''.

PART III—AUTHORITIES RELATING TO PROVISION OF SUPPORT

SEC. 1284. LENDING AND GUARANTEES.

Section 1421(b) of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9621(b)), is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

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

''(3) FOREIGN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.—For loans and guaranties issued under paragraph (1) that are made to private foreign finance institutions the Corporation shall—

''(A) prioritize partnerships with small and medium sized lending institutions that specialize in providing financial services to small and medium sized enterprises, or financial services for underserved or marginalized communities; and

''(B) for any loans, guaranties, or partnership deals with private finance institutions that hold or manage assets and capital that exceeds $2,000,000,000, include in any report required under section 1446 a justification for such transaction.''.

SEC. 1285. EQUITY INVESTMENT.

(a) CORPORATE EQUITY INVESTMENT FUND.—Section 1421(c) of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9621(c)), is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(7) CORPORATE EQUITY INVESTMENT FUND.—

''(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a fund to be known as the 'Development Finance Corporate Equity Investment Fund' (referred to in this division as the 'Fund'), which shall be administered by the Corporation as a revolving account to carry out the purposes of this section.

''(B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Fund $3,000,000,000 for fiscal years 2026 through 2030.

''(C) OFFSETTING COLLECTIONS AND FUNDS.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, discretionary offsetting collections derived from the earnings and proceeds from the sale or redemption of, and fees, credits, and other collections from, the equity investments of the Corporation shall be retained and deposited into the Fund and shall remain available to carry out this subsection without fiscal year limitation.

''(D) NATURE OF THE FUND.—Earnings and other amounts deposited into the Fund shall remain available for purposes of section 1421(c) until expended.''.

(b) GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA.—Section 1421(c)(3) of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9621(c)(3)), is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C) by inserting '', localized workforces, and partner country economic security'' after ''markets''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(G) The support provides additional finance for, or to minimize risk of, a project or fund and does not supplant or replace private capital or support economically unsound ventures.''.

SEC. 1286. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT GRANTS.

Section 1421(e) of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9621(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(3) PROJECT DEVELOPMENT GRANTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation is authorized to provide to small borrowers legal, technical, and other forms of predevelopment funding assistance in the form of grants of up to $1,000,000 per project for the purpose of facilitating predevelopment activities.

''(B) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph, the term 'predevelopment activity' means an activity that provides an opportunity to identify and assess potential projects and modifications to existing projects, and to advance such projects from the conceptual phase to actual construction, including—

''(i) project planning, feasibility studies, economic assessments, cost-benefit analyses, public benefit studies, and value-for-money analyses;

''(ii) design and engineering;

''(iii) financial planning, including the identification of funding and financing options;

''(iv) permitting, environmental review, and regulatory processes; and

''(v) other expenses directly related to project development and exploration under such regulations and guidance as the Corporation may establish.''.

SEC. 1287. SPECIAL PROJECTS.

Section 1421(f) of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9621(f)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''The Corporation'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation''; and

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

''(2) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 15 days prior to exercising the authority under paragraph (1), the Chief Executive Officer shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a notification describing the need to exercise special authorities under this subsection.''.

SEC. 1288. SUBORDINATION.

Section 1421 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9621) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(j) SUBORDINATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Any loan or loan guaranty made by the Corporation should be provided on a senior basis or pari passu with other senior debt unless there is a substantive policy rationale to provide such support otherwise. Such a substantive policy rationale may include—

''(A) providing support for a project that includes support from international financial institutions or another foreign government-sponsored development finance institution;

''(B) doing so would facilitate greater private sector participation in the project; and

''(C) doing so would substantially further the Corporation's development objectives in the project.

''(2) NOTIFICATION.—If the Corporation accepts a creditor status that is subordinate to that of other creditors with respect to a project, the Corporation shall include in any report required to be submitted in accordance with section 1446 in connection with such project—

''(A) the amount of each such financial commitment;

''(B) an identification of the recipient or beneficiary;

''(C) a description of the project, activity, or asset and the development goal or purpose to be achieved by providing support by the Corporation; and

''(D) the substantive policy rationale for accepting a subordinate status.''.

SEC. 1289. STREAMLINED REVIEW PROCESSES.

Section 1421 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9621) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(k) PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS.—The Corporation shall explore opportunities to accept environmental impact assessments that meet the Corporation's criteria, processes, and standards for project selection of the Corporation from other vetted multilateral development institutions (as that term is defined in section 1701(c) of the International Financial Institutions Act (22 U.S.C. 262r(c)).''.

SEC. 1290. TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

Section 1422 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9622) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

''(3) The Corporation shall, with respect to providing any loan guaranty to a project, require the borrower or other beneficiary of the guaranty to bear a risk of loss on the project in an amount equal to at least 20 percent of the amount of such guaranty. The Corporation may guarantee up to 100 percent of the amount of a loan, provided that risk of loss in the project borne by the borrower or other beneficiary of the guaranty is equal to at least 20 percent of the guaranty amount.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(c) BEST PRACTICES TO PREVENT USURIOUS OR ABUSIVE LENDING BY INTERMEDIARIES.—

''(1) The Corporation shall ensure that terms, conditions, penalties, rules for collections practices, and other finance administration policies that govern Corporation-backed lending, guarantees and other financial instruments through intermediaries are consistent with industry best practices and the Corporation's rules with respect to direct lending to its clients.

''(2) The Corporation shall develop required truth in lending rules, guidelines, and related implementing policies and practices to govern secondary lending through intermediaries and shall report such policies and practices to the appropriate committees not later than 180 days of enactment of the DFC Modernization and Reauthorization Act of 2025, with annual updates, as needed, thereafter.

''(3) In developing such policies and practices required by paragraph (2), the Corporation shall—

''(A) take into account any particular vulnerabilities faced by potential applicants or recipients of micro-lending and other forms of micro-finance;

''(B) develop and apply, generally, rules and terms to ensure Corporation-backed lending through an intermediary does not carry excessively punitive or disproportionate penalties for customers in default;

''(C) ensure that such policies and practices include effective safeguards to prevent usurious or abusive lending by intermediaries, including in the provision of microfinance; and

''(D) ensure the intermediary includes in any lending contract an appropriate level of financial literacy to the borrower, including—

''(i) disclosures that fully explain to the customer both lender and customer rights and obligations under the contract in language that is accessible to the customer;

''(ii) the specific loan terms and tenure of the contract;

''(iii) any procedures and potential penalties or forfeitures in case of default;

''(iv) information on privacy and personal data protection; and

''(v) any other policies that the Corporation determines will further the goal of an informed borrower.

''(4) The Corporation shall establish appropriate auditing mechanisms to oversee and monitor secondary lending, provided through intermediaries in partner countries, on not less than an annual basis and shall include, in each annual report to Congress required under paragraph (2), a summary of the results of such audits.''.

SEC. 1291. TERMINATION.

Section 1424(a) of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9624) is amended by striking ''this Act'' and inserting ''the DFC Modernization and Reauthorization Act of 2025''.

PART IV—OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 1292. OPERATIONS.

Section 1431 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9631) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(e) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

''(1) the Corporation is obligated to consult with and collect input from current employees, on plans to substantially reorganize the Corporation prior to implementation of such plan; and

''(2) the Corporation should consider preference, experience and, when relevant, seniority, when reassigning existing employees to new areas of work.''.

SEC. 1293. CORPORATE POWERS.

Section 1432(a)(10) of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9632(a)(10)) is amended by striking ''until the expiration of the current lease under predecessor authority, as of the day before the date of the enactment of this Act''.

SEC. 1294. MAXIMUM CONTINGENT LIABILITY.

Section 1433 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9633) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 1433. MAXIMUM CONTINGENT LIABILITY.

''The maximum contingent liability of the Corporation outstanding at any one time shall not exceed in the aggregate $240,000,000,000.''.

SEC. 1295. AUTHORITY TO USE PORTION OF CORPORATION FEES TO UPDATE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS.

Section 1434 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9634) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by inserting ''and'' at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting a period; and

(iii) by striking subparagraph (D); and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(D) project-specific transaction costs.'';

(2) in subsection (h), by inserting ''except earnings, fees, credits, and other collections related to equity investments from the Equity Investments Account,'' after ''equity investments,''; and

(3) in subsection (k)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''other direct costs associated with origination or monitoring services, including seminars, conferences, and other pre-investment services,'' after ''legal expenses,''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''does not include'' and inserting ''includes''.

SEC. 1296. PERFORMANCE MEASURES, EVALUATION, AND LEARNING.

Section 1442 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9652) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting the following: ''to be known as the Corporation's Impact Quotient, which shall—

''(A) serve as a metrics-based measurement system to assess a project's expected outcomes and development impact on a country, a region, and populations throughout the sourcing, origination, management, monitoring, and evaluation stages of a project's lifecycle;

''(B) enable the Corporation to assess development impact at both the project and portfolio level;

''(C) assess project compliance with the Corporation's environmental and social standards;

''(D) provide guidance on when to take appropriate corrective measures to further development goals throughout a project's lifecycle; and

''(E) inform congressional notification requirements outlining the Corporation's project development impacts;'';

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(C) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''method for ensuring, appropriate development performance'' and inserting ''method for evaluating and ensuring the development outcomes''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) develop standards for, and a method for ensuring, appropriate monitoring of the Corporation's portfolio, including a requirement that employees or agents of the Corporation conduct an in-person site visit of each high-risk loan, loan guarantee, and equity project at least once in the project's lifecycle after the initial disbursement of funds.'';

(2) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively;

(3) by inserting the following after subsection (b):

''(c) REQUIRED PERFORMANCE MEASURES UPDATE FOR CONGRESSIONAL STRATEGIC ADVISORY GROUP.—At any meeting of the Congressional Strategic Advisory Group, the Corporation shall be prepared discuss the standards developed in subsection (b) for all ongoing projects.''; and

(4) by inserting at the end the following:

''(f) STAFFING FOR PORTFOLIO OVERSIGHT AND REPORTING.—

''(1) REQUIREMENT TO MAINTAIN CAPACITY.—The Corporation shall maintain an adequate number of full-time personnel with appropriate expertise to fulfill its obligations under this section and section 1443, including—

''(A) monitoring and evaluating the financial performance of the Corporation's portfolio;

''(B) evaluating the development and strategic impact of investments throughout the program lifecycle;

''(C) preparing required annual reporting on the Corporation's portfolio of investments, including the information set forth in section 1443(a)(6); and

''(D) monitoring for compliance with all applicable laws and ethics requirements.

''(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—Personnel assigned to carry out the obligations described in paragraph (1) shall possess demonstrable professional experience in relevant areas, such as development finance, financial analysis, investment portfolio management, monitoring and evaluation, impact measurement, or legal and ethics expertise.

''(3) ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE.—The Corporation shall maintain such personnel within 1 or more dedicated units or offices, which shall—

''(A) be functionally independent from investment origination teams;

''(B) be managed by senior staff who report to the Chief Executive Officer or Chief Operating Officer; and

''(C) be allocated resources sufficient to fulfill the Corporation's obligations under this section and to support transparency and accountability to Congress and to the public.

''(4) INSULATION FROM REDUCTIONS.—The Corporation may not reduce the staffing, funding, or organizational independence of the units or personnel responsible for fulfilling the obligations under this section unless—

''(A) the Chief Executive Officer certifies in writing to the appropriate congressional committees that such reductions are necessary due to operational exigency, statutory change, or budgetary shortfall; and

''(B) the Corporation includes in its annual report a detailed explanation of the impact of any such changes on its capacity to analyze and report on portfolio performance.''.

SEC. 1297. ANNUAL REPORT.

Section 1443 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9653) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by inserting at the end the following:

''(5) the United States strategic, foreign policy, and development objectives advanced through projects supported by the Corporation; and

''(6) the health of the Corporation's portfolio, including an annual overview of funds committed, funds disbursed, default and recovery rates, capital mobilized, equity investments' year on year returns, and any difference between how investments were modeled at commitment and how they ultimately performed; to include a narrative explanation explaining any changes.''; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

''(A) the desired development and strategic outcomes for projects, including the ratio of development impact achieved to dollars disbursed, and whether or not the Corporation is meeting the associated metrics, goals, and development objectives, including, to the extent practicable, in the years after conclusion of projects;

''(B) whether the Corporation's support for projects that focus on achieving strategic outcomes are achieving such strategic objectives of such investments over the duration of the support and lasting after the Corporation's support is completed;

''(C) the value of private sector assets brought to bear relative to the amount of support provided by the Corporation and the value of any other public sector support;

''(D) the total private capital projected to be mobilized by projects supported by the Corporation during that year, including an analysis of the lenders and investors involved and investment instruments used;

''(E) the total private capital actually mobilized by projects supported by the Corporation that were fully funded by the end of that year, including—

''(i) an analysis of the lenders and investors involved and investment instruments used; and

''(ii) a comparison with the private capital projected to be mobilized for the projects described in this paragraph;

''(F) a breakdown of—

''(i) the amount and percentage of Corporation support provided to less developed countries, advancing income countries, and high-income countries in the previous fiscal year; and

''(ii) the amount and percentage of Corporation support provided to less developed countries, advancing income countries and high-income countries averaged over the last 5 fiscal years;

''(G) a breakdown of the aggregate amounts and percentage of the maximum contingent liability of the Corporation authorized to be outstanding pursuant to section 1433 in less developed countries, advancing income countries, and high-income countries;

''(H) the risk appetite of the Corporation to undertake projects in less developed countries and in sectors that are critical to development but less likely to deliver substantial financial returns; and

''(I) efforts by the Chief Executive Officer to incentivize calculated risk-taking by transaction teams, including through the conduct of development performance reviews and provision of development performance rewards;'';

(B) in paragraph (3)(B), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(C) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(D) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

''(4) to the extent practicable, recommendations for measures that could enhance the strategic goals of projects to adapt to changing circumstances; and''.

SEC. 1298. PUBLICLY AVAILABLE PROJECT INFORMATION.

Section 1444 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9654) is amended in paragraph (1) to read as follows:

''(1) maintain a user-friendly, publicly available, machine-readable database with detailed project-level information, as appropriate and to the extent practicable, including a description of the support provided by the Corporation under title II, which shall include, to the greatest extent feasible for each project—

''(A) the information included in the report to Congress under section 1443;

''(B) project-level performance metrics; and

''(C) a description of the development impact of the project, including anticipated impact prior to initiation of the project and assessed impact during and after the completion of the project; and''.

SEC. 1299. NOTIFICATIONS TO BE PROVIDED BY THE CORPORATION.

Section 1446 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9656) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by inserting ''the Corporation's impact quotient outlining'' after ''asset and''; and

(ii) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(4)(A) information relating to whether the Corporation has accepted a creditor status that is subordinate to that of other creditors in the project, activity, or asset; and

''(B) for all projects, activities, or assets that the Corporation has accepted a creditor status that is subordinate to that of other creditors the Corporation shall include a description of the substantive policy rationale required by section 1422(b)(12) that influenced the decision to accept such a creditor status.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(d) EQUITY INVESTMENTS.—For every equity investment above $10,000,000 that the Corporation enters into, the Corporation shall submit to Congress a notification that includes—

''(1) the information required by section (b); and

''(2) a plan for how the Corporation plans to use any Board seat the Corporation is entitled to as a result of such equity investment, including any individual the Corporation plans to appoint to the Board and how the Corporations plans to use such Board seat to further United States strategic goals.''.

SEC. 1299A. LIMITATIONS AND PREFERENCES.

Section 1451 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9661) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''5 percent'' and inserting ''2.5 percent''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(j) POLICIES WITH RESPECT TO STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES, ANTICOMPETITIVE PRACTICES, AND COUNTRIES OF CONCERN.—

''(1) POLICY.—The Corporation shall develop appropriate policies and guidelines for support provided under title II for a project involving a state-owned enterprise, sovereign wealth fund, or a parastatal entity to ensure such support is provided consistent with appropriate principles and practices of competitive neutrality.

''(2) PROHIBITIONS.—

''(A) ANTICOMPETITIVE PRACTICES.—The Corporation may not provide support under title II for a project that involves a private sector entity engaged in anticompetitive practices.

''(B) COUNTRIES OF CONCERN.—The Corporation may not provide support under title II for projects—

''(i) that involve partnerships with the government of a country of concern or a state-owned enterprise that belongs to or is under the control of a country of concern; or

''(ii) that would be operated, managed, or controlled by the government of a county of concern or a state-owned enterprise that belongs to or is under the control of a country of concern.

''(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISE.—The term 'state-owned enterprise' means any enterprise established for a commercial or business purpose that is directly owned or controlled by one or more governments, including any agency, instrumentality, subdivision, or other unit of government at any level of jurisdiction.

''(B) CONTROL.—The term 'control', with respect to an enterprise, means the power by any means to control the enterprise regardless of—

''(i) the level of ownership; and

''(ii) whether or not the power is exercised.

''(C) OWNED.—The term 'owned', with respect to an enterprise, means a majority or controlling interest, whether by value or voting interest, of the shares of that enterprise, including through fiduciaries, agents, or other means.''.

SEC. 1299B. REPEAL OF EUROPEAN ENERGY SECURITY AND DIVERSIFICATION ACT OF 2019.

The European Energy Security and Diversification Act of 2019 (title XX of division P of Public Law 116–94; 22 U.S.C. 9501 note) is repealed.

SA 3659. 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 end of subtitle C of title VI, add the following:

SEC. 628. TREATMENT OF SERVICE IN UNIFORMED SERVICES FOR PURPOSES OF FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 6381(1)(B)(ii) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking ''the Army'' and all that follows and inserting ''any of the uniformed services (as defined in section 101 of title 10);''.

(b) INCLUSION OF MILITARY SERVICE IN DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY OF OTHER FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—Section 1114(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118–31; 29 U.S.C. 2611 note) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking ''the Army'' and all that follows through ''United States'' and inserting ''any of the uniformed services (as defined in section 101 of title 10, United States Code)''; and

(B) by striking ''section 101(1)(A)'' each place it appears and inserting ''section 101(2)(A)''; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking subparagraph (B);

(B) by striking ''term'' and all that follows through ''includes'' and inserting the following: ''term 'covered employee' includes'';

(C) by redesignating clauses (i), (ii), (iii), and (iv) as subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D), respectively, and by moving such subparagraphs, as so redesignated, 2 ems to the left; and

(D) in subparagraph (D), as so redesignated, by striking ''; and'' and inserting a period.

SA 3660. 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. ___. COUNTER-UAS SYSTEMS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms ''unmanned aircraft system'' and ''counter-UAS system'' have the meanings given those terms in section 44801 of title 49, United States Code.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the Department of Homeland Security a commission to study and develop recommendations for expansion of counter-UAS system authorities and capabilities for—

(A) Federal law enforcement;

(B) the Department of Defense;

(C) the Department of Energy; and

(D) the Department of Transportation.

(2) APPLICABILITY OF FACA.—Chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the ''Federal Advisory Committee Act''), shall not apply to the commission established under paragraph (1).

(c) DUTIES OF COMMISSION.—

(1) STUDY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Attorney General, the Secretary of Defense, Secretary of Energy, and the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, shall complete a study, which shall be in unclassified form but may

include a classified annex, regarding the authority and capability gaps of Federal law enforcement and the Department of Defense, the Department of Energy, and the Federal Aviation Administration to counter, via detection, tracking, disruption, and defeating, unmanned aircraft systems, including—

(i) the number of deployments of counter-UAS system teams from each agency under which authority, including the number of days deployed, number of personnel deployed by agency, and a summary of any counter-UAS system operations that resulted in an unmanned aircraft system being disrupted or defeated;

(ii) the number of requests for counter-UAS system support from Federal, State, local, Tribal, territorial, or private entities;

(iii) the number of these requests that were declined;

(iv) an assessment of the current authorities and the suitability of such authorities to the threats; and

(v) an assessment of the current structure across the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, the Department of Defense, the Department of Energy, and the Federal Aviation Administration to coordinate and assign counter-UAS system capabilities to National Special Security Events and Special Event Assessment Rating events and non-rated events where counter-UAS system assets and personnel were deployed in response to threats, including—

(I) the number of National Special Security Events and Special Event Assessment Rating events that request counter-UAS system support; and

(II) the number of National Special Security Events and Special Event Assessment Rating events that were granted Federal counter-UAS system coverage and detail the nature of the coverage provided.

(2) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the completion of the study required under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to Congress a report containing findings from the study and recommendations on—

(A) the structure for a Federal interagency task force to coordinate, deconflict, assign, and collaborate on counter-UAS system technologies, authorities, missions, and operations, including leadership, roles, and responsibilities;

(B) additional authority needed for the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Justice to conduct counter-UAS system missions;

(C) additional authority needed by the Department of Defense, the Department of Energy, and the Federal Aviation Administration to conduct counter-UAS system missions;

(D) additional equipment, training, and personnel needed by Federal agencies to conduct counter-UAS system missions; and

(E) an expansion of authority to State, local, Tribal, and territorial law enforcement.

(d) TERMINATION OF COMMISSION.—The commission shall terminate 90 days after the date on which the commission submits the report required under subsection (c)(2).

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

This section shall be carried out using amounts otherwise appropriated to the Department of Homeland Security and no additional amounts are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section.

SA 3661. Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. RISCH, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. GRASSLEY) 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. TREATMENT OF EXEMPTIONS UNDER THE FOREIGN AGENTS REGISTRATION ACT OF 1938.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Preventing Adversary Influence, Disinformation, and Obscured Foreign Financing Act of 2025'' or the ''PAID OFF Act of 2025''.

(b) TREATMENT OF EXEMPTIONS UNDER THE FOREIGN AGENTS REGISTRATION ACT OF 1938.—Section 3 of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended (22 U.S.C. 613), is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subsection (a), by inserting '', except as provided in subsection (i)'' after ''principals''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(i) LIMITATIONS.—The exemptions under subsections (d)(1), (d)(2), and (h) shall not apply to any agent of a foreign principal acting in the interests of 1 or more of the identified countries listed in clauses (i) through (v) of section 1(m)(1)(A) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a(m)(1)(A)).''.

(c) MECHANISM TO AMEND DEFINITION OF ''COUNTRY OF CONCERN''.—Section 1(m) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a(m)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (6) and (7) as paragraphs (7) and (8), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (5) the following:

''(6) MODIFICATION TO DEFINITION OF 'COUNTRY OF CONCERN'.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State may, in consultation with the Attorney General, propose the addition or deletion of countries described in paragraph (1)(A).

''(B) SUBMISSION.—Any proposal described in subparagraph (A) shall—

''(i) be submitted to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and

''(ii) become effective upon enactment of a joint resolution of approval as described in subparagraph (C).

''(C) JOINT RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of subparagraph (B)(ii), the term 'joint resolution of approval' means only a joint resolution—

''(I) that does not have a preamble;

''(II) that includes in the matter after the resolving clause the following: 'That Congress approves the modification of the definition of ''country of concern'' under section 1(m) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956, as submitted by the Secretary of State on _____; and section 1(m)(1)(A) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a(m)(1)(A)) is amended by _____.', the blank spaces being appropriately filled in with the appropriate date and the amendatory language required to modify the list of countries in paragraph (1)(A) of this subsection by adding or deleting 1 or more countries; and

''(III) the title of which is as follows: 'Joint resolution approving modifications to definition of ''country of concern'' under section 1(m) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956.'.

''(ii) REFERRAL.—

''(I) SENATE.—A resolution described in clause (i) that is introduced in the Senate shall be referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

''(II) HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—A resolution described in clause (i) that is introduced in the House of Representatives shall be referred to the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.''.

(d) SUNSET.—The amendments made by this section shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 3662. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. PAUL) 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 B of title XII, add the following:

SECTION 1219. REPEAL OF CAESAR SYRIA CIVILIAN PROTECTION ACT OF 2019.

The Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019 (title LXXIV of division F of Public Law 116–92; 22 U.S.C. 8791 note) is hereby repealed.

SA 3663. Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. KIM) 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. CLOUD LAB ACT OF 2025.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Cloud Labs to Advance Biotechnology Act of 2025'' or the ''Cloud LAB Act of 2025''.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.—The term ''artificial intelligence'' has the meaning given such term in section 5002 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (15 U.S.C. 9401).

(2) AUTHORIZED RESEARCH.—The term ''authorized researcher'' means an individual who has been appropriately authorized to access data generated by the cloud laboratories through a process established by the Director in establishing the cloud laboratory network.

(3) BIOLOGICAL DATA.—The term ''biological data'' means the information, including associated descriptors, derived from the structure, function, or process of a biological system that is either measured, collected, or aggregated for analysis.

(4) CLOUD LABORATORY.—The term ''cloud laboratory'' means a physical laboratory that is equipped with research instrumentation and advanced robots that can be programmed and controlled remotely by scientists in order to conduct continuous experiments and collect associated data.

(5) DIRECTOR.—The term ''Director'' means the Director of the National Science Foundation.

(6) PHASE II CLOUD LABORATORY.—The term ''phase II cloud laboratory'' means a cloud

laboratory funded by a grant awarded under subsection (e).

(7) PHASE III CLOUD LABORATORY.—The term ''phase III cloud laboratory'' means a cloud laboratory funded by a grant awarded under subsection (f).

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

(c) PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Director, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, and the Under Secretary, shall carry out a pilot program in accordance with this section that establishes a cloud laboratory network that helps to coordinate the activities of cloud laboratories established by the Director and cloud laboratories independently operated by other entities (such as private industry, government laboratories, and academic institutions), to further the purposes described in paragraph (3).

(2) CONSULTATION.—The Director shall consult, to the greatest extent practicable, with other departments and agencies involved with cloud laboratories, and any government entities responsible for interagency consultation of biotechnology, such as that in the Executive Office of the President, to deduplicate efforts from different programs, and to increase awareness and connectivity of the cloud laboratory network established under subsection (d)(1).

(3) PURPOSE OF THE CLOUD LABORATORY NETWORK.—The cloud laboratory network described in paragraph (1) shall—

(A) serve the purpose of tracking and cataloging the different biotechnology capabilities at each cloud laboratory;

(B) help researchers connect to the capabilities needed to pursue a line of research; and

(C) provide the opportunity for cloud laboratories to connect and collaborate on best practices, including data collection and data sharing, data standards, and needs.

(4) CLOUD LABORATORY PURPOSES.—Each cloud laboratory supported under this section shall accomplish the following purposes:

(A) Generate high-quality biological data through automated experimentation that will be collected for use and analysis by authorized researchers for the purposes of training artificial intelligence models or other types of biological data analysis models.

(B) Provide researchers access to high-quality experimental instrumentation and data collection for the purposes of advancing individual research projects.

(d) PHASE I OF CLOUD LABORATORY NETWORK PILOT PROGRAM.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CLOUD LABORATORY NETWORK.—Not later than 360 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy and the Under Secretary, shall establish the cloud laboratory network as described in subsection (c)(1).

(2) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than 360 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, the Under Secretary, and others as appropriate, shall prepare and submit an implementation plan to Congress that includes the following:

(A) An assessment of the state of public and private cloud laboratories in the United States, particularly cloud laboratories focused on biotechnology, as of the date of the report, including the number of cloud laboratories, the location of the cloud laboratories, and the financing or payment mechanism for each cloud laboratory.

(B) An implementation plan for a national cloud laboratory network and an associated grant program that includes a mechanism for deciding on the location of each cloud laboratory funded under the grant program in this section.

(C) A plan to coordinate the network of cloud laboratories that are already established, in addition to those funded under this section.

(D) A plan outlining how data generated through the cloud laboratories will be stored, published, and made available and accessible to authorized researchers as a public resource, including a plan to have the data made publicly available in a secure and accessible format.

(E) A scheme for access to data generated through the cloud laboratories funded under this section and the payment or subscription model that will be required to access the cloud laboratory infrastructure and such data, which—

(i) describes how users can apply and use the infrastructure for the cloud laboratories funded under this section, giving special consideration toward providing equitable access;

(ii) allows users doing nonproprietary work to access such cloud laboratories at no or minimal cost; and

(iii) includes a request for information to industry to understand what companies would need in order to subscribe to such a data generation service.

(F) An outline of sample intellectual property agreements for the cloud laboratories funded under this section related to all data gathering and experimentation, which may include different agreements in order to further the different purposes described in subsection (c)(2).

(G) A plan for engagement with industry and academic institutions that manage cloud laboratories to include them in the cloud laboratory network.

(H) A plan for building in considerations related to cybersecurity, biosecurity, and research security from the beginning of development for each cloud laboratory.

(I) The estimated cost of carrying out the full pilot program establishing the cloud laboratory network broken down by year.

(3) CLOUD LABORATORY ADVISORY BOARD.—

(A) CONSULTATION.—In preparing the implementation plan under paragraph (2), the Director shall consult with the advisory board established under this paragraph.

(B) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall establish, and lead, a cloud laboratory advisory board (referred to in this paragraph as the ''advisory board'').

(C) MEMBERS.—

(i) COMPOSITION.—The advisory board shall consist of—

(I) employees of the National Science Foundation and employees of such other Federal agencies as the Director determines appropriate;

(II) academic researchers in all areas of biotechnology, including computational biology, synthetic biology, cell biology, structural biology, robotics, and analytical chemistry;

(III) researchers and practitioners in the fields of biosafety, biosecurity, ethics, and relevant social science disciplines; and

(IV) industry representatives from different sectors of biotechnology, including health, agriculture, chemical production, and platform technologies.

(ii) SELECTION.—The selection and number of people on the advisory board shall be at the discretion of the Director.

(D) DUTIES.—The advisory board shall—

(i) propose biological data collection priorities through consultation with the biotechnology research community, including academia and private companies;

(ii) advise in ways that the cloud laboratories funded under this section are developed and expanded in such a way that maximizes usability across the disciplines of biotechnology while minimizing duplication across the network of cloud laboratories funded under this section;

(iii) advise on the definition of authorized researcher to ensure research security, but also allow access to all tiers of research and teaching institutions, including primarily undergraduate institutions, minority-serving institutions, and historically Black colleges and universities;

(iv) produce an annual report outlining all recommendations and actions that were taken over the course of the year; and

(v) provide guidance and recommendations to the Director regarding—

(I) ensuring that appropriate safeguards are in place to prevent the misuse of cloud laboratories funded under this section;

(II) ensuring the implementation of a rigorous cybersecurity scheme across the network of such cloud laboratories;

(III) ensuring that access to the cloud laboratories funded under this section is equitable; and

(IV) ensuring that such cloud laboratories appreciably increase access to high-end laboratory equipment to otherwise underresourced entities.

(E) TERMINATION.—The advisory board shall terminate on the date that is 12 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(e) PHASE II CLOUD LABORATORY AWARDS.—

(1) AWARDS AUTHORIZED.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and subject to the availability of appropriations, the Director, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, the Under Secretary, and the relevant individual in the Executive Office of the President responsible for coordinating interagency efforts related to biotechnology, shall, using the process developed in subsection (d)(2)(B), make grant awards, on a competitive basis, for the development and operation of not fewer than 2 cloud laboratories.

(2) OPERATIONAL DEADLINE.—Each phase II cloud laboratory shall be fully operational by the date that is 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) DURATION.—An award under this subsection for a phase II cloud laboratory shall be for not less than an 8-year period.

(f) PHASE III CLOUD LABORATORY AWARDS.—

(1) AWARDS AUTHORIZED.—Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and subject to the availability of appropriations, the Director, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy and the Under Secretary, shall make grant awards, on a competitive basis, for the development and operation of not fewer than 3 cloud laboratories.

(2) RELATIONSHIP TO PHASE II CLOUD LABORATORIES.—The phase III cloud laboratories shall be separate, and in addition to, the phase II cloud laboratories.

(3) DURATION.—An award under this subsection for a phase III cloud laboratory shall be for not less than a 6-year period.

(4) AWARD BASIS.—In making awards under this subsection, the Director shall utilize a similar competitive process as used for awards for phase II cloud laboratories, which may be adjusted based on lessons learned from the establishment of the phase II cloud laboratories.

(g) CLOUD LABORATORY PILOT AWARD PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION REPORTS.—Beginning 1 year after the date on which all awards are made for phase II cloud laboratories, and annually thereafter, the Director shall prepare and submit a report to Congress regarding the progress, including any successes, of all cloud laboratories supported under the pilot grant program under this section.

(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

(1) $80,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;

(2) $7,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

(3) $7,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

(4) $127,000,000 for fiscal year 2028; and

(5) $17,500,000 for fiscal year 2029.

(i) SUNSET.—This section shall cease to have effect on the date that is 12 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 3664. Mr. CRUZ 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:

Strike section 218.

SA 3665. Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. PETERS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. STRATEGY FOR FEDERAL AGENCY MIGRATION TO POST-QUANTUM CRYPTOGRAPHY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CLASSICAL COMPUTER.—The term ''classical computer'' means a device that accepts digital data and manipulates the data based on a program or sequence of instructions for how such data is to be processed, and that encodes information in binary.

(2) CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.—The term ''critical infrastructure'' has the meaning given that term in section 1016(e) of the Critical Infrastructures Protection Act of 2001 (42 U.S.C. 5195c(e)).

(3) CRYPTOGRAPHY.—The term ''cryptography'' has the meaning given such term in the National Institute of Standards and Technology Special Publication 1800-21B (relating to mobile device security) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology Special Publication 800-59 (relating to guidelines for identifying an information system as a national security system).

(4) HIGH-IMPACT SYSTEM.—The term ''high-impact system'' means a Federal information system that holds sensitive information, the loss of which would be categorized as high impact under Federal Information Processing Standards Publication 199 (relating to standards for security categorization of Federal information and information systems), as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(5) POST-QUANTUM CRYPTOGRAPHY.—The term ''post-quantum cryptography'' means cryptographic algorithms or methods that are not specifically vulnerable to attacks by either a quantum computer or classical computer.

(6) QUANTUM COMPUTER.—The term ''quantum computer'' means a computer that uses the collective properties of quantum states, such as superposition, interference, and entanglement, to perform calculations.

(7) SECTOR RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY.—The term ''sector risk management agency'' has the meaning given the term in section 2200 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 650).

(b) ASSESSMENT FOR FEDERAL AGENCY MIGRATION TO POST-QUANTUM CRYPTOGRAPHY.—

(1) DUTIES OF SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE ECONOMIC AND SECURITY IMPLICATIONS OF QUANTUM INFORMATION SCIENCE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Subcommittee on the Economic and Security Implications of Quantum Information Science, as established by section 105 of the National Quantum Initiative Act (15 U.S.C. 8814a), shall—

(A) develop a National Quantum Cybersecurity Migration Strategy;

(B) provide a definition of a cryptographically relevant quantum computer;

(C) develop standards for Federal agencies to apply to determine whether a quantum computer meets such definition, including—

(i) the characteristics of such computers; and

(ii) the particular point at which such computers are capable of attacking real world cryptographic systems that classical computers are unable to attack;

(D) assess the urgency for migration to post-quantum cryptography for each Federal agency relative to—

(i) the critical functions of each agency; and

(ii) the risk each agency faces should a cryptographically relevant quantum computer attack a system operated by the agency;

(E) identify performance measures for migration to post-quantum cryptography at each Federal agency for each of the following 4 stages of migration:

(i) Preparation for migration to post-quantum cryptography.

(ii) Establishment of a baseline understanding of the data inventory of each agency.

(iii) Planning and execution of post-quantum cryptographic solutions.

(iv) Monitoring and evaluation of migration success and assessment of cryptographic security; and

(F) evaluate and monitor entities that are at high risk of quantum cryptographic attacks, including entities determined to be providers of critical infrastructure.

(2) POST-QUANTUM PILOT PROGRAM.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Subcommittee on the Economic and Security Implications of Quantum Information Science shall establish a post-quantum pilot program that requires each sector risk management agency to upgrade not less than one high-impact system to post-quantum cryptography not later than January 1, 2027.

(3) DUTIES OF THE OFFICE OF ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Office of Electronic Government, in coordination with the Chairpersons of the Subcommittee on the Economic and Security Implications of Quantum Information Science, shall—

(A) survey the heads of Federal agencies for information relating to the cost of migration to post-quantum cryptography by the Federal agencies, including estimates for the personnel, equipment, and time needed to fully implement post-quantum cryptography, in alignment with the National Quantum Cybersecurity Migration Strategy developed pursuant to paragraph (1)(A);

(B) verify that the information provided under subparagraph (A) is realistic and fiscally sound;

(C) identify the funding and resources necessary for Federal agencies to carry out the migration to post-quantum cryptography; and

(D) describe how Federal agencies should encourage the adoption of post-quantum cryptography by the private sector.

(4) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and the Chairpersons of the Subcommittee on the Economic and Security Implications of Quantum Information Science shall jointly submit to Congress a report detailing their findings with respect to the post-quantum migration assessments required by paragraph (1)(D), the pilot program established pursuant to paragraph (2), and the survey on associated costs of executing the migration required under paragraph (3)(A).

(5) ASSESSMENT BY COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the development of the National Quantum Cybersecurity Migration Strategy under paragraph (1), and annually thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress an assessment, using the performance measures described in paragraph (1)(E), of the progress made by each Federal agency in migrating to post-quantum cryptography.

SA 3666. 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 in subtitle E of title V, insert the following:

SEC. _____. FOOD INSECURITY AMONG MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES TRANSITIONING OUT OF ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE.

(a) STUDY; EDUCATION AND OUTREACH EFFORTS.—

(1) STUDY.—The Secretary of Defense shall, in conjunction with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and other Federal officials, as appropriate, conduct a study to identify the means by which members of the Armed Forces are provided information about the availability of Federal nutrition assistance programs as they transition out of active duty service.

(2) EDUCATION AND OUTREACH EFFORTS.—The Secretary of Defense, working with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and other Federal officials, as appropriate, shall increase education and outreach efforts to members of the Armed Forces who are transitioning out of active duty service, particularly those members identified as being at-risk for food insecurity, to increase awareness of the availability of Federal nutrition assistance programs and eligibility for those programs.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall—

(A) submit to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives a report on the results of the study conducted under paragraph (1); and

(B) publish such report on the website of the Department of Defense.

(b) WORKING GROUP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Agriculture, shall establish a working group to address, across the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Agriculture, coordination,

data sharing, and evaluation efforts on underlying factors contributing to food insecurity among members of the Armed Forces transitioning out of active duty service (in this subsection referred to as the ''working group'').

(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The working group be composed of—

(A) representatives from the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Agriculture;

(B) other relevant Federal officials, including those connected to veteran transition programs; and

(C) other relevant stakeholders as determined by the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the Secretary of Agriculture.

(3) REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the working group shall submit to each congressional committee with jurisdiction over the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Agriculture a report on the coordination, data sharing, and evaluation efforts described in paragraph (1).

(B) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(i) An accounting of the funding each department referred to in subparagraph (A) has obligated toward research relating to food insecurity among members of the Armed Forces or veterans.

(ii) An outline of methods of comparing programs and sharing best practices for addressing food insecurity by each such department.

(iii) An outline of—

(I) the plan each such department has to achieve greater government efficiency and cross-agency coordination, data sharing, and evaluation in addressing food insecurity among members transitioning out of the Armed Forces; and

(II) efforts that the departments can undertake to improve coordination to better address food insecurity as it impacts members during and after their active duty service.

(iv) An identification of—

(I) any legal, technological, or administrative barriers to increased coordination and data sharing in addressing food insecurity among members transitioning out of the Armed Forces; and

(II) any additional authorities needed to increase such coordination and data sharing.

(v) Any other information the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or the Secretary of Agriculture determines to be appropriate.

SA 3667. 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 end of subtitle H of title V, add the following:

SEC. 586. PROMOTION OF CERTAIN FOOD AND NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Each Secretary concerned shall promote, to members of the Armed Forces under the jurisdiction of the Secretary, awareness of food and nutrition assistance programs administered by the Department of Defense.

(b) REPORTING.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, each Secretary concerned shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report summarizing activities taken by the Secretary to carry out subsection (a).

(c) SECRETARY CONCERNED DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''Secretary concerned'' has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 10, United States Code.

SA 3668. 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 end of subtitle B of title XXVIII, add the following:

SEC. 2827. IMPROVEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION OF MILITARY UNACCOMPANIED HOUSING.

(a) UPDATED GUIDANCE ON SURVEYS.—The Secretary of Defense, in carrying out the satisfaction survey requirement under section 3058 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (division B of Public Law 116–92; 10 U.S.C. 2821 note), shall update guidance to the Secretaries of the military departments to ensure that members of the Armed Forces living in military unaccompanied housing are surveyed in a consistent and comparable manner.

(b) REVIEW ON PROCESSES AND METHODOLOGIES FOR CONDITION SCORES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall conduct a review of the processes and methodologies by which the Secretaries of the military departments calculate condition scores for military unaccompanied housing facilities under the jurisdiction of the Secretary concerned.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The review required under paragraph (1) shall, among other factors—

(A) consider how best to ensure a condition score of a facility reflects—

(i) the physical condition of the facility; and

(ii) the effect of that condition on the quality of life of members of the Armed Forces.

(B) aim to increase methodological consistency between the military departments.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the results of the review conducted under paragraph (1).

(c) ACCOUNTING OF MEMBERS RESIDING IN MILITARY UNACCOMPANIED HOUSING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall include with the submission to Congress by the President of the annual budget of the Department of Defense under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, an accounting of unaccompanied members of the Armed Forces whose rank would require that they live in military unaccompanied housing, but that also receive a basic allowance for housing under section 403 of title 37, United States Code.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The accounting required under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) the number of members of the Armed Forces described in such paragraph;

(B) the total value of basic allowance for housing payments provided to those members; and

(C) such other information as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(d) CENTRALIZED TRACKING.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, each Secretary of a military department shall develop a means for centralized tracking, at the service level, of all military construction requirements related to military unaccompanied housing that have been identified at the installation level, regardless of whether or not they are submitted for funding.

(e) MILITARY UNACCOMPANIED HOUSING DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''military unaccompanied housing'' has the meaning given that term in section 2871 of title 10, United States Code.

SA 3669. 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 end of the subtitle D of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 849B. BRIEFING ON SUBMARINE INDUSTRIAL BASE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall provide to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a briefing regarding the submarine industrial base.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The briefing required under subsection (a) shall include a description of—

(1) efforts, both planned and underway, to invest in workforce recruitment and retention, including the modification of nuclear shipbuilding contracts;

(2) commitments from industry partners to implement wage increases for trade and nonexecutive workforce, targeted to maximize retention and recruitment;

(3) commitments from industry partners to make specific capital investments at their shipyards; and

(4) accountability and transparency requirements sought by the Department of Defense and the Office of Management and Budget related to any such agreements with industrial base suppliers.

SA 3670. Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. PADILLA) 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, insert the following:

SEC. ___. WEB OF BIOLOGICAL DATA.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADVISORY BOARD.—The term ''advisory board'' means the advisory board established under subsection (h).

(2) DIRECTOR.—The term ''Director'' means the Director of the National Laboratory selected under subsection (b)(1)(A).

(3) NATIONAL LABORATORY.—The term ''National Laboratory'' has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801).

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

(5) WEB.—The term ''Web'' means the Web of Biological Data established under subsection (b)(1)(A).

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(A) through a competitive process, award a grant to a National Laboratory to establish a centralized data resource, to be known as the ''Web of Biological Data'', to facilitate biological research through advanced computational methods such as artificial intelligence; and

(B) establish a research and development program to further data science relating to generating, storing, curating, and managing biological data.

(2) CONTENTS.—The Web shall—

(A) serve as a single point of entry for researchers to access different sources of biological data, especially those funded by the Federal Government, by directly hosting data or providing access to existing databases;

(B) have metrics and metadata to indicate data quality, including usability, interoperability, and completeness; and

(C) include tiered levels of cybersecurity safeguards and access controls to protect different types of biological data assets hosted in or connected to the Web.

(c) DUTIES OF DIRECTOR.—As part of establishing the Web, the Director may—

(1) enter into data sharing agreements, memoranda of understanding, or other relevant contracts with other Federal departments and agencies to integrate biological datasets into the Web that are not hosted by the Department of Energy;

(2) enter into cost-sharing agreements with nongovernmental entities to fund the Web;

(3) establish partnerships with other Federal agencies, academia, industry, and international partners and allies to optimize usability and performance of the Web; and

(4) carry out any other activities determined necessary by the Secretary to advance United States biological data curation and sharing.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director, in consultation with the Secretary, shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives an implementation plan for the Web that describes—

(1) how the Director and the Secretary shall implement this section;

(2) a plan for working with Federal agencies—

(A) to acquire data that was collected through Federal funding; and

(B) to digitize biological samples that are currently owned or funded by the Federal Government;

(3) the type of initial projects that shall be pursued under the program established under subsection (b)(1)(B);

(4) a plan for exploring and implementing cost-sharing agreements, including with philanthropy and industry, to assist in cost-sharing for the Web;

(5) a cybersecurity plan for the Web; and

(6) how the Director will leverage partnerships with other Federal agencies, academia, and industry.

(e) PHASE I.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall—

(1) test an initial version of the Web, which shall—

(A) focus on specific biological data subtypes selected in consultation with the advisory board, representatives from other Federal departments and agencies, and external stakeholders from industry and academia;

(B) include a single point-of-entry interface for biological data that—

(i) optimizes user experience and data management;

(ii) is built around human-centered design principles;

(iii) is built with the capability to expand to other datasets and biological datatypes beyond the initial version; and

(iv) is built with tiered security access;

(C) include initial frameworks, developed in collaboration with the National Institute of Standards and Technology, for application programming interfaces focusing on hosting an initial list of biological data subtypes; and

(D) include appropriate cybersecurity and access safeguards to protect data accessible by the Web, including limiting access to adversarial countries and countries that do not participate in reciprocal data sharing, as determined by the Secretary;

(2) as part of developing the initial version of the Web described in paragraph (1)—

(A) work with Federal agencies to acquire data that was collected through Federal funding;

(B) develop cost-sharing agreements, including with philanthropic and industry members, to fund the Web; and

(C) work with biotechnology stakeholders to test and evaluate the initial version and implement any needed changes to ensure usability;

(3) select initial research projects to fund under the research and development program established under subsection (b)(1)(B); and

(4) submit a report to the committees described in subsection (j) on the implementation of this subsection and plans for carrying out subsection (f).

(f) PHASE II.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall expand the Web—

(A) to be accessible to United States researchers;

(B) to accommodate different types of biological data; and

(C) to be capable of adapting and expanding based on the emergence of new biological data.

(2) FEATURES.—The expanded version of the Web described in paragraph (1) shall have the following features:

(A) A fully realized single point-of-entry interface that—

(i) is connected to any dataset or database that hosts federally funded data;

(ii) hosts biological data not already stored by other Federal databases; and

(iii) hosts relevant bioinformatic tools for optimized access and analysis.

(B) A full suite of interoperability frameworks associated with different types of biological data, metadata, and appropriate ontologies.

(C) An online interface that optimizes usability, including the ability to rapidly search through metadata across databases.

(D) Incorporation of human-centered design principles into user interfaces.

(E) A standard quality and format for the hosted biological data that is appropriate for training artificial intelligence models.

(F) Restrictions on data sharing with countries described in subsection (e)(1)(D).

(G) Appropriate cybersecurity requirements and tiered safeguards related to the sensitivity of data to prevent misuse of data.

(3) OTHER ACTIVITIES.—In the 3-year period following the 2-year period described in subsection (e), the Secretary shall continue—

(A) to carry out the activities described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2) of that subsection; and

(B) to carry out the research and development program established under subsection (b)(1)(B).

(g) INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF CYBERSECURITY.—The Director shall seek to enter into a contract with an external entity to conduct a biannual independent assessment of the cybersecurity safeguards and access controls of the Web.

(h) ADVISORY BOARD.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the Secretary selects a National Laboratory under subsection (b)(1)(A), the Secretary shall establish an advisory board to oversee the implementation of the Web and ensure that the Web maximizes the usability of biological datasets across sectors.

(2) CHAIR.—The Chair of the advisory board shall be the Director.

(3) MEMBERS.—The advisory board shall consist of 12 members, of whom—

(A) 4 shall be representatives of industry;

(B) 2 shall be representatives of academia;

(C) 2 shall be representatives of National Laboratories (excluding the National Laboratory selected under subsection (b)(1)(A)); and

(D) 3 shall be representatives of relevant Federal departments and agencies, as determined by the Director.

(4) FACA EXEMPTION.—Chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code, shall not apply to the advisory board.

(i) COLLABORATION.—In developing the Web, the Director shall collaborate with—

(1) Federal departments and agencies involved in biosafety and biosecurity capabilities to assist with implementation of proper cybersecurity and biosecurity safeguards;

(2) the National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource of the National Science Foundation to ensure integration of well-curated biological data with cutting-edge foundational artificial intelligence tools;

(3) the National Institute of Standards and Technology to ensure that—

(A) the data included in the Web is formatted in a way that is appropriate for training artificial intelligence models; and

(B) associated application programming interfaces and ontologies are sufficiently adaptable to changes in biological data;

(4) the National Library of Medicine to ensure compatibility and interoperability between the National Center for Biotechnology information databases and the Web;

(5) a nongovernmental group that is qualified to implement an online interface that maximizes usability by the public and human-centered design; and

(6) any other Federal departments and agencies determined relevant by the Director.

(j) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Director shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report describing—

(1) progress made in developing the Web, including—

(A) the quantity of data stored directly on the Web and accessible through application programming interfaces;

(B) collaborations with other Federal agencies and department; and

(C) user engagement;

(2)(A) any cybersecurity vulnerabilities identified by an assessment carried out pursuant to subsection (g); and

(B) actions taken to address those vulnerabilities; and

(3) plans for maintenance, expansion, and development of the Web in the subsequent year.

(k) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated—

(1) $50,000,000 for each of the first 2 years following the date of enactment of this Act to carry out subsection (e); and

(2) on completion of subsection (e) and the submission of the report described in paragraph (4) of that subsection, $200,000,000 for each of the subsequent 3 years to carry out this section.

SA 3671. Mrs. BRITT 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 B of title XXVIII, add the following:

SEC. 2827. REPORT ON INDOOR MOLD, PATHOGENS, AND AIRBORNE TOXINS WITHIN HOUSING UNITS AT INSTALLATIONS OF THE AIR FORCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the prevalence of indoor mold, pathogens, and airborne toxins within housing units at installations of the Air Force.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of installations of the Air Force in the United States with 500 or more housing units that have had reported instances of mold, pathogens, or airborne toxins since 2010.

(2) The number of reports of mold, pathogens, and airborne toxins at each installation specified under paragraph (1), including relevant dates of the reports.

(3) A description of the steps the Secretary of the Air Force is taking to effectively remediate the housing units where mold, pathogens, and airborne toxins are found.

(4) An assessment of the ability of installations of the Air Force to locate, mitigate, and prevent indoor residential mold, pathogens, and airborne toxins within housing units of the Air Force, including the feasibility and cost associated with testing and treating individual housing units located at such installations for mold, pathogens, and airborne toxins prior to a member of the Air Force and their dependents taking residence in the unit.

SA 3672. Mrs. BRITT 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 C of title III, add the following:

SEC. 330. BRIEFING ON USE OF INLAND WATERWAYS FOR TRANSPORTATION OF DEFENSE ARTICLES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Commander of the United States Transportation Command, shall provide to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a briefing on the current use of inland waterways for the transportation of defense articles.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The briefing required under subsection (a) shall, at a minimum, include the following:

(1) A detailed analysis of how defense articles are currently transported via inland waterways, including volume, frequency, and type of cargo.

(2) An evaluation of the state of inland waterway infrastructure, including the impact of aging locks, dams, and channels on defense logistics, and identification of potential failure points that could disrupt the readiness of the Armed Forces.

(3) An identification of potential opportunities to expand and optimize the use of inland waterways for military logistics.

(4) Recommendations to upgrade inland waterway infrastructure, streamline operations, and enhance supply chain resilience.

SA 3673. Mrs. BRITT 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. ___. GUARDING AGING RETIREES FROM DECEPTION.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ELDER FINANCIAL FRAUD.—The term ''elder financial fraud'' means the illegal or improper use of the money, property, or other resources of an elderly individual or adult with a disability for monetary or personal benefit, profit, or gain.

(2) ELIGIBLE FEDERAL GRANT FUNDS.—The term ''eligible Federal grant funds'' means funds received under any of the following:

(A) Title IV of the Prioritizing Resources and Organization for Intellectual Property Act of 2008 (34 U.S.C. 30103 et seq.) (commonly known as the ''Economic, High-Technology, White Collar, and Internet Crime Prevention National Training and Technical Assistance Program''), including relating to the use of technology to solve crimes and to facilitate prosecutions (commonly known as the ''Internet of Things (IoT) National Training and Technical Assistance Program'').

(B) Title 28, Code of Federal Regulations, part 23 (commonly known as ''Justice Information Sharing Training and Technical Assistance Program'').

(C) Section 1401 of the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022 (34 U.S.C. 30107) to a local law enforcement agency for enforcement of cybercrimes against individuals.

(D) Section 1701 title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10381), relating to developing and acquiring effective equipment, technologies, and interoperable communications that assist in responding to and preventing crime (commonly known as the ''COPS Technology and Equipment Program'').

(3) GENERAL FINANCIAL FRAUD.—The term ''general financial fraud'' means, in order to obtain money or other things of value—

(A) intentional misrepresentation of information or identity to deceive an individual;

(B) unlawful use of a credit card, debit card, or automated teller machine; or

(C) use of electronic means to transmit deceptive information.

(4) PIG BUTCHERING.—The term ''pig butchering'' means a confidence and investment fraud in which the victim is gradually lured into making increasing monetary contributions, generally in the form of cryptocurrency, to a seemingly sound investment before the scammer disappears with the contributed monies.

(5) SCAM.—The term ''scam'' means a financial crime undertaken through the use of social engineering that uses deceptive inducement to acquire—

(A) authorized access to funds; or

(B) personal or sensitive information that can facilitate the theft of financial assets.

(6) STATE.—The term ''State'' means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, and each territory of the United States.

(b) FEDERAL GRANTS USED FOR INVESTIGATING ELDER FINANCIAL FRAUD, PIG BUTCHERING, AND GENERAL FINANCIAL FRAUD.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—State, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies and grantees that receive eligible Federal grant funds may use such funds for investigating elder financial fraud, pig butchering, and general financial fraud, including by—

(A) hiring and retaining analysts, agents, experts, and other personnel;

(B) providing training specific to complex financial investigations, including training on—

(i) coordination and collaboration between State, local, Tribal, and Federal law enforcement agencies;

(ii) assisting victims of financial fraud and exploitation;

(iii) the use of blockchain intelligence tools and related capabilities relating to emerging technologies identified in the February 2024 ''Critical and Emerging Technology List Update'' of the Fast Track Action Subcommittee on Critical and Emerging Technologies of the National Science and Technology Council (the ''Critical and Emerging Technology List''); and

(iv) unique aspects of fraud investigations, including transnational financial investigations and emerging technologies identified in the Critical and Emerging Technology List;

(C) obtaining software and technical tools to conduct financial fraud and exploitation investigations;

(D) encouraging improved data collection and reporting;

(E) supporting training and tabletop exercises to enhance coordination and communication between financial institutions and State, local, Tribal, and Federal law enforcement agencies for the purpose of stopping fraud and scams; and

(F) designating a financial sector liaison to serve as a point of contact for financial institutions to share and exchange with State, local, Tribal, and Federal law enforcement agencies information relevant to the investigation of fraud and scams.

(2) REPORT TO GRANT PROVIDER.—Each law enforcement agency and grantee that makes use of eligible Federal grant funds for a purpose specified under paragraph (1) shall, not later than 1 year after making such use of the funds, submit to the Federal agency that provided the eligible Federal grant funds, a report containing—

(A) an explanation of the amount of funds so used, and the specific purpose for which the funds were used;

(B) statistics with respect to elder financial fraud, pig butchering, and general financial fraud in the jurisdiction of the law enforcement agency, along with an analysis of how the use of the funds for a purpose specified under paragraph (1) affected such statistics; and

(C) an assessment of the ability of the law enforcement agency to deter elder financial fraud, pig butchering, and general financial fraud.

(c) REPORT ON GENERAL FINANCIAL FRAUD, PIG BUTCHERING, AND ELDER FINANCIAL FRAUD.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury and the Director of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network in consultation with the Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the appropriate Federal banking agencies and Federal functional regulators shall, jointly, submit to Congress a report on efforts and recommendations related to general financial fraud, pig butchering, elder financial fraud, and scams.

(d) REPORT ON THE STATE OF SCAMS IN THE UNITED STATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury and the Director of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, in consultation with the Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the appropriate Federal banking agencies and Federal functional regulators, shall submit a report to Congress on the state of scams in the United States that—

(A) estimates—

(i) the number of financial fraud, pig butchering, elder financial fraud, and scams committed against American consumers each year, including—

(I) attempted scams, including through social media, online dating services, email, impersonation of financial institutions and nonbank financial institutions; and

(II) successful scams, including through social media, online dating services, email, impersonation of financial institutions and nonbank financial institutions;

(ii) the number of consumers each year that lose money to 1 or more scams;

(iii) the dollar amount of consumer losses to scams each year;

(iv) the percentage of scams each year that can be attributed to—

(I) overseas actors; and

(II) organized crime;

(v) the number of attempted scams each year that involve the impersonation of phone numbers associated with financial institutions and nonbank financial institutions; and

(vi) an estimate of the number of synthetic identities impersonating American consumers each year;

(B) provides an overview of the Federal civil and criminal enforcement actions brought against the recipients of the proceeds of financial fraud, pig butchering, elder financial fraud, and scams during the period covered by the report that includes—

(i) the number of such enforcement actions;

(ii) an evaluation of the effectiveness of such enforcement actions;

(iii) an identification of the types of claims brought against the recipients of the proceeds of financial fraud, pig butchering, elder financial fraud, and scams;

(iv) an identification of the types of penalties imposed through such enforcement actions;

(v) an identification of the types of relief obtained through such enforcement actions; and

(vi) the number of such enforcement actions that are connected to a Suspicious Activity Report; and

(C) identifies amounts made available and amounts expended to address financial fraud, pig butchering, elder financial fraud, and scams during the period covered by the report by—

(i) the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection;

(ii) the Department of Justice;

(iii) the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

(iv) the Federal Communications Commission;

(v) the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve Board;

(vi) the Federal Trade Commission;

(vii) the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network;

(viii) the Securities and Exchange Commission; and

(ix) the Social Security Administration.

(2) SOLICITATION OF PUBLIC COMMENT.—In carrying out the report required under paragraph (1), the Secretary of the Treasury shall solicit comments from consumers, social media companies, email providers, telecommunications companies, financial institutions, and nonbank financial institutions.

(e) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Each Federal agency that provides eligible Federal grant funds that are used for a purpose specified under subsection (b)(1) shall issue an annual report to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives, the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives containing the information received from law enforcement agencies under subsection (b)(2).

(f) FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES ASSISTING STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AND FUSION CENTERS.—Federal law enforcement agencies may assist State, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies and fusion centers in the use of tracing tools for blockchain and related technology tools.

SA 3674. Mrs. BRITT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. MODIFICATION OF OPERATIONS OF NATIONAL WATER CENTER.

Section 301 of the Coordinated Ocean Observations and Research Act of 2020 (42 U.S.C. 10371) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting '', within the Office of Water Prediction of the National Weather Service,'' after ''shall establish'';

(ii) in clause (i), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon;

(iii) in clause (ii), by striking the period and inserting ''; and''; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following new clause:

''(iii) to lead the transition of water research by the Federal Government, including model development, into operations of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Weather Service.'';

(B) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end the following:

''(F) Serving as the primary center within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for research, development, collaboration, and coordination of the water research and water forecast activities of the Administration and other centers and networks of the Federal Government, including those of the Department of Agriculture, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation, the United States Geological Survey, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

''(G) Integrating and promoting consistency among national and regional hydrological forecast operations and service delivery.''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) INCORPORATION INTO UNIFIED FORECAST SYSTEM.—The Under Secretary shall use the Weather and Climate Operational Supercomputing System, or any successor system, to support the development and implementation of advanced water resources modeling capabilities under paragraph (2)(B) and shall incorporate those modeling capabilities into the unified forecast system.'';

(2) by striking subsection (b);

(3) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (b);

(4) by inserting after subsection (b), as redesignated by paragraph (3), the following:

''(c) ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION.—The Under Secretary, acting through the Director of the Office of Water Prediction of the National Weather Service, shall—

''(1) supervise and oversee the administration, management, and operations of each River Forecast Center of the National Weather Service and coordinate those operations with the National Water Center; and

''(2) administer the duties and activities of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration related to the Cooperative Institute for Research to Operations in Hydrology, or any successor entity, and coordinate the activities of the Institute with the National Water Center.''; and

(5) in subsection (d)(4) by inserting before the period the following: ''and each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030''.

SA 3675. Mrs. BRITT (for herself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) 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. ____. REQUIRING DIAGNOSTIC AND SUPPLEMENTAL BREAST EXAMINATIONS TO BE COVERED WITH NO COST-SHARING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart II of part A of title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg–11 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 2730. DIAGNOSTIC AND SUPPLEMENTAL BREAST EXAMINATIONS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a group health plan, or a health insurance issuer offering group or individual health insurance coverage, that provides benefits with respect to diagnostic and supplemental breast examinations furnished to an individual enrolled under such plan or such coverage, such plan or coverage shall not impose any cost-sharing requirements for these benefits.

''(b) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed—

''(1) to prohibit a group health plan or health insurance issuer from requiring timely prior authorization or imposing other appropriate utilization controls in approving coverage for any diagnostic and supplemental breast examination; or

''(2) to supersede a State law that provides greater protections with respect to the coverage of diagnostic and supplemental breast examinations than is provided under this section.

''(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) COST-SHARING REQUIREMENTS.—The term 'cost-sharing requirements' means a deductible, coinsurance, copayment, and any maximum limitation on the application of such a deductible, coinsurance, copayment or similar out-of-pocket expense.

''(2) DIAGNOSTIC BREAST EXAMINATION.—The term 'diagnostic breast examination' means a medically necessary and appropriate (in accordance with National Comprehensive Cancer Network Guidelines) examination of the breast (including, but not limited to such an examination using diagnostic mammography, breast magnetic resonance imaging, or breast ultrasound) that is—

''(A) used to evaluate an abnormality seen or suspected from a screening examination for breast cancer; or

''(B) used to evaluate an abnormality detected by another means of examination.

''(3) SUPPLEMENTAL BREAST EXAMINATIONS.—The term 'supplemental breast examination' means a medically necessary and appropriate (in accordance with National Comprehensive Cancer Network Guidelines) examination of the breast (including, but not limited to such an examination using breast magnetic resonance imaging or breast ultrasound) that is—

''(A) used to screen for breast cancer when there is no abnormality seen or suspected; and

''(B) furnished based on personal or family medical history or additional factors that may increase the individual's risk of breast cancer.''.

(b) APPLICATION TO GRANDFATHERED HEALTH PLANS.—Section 1251(a)(4)(A) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18011(a)(4)(A)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''title'' and inserting ''title, or as added after the date of the enactment of this Act''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new clause:

''(v) Section 2730 (relating to coverage for diagnostic and supplemental breast examinations).''.

(c) APPLICATION TO HIGH DEDUCTIBLE HEALTH PLANS WITH HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNT ELIGIBILITY.—Section 223(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(H) SAFE HARBOR FOR ABSENCE OF DEDUCTIBLE FOR DIAGNOSTIC AND SUPPLEMENTAL BREAST EXAMINATIONS.—In the case of plan years beginning on or after January 1, 2026, a plan shall not fail to be treated as a high deductible health plan by reason of failing to have a deductible for diagnostic and supplemental breast examinations.''.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to plan years beginning on or after January 1, 2026.

SA 3676. Mr. MARKEY 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, add the following:

DIVISION E—SBIR AND STTR REAUTHORIZATION

TITLE XXXIII—REAUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAMS

SEC. 5001. EXTENSION OF SBIR AND STTR AUTHORITY.

(a) SBIR.—Section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638) is amended by striking subsection (m).

(b) STTR.—Section 9(n)(1)(A) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(n)(1)(A)) is amended by striking ''through fiscal year 2025''.

SEC. 5002. EXTENSION OF FAST PROGRAM.

Section 34(i) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657d(i)) is amended by striking ''September 30, 2005'' and inserting ''September 30, 2030''.

TITLE XXXIV—ENHANCING COMPETITION

SEC. 5101. INCREASING AGENCY EXPENDITURES FOR SBIR AND STTR PROGRAMS.

Section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638) is amended—

(1) in subsection (f)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (H), by striking ''and'';

(B) in subparagraph (I), by striking ''fiscal year 2017 and each fiscal year thereafter,'' and inserting ''each of fiscal years 2017 through 2025;''; and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (I) the following:

''(J) not less than 4 percent of such budget in fiscal years 2026 and 2027;

''(K) not less than 5 percent of such budget in fiscal years 2028 and 2029;

''(L) not less than 6 percent of such budget in fiscal years 2030 and 2031; and

''(M) not less than 7 percent of such budget in fiscal year 2032 and each fiscal year thereafter,''; and

(2) in subsection (n)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''through fiscal year 2025''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in clause (iv), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(ii) in clause (v), by striking ''fiscal year 2016 and each fiscal year thereafter.'' and inserting ''each of fiscal years 2016 through 2025;''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(vi) 0.5 percent for fiscal year 2026 and 2027;

''(vii) 0.65 percent for fiscal year 2028 and 2029;

''(viii) 0.8 percent for fiscal year 2030 and 2031; and

''(ix) 1 percent for fiscal year 2032 and each fiscal year thereafter.''.

SEC. 5102. SBIR AND STTR FELLOWSHIPS.

Section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638) is amended—

(1) in subsection (f), by adding at the end the following:

''(5) FELLOWSHIPS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A Federal agency may provide grants or awards, either directly or in partnership with a third party, to small business concerns that have received SBIR or STTR Phase II awards to provide fellowship and internship opportunities at the undergraduate, baccalaureate, graduate, and postdoctoral levels in fields that are important to the Federal agency.

''(B) ENHANCED OUTREACH.—Each Federal agency that makes an award or enters into a partnership under subparagraph (A) shall provide for enhanced outreach to increase the participation of women, socially disadvantaged individuals (as described in section 8(a)(5)), and economically disadvantaged individuals (as described in section 8(a)(6)(A)) in the fellowship and internship opportunities described in subparagraph (A).

''(C) SUPPORT ORGANIZATION.—Each Federal agency that makes an award or enters into a partnership under subparagraph (A) may partner with or provide grants or awards to a third-party organization to support and facilitate the enhanced outreach under subparagraph (B), provided that the third-party organization is a nonprofit organization with relevant experience and demonstrated expertise in delivery of services described in subparagraph (B).

''(D) FUNDING.—In carrying out this paragraph, a Federal agency may use only the following amounts:

''(i) With respect to a Federal agency that uses the authority under subsection (mm), the funds authorized under such subsection.

''(ii) With respect a Federal agency other than a Federal agency described in clause (i), not more than 3 percent of the funds required to be expended under paragraph (1).''; and

(2) in subsection (n), by adding at the end the following:

''(4) FELLOWSHIPS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A Federal agency may provide grants or awards, either directly or in partnership with a third party, to small business concerns that have received SBIR or STTR Phase II awards to provide fellowship and internship opportunities at the undergraduate, baccalaureate, graduate, and postdoctoral levels in fields that are important to the Federal agency.

''(B) ENHANCED OUTREACH.—Each Federal agency that makes an award or enters into a partnership under subparagraph (A) shall provide for enhanced outreach to increase the participation of women, socially disadvantaged individuals (as described in section 8(a)(5)), and economically disadvantaged individuals (as described in section 8(a)(6)(A)) in the fellowship and internship opportunities described in subparagraph (A).

''(C) SUPPORT ORGANIZATION.—Each Federal agency that makes an award or enters into a partnership under subparagraph (A) may partner with or provide grants or awards to a third-party organization to support and facilitate the enhanced outreach under subparagraph (B), provided that the third-party organization is a nonprofit organization with relevant experience and demonstrated expertise in delivery of services described in subparagraph (B).

''(D) FUNDING.—In carrying out this paragraph, a Federal agency may use only the following amounts:

''(i) With respect to a Federal agency that uses the authority under subsection (mm), the funds authorized under such subsection.

''(ii) With respect a Federal agency other than a Federal agency described in clause (i), not more than 3 percent of the funds required to be expended under paragraph (1).''.

SEC. 5103. APPLICATION ASSISTANCE TO BROADEN PARTICIPATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 9(mm)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(mm)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (J), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (K), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(L) providing small business concerns with assistance applying to the SBIR program or STTR program of the Federal agency, including providing such assistance to carry out the policy directives required under paragraphs (2)(F) and (5) of subsection (j) and subsection (p)(2)(H) to increase the participation of States with respect to which a low level of SBIR or STTR awards have historically been awarded.''.

(b) ENHANCED MINORITY INSTITUTION PARTICIPATION.—

(1) SBIR.—Section 9(j) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(j)), is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(5) INCREASED OUTREACH REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Administration shall modify the policy directives issued pursuant to this subsection to require enhanced outreach efforts to increase the participation of individuals conducting research at minority institutions (as defined in section 365 of the Higher Education Act of 1965

(20 U.S.C. 1067k)) and Hispanic-serving institutions (as defined in section 502(a) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1101a(a))) in SBIR programs.''.

(2) STTR.—Section 9(p)(2) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(p)(2)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (F), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (G)(iii), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(H) procedures for outreach efforts to increase the participation of individuals conducting research at minority institutions (as defined in section 365 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067k)) and Hispanic-serving institutions (as defined in section 16 502(a) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1101a(a))) in STTR programs.''.

SEC. 5104. TECHNICAL AND BUSINESS ASSISTANCE IMPROVEMENTS.

Section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(q)) is amended—

(1) in subsection (q)—

(A) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking ''may enter into an agreement with 1 or more vendors selected under paragraph (2)(A) to provide small business concerns engaged in SBIR or STTR projects with technical and business assistance services'' and inserting ''shall authorize recipients of awards under the SBIR program or the STTR program to select, if desired, technical and business assistance provided under subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of paragraph (2) with respect to SBIR or STTR projects'';

(ii) by inserting ''cybersecurity assistance,'' after ''intellectual property protections,''; and

(iii) by striking ''such concerns'' and inserting ''such recipients''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end the following:

''(C) STAFF.—A small business concern may, by contract or otherwise, use funding provided under this section to hire new staff, augment staff, or direct staff to conduct or participate in training activities consistent with the goals listed in paragraph (1).'';

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

''(A) PHASE I.—A Federal agency described in paragraph (1) shall authorize a recipient of a Phase I SBIR or STTR award to use not more than $6,500 per project, included as part of the award of the recipient or in addition to the amount of the award of the recipient as determined appropriate by the head of the Federal agency, for the services described in paragraph (1)—

''(i) provided through a vendor selected under paragraph (2)(A);

''(ii) provided through a vendor other than a vendor selected under paragraph (2)(A);

''(iii) achieved through the activities described in paragraph (2)(C); or

''(iv) provided through any combination of clauses (i) and (ii).

''(B) PHASE II.—A Federal agency described in paragraph (1) shall authorize a recipient of a Phase II SBIR or STTR award to utilize not more than $50,000 per project, included as part of the award of the recipient or in addition to the amount of the award of the recipient as determined appropriate by the head of the Federal agency, for the services described in paragraph (1)—

''(i) provided through a vendor selected under paragraph (2)(A);

''(ii) provided through a vendor other than a vendor selected under paragraph (2)(A);

''(iii) achieved through the activities described in paragraph (2)(C); or

''(iv) provided through any combination of clauses (i), (ii), and (iii).''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) TARGETED REVIEW.—A Federal agency may perform targeted reviews of technical and business assistance funding as described in subsection (mm)(1)(F).''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(aaa) I–CORPS PARTICIPATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Each Federal agency that is, as of January 1, 2025, required to conduct an SBIR or STTR program with an Innovation Corps program (established under section 601 of the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (42 U.S.C. 1862s–8) and commonly known as 'I–Corps') shall—

''(A) provide an option for participation in an I–Corps teams course, I–Corps bootcamp, or another equivalent training program to recipients of an award under the SBIR or STTR program; and

''(B) authorize the recipients described in subparagraph (A) to use amounts authorized under this subsection to participate in the I–Corps teams course, I–Corps bootcamp, or another equivalent training program.

''(2) COST OF PARTICIPATION.—The cost of participation by a recipient described in paragraph (1)(A) in an I–Corps course, I–Corps bootcamp, or another equivalent training program may be provided by—

''(A) an I–Corps team grant;

''(B) funds awarded to the recipient under this subsection;

''(C) the participating teams or other sources as appropriate; or

''(D) any combination of sources described in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C).''.

SEC. 5105. IMPROVEMENTS TO WEBSITE RELATING TO THE SBIR PROGRAM AND STTR PROGRAM.

(a) SBIR PROGRAM.—Section 9(g)(8) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(g)(8)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (C), by adding ''and'' at the end; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(D) for each research institution subcontracted by a recipient of a Phase I, Phase II, or Phase III SBIR award to perform research or research and development with respect to the award—

''(i) the name and location of the research institution;

''(ii) whether the research institution is—

''(I) an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001));

''(II) a nonprofit institution (as defined in section 4 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3703)) other than an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)); or

''(III) a federally funded research and development center (as identified by the National Scientific Foundation in accordance with the Federal Acquisition Regulation); and

''(iii) for each research institution that is an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)), whether the research institution is—

''(I) a part B institution (as defined in section 322 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061));

''(II) a Hispanic-serving institution (as defined in section 502 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1101a));

''(III) a Tribal College or University (as defined in section 316 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1059c));

''(IV) an Alaska Native-serving institution or a Native Hawaiian-serving institution (as defined in section 317(b) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1059d(b)));

''(V) a Predominantly Black Institution (as defined in section 371(c) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1067q(c)));

''(VI) an Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institution (as defined in section 371(c) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 10 1067q(c))); or

''(VII) a Native American-serving nontribal institution (as defined in section 371(c) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1067q(c)));''.

(b) STTR PROGRAM.—Section 9(o)(9) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(o)(9)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (C), by adding ''and'' at the end; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(D) for each research institution subcontracted by a recipient of a Phase I or Phase II STTR award to perform research or research and development with respect to the award—

''(i) the name and location of the research institution;

''(ii) whether the research institution is—

''(I) an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001));

''(II) a nonprofit institution (as defined in section 4 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3703)) other than an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)); or

''(III) a federally funded research and development center (as identified by the National Scientific Foundation in accordance with the Federal Acquisition Regulation); and

''(iii) for each research institution that is an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)), whether the research institution is—

''(I) a part B institution (as defined in section 322 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061));

''(II) a Hispanic-serving institution (as defined in section 502 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1101a));

''(III) a Tribal College or University (as defined in section 316 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1059c));

''(IV) an Alaska Native-serving institution or a Native Hawaiian-serving institution (as defined in section 317(b) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1059d(b)));

''(V) a Predominantly Black Institution (as defined in section 371(c) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1067q(c)));

''(VI) an Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institution (as defined in section 371(c) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 25 1067q(c))); or

''(VII) a Native American-serving nontribal institution (as defined in section 371(c) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1067q(c)));''.

(c) DATABASE REPORTING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 9(k) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(k)) is amended—

(A) by striking ''Phase I or Phase II SBIR or STTR'' each place it appears and inserting ''Phase I, Phase II, or Phase III SBIR or STTR'';

(B) in paragraph (1)(B)—

(i) in clause (ii), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(ii) in clause (iii), by adding ''and'' at the end; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(iv) information regarding any research institution subcontracted by that small business concern to perform research or research and development with respect to the award, including—

''(I) the name and location of the research institution;

''(II) whether the research institution is—

''(aa) an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001));

''(bb) a nonprofit institution (as defined in section 4 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3703)) other than an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)); or

''(cc) a federally funded research and development center (as identified by the National Scientific Foundation in accordance with the Federal Acquisition Regulation); and

''(III) for each research institution that is an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)), whether the research institution is an institution described in paragraphs (1) through (7) of section 371(a) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a));'';

(C) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''Phase I or Phase II of the SBIR program or the STTR'' and inserting ''Phase I, Phase II, or Phase III of the SBIR program or the STTR'';

(ii) in subparagraph (F), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(iii) in subparagraph (G)(ii), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

''(H) contains information for each research institution subcontracted by a recipient of a Phase I, Phase II, or Phase III STTR or SBIR award to perform research or research and development with respect to the award, including—

''(i) the name and location of the research institution;

''(ii) whether the research institution is—

''(I) an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001));

''(II) a nonprofit institution (as defined in section 4 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3703)) other than an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)); or

''(III) a federally funded research and development center (as identified by the National Scientific Foundation in accordance with the Federal Acquisition Regulation); and

''(iii) for each research institution that is an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)), whether the research institution is an institution described in paragraphs (1) through (7) of section 371(a) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a)).''; and

(D) in paragraph (3)(C), by striking ''Phase I or Phase II award'' each place it appears and inserting ''Phase I, Phase II, or Phase III award''.

(2) DATABASE UPDATE DEADLINE.—Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) or (2) of section 9(k) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(k)), the Administrator shall, not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, include—

(A) in the database described such paragraph (1) the information required under such paragraph, as amended by subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) of this subsection; and

(B) in the database described such paragraph (2) the information required under such paragraph, as amended by subparagraphs (A) and (C) of paragraph (1) of this subsection.

TITLE XXXV—COMMERCIALIZATION IMPROVEMENTS

SEC. 5201. PHASE III AWARD EDUCATION.

Section 9(r) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(r)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(5) WORKFORCE TRAINING.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, the Administrator of General Services, and the head of any other Federal agency that the Administrator determines appropriate, shall establish training activities for contracting officers and the agency acquisition workforce of Federal agencies to ensure that all such individuals are fully aware of all aspects of Phase III acquisitions under the SBIR and STTR programs, as applicable.

''(B) TRAINING TOPICS.—The training activities required under subparagraph (A) shall include training on—

''(i) the missions, goals, and authorities of the SBIR and STTR programs;

''(ii) the use of Phase III agreements;

''(iii) Phase III data rights; and

''(iv) the execution of Phase III sole source award contracts.

''(C) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

''(i) AGENCY ACQUISITION WORKFORCE.—The term 'agency acquisition workforce' means the employees of a Federal agency that have procurement or acquisition responsibilities, including—

''(I) employees described in section 1703 of title 41, United States Code; and

''(II) individuals that are part of the acquisition workforce (as that term is defined in section 101(a) of title 10, United States Code).

''(ii) PHASE III ACQUISITION.—The term 'Phase III acquisition' means an acquisition of a good or service from a participant in Phase III that such participant has commercialized or is seeking to commercialize as such a participant.''.

SEC. 5202. REPORT ON CERTAIN DENIALS OF PHASE III.

Section 9(r) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(r)), as amended by this division, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(6) REPORTING.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Department of Defense denies a small business concern Phase III agreement, the Secretary of Defense shall report that denial to the Administrator.''.

SEC. 5203. TECHNOLOGY COMMERCIALIZATION OFFICIAL.

Section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638), as amended by this division, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(bbb) TECHNOLOGY COMMERCIALIZATION OFFICIAL.—The head of each Federal agency required to establish an SBIR or STTR program shall—

''(1) designate an existing official within the Federal agency as the Technology Commercialization Official of that Federal agency, who shall—

''(A) have sufficient experience with commercialization;

''(B) provide guidance to SBIR and STTR program awardees in commercializing and transitioning technologies;

''(C) coordinate with the Administrator and the Technology Commercialization Officials of other Federal agencies to identify additional markets and commercialization pathways for promising SBIR and STTR program technologies;

''(D) submit to the Administrator an annual report on the number of technologies from that SBIR or STTR program that have advanced commercialization activities, including information required in the commercialization impact assessment report under subsection (ccc);

''(E) identify and advocate for SBIR and STTR technologies with sufficient technology and commercialization readiness to advance to Phase III awards or other non-SBIR or STTR program contracts;

''(F) submit to the Administrator an annual report on—

''(i) the actions taken by that Federal agency to simply, standardize, and expedite the application process and requirements, procedures, and contracts as required under subsection (hh); and

''(ii) the results of the actions taken under clause (i); and

''(G) carry out such other duties as the head of that Federal agency determines necessary; or

''(2) identify an official in that Federal agency carrying out responsibilities that are substantially similar to those described in subparagraphs (A) through (F) of paragraph (1).''.

SEC. 5204. PHASE III IMPROVEMENTS.

(a) PROCUREMENT CENTER REPRESENTATIVE DIRECTIVES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 9(j)(4) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(j)(4)) is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: '', and advocate for the maximum practicable use and transition of products, services, and technologies developed under SBIR or STTR programs to Phase III by means of Phase III awards to small business concerns''.

(2) MODIFICATION DEADLINE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall modify the policy directives issues pursuant to subsection (j) of section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(j)) in accordance with paragraph (4) of that subsection, as amended by paragraph (1).

(b) PHASE III AWARD SIMPLIFICATION.—Section 9(r)(4) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(r)(4)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) report to the Administrator on the actions taken by the Federal agency or Federal prime contractor to develop simplified and standardized procedures and model contracts for Phase I, Phase II, and Phase III SBIR awards; and

''(D) issue standardized solicitation provisions and contract clauses that provide clear guidance on the information that small business concerns participating in SBIR or STTR programs can be expected to provide as part of market research or as part of a proposal by those small business concerns to establish eligibility for Phase III awards.''.

TITLE XXXVI—PILOT PROGRAMS

SEC. 5301. EXTEND AND MODIFY ASSISTANCE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE, OVERSIGHT, AND CONTRACT PROCESSING COSTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 9(mm)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(mm)(1)), as amended by this division, is further amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (L) as clauses (i) through (xii), respectively, and adjusting the margins accordingly;

(2) by striking ''Subject to paragraph (3)'' and inserting the following;

''(A) USE OF FUNDS.—Subject to subparagraph (B) and paragraph (3)'';

(3) in subparagraph (A), as so redesignated—

(A) by striking ''September 30, 2025'' and inserting ''September 30, 2030''; and

(B) by striking ''3 percent'' and inserting ''3.3 percent''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of an Act providing appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Energy, the Department of Health and Human Services, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, or the National Science Foundation, the head of each such entity for which that Act provided appropriations shall transfer not less than 10 percent of the amount of the funds used for the purposes described in clauses (i) through (xii) of subparagraph (A) to the Administrator to increase the resources of the Administration for administering the SBIR and STTR programs.

''(ii) FUND USE LIMITS.—None of the funds transferred under clause (i) may be used for or with respect to any program established under the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 661 et seq.).''.

(b) INCREASING PARTICIPATION OF UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS IN THE SBIR AND STTR PROGRAMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 9(mm)(2) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(mm)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

''(2) OUTREACH AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—A Federal agency participating in the program under this subsection may use a portion of the funds authorized for uses under paragraph (1) to carry out the policy directive required under subsection (j)(2)(F) and to increase the participation of States with respect to which a low level of SBIR awards have historically been awarded.''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 9(mm)(6) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(mm)(6)) is amended by striking ''including'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting the following: ''including—

''(A) the use of funds transferred under subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1) for the uses authorized under that subparagraph and to achieve the objectives of paragraph (2); and

''(B) the use of other funds under this subsection to achieve those objectives.''.

SEC. 5302. EXTEND AND EXPAND THE DIRECT TO PHASE II AUTHORITY.

Section 9(cc) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(cc)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''During'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—During'';

(2) in paragraph (1), as so designated—

(A) by striking ''2012 through 2025'' and inserting ''2012 through 2030''; and

(B) by striking ''the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Education may each'' and inserting ''each Federal agency required to carry out an SBIR program may''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) LIMITATION.—The total value of awards provided by a Federal agency under this subsection in a fiscal year shall be—

''(A) except as provided in subparagraph (B), not more than 10 percent of the total funds allocated to the SBIR program of the Federal agency during that fiscal year; and

''(B) with respect to the National Institutes of Health, not more than 15 percent of the total funds allocated to the SBIR program of the National Institutes of Health during that fiscal year.

''(3) REPORT.—Each head of a Federal agency that exercises the authority under this subsection shall include in the next report submitted by that Federal agency under subsection (g)(9) following that exercise of authority the number and amount of awards provided under this subsection by that Federal agency during the period covered by that report.''.

SEC. 5303. EXTEND COMMERCIALIZATION READINESS PROGRAM FOR CIVILIAN AGENCIES.

Section 9(gg) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(gg)) is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading, by striking ''PILOT'' and inserting ''CIVILIAN AGENCIES COMMERCIALIZATION READINESS'';

(2) by striking ''pilot program'' each place that term appears and inserting ''covered program''; and

(3) in paragraph (7), by striking ''fiscal year 2025'' and inserting ''fiscal year 2030''.

SEC. 5304. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN SBIR AND STTR PILOT PROGRAMS.

(a) PHASE 0 PROOF OF CONCEPT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.—Section 9(jj)(7) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(jj)(7)) is amended by striking ''at the end of fiscal year 2025'' and inserting ''on September 30, 2030''.

(b) COMMERCIALIZATION ASSISTANCE PILOT PROGRAMS.—Section 9(uu)(3) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(uu)(3)) is amended by striking ''September 30, 2025'' and inserting ''September 30, 2030''.

SEC. 5305. EXTENSION OF DUE DILIGENCE PROGRAM TO ASSESS SECURITY RISKS.

Section 9(vv)(3)(C) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(vv)(3)(C)) is amended by striking ''September 30, 2025'' and inserting ''September 30, 2030''.

TITLE XXXVII—OVERSIGHT AND SIMPLIFICATION INITIATIVES

SEC. 5401. ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.

Section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638) is amended—

(1) in subsection (g)—

(A) in paragraph (9)—

(i) by inserting ''the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate, the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives,'' after ''SBIR program to'';

(ii) by inserting a comma after ''Administration''; and

(iii) by inserting after ''Technology Policy'' the following: ''and publish that report on the website of that Federal agency as soon as practicable''; and

(B) in paragraph (10), by striking ''applicable),,'' and inserting ''applicable),'';

(2) in subsection (o)—

(A) in paragraph (8), by striking ''applicable),,'' and inserting ''applicable),''; and

(B) in paragraph (10)—

(i) by inserting ''the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate, the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives,'' after ''STTR program to'';

(ii) by inserting a comma after ''Administration''; and

(iii) by inserting after ''Technology Policy'' the following: ''and publish that report on the website of that Federal agency as soon as practicable''; and

(3) in subsection (gg)(6), by inserting ''Congress and'' after ''agency to''.

SEC. 5402. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT ON DIVERSIFICATION AND COMMERCIALIZATION.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) FEDERAL AGENCY; SBIR; STTR.—The terms ''Federal agency'', ''SBIR'', and ''STTR'' have the meanings given those terms in section 9(e) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(e)).

(2) NEW ENTRANT.—The term ''new entrant'' means a small business concern that has not previously received an SBIR or STTR award.

(3) UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS.—The term ''underrepresented groups'' means small business concerns located in States with respect to which a low level of SBIR and STTR awards have historically been awarded, small business concerns owned and controlled by women, and small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals.

(4) PARTICIPATING AGENCY.—The term ''participating agency'' means a Federal agency carrying out an SBIR or STTR program under section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638).

(5) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN.—The term ''small business concern'' has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

(6) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED INDIVIDUALS; SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY WOMEN.—The terms ''small business concern owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals'' and ''small business concern owned and controlled by women'' have the meanings given those terms in section 8(d) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(d)).

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report on the effectiveness of the SBIR and STTR programs with respect to diversification of participants and commercialization.

(c) CONTENTS.—The report shall include, to the extent practicable, an assessment of—

(1) the demographics of small business concerns receiving SBIR or STTR awards, including new entrants and underrepresented groups;

(2) the efforts of participating agencies to broaden representation and participation of new entrants and underrepresented groups in the SBIR and STTR programs;

(3) how participating agencies develop solicitation topics and attract applicants;

(4) the efforts of participating agencies to support technology commercialization;

(5) the extent to which the SBIR and STTR awards made by each participating agency align with the research priorities and technology needs of that participating agency; and

(6) such other matters as the Comptroller General, in consultation with the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives, determines appropriate.

SEC. 5403. EXTEND THE REPORT ON AWARD TIMELINESS.

Section 9(ii)(2)(A) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(ii)(2)(A)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''3 years'' and inserting ''11 years'';

(2) in clause (i), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(3) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iii); and

(4) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

''(ii) provides the average and median amount of time that each Federal agency with an SBIR or STTR program takes to review and make a final decision on proposals submitted under the program; and''.

SEC. 5404. PILOT PROGRAM TO ACCELERATE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH EVALUATION PROCESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 9(hh) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(hh)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(3) PILOT PROGRAM TO ACCELERATE THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH SBIR AND STTR AWARDS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Director of the National Institutes of Health shall establish a pilot program to reduce the time for awards under the SBIR and STTR programs of the National Institutes of Health.

''(B) AWARD PROCEDURES.—In carrying out the pilot program under subparagraph (A), the Director of the National Institutes of Health shall develop simplified and standardized procedures across all relevant awarding offices at the National Institutes of Health and reduce the amount of time between the provision of notice of those awards and the subsequent release of funding with respect to the awards to be as close to 90 days as possible.

''(C) MERIT REVIEW.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Under the pilot program under subparagraph (A), the Director of the National Institutes of Health may, with respect to awards under the SBIR and STTR programs of the National Institutes of Health, use such peer review procedures (including consultation with appropriate scientific experts) as the Director determines to be appropriate to obtain assessments of scientific and technical merit and potential for commercialization.

''(ii) DEEMED.—The use of peer review procedures under clause (i) shall be deemed to fulfill any requirements applicable to the award under the SBIR or STTR program of the National Institutes of Health under sections 406(a)(3)(A) and 492 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 284a(a)(3)(A), 289a).

''(D) TERMINATION.—The pilot program under subparagraph (A) shall terminate on September 30, 2030.''.

(b) EVALUATION REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the National Institutes of Health shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives an evaluation of the pilot program established under paragraph (3) of section 9(hh) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(hh)), as added by subsection (a), including an analysis of the peer review procedures used under subparagraph (C) of that paragraph and the effects on award times.

SEC. 5405. CODIFYING SAFEGUARDS FOR SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS MAJORITY-OWNED BY VENTURE CAPITAL OPERATING COMPANIES, HEDGE FUNDS, OR PRIVATE EQUITY FIRMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 9(dd) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(dd)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (6)(B), by striking ''If a Federal'' and inserting ''Except as provided in paragraph (8), if a Federal''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(8) PARTICIPATION LIMITS.—

''(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

''(i) COVERED FOREIGN ENTITY.—the term 'covered foreign entity'—

''(I) means—

''(aa) a foreign entity of concern;

''(bb) a government or political party of a foreign country of concern;

''(cc) a natural person who is not a lawful permanent resident of the United States, citizen of the United States, or any other protected individual (as that term is defined in section 274B(a)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324b(a)(3))); or

''(dd) a partnership, association, corporation, organization, or other combination of persons organized under the laws of or having its principal place of business in a foreign country of concern; and

''(II) includes—

''(aa) any entity owned by, controlled by, or subject to the jurisdiction or direction of an entity listed in subclause (I);

''(bb) any person, wherever located, who acts as an agent, representative, or employee of an entity listed in subclause (I);

''(cc) any person who acts in any other capacity at the order, request, or under the direction or control, of an entity listed in subclause (I), or of a person whose activities are directly or indirectly supervised, directed, controlled, financed, or subsidized in whole or in majority part by an entity listed in subclause (I);

''(dd) any person who directly or indirectly through any contract, arrangement, understanding, relationship, or otherwise, owns 25 percent or more of the equity interests of an entity listed in subclause (I);

''(ee) any person with significant responsibility to control, manage, or direct an entity listed in subclause (I);

''(ff) any person, wherever located, who is a citizen or resident of a country controlled by an entity listed in subclause (I); or

''(gg) any corporation, partnership, association, or other organization organized under the laws of a country controlled by an entity listed in subclause (I).

''(ii) FOREIGN ENTITY OF CONCERN.—The term 'foreign entity of concern' means a foreign entity that is—

''(I) designated as a foreign terrorist organization by the Secretary of State under section 219(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189(a));

''(II) included on the list of specially designated nationals and blocked persons maintained by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury (commonly known as the SDN list);

''(III) owned by, controlled by, or subject to the jurisdiction or direction of a government of a foreign country that is a covered nation (as that term is defined in section 4872 of title 10, United States Code);

''(IV) alleged by the Attorney General to have been involved in activities for which a conviction was obtained under—

''(aa) chapter 37 of title 18, United States Code (commonly known as the 'Espionage Act');

''(bb) section 951 or 1030 of title 18, United States Code;

''(cc) chapter 90 of title 18, United States Code (commonly known as the 'Economic Espionage Act of 1996');

''(dd) the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.);

''(ee) section 224, 225, 226, 227, or 236 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, and 2284);

''(ff) the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4801 et seq.); or

''(gg) the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); or

''(V) determined by the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Director of National Intelligence, to be engaged in unauthorized conduct that is detrimental to the national security or foreign policy of the United States.

''(B) OWNERSHIP BY A COVERED FOREIGN ENTITY.—A small business concern that is majority-owned by multiple venture capital operating companies, hedge funds, or private equity firms is ineligible to receive an award under any SBIR program if the Administrator determines that such small business concern is, or is owned and controlled in majority part by, a covered foreign entity.

''(C) OWNERSHIP DETERMINATION.—In determining whether a small business concern is ineligible to receive an award under any SBIR program under subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall consider whether the small business concern is a direct or indirect subsidiary of a foreign-owned firm.

''(D) SIZE STANDARDS.—The Administrator shall establish size standards for small business concerns seeking to participate in an SBIR program solely under the authority under this section.''.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply only with respect to awards made under a Small Business Innovation Research Program (as defined in section 9(e) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(e))) after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 5406. COMMERCIALIZATION IMPACT ASSESSMENT.

Section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638), as amended by this division, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(ccc) COMMERCIALIZATION IMPACT ASSESSMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall coordinate with the head of each Federal agency with an SBIR or STTR program to develop an annual commercialization impact assessment, which shall measure, for each small business concern that has received not less than 50 Phase II awards on or after October 1 of the ninth full fiscal year beginning before the fiscal year in which the assessment is carried out—

''(A) the total dollar value of Federal awards, subgrants, contracts, and subcontracts, other than SBIR or STTR awards, received by the small business concern in the preceding 9 fiscal years;

''(B) the total dollar value of all SBIR and STTR Phase I and Phase II awards received by the small business concern in the preceding 9 fiscal years;

''(C) the average annual gross revenue of the small business concern over the preceding 9 fiscal years;

''(D) the total revenue of the small business concern received or realized in the preceding 9 fiscal years from the sale or licensing of any product or service resulting from research conducted under an SBIR or STTR award, which shall be disaggregated by the revenue from those sales and the revenue from that licensing;

''(E) additional investments in the small business concern from any source, other than Phase I or Phase II SBIR or STTR awards, to further the research and development conducted under an SBIR or STTR award received by the small business concern in the preceding 9 fiscal years;

''(F) any mergers and acquisitions of SBIR or STTR award recipients during or after the completion of a Phase II award;

''(G) new, unique spin-out companies and third party revenues from any businesses in the preceding 9 fiscal years resulting from research conducted by the small business concern under an SBIR or STTR award;

''(H) the year in which the first Phase II award was received by the small business concern and the total number of employees of the small business concern at the time of the first Phase II award;

''(I) the number of employees, as of the end of the most recently completed fiscal year; and

''(J) the total number and value of Phase III awards received by the small business concern.

''(2) PUBLICATION.—The Administrator shall create a report on the findings of each commercialization impact assessment and shall—

''(A) include that report in the annual report required under subsection (b)(7); and

''(B) submit that report to—

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

''(ii) the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives.''.

TITLE XXXVIII—TECHNICAL CHANGES

SEC. 5501. INCLUSION OF SBICS IN THE SBIR AND STTR PROGRAMS.

Section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638), as amended by this division, is amended—

(1) by striking ''or private equity firm investment'' each place that term appears and inserting ''private equity firm, or SBIC investment'';

(2) by striking ''or private equity firms'' each place that term appears and inserting ''private equity firms, or SBICs'';

(3) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (18), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in paragraph (19), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(20) the term 'SBIC' means a small business investment company as defined in section 103 of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 662).''; and

(4) in the heading for subsection (dd), by striking ''OR PRIVATE EQUITY FIRMS'' and inserting ''PRIVATE EQUITY FIRMS, OR SBICS''.

SEC. 5502. PHASE III AND SOLE-SOURCE AWARDS.

Section 9(r) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638) is amended—

(1) in the heading, by inserting ''SOLE SOURCE AND OTHER'' after ''JUSTIFICATION FOR''; and

(2) in the heading for paragraph (4), by inserting ''SOLE SOURCE AND OTHER'' after ''JUSTIFICATION FOR''.

SA 3677. Mr. VAN HOLLEN 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 division B, insert the following:

SEC. ___. LAND CONVEYANCE, FORMER CURTIS BAY DEPOT, MARYLAND.

(a) CONVEYANCE AUTHORIZED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of General Services, in consultation with the Director of the Defense Logistics Agency may convey to the Maryland Economic Development Corporation (in this section, referred to as ''MEDCO''), all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a parcel of real property, including improvements thereon, consisting of approximately 435.00 acres at 710 Ordnance Road, the former Curtis Bay Depot for the purpose of economic development.

(2) CONSULTATION WITH COAST GUARD.—In carrying out the conveyance under this subsection, the Administrator shall consult with the Secretary of Homeland Security with respect to matters concerning the equities of the Coast Guard in areas in proximity to such parcel of real property.

(b) CONSIDERATION REQUIRED.—As consideration for the conveyance under subsection (a), MEDCO shall provide an amount that is equivalent to the fair market value to the Federal Buildings Fund for the right, title, and interest conveyed under such subsection, based on an appraisal approved by the Administrator. The consideration under this subsection may be provided by cash payment, in-kind regulatory closure, or a combination thereof, at such time as the Administrator may require.

(c) PAYMENT OF COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—

(1) PAYMENT REQUIRED.—The Administrator may require MEDCO to cover all costs (except costs for environmental remediation of the property) to be incurred by the Administrator, or to reimburse the Administrator for costs incurred by the Administrator, to carry out the conveyance under this section, including survey costs, costs for environmental documentation, and any other administrative costs related to the conveyance. If amounts are collected from MEDCO in advance of the Administrator incurring the actual costs, and the amount collected exceeds the costs actually incurred by the Administrator to carry out the conveyance, the Administrator shall refund the excess amount to MEDCO.

(2) TREATMENT OF AMOUNTS RECEIVED.—Amounts received under paragraph (1) as reimbursement for costs incurred by the Administrator to carry out the conveyance under subsection (a) shall remain available until expended.

(d) DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY.—The exact acreage and legal description of the property to be conveyed under subsection (a) shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Administrator.

(e) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The conveyance under this section shall be subject to the following:

(1) The Administrator may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance under subsection (a) as the Administrator considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(2) MEDCO shall execute a purchase and sale agreement within one year of enactment of this legislation.

(3) The conveyance will be on an ''as-is, where-is'' basis via quitclaim deed subject to an access easement to the United States Army Reserve Facility along the shoreline of Curtis Bay.

(4) The conveyance will be in compliance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9620(h)).

(5) To the maximum extent possible, the Federal Government shall incorporate land use controls to satisfy CERCLA requirements for the purpose of expediting disposition and subsequent redevelopment.

SA 3678. Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. ROUNDS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. SPECIAL IMMIGRANT VISAS FOR CERTAIN RELATIVES OF CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 101(a)(27) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (L)(iii), by adding a semicolon at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (M), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(N) a citizen or national of Afghanistan who is the parent or brother or sister of—

''(i) a member of the armed forces (as defined in section 101(a) of title 10, United States Code); or

''(ii) a veteran (as defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code).''.

(b) NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (3), the total number of principal aliens who may be provided special immigrant visas under subparagraph (N) of section 101(a)(27) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)), as added by subsection (a), may not exceed 2,500 each fiscal year.

(2) CARRYOVER.—If the numerical limitation specified in paragraph (1) is not reached during a given fiscal year, the numerical limitation specified in such subparagraph for the following fiscal year shall be increased by a number equal to the difference between—

(A) the numerical limitation specified in paragraph (1) for the given fiscal year; and

(B) the number of principal aliens provided special immigrant visas under subparagraph (N) of section 101(a)(27) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)) during the given fiscal year.

(3) MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISAS.—The total number of aliens who may be provided special immigrant visas under subparagraph (N) of section 101(a)(27) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)) shall not exceed 10,000.

(4) DURATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority to issue visas under subparagraph (N) of section 101(a)(27) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)) shall—

(A) commence on the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(B) terminate on the date on which all such visas are exhausted.

SA 3679. 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 end of subtitle B of title XXVIII, add the following:

SEC. 2827. ADVISORY GROUP ON PRIVATIZED MILITARY HOUSING AGREEMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall establish a temporary and independent advisory group to review new or expanded privatization agreements of the Department of Defense for covered military unaccompanied housing.

(b) MEMBERS.—The Secretary shall appoint to the advisory group under subsection (a) subject-matter experts from—

(1) Federal agencies other than the Department of Defense; and

(2) outside the Federal Government.

(c) DUTIES.—The advisory group established under subsection (a) shall ensure that any new or expanded privatization agreement described in that subsection, to the greatest extent practicable—

(1) reflects best practices and changes to the privatized family housing system, as mandated by Congress; and

(2) includes provisions that ensure—

(A) the oversight of privatized military housing by independent, credentialed, and high-quality housing inspectors;

(B) the adherence of landlords to Federal, State, and local laws relating to environmental and safety hazards;

(C) the use of appropriately credentialed and skilled contractors for maintenance;

(D) direct access by tenants to a tenant housing advocate;

(E) the ability to participate in a dispute resolution process; and

(F) the issuance of clear penalties for the landlord when the landlord does not meet its obligations under the agreement.

(d) TERMINATION.—The advisory group established under subsection (a) shall terminate on the date that is three years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 3680. Mr. THUNE (for Mr. COONS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1659, to amend titles 11 and 28, United States Code, to modify the compensation payable to trustees serving in cases under chapter 7 of title 11, United States Code, to extend the term of certain temporary offices of bankruptcy judges, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 10, line 3, strike ''that first occurs after October 1''.

NOTICES OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEEDING

I, Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY, intend to object to proceeding to the nomination of Brian Morrissey, Jr., of Virginia, to be General Counsel for the Department of the Treasury, dated August 1, 2025.

I, Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY, intend to object to proceeding to the nomination of Jonathan McKernan, of Tennessee, to be an Under Secretary of the Treasury, dated August 1, 2025.

I, Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY, intend to object to proceeding to the nomination of Francis Brooke, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, dated August 1, 2025.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 114–196, the appointment of the following individuals to serve as members of the United States Semiquincentennial Commission: Jack Schlossberg of New York, Vice David Cohen; and Paul Tetreault of the District of Columbia, Vice James Swanson.

NATIONAL WHISTLEBLOWER APPRECIATION DAY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 340.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 340) designating July 30, 2025, as ''National Whistleblower Appreciation Day''.

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 340) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of July 29, 2025, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

AMERICAN GROWN FLOWER AND FOLIAGE MONTH

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 367, which is at the desk.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 367) designating July 2025 as ''American Grown Flower and Foliage Month''.

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 367) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

REQUIRING THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO DISINTER THE REMAINS OF FERNANDO V. COTA FROM FORT SAM HOUSTON NATIONAL CEMETERY, TEXAS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 1071 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1071) to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to disinter the remains of Fernando V. Cota from Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, Texas, and for other purposes.

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

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

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

The bill (S. 1071) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and was passed as follows:

S. 1071

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

SECTION 1. DISINTERMENT OF REMAINS OF FERNANDO V. COTA FROM FORT SAM HOUSTON NATIONAL CEMETERY, TEXAS.

(a) DISINTERMENT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall disinter the remains of Fernando V. Cota from Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, Texas.

(b) NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may not carry out subsection (a) until after notifying the next of kin of Fernando V. Cota.

(c) DISPOSITION.—After carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall—

(1) relinquish the remains to the next of kin described in subsection (b); or

(2) if no such next of kin responds to the notification under subsection (b), arrange for disposition of the remains as the Secretary determines appropriate.

BANKRUPTCY ADMINISTRATION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2025

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 1659 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1659) to amend titles 11 and 28, United States Code, to modify the compensation payable to trustees serving in cases under chapter 7 of title 11, United States Code, to extend the term of certain temporary offices of bankruptcy judges, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Coons amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 3680) was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To make a technical correction)

On page 10, line 3, strike ''that first occurs after October 1''.

The bill (S. 1659), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and was passed as follows:

S. 1659

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 ''Bankruptcy Administration Improvement Act of 2025''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Congress has amended the laws governing bankruptcy fees as necessary to ensure that the bankruptcy system remains self-supporting, while also fairly allocating the costs of the system among those who use the system.

(2) Because of the importance for the bankruptcy system to be self-funded, at no cost to taxpayers, Congress has closely monitored the funding needs of the bankruptcy system, including by requiring periodic reporting by the Attorney General regarding the United States Trustee System Fund.

(3) Because the system governing bankruptcies of various types is interconnected, Congress has established fees, including filing fees, quarterly fees in chapter 11 cases, and other fees, that together fund the courts, judges, United States trustees, and trustees serving in bankruptcy cases under chapter 7 of title 11, United States Code.

(4) Trustees serving in bankruptcy cases under chapter 7 of title 11, United States Code, are vital to the functioning of the bankruptcy system, as they provide services at the front lines of the bankruptcy process, administering thousands of cases.

(5) Chapter 7 bankruptcy trustees provide valuable returns of assets to government creditors, including the Internal Revenue Service, the Department of Agriculture, the Small Business Administration, and other Federal, State, and municipal governments.

(6) Due to the work of the chapter 7 bankruptcy trustees, millions of dollars are also disbursed annually to private creditors of all types, including medical providers, unsecured creditors, small businesses, and microenterprises such as domestic support providers.

(7) Despite the essential role of chapter 7 bankruptcy trustees, since 1994 the amount of compensation paid to these trustees has not been increased. As in 1994, bankruptcy trustees receive only $60 per case (composed of $45 from subsection 330(b)(1), and $15 from subsection 330(b)(2), of title 11, United States Code) in nearly 90 percent of chapter 7 cases, and bankruptcy trustees receive no compensation at all for cases in which the filing fee is waived by the bankruptcy court.

(8) Since 1994, there have been significant increases in salaries, attorney fees, budget appropriations, filing fees, and court-related fees associated with chapter 7 bankruptcies. In contrast, the $60 paid to chapter 7 trustees has remained the same and has not even been increased for inflation. In 2021, Congress attempted to implement a mechanism that would give chapter 7 trustees a raise, but the trustees only received increased compensation for 1 fiscal year. Based on Consumer Price Index estimates, the $60 paid to trustees in 1994 would be the equivalent of over $125 today.

(9) This Act and the amendments made by this Act—

(A) increase the compensation of chapter 7 bankruptcy trustees to the level that is appropriate, overdue, and proportionate with the level that was intended in 1994, by increasing the total compensation of trustees to $120 per case;

(B) ensure adequate funding of the United States trustee system through the increase of certain fees, which will also apply to districts that are not part of a United States trustee region as required by existing law; and

(C) support the preservation of existing bankruptcy judgeships that are urgently needed to handle existing and anticipated increases in business and consumer caseloads.

(10) This Act will not alter the filing fee under chapter 7 of title 11, United States Code, and will not modify, impair, or supersede the current authority of the district courts of the United States, or of bankruptcy courts, to waive the payment of filing fees by indigent individuals.

SEC. 3. TRUSTEE COMPENSATION.

(a) COMPENSATION OF OFFICERS.—Section 330 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1) by striking ''$45'' and inserting ''$105''; and

(2) by striking subsection (e).

(b) REMAINDER OF FEES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the remainder of fees collected under section 1930(a)(1)(A) of title 28, United States Code, after compensating trustees under section 330(b)(1) of title 11, United States Code, shall be deposited as follows:

(1) $63.51 in the special fund of the Treasury established under section 1931 of title 28, United States Code.

(2) $25.00 in the special fund established in accordance with section 10101(b) of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (28 U.S.C. 1931 note).

(3) $51.49 in the United States Trustee System Fund established under section 589a of title 28, United States Code.

(c) UNITED STATES TRUSTEE SYSTEM FUND.—Section 589a of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(1) 28.33 percent of the fees collected under section 1930(a)(1)(B);''; and

(2) in subsection (f)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (D) by striking ''Fourth'' and inserting ''Second'';

(B) by striking subparagraphs (B) and (C); and

(C) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (B).

SEC. 4. BANKRUPTCY FEES.

(a) QUARTERLY FEES.—Section 1930(a)(6)(B) of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking ''5-year'' and inserting ''10-year''; and

(2) in clause (ii)(II), by striking ''0.8'' and inserting ''1.1''.

(b) PERIOD FOR DEPOSITS.—Section 589a(f) of title 28, United States Code, as amended by section 3(c)(2), is amended by striking ''2026'' each place it appears and inserting ''2031''.

(c) DEPOSITS OF CERTAIN FEES FOR FISCAL YEARS 2026 THROUGH 2031.—Notwithstanding section 589a(b) of title 28, United States Code, for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2031—

(1) the fees collected under section 1930(a)(6) of title 28, United States Code, less the amount specified in subparagraph (2) of this subsection, shall be deposited as specified in section 589a(f) of title 28, United States Code, as amended by this Act; and

(2) $5,400,000 of the fees collected under section 1930(a)(6) of title 28, United States Code, shall be deposited in the general fund of the Treasury.

SEC. 5. EXTENSION OF TERM OF CERTAIN TEMPORARY OFFICES OF BANKRUPTCY JUDGE.

(a) BANKRUPTCY ADMINISTRATION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2020.—Section 4 of the Bankruptcy Administration Improvement Act of 2020 (28 U.S.C. 152 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking ''5 years'' and inserting ''10 years''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking ''5 years'' and inserting ''10 years'';

(2) in subsection (b)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking ''5 years'' and inserting ''10 years'';

(B) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking ''5 years'' and inserting ''10 years'';

(C) in subparagraph (C)(i), by striking ''5 years'' and inserting ''10 years'';

(D) in subparagraph (D)(i), by striking ''5 years'' and inserting ''10 years'';

(E) in subparagraph (E)(i), by striking ''5 years'' and inserting ''10 years''; and

(F) in subparagraph (F)(i), by striking ''5 years'' and inserting ''10 years'';

(3) in subsection (c)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking ''5 years'' and inserting ''10 years''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking ''5 years'' and inserting ''10 years'';

(4) in subsection (d)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking ''5 years'' and inserting ''10 years''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking ''5 years'' and inserting ''10 years'';

(5) in subsection (e)(2)(A), by striking ''5 years'' and inserting ''10 years''; and

(6) in subsection (f)(2)(A), by striking ''5 years'' and inserting ''10 years''.

(b) BANKRUPTCY JUDGESHIP ACT OF 2017.—Section 1003(b)(2)(A) of the Bankruptcy Judgeship Act of 2017 (28 U.S.C. 152 note) is amended by striking ''5 years'' and inserting ''10 years''.

SEC. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICATION OF AMENDMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the amendments made by this Act shall take effect on October 1 that first occurs after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) COMPENSATION OF OFFICERS.—Section 3 and the amendments made by section 3 shall apply to any case under title 11, United States Code, commenced on or after October 1 that first occurs after the date of enactment of this Act—

(A) under chapter 7 of title 11, United States Code; or

(B) under chapter 11, 12, or 13 of title 11, United States Code, that is converted to a case under chapter 7 of title 7, United States Code.

(2) BANKRUPTCY FEES.—Section 4 and the amendments made by section 4 shall apply to—

(A) any case pending under chapter 11 of title 11, United States Code, on or after October 1 that first occurs after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(B) quarterly fees payable under section 1930(a)(6) of title 28, United States Code, for disbursements made in any calendar quarter that begins on or after October 1 that first occurs after the date of enactment of this Act.

ORDERS FOR SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 2025

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, August 2; 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. 186, Andrew Puzder; further, notwithstanding rule XXII, at 10 a.m., the cloture motions filed on Thursday ripen and the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Puzder nomination; finally, and if any nominations are confirmed during Saturday'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.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 9:54 p.m., adjourned until Saturday, August 2, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

FRANCIS CASSIDY, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, VICE JULIA RUTH GORDON, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

TERRENCE GORMAN, OF FLORIDA, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF VETERANS' APPEALS FOR A TERM OF SIX YEARS, VICE JAIME AREIZAGA–SOTO, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

JOSEPH GORMLEY, OF MARYLAND, TO BE PRESIDENT, GOVERNMENT NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION, VICE ALANNA MCCARGO.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

TIMOTHY PETTY, OF INDIANA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR OCEANS AND ATMOSPHERE, VICE JAINEY KUMAR BAVISHI, RESIGNED.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate August 1, 2025:

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

CASEY MULLIGAN, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE CHIEF COUNSEL FOR ADVOCACY, SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BRIAN NESVIK, OF WYOMING, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

DAVID WOLL, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NICHOLAS KENT, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF EDUCATION.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

LUIGI RINALDI, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE ORIENTAL REPUBLIC OF URUGUAY.

WITHDRAWAL

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on August 1, 2025 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nomination:

JOHN LAVALLE, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 8, 2030, VICE ANTON GEORGE HAJJAR, TERM EXPIRED, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JUNE 16, 2025.