



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 171

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2025

No. 144

## Senate

### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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.

Eternal Spirit, the fountain of all wisdom, we bring our fragmented lives into Your presence, seeking Your wholeness. We bring our restless spirits to You, seeking Your calm strength and everlasting purpose. Lord, we bring You our transient thoughts, seeking the permanence of Your gracious providence.

Remind our lawmakers that only as we lose ourselves in something higher, can we truly find ourselves. To this end, give them great causes to embrace and a great faith to energize their work.

Lord, lead them from doubt and disillusionment, from cynicism and frustration to a confidence that, in everything, You are working for the good of those who love You, who are called according to Your purposes.

We pray in your Holy 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.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026—Motion to Proceed—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2296, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 115, S. 2296, a 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The great Senator from Iowa.

#### UKRAINE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, the Humanitarian Research Lab at Yale University now estimates that over 35,000 abducted Ukrainian kids are being held by Russia. The few who have been rescued tell horrific stories of Russian indoctrination, illegal militarization, and brutal punishment for refusing to give up their Ukrainian identity.

Here are some stories from kids who were rescued, courtesy of an organization called Bring Kids Back Ukraine:

“The Russians said that my mother did not need me and that I would be given to a foster family in Russia,” said 12-year-old Olekander from Mariupol.

“I wanted to escape through the backyard but was afraid they might shoot me. So I had to get in a truck with them. It was so scary,” said 13-year-old Artem from Kharkiv.

Another story is from these six children: Vitaliy, Zhenia, Taya and Dayana and then, of course, two other girls who asked not to be named. They said, in September and October 2022,

they came to the occupied Crimean Peninsula for what was called a rehabilitation program. They say they were mocked in the camp, humiliated based on their nationality. The Russians lock children like these folks who expressed pro-Ukrainian positions in a basement or an isolation cell. They forbade children to speak Ukrainian and, instead, forced them to listen to the Russian national anthem, learn Russian patriotic songs, and to do hard work.

For at least 6 months, the Russians lied to children that their parents had allegedly abandoned them and, in general, that Ukraine no longer needed these children.

Now, as the Trump administration moves forward to secure a peace, we must not forget the plight of these children. I appreciated very much First Lady Melania Trump’s heartfelt letter urging Putin to release these kids, and I also heard that President Zelenskyy mentioned those letters and the children at a recent White House meeting.

So children should not become bargaining chips in the geopolitical negotiations. Their safe return must be prioritized before any final peace agreement is reached.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, this week, the Senate is beginning consideration of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2026. This annual Defense bill is one of the most important things we do each year, and I appreciate the hard work that Chairman WICKER and our colleagues on the

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S5989

Armed Services Committee have done to put forward a strong bipartisan bill and get it ready for the floor.

Mr. President, the last few years demonstrated that the world remains a dangerous place. And as new challenges have arisen, we also had troubling reports on the state of our military's readiness to meet those challenges. We have aging equipment, insufficient munitions, lagging recruitment, excessive bureaucracy that delays the delivery of new weapons. Our readiness and capabilities have not been heading in the right direction.

We have begun to turn that situation around, most recently with a significant investment in our national security in the One Big Beautiful Bill. This year's NDAA, along with sustained investments in the years to come, will help us continue to reverse that trend so that we have a military capable of deterring and defeating today's threats and tomorrow's.

This year's National Defense Authorization Act boosts America's shipbuilding, and that includes additional combat ships and submarines that are essential to delivering American power anywhere in the world. It strengthens the Air Force fleet, including authorizing funding for new fighter jets and delivery of the B-21, the next-generation long-range strategic bomber that will soon make its home at South Dakota's own Ellsworth Air Force Base. And it supports the construction of the Golden Dome missile defense system to keep America's homeland safe from attack.

We are also continuing efforts to bolster our munitions supply. It became clear in recent years our supply of munitions was not where it needed to be for a prolonged conflict. It puts robust requirements in place to ensure we are adequately stocked.

This NDAA will also help us build up the capabilities that our military needs to fight the wars of the future. It supports improved drone capabilities along with defenses against the same, integrating artificial intelligence, and restoring a credible deterrent in cyber space.

While capabilities are important, they are of little use without the people using and directing them, so this bill also supports the men and women serving our country. It provides them with the 3.8-percent pay raise and includes provisions to support military families who are also making sacrifices for our country's defense.

Then there is recruitment, which this bill strongly emphasizes. In the last few years, our military was having a tough time recruiting individuals to serve. While some of those challenges have subsided since January, thanks to President Trump's leadership, this bill focuses on getting more Americans to consider serving our country in the military.

This year's NDAA also takes some important steps to change the way business is done at the Pentagon. The

NDAA clears away more than 100 outdated bureaucratic hurdles in order to streamline the Department's acquisition processes, the most significant reform, literally, in generations. It encourages a wider array of companies to do business with the Pentagon, ensuring that our warfighters have the best equipment that American innovation can produce. And it helps eliminate bureaucratic redtape by empowering executives at the Department of Defense to make decisions at the speed of innovation. I appreciate Chairman WICKER's leadership on these overdue reforms which will help ensure America's military reaps all the benefits of American innovation.

Mr. President, there is a lot more I could say about the content of this bill and what it does for our military. Before I close, I want to say a few words about the process this bill has had thus far and what will play out in the coming days. I have talked more than once this year about my commitment to regular order. I am proud that this year's NDAA is on the regular order track. The Armed Services Committee held a markup where Members had the opportunity to amend the bill. The bill passed out of the committee in a bipartisan vote of 26 to 1. Now it is here on the floor where Senators will once again have the opportunity for debate and amendment. At the end of this process, I am looking forward to the Senate passing this bill to strengthen America's military and safeguard our national security in the 21st century.

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.

#### ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, let me begin by reading a few headlines showing what Donald Trump's so-called golden age really looks like. These are headlines from the past few weeks from the Wall Street Journal:

"Factory Activity Shrinks for the Sixth Month"; "Tariffs Remain a Key Worry."

Hello.

Or how about this headline also from the Wall Street Journal:

"Stagnant Job Market Is a Rising Risk for the U.S. Economy."

Or how about from Bloomberg:

"Economists See Slow U.S. Growth, Stubborn Inflation Well Into 2026."

Finally, from CBS News:

Families are paying more for back-to-school supplies and waiting longer to finish shopping, data shows.

So I guess this is Donald Trump's idea of a golden age: Parents pay more for school supplies, a job market on the

brink, more and more and more inflation that hurts people's pocketbooks every week, factories slowing to crawl month after month. That is certainly not what the American people have signed up for.

This morning, the White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt and other senior White House officials will hold "briefing sessions" with GOP members about how to rebrand the "Big Ugly Bill" in hopes they can make it play better with the American people. They are squirming. They know this bill is unpopular. So now what do they want to do? Change the name. Changing the name isn't going to open rural hospitals that are closing. Changing the name is not going to give healthcare to the millions who will lose it. Changing the name is not going to prevent healthcare premiums from going up and up and up.

Donald Trump says he wants to change the name of this Big Beautiful Bill because, as it turns out, it is terrible. It is a terrible name for the biggest healthcare and nutrition cuts in history.

Americans know damn well that these Medicaid and ACA cuts are not big and beautiful. They are hideous. They are cruel. They are destructive.

The fact that Donald Trump says Medicaid cuts are big and beautiful shows just who he is and just what his values are. The American people are learning who he really is.

The fact that Donald Trump thinks that Medicaid cuts are beautiful reveals to America who he cares about and who he doesn't give a damn about. And the average American he doesn't care a bit about. He cares about giving tax breaks to his billionaires, and he cuts healthcare to do it, and then he calls that beautiful. Well, maybe it is beautiful for a few billionaires. It sure ain't beautiful for tens of millions of Americans who are hurt by it.

Let's be very clear, folks. The Republicans don't have a branding problem; they have a substance problem. What they did is horrible. They can call their bill whatever the hell they want; it is not going to change the fact that millions are going to lose healthcare, tens of millions are going to have their premiums go up, rural hospitals will close, and research funding that saves kids from cancer will be slashed.

When hospitals close, when people get sick and die, they don't give a damn what Donald Trump's bill is called; they want the Republicans to stand up to Trump—Republicans here in the Senate—and reverse these cuts even though just about every one of them voted for them.

If Republicans think that a bunch of branding briefing sessions can change the American people's views of what this bill is all about, they are colossally out of touch.

I spent a month in August traveling from Niagara Falls to Glens Falls. I met with parents. I met with doctors. I met with nurses. I met with hospital

people. I met with Democrats, Republicans, and Independents. People detest this Big Beautiful Bill. It is cruel.

If you don't believe me, look at the data. Republicans, Donald Trump, look at the data. Look at what the American people think of this so-called Big Beautiful Bill. Americans hate the Republican "Big Ugly Bill."

Pew Research: 46 percent disapprove, 32 percent approve.

Navigator: 52 percent unfavorable, 33 percent favorable about the "Big Ugly Bill."

CNN: 61 percent oppose, 39 percent approve.

These are not just marginal differences. Overwhelmingly, just about every Democrat, two-thirds to three-quarters of Independents, and a large chunk of Republicans hate this bill. That is what the data shows. That is what the data shows.

The Republican problem is not difficult to understand. Why Leader THUNE, Speaker JOHNSON, the White House, and the Republican Senators are squirming and on their back foot is not difficult to understand. These numbers say it all. What they did is despised. The No. 1 achievement that they are going home and they think they can brag about, people hate. That is why they are not having townhall meetings. That is why when Republican Senators and Congressmen go to their townhall meetings, they get booed—not because people are mean but because people are struggling to deal with the consequences of the Big Beautiful Bill.

The American people know Donald Trump is dead wrong. That is why his numbers, his popularity, have declined significantly.

Republicans can't magic-talk their way out of this "Big Ugly Bill" because the real-life impacts back home are inescapable and are devastating.

#### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. President, now on avoiding a Republican shutdown, in less than a month, Republicans will face their greatest test under the Trump administration: whether or not they will work in a commonsense, bipartisan way to keep the government open and funded.

The only way—the only way—to avoid a shutdown is to work in a bipartisan way with a bill that can get both Democratic and Republican votes in the Senate.

As I have said for months, Democrats want to keep the government open in a bipartisan, commonsense way. That is why we supported bipartisan appropriations bills in July. But the ball now is in the Republicans' court—in Leader THUNE's court, in Speaker JOHNSON's court.

Republicans cannot expect Democrats to go along with a partisan bill that they concoct without any input, without any changes that America wants and the Democrats are fighting for. Republicans cannot expect Democrats to go along with a partisan bill. We are not going to bail Republicans

out of their own chaos, out of their own failed policies.

If Republicans choose a go-it-alone approach, if Republicans continue to pass legislation that raises costs and devastates the American people, if Republican Senators keep bowing down to Donald Trump even though they know what he is doing is unpopular and they know he is in a bubble, talking to rich people and nobody else, thinking he can bamboozle everybody else, they will be responsible if a shutdown happens.

As everyone knows, the clock is ticking. We have fewer than 13 legislative days to go. But so far, Republican leaders have been MIA. They just don't know what to do.

At the start of the August recess, Leader JEFFRIES and I wrote to the Republican leaders, saying: Let's have a sitdown. Let's talk about how to keep the government open.

We heard nothing—nothing.

Leader JEFFRIES and I last week reached out again—again—to sit down to talk, to plan a strategy for keeping the government open. Again, crickets—nothing. We heard nothing from them, and time is short.

So what are the Republicans going to do? I know they are struggling. I know they are divided in their caucuses, both in the House and the Senate. The House and Senate Republicans are divided, while we Democrats are unified. Leader JEFFRIES and I and our two caucuses are in lockstep that we want bipartisan negotiations and a bipartisan bill—a truly bipartisan bill.

So what are the Republicans going to do? Do they want to continue their "our way or the highway" approach? Are they going to continue to go at it alone? Are we going to continue to hear nothing from them? Are the Republicans going to keep giving the finger to everyone in Washington who wants to seek a commonsense, bipartisan governance and solution? I hope not because that is the path that leads to a shutdown—a Republican shutdown, a Trump shutdown.

Republicans can't just say they want to avoid a shutdown; they have to prove it. They need to sit down with us and work with us on something Democrats can support. And actions speak a lot louder than words. We need to see some action from Republican leaders showing they are serious about preventing a shutdown at the end of the month.

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.

#### NOMINATIONS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, for 9 long months, the Senate Democrats

have waged an unprecedented effort to slow down the Senate and to delay the President from getting his team on the field. It has been an unprecedented blockade.

President Trump was elected to get America back on track, and that means getting the team on the job. So what did CHUCK SCHUMER, who just spoke here on the Senate floor, have to say? Well, he put out a press release in August, and he said that "historically bad nominees"—his words—"deserve a historic level of scrutiny." You see, he has treated every nominee from President Trump as controversial, and he has treated every nominee as an existential threat to our Nation.

If Senator SCHUMER and Senate Democrats have specific concerns with specific nominees, they should come down to the Senate floor and discuss them and share their concerns with the American people. That is not what is happening.

Here are the facts: Senate Republicans have confirmed now 109 sub-Cabinet nominees. Now, that is in addition to the Cabinet that we have confirmed and the judges that we have confirmed. Every single one of those 109 sub-Cabinet nominees has been filibustered by the Democrats. Yet only seven of them received more than 10 minutes of debate on the Senate floor.

Now, you know, Mr. President, when they filibuster, that consumes 2 hours on the Senate floor to debate the nominees. They have chosen to waste the time but not to discuss the credibility of any of these nominees or their qualities for service, what we will get. In fact, of the Democrats who filibustered all 109 sub-Cabinet nominees, the average Democrat debate was 2 minutes. Eighty-seven had zero Democrat debate, and only 7 went on for more than 10 minutes. In other words, Senate Democrats declined to come to the floor to discuss 75 percent of these sub-Cabinet nominees that ultimately were all confirmed by the U.S. Senate. This is in spite of the fact that each one of them required the 2 full hours of debate.

On average—we have done all the math; we watched all the speeches—2 minutes 12 seconds, by the Democrats, were consumed discussing each nominee, on average; 218 hours of debate time spent on the Senate floor, ignored by the Democrats, wasted time. We couldn't do legislation. We couldn't do other things because of this historic obstruction by the Democrats of what the American people voted for.

For all the bluster and all the so-called historic scrutiny, the Democrats and CHUCK SCHUMER, when it came to nominees, have been missing in action. These guys actually spent more time on the Senate floor debating and discussing wasteful Washington spending—such as using taxpayer dollars for electric vehicles in Africa—than they did on all 109 sub-Cabinet nominees combined. The Senate Democrats and CHUCK SCHUMER froze the Senate floor

for 210 hours from doing the important public business as a result of their unprecedented blockade.

It is time for the Senate to return to normalcy, to regular order, and that is because there are still 145 nominees on the Executive Calendar that we have right here on our desk waiting to be confirmed. These are people who have gone through the hearing process, have been voted out of committees, and are stuck here in the Senate limbo of waiting to see what is going to happen with their confirmation. They are waiting to help in the fight to get America back on track and to do the people's business, and the Democrats are obstructing every step along the way.

It seems like the Democrats just want to sabotage our effort to get America back on track. Otherwise, why are they standing in the way of the progress of our Nation? We know these nominees are all qualified—the 145 I have just referred to—because committees have actually reported them out to the Senate. They have had background checks from the FBI; their ethics reports have all been confirmed; and they have actually been approved by the Senate committees, the committees whose job it is to scrutinize. That is why half of the 145 that we are still waiting to come to the Senate floor, they have earned bipartisan support coming out of committees. They are ready to go, ready to get put to work.

So the minority leader needs to stop pretending that he is leading some kind of grand investigation because he is not. It is time for him to admit that this has nothing to do with the qualifications of the nominees. His objections have everything to do with his obsession with President Trump. That is what we are dealing with here.

Many of these bipartisan nominees have been waiting for months to get put to work. They have been nominated. They have put their lives on hold. They are ready to go. Yet the Democrats, through their sabotaging, have slowed the process to a crawl, and there is absolutely no reason for this.

Look, this latest Schumer shutdown of this confirmation process, it really does leave critical jobs unfilled; it does weaken our economy; it does undermine our international diplomacy; and it jeopardizes our safety.

The Senate, in the past, didn't operate this way, and we need to change things to get America back on track and get the Senate back on track. You know, 98 percent of George W. Bush's—President Bush's—nominees and Bill Clinton's nominees, they were confirmed by voice vote or unanimous consent. They had gone through the committee process; they were sent to the Senate and then worked through the process pretty quickly.

During President Trump's second term, the number that went by voice vote or unanimous consent—here we are, 9 months in—zero. Absolutely zero. Why? Because of what the Democrats

are doing in an unprecedented way. They seem to be obstructing for obstruction's sake.

Today, 45 of the 145 nominees stuck on the calendar are, interestingly, for positions that never before in the history of the Senate have actually had to come up for a rollcall vote. They always went by voice vote or unanimous consent. So I would ask the Senate minority leader, if he were on the floor, to tell me why the Chief Counsel for Advocacy at the Small Business Administration—I mean, that is the position—why that needed to be filibustered. Why did he and the Democrats filibuster the Chief Counsel for Advocacy for the Small Business Administration? What was so critical about that position or so wrong with the nominee that the Democrats would decide it was worthy of spending 2 hours of Senate floor business to filibuster this nominee who got confirmed anyway and in the past has never had a vote on that? It has always gone by unanimous consent or by voice vote. Confirming positions like this used to only take seconds. Now it can take days, and it is because of the obstruction by the Democrats.

The Senate has a role of advice and consent. That is why we have the committee process. That is why we go through it. But what we are dealing with is stalling and delaying. There are still more than 800 positions that still need to come through the Senate. Some have not been named yet; the President has not made nominations because the President has over 1,100 nominations to make to fill out the government and the people that do the job of the people. But without a change to try to get through that next 800, that would take years, over 1,000 hours on the Senate floor. And that is if the Senate did nothing else because every time they filibuster one, those are 2 wasted hours, and they end up spending 2 minutes of debate in total. And 81 percent of them nominated who got approved, the Democrats spent zero time on the floor even talking about.

Look, under this Schumer confirmation shutdown, it is impossible for the U.S. Senate to pass legislation—we can't do it; the floor is iced—legislation such as the National Defense Authorization Act that we are getting to today, we are considering it this week; funding bills that we need to do the appropriations bills that SCHUMER never even brought to the floor when he was the leader. We want to get those passed, doing the people's business.

The Senate and our Nation cannot continue to be run this way and controlled this way and function this way. If Democrats won't stop abusing the rules of the Senate, Republicans are prepared to change the rules. Later today, Senate Republicans are going to discuss how to update these rules to restore the Senate's longtime practice, a practice of confirming nominees in a reasonable fashion. Now, we are not talking about Cabinet Secretaries or

Supreme Court Justices. We are talking about restoring the norms of the Senate for the hundreds of routine, qualified nominees who come through the committee process, go through the scrutiny, and then come to the Senate floor to be put to work.

I would say, enough with the Democrat obstruction, enough with this phony scrutiny, and enough with another Schumer shutdown. The American people elected President Trump and they elected Republicans to get America back on track, and that is what we continue and 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. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAGERTY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Hawaii.

#### TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, people voted for Donald Trump for all kinds of reasons, but the main reason was that they thought he would bring down the price of goods, groceries, food, housing, gas. Whatever his other faults, he was good for your money, people thought.

But it has been almost 8 months now, and the persistent economic uncertainty and pessimism are no longer a temporary blip. It is now abundantly clear: Trump is not making anything cheaper; in fact, he is purposefully making everything more expensive—healthcare, groceries, toys, cars, housing, electricity, computers, clothes, booze, video games.

Whether you are shopping at your local grocery store or Walmart, prices are continuing to go up, and that reality is catching up with the President. He is underwater with the public on his handling of the economy with a 57-percent disapproval rating, according to the latest polling.

Now, Democrats learned this lesson over the last few years. Saying the economy is great or not as bad as it could have been while people struggle to afford basic necessities is not a winning strategy. So Trump is ruining the economy on purpose, but are people better off in other ways? Is the country better off in other ways?

The answer is no.

A month ago, Trump federalized the local police department in Washington, DC, and deployed thousands of National Guardsmen and Federal agents because of a so-called "crime emergency."

What does that look like? It looks like masked men with no identification walking up to people on the street, arresting them, and disappearing them into unmarked vehicles. Up until a few months ago, that would have sounded like a chilling scene possible only in a

Third World country, but now it is happening here in our cities, in our communities.

Now, whether you supported or hated the previous administration's immigration policies is not the point anymore. What possible justification is there for masked men showing up and abducting people without a trace?

Anyone who has encountered law enforcement in DC or Arkansas or Honolulu knows that officers are typically trained to identify themselves by face and badge as a standard practice.

So why should Federal agents be any different? Worse, the fact that you now only need a black T-shirt and a face mask to look like an ICE agent means that there are a bunch of vigilantes running around impersonating law enforcement and terrorizing communities.

This is exactly the kind of tyranny and government overreach that the people on the right worried about for many, many years, except they thought it would happen under a Democratic administration. They worried about socialism. They worried about the government impeding free markets. They worried about power concentrating in the executive branch.

All of that is happening now under Donald Trump.

We have the U.S. Government taking a 10-percent stake in a private company, picking winners and losers in one of the most important industries for America's future. We have the leader of the free world forming a secret police of sorts to kidnap people and send them to foreign gulags. We have the President of the United States making \$5 billion in one day by launching a new crypto product on the side. We have an entire administration more focused on tormenting private institutions into submission—universities, law firms, media companies—than delivering public services and making people's lives better.

Here is the thing. All of this is part of the same project. There is this tendency, particularly among liberal pundits, to wave off parts of Trump's agenda as distractions. He may be decimating American foreign assistance and starving kids around the world, but that is a distraction. He may be sending armed troops and masked men into American cities without justification, but we are supposed to treat that as another distraction, but we don't need to outsmart ourselves here.

We can acknowledge that two things are true at once: Donald Trump is trashing the economy and creating shortages of everything—shortages of everything—electricity, food, workers, healthcare.

He is singlehandedly ruining people's personal finances and the American economy on purpose because he believes in shortages. He wants there to be not enough workers, not enough healthcare, not enough electrons, not enough food. He believes in shortages. This is his economic philosophy. And

his illegal actions and brazen takeovers of the media and the private sector institutions and American cities are the stuff of authoritarians throughout history and across the planet.

These things are not intention. They work together. They are the same thing. They are the same project.

So the question for us, and especially my Republican colleagues, is: When is it going to be too much?

We have blown past redline after redline these past 8 months. And it begs the question: Is there any line that we won't cross? Because if not, we all know how this ends.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

(The remarks of Ms. COLLINS pertaining to the introduction of S. 2699 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Ms. COLLINS. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today, I want to address a serious matter of public safety facing our country. Although our government has many responsibilities, the foremost responsibility of any government is the protection and safety of its citizens. By many measures, as elected leaders, we are falling short.

Recent polling indicates that crime in large cities is a major concern of 81 percent of Americans. We can debate crime trends and statistics until we are blue in the face. But at the end of the day, if 81 percent of Americans don't feel safe, we are not doing our job.

For hundreds of years, we have known that swift and certain punishment for criminal acts is a basis of deterrence and order. And in a country such as ours based on the rule of law, this kind of deterrence requires officials to prosecute criminals.

Communities around our country are in desperate need of U.S. attorneys to protect the public and uphold the rule of law. We have 10 highly qualified nominees on the Senate floor right now waiting for confirmation. There is no reason that we shouldn't get them to work for the American people today.

Unfortunately, my Democratic colleagues have engaged in blanket ob-

struction of all nominees in their misguided attempt to derail the Trump administration. This sweeping obstruction shockingly includes even highly qualified U.S. attorneys that are supported by Democratic Senators.

The actions of Senate Democrats are putting the public in harm's way. There is simply no other way to say it.

On May 22, the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee announced a hold on nominations for U.S. attorneys for the Southern District of Florida. Since then, the Senate minority leader and Senate Democrats have expanded the hold to apply to all 93 U.S. attorneys. This blockade of public officials is unprecedented and untenable.

As the ranking member explained just last Congress, obstructing the confirmation of U.S. attorneys is "dangerous" and "undermines public safety across the entire Nation." He correctly noted:

You can't prosecute the case if you don't have the U.S. Attorney there to lead the effort, coordinate the effort with other branches of government.

I completely agree with these points made by my friend Senator DURBIN.

My Democratic colleagues claim that their obstruction is justified because at the end of the Biden administration, a freshman Senator at that time placed a hold on a handful of U.S. attorneys.

Although only five U.S. attorneys were ultimately blocked by that hold, I even opposed the decision by my freshman colleague. That limited hold was wrong then, and this blanket hold is even more wrong at this point. Five U.S. attorneys held by a freshman Senator at the end of an administration is a far cry from the current widespread obstruction. The strategy today is orchestrated by Senate Democrat leadership and is occurring at the beginning of an administration and impacts all 93 U.S. attorneys.

Last Congress, the Democratic whip said that requiring a rollcall vote for all U.S. Senators is "unsustainable" because "without Senate-confirmed leadership of U.S. Attorneys, public safety will suffer across the United States." He was entirely correct. Confirming each U.S. attorney by a rollcall would consume more than 230 hours of valuable floor time in the Senate.

So what has changed now? Why are the same Democrats who decried the obstruction—pardon me. So what has changed? Why are the same Democrats who decried the obstruction of U.S. attorneys last year engaging in that very same conduct today? The answer is that they don't like the President of the United States. I understand disagreement with the President. People know that I have had my disagreements with President Trump. I certainly had no shortage of objections also to the conduct of President Biden. But elections have consequences and the President's ability to select these U.S. attorneys is a direct reflection of the electoral mandate of November 2024, a mandate that no Republican

President has had since Reagan had that same mandate in 1984.

For months, I repeatedly tried to engage my Democratic colleagues to end this obstruction. If some kind of equal measure is necessary, I even offered a compromise where we hold five rollcall votes to compensate for the five nominees returned to the President at the end of the Biden administration. To my disappointment, my Democratic colleagues haven't taken me up on that offer; although, I have had some very satisfying discussions with them in the late hours. I hope that we get a relenting of that. And whatever it takes, I am going to participate in that process. I think that I am finding the same sort of participation on the other side.

But in the meantime, I remind my Democratic colleagues of the ranking member's own warning last Congress when he admonished the Senate needs to "put public safety and the needs of law enforcement ahead of politics."

Currently, there are 10 U.S. attorney nominees that have been reported favorably out of the committee by a voice vote. These are not controversial nominees. Three of them carry blue slips returned by Democratic Senators. Several of them are in districts where recent tragic crimes have taken place.

Instead of languishing on the Senate floor as pawns of partisan obstruction, these nominees should be in their districts investigating crimes, prosecuting criminals, and keeping the American people safe.

Take the nomination of Daniel Rosen to the District of Minnesota as one example. Mr. Rosen was reported out of committee by voice vote. He has the support of his home State Senators KLOBUCHAR and SMITH, both Democrats. He is a qualified nominee.

Just last week in Minnesota, a shooter entered a service at Annunciation Catholic Church, murdering 2 little children and injuring 18 others. This horrific crime shocked our Nation, and the full force of our government should be mobilized in response. But what are Democrats doing instead? They are blocking the confirmation of Mr. Rosen to be the chief Federal law enforcement officer in Minnesota—not because of any objection to his qualifications but as an act of partisanship.

Enough is enough. My priority is the safety of the American people, and that priority should be shared by all Members of this body. I know that even Democrats—I shouldn't say "even Democrats." I know Democrats also want that same public safety. But this business of not having U.S. attorneys is standing in the way.

I will now ask unanimous consent to confirm the 10 U.S. attorneys who have been reported out of committee. I hope that my Democrat colleagues will relent from their partisan obstruction and allow these nominees to get to work. Debate and disagreement about policies are to be expected, but it should never come at the expense of public safety.

So, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations en bloc: David Waterman of Iowa, No. 176; No. 183, Ron Parsons, South Dakota; No. 257, David Metcalf, Pennsylvania; No. 258, Bart Davis, Idaho; No. 316, Kurt Alme, Montana; No. 317, Nicholas Chase, North Dakota; No. 318, Lesley Murphy, Nebraska; No. 319, Daniel Rosen, Minnesota; No. 320, Erik Siebert, Virginia; and No. 321, Kurt Wall of Louisiana; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate, that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). Is there objection?

Mr. DURBIN. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to explain where we are but with a positive note in my message.

Let me start by saying my friendship and respect for the Senator from Iowa should be a matter of record, and I think we share the same feelings for one another. We have had the distinction and honor of serving together for many years, and there are reform packages that have passed with our joint effort that I am very proud of as part of my legislative career.

This particular issue sounds like a boring housekeeping issue, but it is much more than that.

Every President has the right to nominate people to serve as U.S. attorneys across the United States. These U.S. attorneys represent that President's Department of Justice and make critical prosecutorial decisions to keep their people safe and to execute the laws of the land.

There are some 90 different U.S. attorneys. To say that it has become routine in the past is an understatement.

Under President Trump's first term in office, those 4 years, the Senate confirmed U.S. attorneys for President Trump in his first term—all 85 by voice vote, unanimous consent—all 85 U.S. attorneys.

Then things changed. President Trump stepped aside and was defeated in the election and replaced by President Joseph Biden. Early in the Biden administration, several Republican Senators began an unprecedented campaign of obstruction.

In April 2021, the junior Senator from Arkansas announced that he would block nominees from any State represented by Democrats on the Judiciary Committee. I was chairman of the committee at the time, and it meant that some dozen Democrats could not have U.S. attorneys approved on the floor of the Senate because one Republican junior Senator said: I will block them all. I will block them all, he said.

That Senator finally lifted his hold in December of 2021, but in February of 2022, he again blocked all U.S. attorney nominees for months. Talk about obstruction—we were living with it.

In June of 2023, the junior Senator from the State of Ohio, a Republican, announced that he would place a blanket hold on "all Department of Justice nominees," including U.S. attorneys, to "grind [the Justice Department] to a halt"—he said that, "grind the [Justice Department] to a halt"—under President Biden.

On eight separate occasions, I came to the floor in 2023 and 2024 asking for consent to confirm the pending nominees for U.S. attorney. Each time, my efforts were blocked by that junior Senator from Ohio and several Senators who are on the floor today. They stopped me. It was obstruction in the classic sense.

Due to this Republican obstruction, President Biden was only able to fill 68 of the 93 U.S. attorney positions with Senate-confirmed nominees. So that junior Senator from Ohio stopped the process—stopped the process.

I appreciate that Senator GRASSLEY said today and said at the time that he did not agree with the strategy and that he would not try to defend it today, and he didn't, but we can't have one set of rules when we have a Republican President and another set of rules when there is a Democrat President.

We also now face the Trump administration making an end run around the Senate's advice and consent duty. In several blue States, the Trump administration has taken on an illegal and unprecedented approach to filling U.S. attorney vacancies with extreme and unqualified nominees while making no attempt to consult with Democratic Senators.

I said earlier in a Judiciary Committee meeting that although I disagreed with President Trump in his first term and second term, I was able to work with the White House and filled every vacancy in Illinois. We compromised. I accepted some nominees that would not have been my choice; they accepted some nominees from me that wouldn't have been their choice. It was the nature of political compromise, and it worked.

Any path forward cannot result in Republican Senators having their U.S. attorneys nominated and confirmed and Democratic Senators having outrageous picks installed in their States in legally dubious ways.

I look forward to working with the Senator from Iowa, who is the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, on a fair and bipartisan solution to a problem that was created by both parties but most recently by the Senate Republicans and has been made worse by the Trump administration.

I want to close in saying, before I object, I am not giving up the conversation—meaningful conversation—that is underway. I am hopeful we can find a bipartisan approach that serves the

needs of the Nation when it comes to justice but also respects the integrity of the U.S. Senate.

I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I am sorry for the objection.

I would agree with continuing to work to see if we can find a solution on this. Public safety is such an important issue. U.S. attorneys are central to such public safety, and we should get them approved. I hope we can get something worked out.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

#### RECESS

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess until 4 p.m. today.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:16 p.m., recessed until 4 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. SCHMITT).

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026—Motion to Proceed—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

##### ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, over the August recess, I traveled across Illinois and found out what folks were thinking. There was one answer I heard more than any other; it was a concern about the healthcare cuts contained in the so-called Big Beautiful Bill. You remember that was the Trump budget that passed the Senate here with a party-line vote.

Their concerns, I think, are justified. This bill will cut Medicaid by \$1 trillion over the next 10 years. It will cause up to 17 million people to lose their healthcare.

I just learned this afternoon that premiums paid for dental insurance are likely to go up as much as 90 percent because of the big beautiful Trump budget bill—90 percent. It is likely that 4 million Americans will lose dental insurance on top of the health insurance losses I just mentioned.

This means millions of Americans will no longer be able to afford prescriptions, hospital visits, surgeries. It is going to take its toll on America's population, and it won't just be the uninsured who are affected. I have heard from hospitals across my State that these healthcare cuts will force them to close.

Republicans tried to use the August recess to convince Americans that these cuts are worth it because they will see big tax breaks and economic growth, but they are wrong. Working families making less than \$35,000 a year will see a tax break of \$150 a year—\$3 a week. Most of the tax breaks will go to

billionaires making much more money, like Elon Musk who could see tax breaks of more than \$300,000—\$6,000 in tax cuts a week. And \$3 a week for working families at the low end; \$6,000 a week for the richest people in Illinois and the Nation.

Republicans claim to be the party of fiscal responsibility. And over the next decade, this big beautiful Trump budget law will add a whopping \$3.4 trillion to the national debt. This President is going to take the prize again. In his first term in office, in 4 years, he added more debt to the U.S. Treasury than any President in history. Now he is going to break his own record.

That means that while corporations and the ultrawealthy receive giveaways, working families will see higher inflation and prices due to this foolish trade war the President has initiated. Combined with healthcare cuts, working-class families are going to be the losers.

You know what I think? Instead of playing golf one day, the President should spend a day with real families in America. Most families now are preparing for the school year to start. Last month, students across Illinois returned to the classroom for the start of the school year. New school year comes with a new list of school supplies—backpacks, binders, notebooks, pens, pencils, tech, and more. For working families, especially those with several children, and for the teachers who go above and beyond by dipping into their own pockets to help the kids, that tab can add up quickly.

But thanks to Donald Trump's numerous trade wars, families and teachers are actually feeling the squeeze in households across America. That is because prices on school supplies have risen under Donald Trump by more than 12 percent, \$73 million compared to last year.

Donald Trump campaigned on lowering costs on day one. Remember when he said that over and over again? And he promised his tariffs would somehow liberate American taxpayers. In reality, his misguided tariff wars left fear, uncertainty, and higher prices for American consumers.

You wonder how he comes up with these numbers for tariffs. It sounds like it is a free association every morning: Should it be 25? Maybe 50. Let's try 40. No, let's do 35.

This uncertainty is leading to chaos across the world. It is not just school supplies; costs are up across the board on nearly all everyday products. I will show you. I go to my local supermarket in Springfield to make sure that I am in touch with what real prices are for at least a number of food items. Fresh vegetables are up more than 16 percent since June. Coffee is up nearly 30 percent. A carton of eggs is more expensive than it was last year. That is not all. The cost to repair your car, heat or cool your home, pay for formula, diapers, clothes for your kids—all up thanks to this President's policies.

American businesses Trump claims to be helping cannot plan because of the chaotic tariffs and their jarring impact on supply chains.

President Trump's reckless tariffs—the highest rates in nearly a century—are projected to cost American families thousands of dollars. These tariffs are sales taxes that consumers across America have to pay. That is not liberation; that is a tax increase on every American family, and that is the President's plan.

But the impact of these tariffs stretches beyond prices. It is also hitting American manufacturing. The uncertainty of Trump's tariffs has frozen the job market, driving investment away from U.S. factories and workers. Under this administration, the United States is set to lose another \$500 billion by 2029 in manufacturing investment. Remember, these tariffs were supposed to create new manufacturing. We are still waiting. That hurts longtime manufacturing powerhouses like the cities of Peoria, Decatur, and Rockford that I represent. They rely on good-paying manufacturing jobs to foster local business groups, support families, and drive innovation.

Now, some targeted tariffs in areas where there is unfair foreign competition can be warranted, but that is not what is happening. What we have is chaos. Everyone knows the sloppy approach by this administration is bad for the American people and yet another example of Executive overreach by the President, which is why the courts have ruled these tariffs are illegal. But instead of respecting the courts, President Trump has doubled down.

On a Truth Social post, he said:

Without Tariffs . . . our Country would be completely destroyed, and our military power would be instantly obliterated.

That quote is from the President. The problem is, these tariffs, as we have shown, are already destroying the economy.

On the issue of military readiness and foreign policy, imagine what happened this week. The leaders of China, Russia, India, and North Korea all decided to have a summit meeting in China to announce some new arrangement where they were going to work together. Donald Trump has brought our adversaries together in a way I never dreamed was possible.

Trump's tariffs are reshaping the global order in a dangerous and unprecedented way. Just last week, Vladimir Putin of Russia and President Xi of China—our biggest adversaries—were seen smiling with Prime Minister Modi during this trilateral meeting. President Trump's tariff policies pushed India away from us and toward our rivals. Tariffs were "supposed" to strengthen our hand; instead, they are weakening our position around the globe. These tariffs mean higher prices, less opportunity, and a weaker standing abroad.

It is time to put American families and workers first and reverse course on this failed policy.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, over the last few weeks, I have spoken with countless Tennesseans who are really appreciating the One Big Beautiful Bill because they are learning of the impact that it is going to have on their families, on their businesses, and on their pocketbooks. Tennesseans are telling me—once we talk about this bill, they are telling me how this law will help them make their business more successful, their community better, and will indeed end up leaving more cash in their pocketbook.

Thanks to the law, Tennessee families will save an average of \$2,600 next year on taxes and see a take-home pay increase of as much as \$10,000. This is going to give some much needed relief after 4 years of Bidenflation.

Over the August work period, it was absolutely wonderful. I met with restaurant businesses and servers, and they talked about the law's reduction on taxes on tips and overtime and how that is going to help them keep more money in their pocket.

Going from one side of the State to the other, I heard from seniors who are talking about how they are going to be able to lower their tax burden. That is because we have the \$6,000 bonus deduction per senior, per year. When you are a couple, married filing jointly, that \$12,000 bonus deduction for our Nation's seniors is basically going to remove the income tax from most of the Social Security payments for about 88 percent of our Nation's seniors.

Millions of hard-working families are planning for the future thanks to the law's enhanced child tax credit and expanded childcare access, and we have done this through the employer-provided childcare tax credit.

I appreciate my colleagues in Senate Finance working with me as we sought to get that into the legislation, as we sought to put in place the bonus deduction for seniors. These are things that are really going to serve so many Tennesseans so very well.

We had meetings with chambers and met with many in the business community. Hearing from so many of these small business owners, what they wanted to talk about was how, after the 2017 law was passed, they started hiring staff and growing that business. Now they are able to continue to keep this staff, to purchase new equipment, and to invest in their communities.

By making these tax cuts, the 2017 tax cuts, permanent, the estimate is that we will be protecting about 100,000 jobs in Tennessee. Much of this is because of the bonus depreciation, that 100 percent bonus depreciation deduction, immediate expensing of research and development, interest deduction, and 199A for passthroughs. These companies are looking at how they grow.

They are looking forward to this growth.

I also had the opportunity, whether I was at the State fair or meeting with some members of the ag community or the Farm Bureau—we talked about the provision that we have in the law that raises the estate tax exemption to \$15 million or \$30 million for a couple. What this does is to allow these family farms, generational operations, to be passed on to the next generation so that that legacy of farming and hard work can continue.

We know that for small businesses and so many of our Nation's small business entrepreneurs, they have worked hard. They have built a business. They have built a manufacturing firm. And to know that they can pass it on to the next generation without fear of that generation having to sell the business in order to pay the tax.

This provision—raising that death tax or estate tax exemption—is going to prohibit double taxation. There are about 2 million family farms that this is going to affect, and we know they are appreciative of this.

For our military communities in Tennessee—and we have some wonderful military communities. We have Fort Campbell, which is primarily in Tennessee. We have Millington Air Naval Station. We have Arnold Engineering. We have the National Guard. We have such a strong presence in our State. This legislation, the Big Beautiful Bill, has \$150 billion in a boost to our national defense funding. This is a way we can push forward with modernization and make certain that we remain the strongest lethal fighting force on the face of the Earth.

There is also funding for the Golden Dome missile defense system. This we are beginning to see a good bit of work in when you talk about the low Earth orbit satellites and beginning to build out this Golden Dome defense system to protect our country.

In addition to this, we have provisions in there for our military families to strengthen healthcare and childcare and improve housing and education for our servicemember families.

For 4 years under President Biden, Tennesseans suffered because of his anti-America energy policies. This sent the cost of electricity and gas soaring. So the Big Beautiful Bill ends these far-left mandates and regulations and provides made-in-America tax breaks to support energy production right here at home.

You know, Mr. President, when I talk to Tennesseans, they want us to be energy independent. They don't want us having to depend on other countries to be able to get oil and gas. They don't want us to have to import that. They want energy independence.

President Trump's pro-energy policy and this agenda is the reason why over this Labor Day weekend, our gas prices at the pump were at the lowest level that they have been in 5 years—the lowest level. This is something that

people were noticing. They could feel that impact in their pocketbook.

The border and border security is vitally important to Tennesseans, and this legislation in the Big Beautiful Bill that is now a law has \$75 billion in funding to hire additional ICE agents. And we have seen the results that have taken place—the Homeland Security being out there, working with law enforcement, conducting raids, apprehending these criminal illegal aliens.

People have wanted to see this done. You know, Mr. President, I have not talked to one single person who has said: I want MS-13, I want Tren de Aragua living in my neighborhood. We want them buying a house here. We want them setting up shop here. But what they do say is this: Thank goodness MS-13, Tren de Aragua, and these other violent gangs are being apprehended and they are being deported. That is what the Trump administration is doing, and it is exactly what the American people want to see done.

We also have provisions in the big beautiful law that will go back to building the wall and securing the southern border so we never have an open border like we had during the Biden years, where people are running across that border—as many as 160,000 a month. That is a population size larger than most cities in Tennessee.

There is also some money in this that is going to deal with transportation. Everybody knows that infrastructure is vitally important, and I want to touch on what is happening with aviation there. This is important to Tennessee.

The Nashville International Airport, in June, welcomed more than 2.4 million travelers. That was an alltime-high number. And that number, we know, is going to continue to grow. So the bill provides \$12.5 billion to modernize our Nation's air traffic control system. That is going to help improve safety, speed, and efficiency. And we are appreciative that Secretary Duffy is putting his attention on how you modernize this system so it is more safe, secure, and efficient.

One of the provisions that I had the opportunity to work on was the Rural Health Transformation Program. In Tennessee, we have 95 counties; 78 of those 95 counties are deemed rural. And this Rural Health Transformation fund is a \$50 billion fund. It is there to strengthen access to healthcare in rural areas.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and Dr. Oz, who is our leader at CMS, has launched a web page for this program. It is going to reward innovation. Part of the money is going to be a payment to these hospitals, the other part—that \$25 billion—is going to be, How do you innovate? Here is the money to innovate. How do you increase access?

And our rural hospitals and health clinics who are working on this issue can go to CMS.gov, and they can pull down the information for how to apply

for these grants; how to make certain that they are using the resources that are there; learning more about this program and how it is going to be able to help them increase access to healthcare; how they can focus on workforce development and retention; and how they can look at innovative new processes and use technology.

We are looking forward to good results coming from that because smart, good people who are focused on delivering healthcare are going to have the opportunity to apply for these grants and to focus on how they make healthcare more accessible in these rural areas.

As you can see, there is so much in here that is a positive that will improve the lives of so many Tennesseans. And as I said, they are beginning to see it in their pocketbooks. They are seeing it at the gas pump. They know that their taxes—we have made those tax breaks permanent. And they know this is going to benefit their communities because you will see businesses grow, and you will see businesses hiring new workers.

I think that as people have celebrated Labor Day, they know that this is the time where they have a President in the White House who is putting them first. He is putting them and their future and the future for their kids—he is putting that first, and he is pushing forward with making certain that America and all of our States, our communities are going to be safe, secure, and prosperous.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.  
THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORENO). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

NOAA

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, this is a photograph of the alien from the movie "Alien."

This is what you could end up looking like if you eat some of the raw frozen shrimp being sent to the United States by other countries. Now, let me tell you what I am talking about.

In late August, the FDA found that raw frozen shrimp from Indonesia was being sold in Walmart—specifically, in Walmart stores in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas, and West Virginia—was being sold under the Walmart label called the Great Value label. If you eat it, how could you end up looking like the alien in "Alien"? Because the shrimp was radioactive. I kid you not. It had a radioactive isotope in it called cesium-137. It will kill you. Even if it doesn't turn you into the alien if you eat this stuff, I guarantee you will grow an extra ear.

That was bad enough. Obviously, the FDA issued a recall. A few days later,

it happened again. The FDA and NOAA, which I will talk about in a second, found that there were 26,460 packages of shrimp cocktail and 18,000 bags of frozen cooked shrimp being sold, once again, at Walmart and at Krogers throughout the United States containing the same radioactive isotope.

How could this happen in America? This is unconscionable. I will tell you how, because that shrimp, that shrimp from other countries, which don't abide by the same rules that we abide by in America, which, if you eat it, may turn you into an alien or, at a minimum, will cause you to grow an extra ear, is not being inspected. It is supposed to be. It is supposed to be inspected by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association—we call it NOAA—as part of the Department of Commerce.

And, yes, they are inspecting some of it, about 1 percent; on a good day, 2 percent. The United Kingdom inspects 50 percent of the farmed seafood coming into its nation. Even China does a better job than the United States of America. This is unconscionable. There is no excuse for it. There is no excuse for it.

This shrimp—and I am not just picking on Indonesia; it is other countries. This shrimp is grown in conditions that you can't possibly imagine: dirty water. They shoot the shrimp full of antibiotics.

I confess, I didn't know they were shooting them full of this radioactive isotope. But the normal antibiotics that they put in these foreign shrimp are bad enough that if you eat enough of the foreign shrimp, you become resistant to certain bacteria here in America because the antibiotics don't work on it anymore because you have eaten so many shrimp that contains the antibiotics. This is unconscionable, and it should not be happening in the United States of America.

Now, I am biased. I believe in home-grown Louisiana shrimp, fresh out of the gulf, not radioactive. But I understand that some stores prefer to buy foreign shrimp because it is cheaper. Now we know why: The damn stuff is radioactive.

NOAA needs to do a better job of inspecting the shrimp that is sold from other countries that don't abide by the same standards we do to the consumers of the United States of America.

IRAN

This second topic, Mr. President, I want to touch on real briefly.

We haven't heard much about Iran lately. Iran has been busy, though. Just recently, Australia expelled Iran's Ambassador, and they designated the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, which is part of Iran, as a terrorist organization. Why is that? Because people connected with Iran firebombed a Melbourne synagogue, and then, a few months later, they struck a kosher deli in Sydney, Australia. Iran is still there, and it is still spreading terrorism.

Iran has also been in the news just recently. The United Kingdom and

France and Germany have announced that they are going to trigger snapback sanctions on Iran. What do I mean by that? You will recall that, in 2015, President Obama made a deal with Iran. We called it the JCPOA. And the JCPOA just said to Iran: If you will stop moving toward a nuclear weapon, we—meaning the United States of America and the other countries that are part of the United Nations—will remove the sanctions that we had placed on Iran for trying to develop a nuclear weapon.

So Iran said: Pinky promise, we will stop building a nuclear weapon. You remove the sanctions.

President Obama agreed. He was naive. We removed the sanctions. The United Nations removed the sanctions. The United Kingdom, Germany, and France removed the sanctions. And, of course, the Ayatollah and Iran continued to develop a weapon.

Just because we have destroyed—"we" meaning the United States of America—many of Iran's facilities to make that weapon does not mean that the issue has been resolved. Iran has refused to come to the table, even still, to negotiate a settlement, a new JCPOA. And as a result—and I am very proud of them—the United Kingdom and Germany and France have said: OK. We are going to reimplement those sanctions that we agreed to take off of Iran when they signed the first nuclear deal, which Iran welched on almost immediately. And, again, I want to thank our friends in Europe. They supposedly are going to reimplement those sanctions at the end of this month, and I hope they do.

Of course, my preference would be to have Iran come to the table again before then and sit down with the United States and other members of the United Nations and resolve this issue of them having a nuclear weapon, but I don't expect that to happen.

So I know I have said it, but I want to say it again. Thank you, United Kingdom and Germany and France, for doing this, but we need to talk about the rest of the story. The sanctions, which will be on Iranian banking, on Iranian shipping, oil, and arms are only part of the story. These are U.N. sanctions. But just because the sanctions have been brought back on Iran, that doesn't mean that they will be enforced.

Now, these are United Nations sanctions on shipping and banking and oil and arms, so normally there would be a United Nations committee to enforce the sanctions. I hope there is, but I doubt it because I think that Russia and China are going to block a United Nations committee to enforce the sanctions.

What is my point? My point is that just because Europe and, of course, the United States of America have agreed to reimpose those sanctions, we have still got to enforce them. We have still got to enforce them. And the United States needs to take the lead on doing

that. Joining with the United Kingdom and with Germany and with France, we need to make sure that the world understands that these sanctions are real and that we, as part of the West, are going to enforce them.

This is important. I don't want to see this get lost in our discussion about the importance of the Ukraine situation and other issues of national security. I don't want this to get lost. What you allow is what will continue. What you allow is what will continue. And unless you have an opium habit, you know that is just a principle we all have to learn the hard way.

So I am hoping that the President and our friends in Europe will take the lead and not only snap back these sanctions but then enforce them. And unfortunately—I wish we didn't have to do it because I feel for the Iranian people. I don't feel any sympathy for the Ayatollah. We are just going to have to choke him to death.

I thank the Presiding Officer for his patience.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. JUSTICE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Vermont.

#### HEALTHCARE

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, all of us are back from being at home for the past 30 days. In my visit in Vermont, my time in Vermont visiting with Vermonters, one issue that came up over and over again is incredible concern about healthcare.

The cost of healthcare is beyond affordability, and this is really an existential moment for our healthcare system.

Let me just talk about that in general but also with respect to the impact of the One Big Beautiful Bill. Under that legislation, 45,000 Vermonters are going to lose healthcare, literally lose it altogether. More than 26,000 Vermonters will lose access to premium subsidies which make the Affordable Care Act plans more affordable.

Just let me give an example that I found shocking. A family of four in Vermont who makes \$82,000 a year—right now, their premium is about \$7,000 under the Affordable Care Act. That premium will increase by \$23,600.

So the premium will then be \$30,648. They have done nothing. They have done nothing, and they have no control over what the healthcare expense will be. But their premium, when they wake up on January 1, is going to go up \$23,600, and that is on income of \$82,000. And, by the way, Vermont does not have high income.

And in that respect, I know you are concerned about your folks in West Virginia.

That is not affordable. It just isn't affordable, and the citizens have no control over what those costs are. They just have to pay the bill.

The other thing that is happening is that our rural hospitals, they are going to lose \$1.7 billion because of lost revenue. All those folks that lose Medicaid coverage are going to show up and get care. And our community hospitals, they will provide care for folks who are sick. But if they don't get paid, they can only do that so long before they go out of business.

And our rural hospitals are like the rural hospitals in West Virginia. They are like the rural hospitals all around the country. They are operating on a very thin financial margin. They are in great jeopardy. So we are going to have rural hospitals that close.

The other issue, we are all concerned about substance use disorder. Because of the cuts in Medicaid, about 8,000 Vermonters are at risk of losing access to the treatment that has been very effective. For the first time in years, the numbers of deaths has been going down, not up. And much of that is attributable to the fact that services were available to people who wanted them, needed them, and took advantage of them.

You know, this is not me talking. This is Vermonters talking. I had a healthcare listening session. And the thing that folks, just as I mentioned, were really concerned about, worried about, is healthcare. And it was everyday care, care for their kids, care and access to healthcare, including care for new mothers and women who are giving birth. And we are in the process of having one of our hospitals, for financial reasons, have to shut down, a much utilized and much revered birthing center.

So my view is we should repeal the so-called One Big Beautiful Bill. It is not a working-families tax plan. I mean, unless you mean taxes are what we do when we increase the premiums that our families have to pay.

My view, we should absolutely be passing policies that help working families, and I have got bipartisan bills to do that. But we can't move forward without addressing these real threats to our healthcare system. And the repeal of healthcare provisions in the One Big Beautiful Bill—that is what we have to do.

My longtime preference is that we have a healthcare system that covers everybody—regardless of age, regardless of income. It is what every other nation does. What we have is a system that is kind of a single-payer system in a variety of ways you can have it. But what we have is a system where we try to control costs by literally taking healthcare insurance away from people, as if taking away their healthcare insurance means they won't get sick. They are going to get sick.

We have got to support Medicare and Medicaid. We need to extend the Affordable Care Act's premium tax cred-

its so those Vermont families and families in every State across the country—red State, blue State—don't get hammered with these multithousand-dollar premium increases.

I serve on the Finance Committee, and tomorrow I am grateful to Chairman CRAPO for inviting Secretary Kennedy in to report on "progress in the healthcare system."

I don't have that view of his tenure. My view, Secretary Kennedy has undermined, severely, vaccine research and vaccine delivery. My view, his policies have undermined rural health. My view, Secretary Kennedy should resign.

We need a healthcare Secretary and a White House that is actually committed to practical ways to lower cost of healthcare, and we need leadership that cares about the very real and very painful structural issues that are making our healthcare system unaffordable and inefficient and out of reach for so many people. And that is true whether you are a lower income person who gets Medicaid benefits, you are a senior who gets your well-earned Medicare benefits, you are a private family trying to buy your own healthcare, or you are an employer where you really care about your workers—you want to provide employer-sponsored healthcare but you are getting hammered with these 10-, 15-, 25-percent premium increases.

Healthcare is an essential concern of every single American family, and the concern is that it costs too much, access is too difficult, and the provisions in the One Big Beautiful Bill have set us back. They have not moved us ahead.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

#### GOLDEN DOME

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, President Donald Trump's so-called Golden Dome for America is the latest reincarnation of President Ronald Reagan's "Star Wars" fantasy: thousands of space-based missile interceptors supposedly capable of stopping a missile strike from any adversary anywhere in the world.

President Trump suggests it could protect the United States from a nuclear attack. But in reality, the Golden Dome is fool's gold. It will make us poor, less secure, and more isolated. It is a gold-plated boondoggle that will enrich defense contractors and ignite a new nuclear arms race.

The Golden Dome is a trillion-dollar mistake in the making. It will be much more effective at wasting taxpayer dollars than wasting any missiles. It is a defense contractor's dream and a taxpayer's nightmare.

The potential costs are astronomical. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimated that even a limited system against just two—two—incoming missiles, let's just say from the Soviet Union—would require 2,000 space-based interceptors and can cost as much as \$542 billion. The American

Physical Society estimated that to counter a larger attack of 10 missiles, we would need a system of 40,000 interceptors, costing about \$1 trillion. And a system to defend against hundreds of incoming missiles from Russia or China would cost trillions more.

As Senator TIM SHUEHY from Montana said, the system “will likely cost in the trillions, if and when, Golden Dome is completed.”

President Trump has pitched this Golden Dome as a \$175 billion project and, so far, Congress has approved \$25 billion as part of the reconciliation bill, plus billions more in the Defense authorization bill. And that is just a drop in the bucket. But by the way, the bucket has a hole in the bottom. So this money is just going in and going to waste.

They want to add trillions more to something that won't work; it will make us more vulnerable; the Soviets and the Chinese will be responding; and it is just going to cost more money with less protection for the security of the American people.

Even worse, experts say that Trump's Golden Dome would be ineffective and alarmingly easy to defeat. And these are three main reasons why it would be easy to defeat: First, space-based interceptors, like all satellites, would be sitting ducks for anti-satellite weapons. Russia and China already have anti-satellite weapons they could use to attack our space-based interceptors. And Russia is reportedly developing a nuclear weapon that could be deployed in orbit around the planet and detonated in space to destroy satellites.

We cannot count on space-based interceptors to protect us because in a crisis, one of the first things Moscow and Beijing would do is to destroy them. And we just saw Putin and President Xi shaking hands this past week—just shaking hands.

Second, Moscow and Beijing have already started to develop new systems to get around U.S. defenses, including Russia's nuclear-powered cruise missile and China's fractional orbit bombardment system. Whatever new space-based defense system we deploy, there is a cheaper way for our adversaries to get around it.

Third, Golden Dome would be no match for our adversaries who could overwhelm the system by simply building more and cheaper missiles.

If we build a system to stop 500 missiles, they will field 600 missiles. In fact, the Golden Dome would push Russia and China to do exactly that—expand their arsenals, reject arms control treaties, and plunge the world into a terrifying new nuclear arms race.

Instead of making America safer, we would be inviting a catastrophe, not just for the United States but for the entire world. That is particularly true given that the last remaining U.S.-Russia arms control treaty, New START, will expire in just 6 months, leaving us with no limits on Washington and Moscow's nuclear arsenals for the first

time in 50 years—no limits on either country. And China wants to move to catch up fast.

Who benefits? Not the American people, not our troops, not our allies. The real winners are defense contractors. SpaceX, for example, led by Elon Musk, is a frontrunner for Golden Dome contracts.

Meanwhile, even if the system could work in theory, we can't trust the Trump administration to build it. The Pentagon is gutting its independent testing office, the very entity that tells us whether these high-priced systems actually work. The office was targeted specifically to limit scrutiny over Golden Dome because, according to one official, the program has “to be successful for Mr. Trump.” So it is going to be in darkness. We won't actually know what is going on because they have to get it done for Mr. Trump.

But that just leads to problems because, ultimately, overconfidence breeds hubris and hubris breeds disaster. That is what they are setting up. That is not national security; that is corruption, pure and simple.

History should have taught us this lesson. We have seen this movie before. The original Reagan-era “Star Wars” program burned through \$400 billion without producing an effective defense for our country. Forty years later, despite decades of research, technology still can't deliver on the fantasy of a perfect missile shield. Golden Dome is just “Star Wars” with a brandnew name but a much higher pricetag for the American taxpayer with the same limited security for our people.

What is worse, it violates decades of bipartisan policy. Since 1999, Congress has agreed that U.S. missile defenses should only be designed to stop limited threats, like those from North Korea, not the much larger nuclear arsenals of major powers like Russia and China.

Golden Dome blows up that carefully drawn line with no plan, no strategy, no regard for the consequences because we shouldn't be kidding ourselves. Russia and China will move. It is only going to make the world more dangerous because the system Donald Trump wants to build will not work.

Golden Dome is science fiction, not effective missile defense system. Systems like Israel's Iron Dome have proven useful against short-range conventional rockets. But deploying weapons in space to counter hundreds of strategic nuclear missiles is not only impractical, it is dangerous.

Republicans already increased defense spending by \$150 billion in Trump's Big Beautiful Bill. It is not beautiful, though, to trigger a nuclear arms race. It is not beautiful to have paranoia be built into the Russians and Chinese that have been building even more and more nuclear weapons themselves. That is not beautiful for the American people; that is bad for the American people.

GOP really stands for “Grotesquely Overfunded Pentagon,” without any ef-

fective weapons in their defenses ultimately emanating.

Instead of chasing an impossible dream that risks bankrupting us and destabilizing the world, we should be investing in what actually works: diplomacy, arms control, smart defense. Think of what we could do with \$1 trillion instead of wasting it on Golden Dome: fund up to 2,500 new hospitals in the United States—at \$60 million apiece, we could have 2,500 new hospitals; forgive the loans of nearly 4 million students—average student debt is \$37,850; cancel medical debt for 68 million Americans—\$2,200 a person or at least 230 billion across 100 million Americans. We could get that done. We could help people pay their medical bills. We could build 650,000 affordable housing units in our Nation with that trillion dollars that we are going to waste in outer space. We could build 60,000 new wind turbines to have our electricity come from offshore wind, onshore wind to power our vehicles and the homes which we have in our country. We could provide 37.5 billion meals to school kids across our country. We could fund universal pre-K for the next decade. Congressional Research Service reports from 2021 said it would cost \$109 billion over a decade to feed all the kids in America that need food.

We need to fund education, not annihilation; Medicaid not missiles.

It is time Republicans understand the reality that national security also means health, housing, and financial security. But no, the Republicans and Donald Trump want to spend more on a “Star Wars” missile defense and the nuclear arsenal, among many other things.

We have seen this Republican playbook before. They claim we must cut spending on education, on healthcare—like Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act—on housing, on foreign aid, on climate solutions, but when it comes to defense contractors, they open the purse strings, pouring billions of dollars into the pockets of their well-connected friends.

It is just shameful that they want to cut Medicaid, Medicare, wind, solar, Pell grants for kids to go to school and then say unlimited funding for the Defense Department for a Golden Dome in outer space that is not going to work.

President Trump says his Golden Dome will “complete the job” Reagan started. Well, it is not going to complete the job; it is just going to start the same job all over again because it never worked for Ronald Reagan. What it will really do is bury arms control negotiations between the United States and Russia and the Soviet Union. It will balloon the deficit. It will boost the bottom line to billionaires and make our country less safe.

That is why I am offering my “Golden Dome is Fool's Gold” amendment to the Defense authorization bill to be considered out here on the Senate floor. No taxpayer dollars should be spent on space-based interceptors until

the Secretary of Defense submits to Congress: One, a plan describing Golden Dome and how much it will really cost; two, a certification by the President that Golden Dome won't start a new arms race with Russia and China; three, a written commitment from the Pentagon's testing office that will have the resources it needs to provide effective oversight of a space-based interceptor program; four, an independent technical review by the National Academy of Sciences on the military and cost effectiveness of Golden Dome.

Before we waste a trillion dollars on an outdated idea that history tells us is a fool's errand, we owe it to the American taxpayers to have a plan, to know how much it will cost, and to ensure that it will work. How can anyone oppose this? Anyone who does is not serious about protecting our country. They are selling you fool's gold.

Sadly, we listened to another fool before. We paid \$400 billion for Reagan's Star Wars fantasy and got nothing. Are we really going to buy into that same program again?

This is dangerous spending: nuclear weapons we don't need and missile defenses that don't defend but will provoke others into building more nukes and aiming them directly at us. Real security means investing in our hospitals, our pharmacies, our community health centers, our schools, our communities, our climate change response, to a real threat to America and a real threat to the planet—climate change. That is what we should be doing.

Real security means funding public schools, hot meals for students so they can learn and grow.

Real security means tackling the climate crisis head-on—building a clean energy future here at home and breaking the grip of the fossil fuel companies that they have over the Trump administration.

The doomsday that Americans fear in the 21st century isn't being vaporized by a nuclear bomb. It is the doomsday diagnosis of cancer, that is what people are afraid of at home as the Trump administration slashes NIH funding for cancer, for Alzheimer's, for Parkinson's, for diabetes. That is what people are afraid of. That is where the real security is that people want in their homes, where the cures for these diseases are being found—not an evisceration of mRNA research to find a cure for cancer and other diseases.

This medical debt that people are running up, the rent payment that people have to make, the loan payments, the grocery bills, electricity bills—that is what we should be focused on here. That is the real security that people are calling upon the Senate to provide for them.

So let's finally put people before the Pentagon, nurseries before nukes, buses before bombs. Let's not trade real security for a tarnished gold illusion. We must put a stop to this reckless plan before it launches America into the next unwinnable nuclear arms race.

When those Russian missiles are coming across the North Pole aimed at the United States, the least that we should be able to say is that we tried, we really tried to end the nuclear arms race.

That is not what the Golden Dome is going to accomplish. It is going to accomplish just the opposite. It is going to make that nuclear war more likely. It is going to make the Soviet Union and China more paranoid and bring us closer to that day when we see that catastrophic set of mushroom clouds exploding, not just in the United States but all across the planet.

This is the time, this is the place, we are the people here on the Senate floor who have to make the decision to kill this idea before it winds up killing millions of Americans and others around the world.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate 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.

#### ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

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

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

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

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-69, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Ukraine for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$179.1 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public

of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,  
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-69

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

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Ukraine.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:  
Major Defense Equipment\* \$0.  
Other \$179.1 million.  
Total \$179.1 million.

Funding Source: Foreign Military Financing.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: The Government of Ukraine has requested to buy equipment and services to support sustainment of its Patriot air defense systems.

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-MDE: The following non-MDE items will be included: classified and unclassified spare parts; maintenance support; classified and unclassified software and software updates; system modifications and associated modification kits; test equipment; communication equipment and associated accessories; integration services; repair and return; storage; tooling; Field Surveillance Program; International Engineering Services Program; maintenance support equipment; U.S. Government and contractor representative technical assistance; training; engineering and logistics support services; classified and unclassified publications and technical documentation; classified software; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

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

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

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

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

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: August 29, 2025.

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

#### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

##### Ukraine—Patriot Air Defense System Sustainment

The Government of Ukraine has requested to buy equipment and services to support sustainment of its Patriot air defense systems. The following non-MDE items will be included: classified and unclassified spare parts; maintenance support; classified and unclassified software and software updates; system modifications and associated modification kits; test equipment; communication equipment and associated accessories; integration services; repair and return; storage; tooling; Field Surveillance Program; International Engineering Services Program; maintenance support equipment; U.S. Government and contractor representative technical assistance; training; engineering and logistics support services; classified and unclassified publications and technical documentation; classified software; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total program cost is \$179.1 million.

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

The proposed sale will improve Ukraine's ability to meet current and future threats by further equipping it to conduct self-defense and regional security missions with a more robust air defense capability. Ukraine will have no difficulty absorbing these articles and services into its armed forces.

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

The principal contractors will be RTX Corporation, located in Arlington, VA; and Lockheed Martin, located in Bethesda, MD. At this time, the U.S. Government is not aware of any offset agreement proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require approximately five U.S. Government and fifteen contractor representatives to travel to the United States European Command to support training and periodic meetings.

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

### ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

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

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

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

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-58, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Ukraine for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$150 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,  
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-58

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

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Ukraine.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment\* \$0.

Other \$150 million.

Total \$150 million.

Funding Source: JUMPSTART Funding from Germany.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: The Government of Ukraine has requested to buy an extension of satellite communications services for its Starlink terminals.

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-Major Defense Equipment: The following non-MDE items will be included: U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (JUD-DAA).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: NX-D-DAA; NW-D-DAA.

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

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

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: August 29, 2025.

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

### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Ukraine—Satellite Communications Services

The Government of Ukraine has requested to buy an extension of satellite communications services for its Starlink terminals. The following non-MDE items will be included: U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$150 million.

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

The proposed sale will improve Ukraine's ability to meet current and future threats by further equipping it to conduct self-defense and regional security missions with a more robust defense capability. Ukraine will have no difficulty absorbing these articles and services into its armed forces.

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

The principal contractor for this effort will be Starlink Services, located in Hawthorne, CA. At this time, the U.S. Government is not aware of any offset agreement proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

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

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

### ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

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

of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

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

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

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-51, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Denmark for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$8.5 billion. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,  
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-51

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

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Denmark.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:  
Major Defense Equipment\* \$4.25 billion.  
Other \$4.25 billion.  
Total \$8.50 billion.

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

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Thirty-six (36) PATRIOT MIM-104E Guidance Enhanced Missiles-Tactical (GEM-T).

Twenty (20) PATRIOT Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) Missile Segment Enhancement.

Two (2) AN/MPQ-65 radar sets.

Two (2) Engagement Control Stations.

Two (2) Radar Interface Unit modification kits.

Six (6) PATRIOT M903A2 launching stations (LS).

Six (6) Integrated Battle Command System (IBCS) software launcher integrated network kits.

Two (2) IBCS Engagement Operations Centers.

Two (2) IBCS Integrated Collaborative Environments.

Six (6) IBCS integrated fire control network relays.

Two (2) Electrical Power Plants III.

Non-Major Defense Equipment: The following non-MDE items will also be included: communications equipment including, but not limited to, AN/TPX-57A identification friend or foe (IFF), Defense Advanced Global Positioning System (GPS) Receiver (DAGR), AN/PYQ-10 Simple Key Loader, KIV-77 encryptor, KG-250X Inline Network Encryptor, IPS-250X HAIPE Encryptor, future Combat Net Radio, and AN/PRC-163 radio; tools and test equipment; support equipment; generators; publications and technical documentation; training equipment including the Air Defense

Reconfigurable Trainer; spare and repair parts; personnel training; Technical Assistance Field Team support; U.S. Government and contractor technical assistance and services, engineering, and logistics support; System Integration and Checkout; field office support; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (DE-B-VMI).

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

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

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: August 29, 2025.

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

#### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

##### Denmark—Integrated Battle Command System Enabled PATRIOT

The Government of Denmark has requested to buy thirty-six (36) PATRIOT MIM-104E guidance enhanced missile-tactical (GEM-T) ballistic missiles; twenty (20) PATRIOT Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) Missile Segment Enhancement (MSE) missiles; two (2) AN/MPQ-65 radar sets; two (2) Engagement Control Stations (ECS); two (2) Radar Interface Units (RIU) modification kits; six (6) PATRIOT M903 A2 launching stations (LS); six (6) Integrated Battle Command System (IBCS) Software Launcher Integrated Network Kits (LINKs); two (2) IBCS Engagement Operations Centers (EOCs); two (2) IBCS Integrated Collaborative Environments (ICE); six (6) IBCS integrated fire control network (IFCN) relays; and two (2) Electrical Power Plants III (EPP III). The following non-MDE items will also be included: communications equipment including, but not limited to, AN/TPX-57A identification friend or foe (IFF), Defense Advanced Global Positioning System (GPS) Receiver (DAGR), AN/PYQ-10 Simple Key Loader, KIV-77 encryptor, KG-250X Inline Network Encryptor, IPS-250X HAIPE Encryptor, future Combat Net Radio, and AN/PRC-163 radio; tools and test equipment; support equipment; generators; publications and technical documentation; training equipment including the Air Defense Reconfigurable Trainer; spare and repair parts; personnel training; Technical Assistance Field Team support; U.S. Government and contractor technical assistance and services, engineering, and logistics support; System Integration and Checkout; field office support; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$8.5 billion.

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

The proposed sale will improve Denmark's capability to meet current and future threats by increasing its combat capability. Denmark will use these munitions to defend NATO Allies and its partners. Denmark will have no difficulty absorbing these articles and services into its armed forces.

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

The principal contractors will be RTX Corporation, located in Arlington, VA; Lockheed-Martin, located in Dallas, TX; and Northrop Grumman, located in Falls Church, VA. At this time, the U.S. Government is not aware of any offset agreement proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require the assignment of 12–17 additional U.S. Government and 17–23 contractor representatives to travel to Denmark periodically for up to 7 years for equipment fielding, system checkout, training, and technical and logistics support.

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

#### TRANSMITTAL NO. 25–51

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

#### Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The PATRIOT Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) Missile Segment Enhanced (MSE) missile is a small, highly agile, kinetic interceptor for defense against tactical ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, and air-breathing threats. The MSE variant of the PAC-3 missile is the next generation of hit-to-kill interceptors and provides expanded battlespace against evolving threats. The PAC-3 MSE improves upon the original PAC-3 capability with a higher performance solid rocket motor, modified lethality enhancer, more responsive control surfaces, upgraded guidance software, and insensitive munitions improvements.

2. The PATRIOT MIM-104E Guidance Enhanced Missiles-Tactical (GEM-T) missile is the latest in-production series of the highly successful RTX Patriot missile variants available to both U.S. forces and international partners. GEM-T deliveries to the U.S. Army began in 2006. This capability adds a low-noise oscillator for improved acquisition and tracking performance. The GEM-T missile provides an upgraded capability to defeat tactical ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, and adversary aircraft in complement to the PAC-3 missile.

3. The AN/MPQ-65 Configuration 3+ Increment 3 PATRIOT radar set (RS) consists of a multifunction phased-array radar mounted on a semitrailer. The RS is powered by an electric power plant and controlled by the Radar Interface Unit (RIU). The AN/MPQ-65 RS provides airspace surveillance, detection, target tracking, identification, classification, discrimination, missile acquisition, missile tracking, missile guidance, and electronic counter-countermeasures. The RS has the capability to track a wide range of targets under a variety of conditions and support the simultaneous operation of multiple PATRIOT missiles to defend against a threat.

4. The Configuration 3+ Increment 3 RIU provides operational control of the PATRIOTMPQ-65 RS. The RIU is an adapted Patriot AN/MSQ-132 Configuration 3+ Increment 3 Engagement Control Station (ECS) with a Patriot A-kit modification kit added.

5. The M903 launcher stations can launch the entire family of PATRIOT missiles.

6. The Army Integrated Air and Missile Defense (AIAMD) Integrated Battle Command System (IBCS) adapts existing and forthcoming air and missile defense (AMD) sensors, weaponry, and mission command technologies into a unified defense system. This integration facilitates a comprehensive air picture, enhances defended areas, and provides flexible deployment options. IBCS comprises two primary components: the Engagement Operations Center (EOC) and the IBCS integrated fire control network relays. The EOC delivers C4ISR functions at the battalion, battery, and platoon levels within the AMD task force.

7. The Integrated Battle Command System (IBCS) enhances defense effectiveness by using composite tracks from multiple sensors to provide accurate target tracking and

weapon firing solutions. It offers a common engagement center and data sharing across all Army AMD echelons, improving response to threats with near real-time coordination. IBCS supports dynamic defense design, extended range, and non-line-of-sight engagements, reducing coverage gaps, manpower, and costs while improving training capabilities.

8. The AN/TPX-57A(V)1 Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) system is a highly sensitive military technology designed to securely identify friendly aircraft and vehicles in contested environments. It uses advanced Mode 5 encryption, ensuring secure and reliable authentication to prevent spoofing or misidentification. The system is critical for reducing the risk of friendly fire and enhancing situational awareness in joint operations. Strict export controls and access restrictions safeguard the AN/TPX-57A(V)1 from unauthorized use, ensuring its capabilities remain protected to support national security and allied interoperability.

9. The Defense Advanced Global Positioning System (GPS) Receiver (DAGR) is a small commercial NAVSTAR GPS receiver designed for military operations. The Selective Availability/Anti Spoofing Module (SAASM) is a security device controlling the encryption that enables Precise Positioning Service (PPS) Y-code signals from GPS satellites and resists adversary attempts to spoof GPS signals. The DAGR with SAASM will provide position and location information necessary for ground-based operation. The DAGR provides secure, SAASM-based GPS in the most reliable and proven handheld form available today. It is the military-grade, dual frequency receiver, and has the security hardware necessary to decode encrypted P(Y)-code GPS signals. Features include graphical screen, with the ability to overlap map images, 12-channel continuous satellite tracking for “all-in view” operation, simultaneous L1/L2 dual frequency GPS signal reception, extended performance in a diverse jamming environment, and SAASM compatibility.

10. The Simple Key Loader (SKL) is a ruggedized, portable, hand-held device, for securely receiving, storing, and transferring data between compatible cryptographic and communications equipment. The SKL employs type 1 encryption to protect stored key data, and its software, firmware, and security architecture are subject to strict Department of Defense (DoD) and National Security Agency (NSA) security controls. The SKL is considered an unclassified controlled item (CCI).

11. The KIV-77 Encryptor is a highly sensitive cryptographic device certified by the National Security Agency (NSA) to secure Mode 4/5 Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) systems. It provides advanced encryption to authenticate friendly aircraft and vehicles, ensuring secure and reliable identification while preventing spoofing or unauthorized access. The KIV-77 is critical for enhancing situational awareness, reducing the risk of friendly fire, and supporting joint and allied operations. Strict export controls and access restrictions protect the KIV-77 from unauthorized use, ensuring its capabilities remain secure and vital to national defense.

12. The KG-250X Inline Network Encryptor is a highly sensitive device certified by the National Security Agency (NSA) to protect classified U.S. Government and military communications up to the Top Secret/SCI level. It ensures secure, high-speed encryption for critical data transmitted over networks, including voice, video, and large-scale operations. The KG-250X features advanced anti-tamper protections, secure key management, and interoperability with other secure systems, making it essential for

safeguarding national security. Strict export controls and access restrictions are in place to prevent unauthorized use or compromise, ensuring its capabilities remain protected from adversaries.

13. The IPS-250X HAIPE Encryptor is a highly sensitive device certified by the National Security Agency (NSA) to protect classified U.S. Government and military communications up to the Top Secret/SCI level. It uses advanced encryption to secure data transmitted over IP networks, ensuring confidentiality and integrity for critical operations. Designed for interoperability, it integrates seamlessly with other secure systems and features anti-tamper protections and secure key management. Strict export controls and access restrictions safeguard the IPS-250X from unauthorized use or compromise, making it a vital tool for protecting national security.

14. The AN/PRC-163 Multichannel Handheld Radio is a highly advanced and sensitive communication device designed to provide secure, simultaneous voice, data, and video transmission for U.S. military and allied forces. It supports multiple waveforms, including SATCOM, SINGARS, and TrellisWare TSM, ensuring interoperability across tactical networks. With NSA-certified encryption, dual-channel operation, and a rugged design, the AN/PRC-163 is critical for maintaining secure and reliable communication in dynamic and contested environments. Strict export controls and access restrictions safeguard the device from unauthorized use, ensuring its capabilities remain secure and essential to national security.

15. The Combat Net Radio will replace the RT-1523 Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System (SINGARS). The RT-1523F Receiver-Transmitter is a core component of the SINGARS (Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System) family, providing secure voice and data communication for U.S. military and allied forces. It supports frequency-hopping technology to resist jamming and interception, ensuring reliable communication in contested environments. The RT-1523F is versatile, used in manpack, vehicle-mounted, and base station configurations, making it essential for tactical operations and command and control. Strict export controls and access restrictions protect the RT-1523F from unauthorized use, ensuring its capabilities remain secure and vital to national defense.

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

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

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

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

#### GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE LEGAL OPINION

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the GAO opinion letter dated August 27, 2025.

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

#### DECISION

Matter of: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services—Applicability of the Congressional Review Act to Policy on Adhering to the Text of the Administrative Procedure Act.

File: B-337397.

Date: August 27, 2025.

#### DIGEST

On March 3, 2025, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) published in the Federal Register a policy statement titled, Policy on Adhering to the Text of the Administrative Procedure Act (2025 Policy Statement or Policy Statement). The 2025 Policy Statement rescinds a prior policy generally requiring HHS agencies and offices to use Administrative Procedure Act (APA) notice-and-comment procedures for rules relating to public property, loans, grants, benefits, or contracts and establishes a new policy giving HHS agencies and offices discretion whether to use notice-and-comment procedures for such rules.

The Congressional Review Act (CRA) requires that before a rule can take effect, an agency must submit the rule to both the House of Representatives and the Senate, as well as the Comptroller General. CRA adopts the definition of “rule” under APA but excludes certain categories of rules from coverage. We conclude that the 2025 Policy Statement is a rule for purposes of CRA because it meets the APA definition of a rule, and no CRA exception applies. Therefore, the Policy Statement is a rule subject to CRA’s submission requirements.

#### DECISION

On March 3, 2025, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) published in the Federal Register a policy statement titled, Policy on Adhering to the Text of the Administrative Procedure Act (2025 Policy Statement or Policy Statement). We received a request for a decision as to whether the Policy Statement is a rule for purposes of the Congressional Review Act (CRA). As discussed below, we conclude that the Policy Statement is a rule subject to CRA’s submission requirements.

Our practice when rendering decisions is to contact the relevant agencies to obtain factual information and their legal views on the subject of the request. Accordingly, we reached out to HHS on April 29, 2025, and received HHS’s response on June 11, 2025.

#### BACKGROUND

The 2025 Policy Statement rescinds HHS’s previous policy generally requiring the use of APA notice-and-comment rulemaking procedures for certain types of rules that APA exempts from such procedures.

#### APA Notice-and-Comment Procedures

APA prescribes notice-and-comment procedures for certain rules. For these rules, APA generally requires agencies to publish in the Federal Register a notice of proposed rulemaking and provide interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rulemaking “through submission of written data, views, or arguments.” The agency may promulgate a final rule only after providing notice and opportunity for comment.

APA exempts certain rules from these notice-and-comment procedures, including rules involving “matter[s] relating . . . to public property, loans, grants, benefits, or contracts. APA also includes a good cause exception, which permits an agency to forgo the notice-and-comment procedures if “the agency for good cause finds . . . that notice and public procedure thereon are impracti-

cable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest.”

#### Richardson Waiver

In 1970, the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare (the predecessor to HHS) issued a policy statement directing agencies and offices in the department that issue rules relating to public property, loans, grants, benefits, or contracts to use APA notice-and-comment procedures notwithstanding the exemption (Richardson Waiver). The Richardson Waiver further stated that APA’s good cause exception should be used sparingly, such as in emergencies and for amendments covering minor technical matters. The Richardson Waiver explained that the new policy implemented a recommendation by the Administrative Conference of the United States (ACUS), and that the public benefit from greater participation in rulemaking should outweigh any administrative inconvenience or delay caused by using the notice-and-comment procedures.

#### 1982 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

In 1982, HHS proposed, but never adopted, a rule clarifying the policy announced in the Richardson Waiver and codifying it in the agency’s regulations. HHS reaffirmed in the proposed rule that the agency’s general policy would be to ordinarily use notice-and-comment procedures for rules relating to public property, loans, grants, benefits, or contracts. However, HHS noted that some courts had interpreted the Richardson Waiver to require HHS to use notice-and-comment procedures for such rules unless HHS met the APA’s good cause exception. Believing that it was not appropriate to hold HHS to that standard when the agency used notice-and-comment procedures voluntarily, HHS proposed clarifying that it could decline to use those procedures for rules relating to public property, loans, grants, benefits, or contracts if, in HHS’s judgment, the delay from using such procedures would impair the attainment of program objectives or would have other disadvantages that outweighed the benefits of receiving public comment. The proposed regulations would also have clarified that HHS’s voluntary use of notice-and-comment procedures was not intended to create any judicially enforceable rights.

#### 2025 Policy Statement

The 2025 Policy Statement rescinds the Richardson Waiver and establishes a new policy giving HHS agencies and offices discretion whether to use notice-and-comment procedures for matters relating to public property, loans, grants, benefits, or contracts and not requiring such procedures unless otherwise required by law. The Policy Statement further states that “the good cause exception should be used in appropriate circumstances in accordance with” APA requirements rather than “sparingly,” as directed in the Richardson Waiver. The Policy Statement explains that the “obligations of the Richardson Waiver impose[d] costs on [HHS] and the public, [we]re contrary to the efficient operation of [HHS], and impede[d] [HHS’s] flexibility to adapt quickly to legal and policy mandates.”

#### Congressional Review Act (CRA)

CRA, enacted in 1996 to strengthen congressional oversight of agency rulemaking, requires federal agencies to submit a report on each new rule to both houses of Congress and the Comptroller General for review before the rule can take effect. The report must contain a copy of the rule, “a concise general statement relating to the rule,” and the rule’s proposed effective date. CRA allows Congress to review and disapprove rules issued by federal agencies for a period of 60 days using special procedures. If a resolution

of disapproval is enacted, then the new rule has no force or effect.

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

HHS did not submit a CRA report to Congress or the Comptroller General on the 2025 Policy Statement. In its response to us, HHS states that although the Policy Statement meets the APA definition of a rule, the Policy Statement is a rule of agency organization, procedure, or practice that does not substantially affect the rights or obligations of non-agency parties and therefore falls within CRA’s third exception.

#### DISCUSSION

At issue here is whether the 2025 Policy Statement meets CRA’s definition of rule, which adopts APA’s definition of a rule with three exceptions. As explained below, we conclude that it does. In addition, we conclude that the Policy Statement does not fall within any CRA exceptions. Therefore, the Policy Statement is a rule subject to CRA’s submission requirements.

*The 2025 Policy Statement is a Rule Under APA*

Applying APA’s definition of “rule,” the 2025 Policy Statement meets all of the required elements. First, the Policy Statement is an agency statement as it is an official document signed by the HHS Secretary and published by HHS in the Federal Register.

Second, the 2025 Policy Statement is of future effect. An agency action of future effect is one “concerned with policy considerations for the future rather than the evaluation of past or present conduct.” The Policy Statement rescinds the Richardson Waiver “[e]ffective immediately,” and establishes HHS’s policy going forward with respect to using APA notice-and-comment procedures for rules relating to public property, loans, grants, benefits, or contracts.

Finally, the 2025 Policy Statement implements and prescribes law or policy and describes agency procedure and practice requirements. An agency statement implements, interprets, or prescribes law or policy when the action creates new regulations, changes regulatory requirements or official policy, or alters how the agency will exercise its discretion, among other things. The Policy Statement changes HHS’s official policy and alters how it will exercise its discretion with respect to when the agency will use APA notice-and-comment procedures for rules relating to public property, loans, grants, benefits, or contracts. The Policy Statement also implements APA by providing that the APA exemption waived by the Richardson Waiver now applies to HHS rulemakings; directing HHS agencies and offices to use the good cause exception in accordance with the requirements of APA rather than in the more limited situations described in the Richardson Waiver; and reaffirming that HHS will continue to follow notice-and-comment procedures when required to do so by APA.

An agency statement describes agency organization, procedure, or practice requirements when the statement discusses the internal operations of an agency, including statements that govern the conduct of agency proceedings. The 2025 Policy Statement

describes how HHS will conduct rulemaking proceedings for rules relating to public property, loans, grants, benefits, or contracts.

Having satisfied all the required elements, the 2025 Policy Statement meets the APA definition of a rule.

#### *CRA Exceptions*

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

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

The 2025 Policy Statement is not a rule of particular applicability. Such rules are addressed to specific, identified persons or entities and determine actions those persons or entities may or may not take, considering the facts and circumstances specific to those persons or entities. In contrast, we have concluded that procedures governing agency proceedings are rules of general applicability. For example, in B-329926, Sept. 10, 2018, we concluded that certain Social Security Administration evidentiary rules applying to all disability adjudication proceedings at the hearing and appeal levels were rules of general applicability.

Here, the 2025 Policy Statement is not addressed to specific, identified persons or entities, and instead prescribes a policy for conducting rulemaking proceedings for all rules relating to public property, loans, grants, benefits, or contracts. Therefore, the Policy Statement is a rule of general applicability.

##### *(2) Rule of Agency Management or Personnel*

The 2025 Policy Statement is not a rule of agency management or personnel. This exception applies to rules relating to “purely internal agency matters.” These include rules related to controlling, directing, or supervising internal management issues, as well as rules related to personnel issues like pay, leave, or benefits. The 2025 Policy Statement involves neither internal management nor personnel issues. Rather, it changes HHS’s policy regarding public participation in certain HHS rulemakings.

This conclusion is consistent with our previous decisions examining other rules that affected agency proceedings involving non-agency parties, in which we determined that those rules did not relate to agency management or personnel. For example, in B-329916, we concluded that an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) announcement that it would verify health insurance coverage requirements at the time taxpayers filed their individual tax returns rather than after their returns were accepted did not constitute a rule relating to agency management or personnel because the announcement did not primarily relate to agency management or personnel, but rather imposed different requirements on taxpayers. Similarly here, the Policy Statement does not primarily relate to agency management or personnel because it changes public participation in HHS rulemakings. Therefore, it does not meet the second exception.

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

Lastly, the 2025 Policy Statement is not a rule of agency organization, procedure, or practice that does not substantially affect the rights or obligations of non-agency parties.

We have previously explained that this exception was modeled on the APA exception to notice-and-comment rulemaking requirements for “rules of agency organization, pro-

cedure, or practice,” which some courts have limited to rules that do not have a substantial impact on non-agency parties. The purpose of the APA exception is to ensure “that agencies retain latitude in organizing their internal operations.” Following this interpretation in the CRA context, we have only applied CRA’s third exception to rules that primarily focus on an agency’s internal operations, including the conduct of agency proceedings. These include rules addressing the submission of information to an agency by non-agency parties, rules that affect how the agency reviews that information, and rules that affect the type or timing of actions the agency will take based on that submission.

The 2025 Policy Statement qualifies as a rule of agency organization, procedure, or practice. The Policy Statement addresses HHS’s rulemaking procedures for rules relating to public property, loans, grants, benefits, or contracts. In particular, the Policy Statement gives HHS agencies and offices discretion whether to use APA notice-and-comment procedures when promulgating those rules, in contrast to the previous policy generally requiring such procedures.

However, the 2025 Policy Statement substantially affects the rights or obligations of non-agency parties. To satisfy this element of the exception, a rule must not alter the rights or interests of non-agency parties, though it may alter the manner in which parties present themselves or their viewpoints to the agency.

With respect to rules affecting non-agency parties’ submission of information in an agency proceeding, our previous decisions distinguish between rules that merely affect the manner in which parties submit that information, which fall within the exception, and rules that create a new right to submit information that could affect the agency’s decision, which do not. For example, in B-329916, May 17, 2018, we examined an IRS announcement that the agency was changing its process for reviewing tax returns for compliance with certain statutory reporting requirements. Previously, IRS assessed compliance after the taxpayer filed a return, IRS processed the return, and the taxpayer paid taxes due or received a refund. IRS announced that it would begin verifying compliance at the time of filing and would no longer accept noncompliant returns. We concluded that this rule fell within the exception because it merely shifted the timing of IRS’s verification of compliance and neither changed the substantive standards used by IRS to evaluate compliance nor affected the rights or obligations of taxpayers.

Similarly, in B-336217, Aug. 6, 2024, we considered a letter issued by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (FRB) modifying and clarifying the process by which state member banks sought, and FRB granted, supervisory nonobjection for certain crypto-asset-related activities. These modifications included changes affecting the submission of information by the banks, such as: changing the process for certain banks that were required to notify FRB by establishing a 30-day deadline for such notification; clarifying the types of risk FRB would focus on in its review; communicating that FRB might seek additional information from banks; and clarifying that notification in accordance with the letter would also serve as notification required by a separate FRB letter. We concluded that while these changes might affect the manner in which the banks presented themselves and their viewpoints to FRB by adjusting the timing or type of information submitted to the agency, the changes did not substantially affect the banks’ rights or obligations because they neither impacted the banks’ ability to engage in the relevant activities nor affected

the standards by which FRB would evaluate their compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

In contrast, in B-281575, Jan. 20, 1999, we reviewed the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) interim guidance for investigating discrimination complaints related to EPA permits. In particular, the guidance departed from existing EPA procedures by requiring EPA to make an initial finding of whether there were discriminatory effects associated with the relevant permit, and, if so, notify the permit recipient and complainant and afford the recipient an opportunity to respond. We concluded that the guidance gave permit "recipients significant rights that they did not previously possess for obtaining dismissal of [a] complaint," and thereby affected the rights and duties of recipients, complainants, and the affected population.

Courts have also considered the reverse situation—namely when an agency revokes procedures providing non-agency parties with notice and an opportunity to submit information in an agency proceeding—and similarly concluded that those changes substantially impacted the non-agency parties. For instance, in *Brown Express*, the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) decided to end its practice of notifying other competing carriers when a carrier filed a petition for emergency temporary authority to provide services to a particular area. The court determined that the ICC's decision risked the agency not obtaining relevant information, that this risk could result in serious economic consequences to those affected, and that the decision had a substantial impact on the industry.

There are clear distinctions between the rules discussed in these two lines of decisions. The rules in B-329916 and B-336217 involved changes to previously established procedures for non-agency parties to submit information in agency proceedings. The changes affected those parties insofar as they changed the manner in which the parties submitted that information but did not alter their rights or obligations. Conversely, the rules in B-281575 and *Brown Express* involved the wholesale creation or termination of a non-agency party's right to receive notice of potential agency action and to submit information to the agency to inform the agency's determination and potentially affect the outcome of the proceeding. Therefore, the rules establishing or rescinding those procedures substantially affected the rights or obligations of the non-agency parties.

Here, the 2025 Policy Statement falls within the category of rules not subject to the exception. The previously applicable Richardson Waiver, like the rule at issue in B-281575, required notice to affected non-agency parties and an opportunity for those parties to submit information and views to inform the agency's decision. Specifically, the Richardson Waiver established a policy generally requiring HHS to use APA notice-and-comment procedures for otherwise exempt rules relating to public property, loans, grants, benefits, or contracts. These procedures require an agency to publish a notice of proposed rulemaking for such rules and provide interested persons an opportunity to comment on the proposed rule, thereby affording "affected parties fair warning of potential changes in the law and an opportunity to be heard on those changes—and . . . afford[ing] the agency a chance to avoid errors and make a more informed decision. Failure to follow such procedures can result in a reviewing court setting aside or vacating the rule. And even though APA exempts rules covered by the Richardson Waiver from the notice-and-comment procedures,

courts have determined that the Richardson Waiver subjected such rules to those procedures notwithstanding the exemption.

The 2025 Policy Statement rescinds the Richardson Waiver, meaning that the public will no longer have a judicially enforceable right to notice and opportunity to comment on such rules unless similar procedures are required by another statute. Like the rule in *Brown Express*, the Policy Statement eliminates non-agency parties' right to notice of agency proceedings and opportunity to submit information that could effect the agency's decisions—in this case, HHS rules that could impact those non-agency parties. Accordingly, we conclude that the Policy Statement substantially affects the rights of non-agency parties.

In its response, HHS states that the 2025 Policy Statement does not substantially affect the rights or obligations of non-agency parties because APA does not confer the right to comment on the categories of rules affected. In support, HHS cites *Azar v. Allina Health Services*, in which the Supreme Court stated that "[w]hile the APA requires many other agencies to offer public notice and a comment period before adopting new regulations, it does not apply to public benefit programs like Medicare." HHS further states that intervening law has rendered the Richardson Waiver largely obsolete, pointing to a provision in the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act requiring notice-and-comment rulemaking for certain procurement rules.

HHS is correct that APA does not require agencies to provide an opportunity for public comment for the relevant categories of rules. But as discussed above, courts have determined that the Richardson Waiver imposed such requirements on HHS, and invalidated rules within those categories when HHS failed to follow APA notice-and-comment procedures. HHS has also contested the impact of the Richardson Waiver in more recent litigation, but the courts have either expressed skepticism with those assertions or rejected them outright.

In addition, HHS's statement regarding the obsolescence of the Richardson Waiver is belied by the 2025 Policy Statement itself, which states that the "obligations of the Richardson Waiver impose[d] costs on [HHS] and the public, [w]e're contrary to the efficient operation of [HHS], and impede[d] [HHS's] flexibility to adapt quickly to legal and policy mandates." These statements indicate that the Richardson Waiver continued to impact HHS rulemakings and these impacts were the reason for its rescission.

Based on the foregoing, the 2025 Policy Statement does not meet CRA's third exception.

#### CONCLUSION

The 2025 Policy Statement is a rule for purposes of CRA because it meets the definition of a rule under APA and no CRA exception applies. Therefore, the Policy Statement is subject to CRA's requirement that it be submitted to Congress and the Comptroller General before it can take effect.

EDDA EMMANUELLI PEREZ,  
General Counsel.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 497, the confirmation of Sean Cairncross to be National Cyber Director. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted nay.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 498, the confirmation of Adam Telle to be Assistant Secretary of the

Army. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted nay.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 499, the confirmation of Marcus Molinaro to be Federal Transit Administrator. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted nay.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. GALLEGU. Mr. President, I missed the following vote, but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 450, Confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 182 Thomas Gaiser, of Ohio, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

I missed the following vote, but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 489, Motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 151 Jason Reding Quinones, of Florida, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida for the term of four years.

I missed the following vote, but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 490, Confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 151 Jason Reding Quinones, of Florida, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida for the term of four years.

I missed the following vote, but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 491, Motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 322 Jeanine Pirro, of New York, to be United States Attorney for the District of Columbia for the term of four years.

I missed the following vote, but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 492, Confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 322 Jeanine Pirro, of New York, to be United States Attorney for the District of Columbia for the term of four years.

I missed the following vote, but had I been present, I would have voted yes on rollcall vote No. 497, Confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 266 Sean Cairncross, of Minnesota, to be National Cyber Director.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### RECOGNIZING THE COLLEGE OF SOUTHERN IDAHO

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, with my colleagues Senator JIM RISCH and Representatives MIKE SIMPSON and RUSS FULCHER, we celebrate a significant milestone for the College of Southern Idaho, CSI. This year marks the college's 60th anniversary, a testament to its enduring commitment to education and community.

For six decades, the College of Southern Idaho has been a vital institution of higher education, serving the Magic Valley and beyond. It has provided affordable, accessible, and high-quality education to countless students, empowering them to build brighter futures. CSI's impact extends far beyond its campus; it is a key driver of our regional economy, supplying a skilled

workforce for our local industries, from agriculture to healthcare to technology.

From its humble beginnings, CSI has grown into a beacon of opportunity. The college's mission has always been about more than just academics; it is about providing pathways to success for people from all walks of life. Whether it is a high school student taking dual-credit courses, a veteran seeking to learn a new trade, or a parent returning to school to finish a degree, CSI meets the community where they are. This dedication to lifelong learning and workforce development is what makes it such a special place.

This anniversary is not just a moment to look back, but an opportunity to look forward with optimism. The College of Southern Idaho continues to innovate, adapting its programs to meet the evolving needs of our State and our Nation. We are confident CSI will continue to be an engine of progress, shaping the next generation of leaders, entrepreneurs, and skilled professionals who will contribute to Idaho's bright future for the next 60 years and beyond.

We are incredibly proud of the students, faculty, and staff of CSI, both past and present. Their dedication has built an institution that fosters innovation, serves as a cultural hub, and strengthens the fabric of our communities. We send our heartfelt congratulations to the entire College of Southern Idaho family on this special occasion. May its next 60 years be as impactful and inspiring as the last.●

#### RECOGNIZING FRONTIER COMMUNITY RESOURCES

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, with my colleagues Senator JIM RISCH and Representative MIKE SIMPSON, we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Region IV Development, doing business as Frontier Community Resources, that has been utilizing the work of professional staff to help create thriving, vibrant southern Idaho communities.

Founded in 1975 in Twin Falls, the organization is rooted in supporting access to resources. It has evolved over the decades to become a comprehensive economic development organization providing small business loans, technical assistance, and community development services across southern Idaho. Frontier Community Resources works closely with city and county officials, small business owners, local organizations, and community leaders to provide collaborative economic development, empowering commendable support for Idaho communities, especially rural communities. Through the organization's technical assistance, it provides hands-on support for important community projects, including water and sewer improvements, fire station construction, and community planning and revitalization. Frontier supports local businesses in accessing capital and helps with community project ad-

ministration, such as conducting meetings to receive public input and preparing funding applications.

The breadth of Frontier Community Resources' 25-person board of directors is indicative of its capacity to bring all aspects of economic development to the literal table to help rural communities succeed. Members of its board include representatives of Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, and Twin Falls County Commissions, municipal elected and appointed officials, and individuals representing the education community and diverse private and public organizations.

Frontier Community Resources has been instrumental in leveraging Federal and State resources to assist with projects, such as the construction of the Gooding County Emergency Medical Services Station, the Lincoln County Youth Center, city park improvement projects in Murtaugh and Heyburn, downtown revitalization projects in Fairfield and Jerome, the expansion of Burley's industrial wastewater system, improvements to the Senior Connection in Hailey, and much more. Frontier regularly holds community workshops to inform the public about available resources and administers a South-Central Idaho Brownfield Revitalization Program, providing funding for environmental assessment and contamination clean-up. Frontier also houses the Rural Economic Development Services, REDS, Program, linking rural communities to economic development resources.

This community asset has provided resources to support small, local businesses, such as Silver Creek Hotel in Bellevue, 2nd South Market in Twin Falls, and Miracle Hot Springs in Buhl. Frontier Community Resources has also deservedly been recognized for its work as a pillar of economic development in the region. For example, it is the recipient of three 2025 Aliceann Wohlbruck Awards from the National Association of Development Organizations for its involvement in community initiatives ranging from childcare to affordable housing.

We recognize the considerable challenges Idaho communities, especially rural communities, face when trying to access needed resources to maintain and grow. Navigating the web of requirements, regulations, and paperwork takes considerable time, assets, and a workforce that many rural communities simply do not have.

The assistance and know-how the team at Frontier Community Resources brings to Idaho's rural communities offers more than new opportunities but also hope and encouragement. As we celebrate Frontier Community Resources' 50 years of contributions to strengthening an essential part of our great State, we commend the community leaders and partners who have shaped southern Idaho over the past five decades.●

#### TRIBUTE TO SARAH GUINTHER

● Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am honored to recognize Sarah Guinther of Bow as August's Granite Stater of the Month. Sarah donates half of the proceeds she makes from her cookie company, Maddi Hatter, to domestic violence support organizations and women's shelters.

Twelve years ago, Sarah started Maddi Hatter Cookie Company, named after her 9-year-old daughter Maddi, while continuing to work her full-time sales job. Sarah has always loved to bake, and she wanted to focus on becoming an expert in making cookies. As a survivor of domestic violence and as a survivor of child abuse, Sarah also knew that she wanted any business venture that she started to support organizations that helped other survivors. That is why from the outset, Sarah either donated her Maddi Hatter revenues to charity or invested them back in the business.

Today, Maddi Hatter has baked thousands of cookies and raised more than \$7,000 in donations and goods for charity. Maddi Hatter donates half of its profits to organizations that support survivors of domestic violence, has also donated proceeds to children in foster care, and has hosted toy and clothing drives. And if a family can't afford to buy a cake or cookies for a celebration, Sarah will work with them to make sure they have a sweet treat to celebrate with. She also donates cookies to the annual New Hampshire book festival, which helps promote reading among children and adults.

Sarah's dedication to supporting domestic violence survivors and giving back to her community is a true example of the Granite State spirit. Her generosity and understanding is why I am proud to name her August's Granite Stater 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 withdrawals which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:15 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 747. An act to impose sanctions with respect to Chinese producers of synthetic opioids and opioid precursors, to hold Chinese officials accountable for the spread of illicit fentanyl, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2503. An act to require the development of a strategy to eliminate the availability to foreign adversaries of goods and technologies capable of supporting undersea cables, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2635. An act to support the human rights of Uyghurs and members of other minority groups residing primarily in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and safeguard their distinct identity, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2643. An act to require the Secretary of State to submit an annual report to Congress regarding the ties between criminal gangs and political and economic elites in Haiti and impose sanctions on political and economic elites involved in such criminal activities.

H.R. 4215. An act to require the Secretary of State to promulgate expedited and fixed timelines for the decision-making process to license the export of certain defense articles and defense services, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4216. An act to direct the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, to carry out a review of the list of defense articles and services required to be transferred under the foreign military sales program as opposed to direct commercial sale (FMS-Only List).

H.R. 4233. An act to modify provisions relating to defense trade and cooperation among Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

H.R. 4490. An act to amend the International Organizations Immunities Act to extend privileges and immunities to certain additional international and regional organizations, and for other purposes.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 747. An act to impose sanctions with respect to Chinese producers of synthetic opioids and opioid precursors, to hold Chinese officials accountable for the spread of illicit fentanyl, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 2503. An act to require the development of a strategy to eliminate the availability to foreign adversaries of goods and technologies capable of supporting undersea cables, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 2635. An act to support the human rights of Uyghurs and members of other minority groups residing primarily in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and safeguard their distinct identity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 2643. An act to require the Secretary of State to submit an annual report to Congress regarding the ties between criminal gangs and political and economic elites in Haiti and impose sanctions on political and economic elites involved in such criminal activities; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 4215. An act to require the Secretary of State to promulgate expedited and fixed timelines for the decision-making process to license the export of certain defense articles and defense services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 4216. An act to direct the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of

Defense, to carry out a review of the list of defense articles and services required to be transferred under the foreign military sales program as opposed to direct commercial sale (FMS-Only List); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 4233. An act to modify provisions relating to defense trade and cooperation among Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 4490. An act to amend the International Organizations Immunities Act to extend diplomatic privileges and immunities to certain additional international and regional organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### 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. 65, 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 "Air Plan Approval; Florida; Revisions to Stationary Sources—Removal of Clean Air Interstate Rule Provisions," and, further, that the resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Sheldon Whitehouse, Bernard Sanders, Richard Blumenthal, Angus S. King, Jr., Elizabeth Warren, John W. Hickenlooper, Tammy Baldwin, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Ben Ray Lujan, Tim Kaine, Gary C. Peters, Christopher A. Coons, Edward J. Markey, Peter Welch, Angela D. Alsobrooks, Jeff Merkley, Tina Smith, Adam B. Schiff, Andy Kim, Jack Reed, Charles E. Schumer, Amy Klobuchar, Christopher Murphy, Richard J. Durbin, Mazie Hirono, Brian Schatz, Jeanne Shaheen, Patty Murray, Cory A. Booker, Lisa Blunt Rochester.

#### 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. 65. 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 "Air Plan Approval; Florida; Revisions to Stationary Sources—Removal of Clean Air Interstate Rule Provisions".

#### 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-1598. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to discretionary appropriations legislation within seven calendar days of enactment (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays); to the Committee on the Budget.

EC-1599. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of

Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Annual Report to Congress on the Open Payments Program"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1600. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the issuance of an Executive Order on Further Modifying the Reciprocal Tariff Rates, which deals with the national emergency declared in Executive Order 14257 of April 2, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1601. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the issuance of an Executive Order on Suspending Duty-Free De Minimis Treatment for All Countries, which deals with the national emergencies declared in Executive Order 14193 of February 1, 2025, Executive Order 14194 of February 1, 2025, Executive Order 14195 of February 1, 2025, and Executive Order 14257 of April 2, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1602. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the issuance of a Proclamation with respect to action to adjust imports of copper articles and certain derivative copper articles so that such imports will not threaten to impair the national security of the United States; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1603. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the issuance of an Executive Order declaring a national emergency with respect to recent policies, practices, and actions of the Government of Brazil; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1604. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the August 2025 monthly cumulative report on rescissions; referred jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975, as modified by the order of April 11, 1986, to the Committees on the Budget; Appropriations; Foreign Relations; and Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1605. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to an alternative plan for pay adjustments for civilian Federal employees covered by the General Schedule and certain other pay systems in January 2026; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1606. A communication from the Senior Official Performing the Duties of 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-1607. A communication from the Senior Official Performing the Duties of 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-1608. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of lieutenant general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777a; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1609. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of admiral in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777a; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1610. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, transmitting the report of two officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1611. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1612. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, transmitting the report of four officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1613. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Judge Advocate General, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Recission of Procedures for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)" (RIN0703-AB31)(32 CFR Part 775) received during in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2025; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1614. A communication from the President of the United States to the President pro tempore of the United States Senate, transmitting, consistent with the War Powers Resolution, a report relative to United States forces deployed to Haiti to strengthen security for United States facilities and United States Government personnel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, without amendment:

S. 723. A bill to require the Bureau of Indian Affairs to process and complete all mortgage packages associated with residential and business mortgages on Indian land by certain deadlines, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 119-60).

#### EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mrs. CAPITO for the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

\*Katherine Scarlett, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Council on Environmental Quality.

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

#### 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 Mrs. MOODY:

S. 2690. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require that commercial driver's licenses be restricted to United

States citizens, lawful permanent residents, and individuals authorized by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to engage in employment in the United States that includes driving a commercial motor vehicle, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. RICKETTS (for himself and Ms. SMITH):

S. 2691. A bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to extend and enhance the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 2692. A bill to amend the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish in the Department of Agriculture an Office of Biotechnology Policy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 2693. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to enhance the recognition, procurement, and domestic production of biobased products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 2694. A bill to improve connections between the Department of Agriculture and national and homeland security agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 2695. A bill to provide for the establishment of a National Synthetic Biology Center, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 2696. A bill to establish a Foundation for Enabling Biotechnology Innovation; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 2697. A bill to authorize the National Science Foundation to conduct research for biotechnology risk assessment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 2698. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to reinstate entitlement to Post-9/11 Educational Assistance for victims of Sexual assault or domestic violence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. KATINE):

S. 2699. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain education and training programs relating to geriatrics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HUSTED (for himself and Mr. TUBERVILLE):

S. 2700. A bill to improve transparency and accountability for Federal student loan borrowers; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 2701. A bill to amend the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to reauthorize and improve the Water Source Protection Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. BANKS:

S. 2702. A bill to require local educational agencies, State educational agencies, and other governmental education entities to respect the rights of parents regarding gender transition, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 2703. A bill to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration of disputes involving age discrimination; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. Res. 372. A resolution honoring the life of Kansas City, Kansas police officer Hunter Simoncic; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida:

S. Con. Res. 21. A concurrent resolution denouncing the horrors of socialism; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 94

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor 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. 177

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 177, a bill to prohibit Federal funding of Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

S. 178

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 178, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act and the Public Health Service Act to improve the reporting of abortion data to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and for other purposes.

S. 272

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 272, a bill to improve the safety of infant formula through testing of infant formula for microorganisms and toxic elements, and for other purposes.

S. 410

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

S. 424

At the request of Mrs. BRITT, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 424, a bill to amend the Federal securities laws to enhance 403(b) plans, and for other purposes.

S. 494

At the request of Mr. SCHMITT, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 494, a bill to establish a national plan to coordinate research on epilepsy, and for other purposes.

S. 645

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

S. 817

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

S. 987

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 987, a bill to prohibit the Federal Government from conducting, funding, approving, or otherwise supporting any research involving human fetal tissue that is obtained pursuant to an induced abortion, and to prohibit the solicitation or knowing acquisition, receipt, or acceptance of a donation of such issue.

S. 1027

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of S. 1027, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make employers of spouses of military personnel eligible for the work opportunity credit.

S. 1163

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEG0) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1163, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an exclusion for assistance provided to participants in certain vet-

erinary student loan repayment or forgiveness programs.

S. 1277

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEG0) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1277, a bill to amend part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to provide full Federal funding of such part.

S. 1365

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1365, a bill to prohibit the awarding of contracts and grants to companies beneficially owned by special Government employees, and for other purposes.

S. 1376

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1376, a bill to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Benton MacKaye Trail as a national scenic trail.

S. 1404

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. HUSTED) 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. 1441

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1441, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to award grants to nonprofit entities to assist such entities in carrying out programs to provide service dogs to eligible veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 1548

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1548, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude certain Nurse Corps payments from gross income.

S. 1609

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1609, a bill to provide for further comprehensive research at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke on unruptured intracranial aneurysms.

S. 1643

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

S. 1716

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the names of the Senator from Connecticut

(Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) were added as cosponsors 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. 1726

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

S. 1742

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1742, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to prohibit employment of children in tobacco-related agriculture as oppressive child labor.

S. 1816

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

S. 2092

At the request of Mr. BANKS, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. HUSTED) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2092, a bill to prohibit the use of smartphones at Department of Defense Education Activity schools.

S. 2211

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2211, a bill to reauthorize the Special Diabetes Program for Type 1 Diabetes and the Special Diabetes Program for Indians.

S. 2426

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2426, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide pharmacy payment of certain services.

S. 2447

At the request of Mr. WELCH, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2447, a bill to repeal changes to Medicaid cost sharing requirements and the exclusion for orphan drugs under the Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program.

S. 2579

At the request of Ms. LUMMIS, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2579, a bill to rename the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and for other purposes.

S. 2681

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINÉ), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2681, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the availability of certain clean energy credits.

S. 2686

At the request of Mr. BANKS, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2686, a bill to limit youth offender status in the District of Columbia to individuals 18 years of age or younger, to direct the Attorney General for the District of Columbia to establish and operate a publicly accessible website containing updated statistics on juvenile crime in the District of Columbia, to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to prohibit the Council of the District of Columbia from enacting changes to existing criminal liability sentences, and for other purposes.

S. 2687

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2687, a bill to repeal the Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Amendment Act of 2022 enacted by the District of Columbia Council.

S. 2688

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2688, a bill to extend to the Mayor of the District of Columbia the same authority over the National Guard of the District of Columbia as the Governors of the several States exercise over the National Guard of those States with respect to administration of the National Guard and its use to respond to natural disasters and other civil disturbances, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 69

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 69, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service relating to "Record of Decision for the Barred Owl Management Strategy; Washington, Oregon, and California".

S. RES. 343

At the request of Mr. KING, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 343, a resolution recognizing the important work of the United States Preventive Services Task Force.

AMENDMENT NO. 2952

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the name of the Senator from South Da-

kota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2952 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 Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) 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. 2995

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2995 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. 3189

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3189 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 name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) was added as a cosponsor 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. 3697

At the request of Mr. CURTIS, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3697 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. 3730

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3730 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.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. KAINÉ):

S. 2699. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain education and training programs relating to geriatrics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation with my colleague from Virginia Senator KAINÉ that would reauthorize the only federally funded programs specifically designed to develop a healthcare workforce focused on the care of older Americans. The Geriatrics Workforce Improvement Act would reauthorize two programs important to training specialists who care for our older adults: the Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program and the Geriatrics Academic Career Awards Program.

The number of Americans age 65 and older is growing. In 2020, there were just three States in which senior citizens outnumbered children: Maine, Vermont, and Florida. Today, there are 11 States that have more seniors than children, and Maine has the oldest population in the Nation. The percentage of the U.S. population over age 65 rose by 3 percent, to 18 percent, in just 1 year.

The fact is, the United States is facing a shortage of geriatric health professionals and direct service workers to support our aging population. The American Geriatrics Society projects that we will be short some 1,700 geriatricians by the year 2036. Fewer than 7,000 of our Nation's nearly 1 million physicians are board-certified geriatricians. We need to train 1,600 geriatricians per year over the next 9 years to fill that gap.

Complicating this shortfall is the fact that as many as 90 percent of our older adults either have or will develop one or more chronic health conditions. So you put together many chronic conditions, an aging population, multiple medications, and changes that naturally occur in aging, and you have a situation making caring for older adults ever more complex and challenging. In any given year, it is expected that 30 percent of older adults will require specialized geriatric care.

Today, there are 42 Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Programs in 37 States. I am pleased that since the last

reauthorization in 2019, this list has expanded to include such a program in the State of Maine. It is located at the University of New England.

For Maine, with an aging population of more than a quarter of a million Mainers over the age of 65 and only 36 geriatricians, there is an acute need to train more geriatric health professionals and direct service providers quickly to meet this growing demand. Maine's program, known as AgingME, has brought much needed support to communities and families throughout the State. For example, AgingME has worked with other training and geriatrics-serving partners to develop a postgraduate credentialing program in geriatrics. Students who participate in the program complete more than 2,000 hours of training in medically underserved communities and rural areas of Maine.

AgingME has also worked to increase the number of community-based learning programs, such as falls prevention education programs in rural areas. It has also helped to connect family caregivers with resources for Alzheimer's and related dementias through its website and through partnerships with Maine's Area Agencies on Aging.

Nationally, the geriatric workforce program has produced significant outcomes. In 2022, the most recent reported year, Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Programs trained nearly 72,000 students, professionals, patients, caregivers, and faculty. These programs were also able to offer faculty development training programs and activities, provide outreach and education to families and caregivers on care delivery for older adults, and train patients in self-management of their conditions. More than 2.2 million individuals have been trained through these programs, of whom 57 percent were patients and their caregivers.

And all of us know the vitally important role that family caregivers play in taking care of their older relatives, often their parents. But we also know that they need help in doing so, including training. Approximately a third of the courses offered focused on Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Patients and caregivers also took courses on other topics related to the health needs of older adults, such as geriatric health, emergency response training, and community health.

Our legislation would also reauthorize the geriatrics career advancement award program. Established in 1998, this program was created to increase the number of faculty engaged in geriatric education.

Transitioning from clinical training and practice into an academic faculty role can be challenging. It requires gaining new skills as an educator, skills not typically taught in clinical training programs. Geriatrics Academic Career Awards support early career development for emerging leaders by providing funding that supports their efforts to develop skills as an educator in geriatrics.

The Geriatrics Workforce Improvement Act would reauthorize these two vitally important programs at a combined amount of \$48.2 million per year over the next 5 years. It really is a modest investment that will help ensure that our older Americans have the expert care that they need, that their caregivers are provided with training, that other support employees and healthcare providers receive the skills that they need as well. Together, these programs will continue to train the current workforce and family caregivers while developing a cadre of emerging leaders in geriatric education in a variety of disciplines.

In doing both, we can help to ensure that our aging Americans will be cared for by a healthcare workforce specifically trained to meet their unique and often complex health needs for decades to come.

This will lead to improved care for older Americans while saving valuable resources and reducing unnecessary costs.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation to strengthen and extend these two important programs.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

##### SENATE RESOLUTION 372—HONORING THE LIFE OF KANSAS CITY, KANSAS POLICE OFFICER HUNTER SIMONCIC

Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. MARSHALL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 372

Whereas Hunter Simoncic was a brave law enforcement officer who sacrificed his life to keep his local Kansas community safe;

Whereas Hunter Simoncic was born on April 16, 1999;

Whereas Hunter Simoncic grew up in Galesburg, Kansas;

Whereas Hunter Simoncic graduated from Erie High School in 2018 and earned a bachelor of science degree in sociology from Pittsburgh State University in 2021 and a master's degree in forensic sciences from Oklahoma State University in 2023;

Whereas Hunter Simoncic graduated from the Kansas City, Kansas Police Academy in November 2023;

Whereas Hunter Simoncic served as a big brother with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kansas and volunteered to read to local children each week through the Lead to Read program at Banneker Elementary School;

Whereas Hunter Simoncic is survived by his father Ron Simoncic of Franklin, Kansas, his mother Christine Brungardt of Galesburg, Kansas, and his brother Fischer Simoncic of Wichita, Kansas;

Whereas Officer Simoncic was killed on August 26, 2025, while on duty in Kansas City, Kansas, when he was struck by a driver fleeing law enforcement while he attempted to disable the fleeing vehicle;

Whereas Hunter Simoncic is an American hero, whose bravery, integrity, and steadfast dedication as a faithful civil servant have made a lasting impact; and

Whereas Mr. Simoncic's legacy will endure, inspiring his family, community, and a thankful Nation: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) highly respects and appreciates all that Hunter Simoncic did to protect and serve his Kansas community;

(2) offers condolences to the family of Hunter Simoncic;

(3) pays tribute to Mr. Simoncic's noble sacrifice in the line of duty; and

(4) calls on all levels of government to support the family of this fallen officer.

##### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 21—DENOUNCING THE HORRORS OF SOCIALISM

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

S. CON. RES. 21

Whereas socialist ideology necessitates a concentration of power that has, time and time again, collapsed into communist regimes, totalitarian rule, and brutal dictatorships;

Whereas socialism has repeatedly led to famine and mass murders, and the killing of over 100,000,000 people worldwide;

Whereas many of the greatest crimes in history were committed by socialist ideologues, including Vladimir Lenin, Joseph Stalin, Mao Zedong, Fidel Castro, Pol Pot, Kim Jong Il, Kim Jong Un, Daniel Ortega, Hugo Chavez, and Nicolás Maduro;

Whereas tens of millions died in the Bolshevik Revolution, at least 10,000,000 people were sent to the gulags in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and millions more starved in the Terror-Famine (Holodomor) in Ukraine;

Whereas between 15,000,000 and 55,000,000 people starved to death in the wake of famine and devastation caused by the Great Leap Forward in China;

Whereas the socialist experiment in Cambodia led to the killing fields in which over a million people were gruesomely murdered;

Whereas up to 3,500,000 people have starved in North Korea, dividing a land of freedom from a land of destitution;

Whereas the Castro regime in Cuba expropriated the land of Cuban farmers and the businesses of Cuban entrepreneurs, stealing their possessions and their livelihoods, and exiling millions with nothing but the clothes on their backs;

Whereas the implementation of socialism in Venezuela has turned a once-prosperous country into a failed State with the highest rate of inflation in the world;

Whereas President Thomas Jefferson, the author of the Declaration of Independence, wrote, "To take from one, because it is thought that his own industry and that of his fathers has acquired too much, in order to spare to others, who, or whose fathers have not exercised equal industry and skill, is to violate arbitrarily the first principle of association, the guarantee to every one of a free exercise of his industry, and the fruits acquired by it";

Whereas President James Madison, the "Father of the Constitution", wrote that it "is not a just government, nor is property secure under it, where the property which a man has in his personal safety and personal liberty, is violated by arbitrary seizures of one class of citizens for the service of the rest"; and

Whereas the United States was founded on the belief in the sanctity of the individual, to which the collectivistic system of socialism in all of its forms is fundamentally and necessarily opposed: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress denounces socialism in all its forms, and opposes the implementation of socialist policies in the United States.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3750. Mr. CORNYN (for himself and 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.

SA 3751. Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. CRUZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3752. Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. KIM, and Mr. BOOKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3753. Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. ERNST, Mr. COTTON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, 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 3754. 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 3755. Mr. KELLY (for himself, Mr. SHEEHY, and Mrs. BRITT) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3756. 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 3757. 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 3758. 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 3759. Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BANKS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. ERNST, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. RICKETTS, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. SLOTKIN, 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 3760. Ms. LUMMIS (for herself and Mr. BARRASSO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3761. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3762. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and 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 3763. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Ms. SLOTKIN) submitted an amendment in-

tended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3764. 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 3765. 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 3766. 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 3767. 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 3768. Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3769. 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.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 3750.** Mr. CORNYN (for himself and 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. \_\_\_\_ . PROMOTING RESILIENT BUILDINGS.

(a) PREDISASTER HAZARD MITIGATION.—Section 203(a) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133) is amended—

(1) by striking the subsection heading and inserting “DEFINITIONS”;

(2) by striking “In this section, the term” and inserting the following:

“(2) SMALL IMPOVERISHED COMMUNITY.—The term”; and

(3) by inserting before paragraph (2), as so designated, “In this section:

“(1) LATEST PUBLISHED EDITIONS.—The term ‘latest public editions’ means the 2 most recently published editions of relevant consensus-based codes, specifications, and standards.”.

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section or the amendments made by this section shall be construed to affect any program other than the predisaster hazard mitigation program established under section 203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133).

**SA 3751.** Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. CRUZ) 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. PROTECTING COVERED INFORMATION IN PUBLIC RECORDS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPLICABLE LEGISLATIVE OFFICERS.—The term “applicable legislative officers” means—

(A) with respect to a Member of the Senate or a designated Senate employee, the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate and the Secretary of the Senate, acting jointly; and

(B) with respect to a Member of, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the House of Representatives or a designated House employee, the Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives and the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives, acting jointly.

(2) AT-RISK INDIVIDUAL.—The term “at-risk individual” means—

(A) a Member of Congress;

(B) any individual who is the spouse, parent, sibling, or child of an individual described in subparagraph (A);

(C) any individual to whom an individual described in subparagraph (A) stands in loco parentis;

(D) any other individual living in the household of an individual described in subparagraph (A);

(E) any designated Senate employee;

(F) any designated House employee; or

(G) a former Member of Congress.

(3) CANDIDATE.—The term “candidate” has the meaning given the term in section 301 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30101).

(4) COVERED EMPLOYEE.—The term “covered employee” has the same meaning given such term in section 101 of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1301).

(5) COVERED INFORMATION.—The term “covered information”—

(A) means—

(i) a home address, including a primary residence or secondary residences;

(ii) a home or personal mobile telephone number;

(iii) a personal email address;

(iv) a social security number or driver’s license number;

(v) a bank account or credit or debit card number;

(vi) a license plate number or other unique identifier of a vehicle owned, leased, or regularly used by an at-risk individual;

(vii) the identification of a child, who is under 18 years of age, of an at-risk individual;

(viii) information regarding current or future school or day care attendance, including the name or addresses of the school or day care;

(ix) information regarding schedules of school or day care attendance or routes taken to or from the school or day care by an at-risk individual;

(x) information regarding routes taken to or from an employment location by an at-risk individual; or

(xi) precise geolocation data that is not anonymized and can identify the location of a device of an at-risk individual; and

(B) does not include information described in subparagraph (A) that is contained in—

(i) any report or other record required to be filed with the Federal Election Commission; or

(ii) any report or other record otherwise required under Federal or State law to be filed—

(I) by an individual to qualify as a candidate for the office of Member of Congress; or

(II) by any candidate for the office of Member of Congress.

(6) DATA BROKER.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “data broker” means a commercial entity engaged in collecting, assembling, or maintaining personal information concerning an individual who is not a customer, client, or an employee of that entity in order to sell the information or otherwise profit from providing third-party access to the information.

(B) EXCLUSION.—The term “data broker” does not include a commercial entity engaged in the following activities:

(i) Engaging in reporting, news-gathering, speaking, or other activities intended to inform the public on matters of public interest or public concern.

(ii) Providing 411 directory assistance or directory information services, including name, address, and telephone number, on behalf of or as a function of a telecommunications carrier.

(iii) Using personal information internally, providing access to businesses under common ownership or affiliated by corporate control, or selling or providing data for a transaction or service requested by or concerning the individual whose personal information is being transferred.

(iv) Providing publicly available information via real-time or near-real-time alert services for health or safety purposes.

(v) A consumer reporting agency, only while engaging in activity subject to the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.).

(vi) A financial institution subject to the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (Public Law 106-102) and regulations implementing that Act.

(vii) A covered entity for purposes of the privacy regulations promulgated under section 264(c) of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (42 U.S.C. 1320d-2 note).

(viii) The collection and sale or licensing of covered information incidental to conducting the activities described in clauses (i) through (vii).

(7) DESIGNATED HOUSE EMPLOYEE.—The term “designated House employee” means—

(A) a covered employee designated in writing by—

(i) a Member of, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the House of Representatives; or

(ii) an officer of the House of Representatives; or

(B) an officer of the House of Representatives.

(8) DESIGNATED SENATE EMPLOYEE.—The term “designated Senate employee” means—

(A) a covered employee designated in writing by—

(i) a Member of the Senate; or

(ii) an officer of the Senate; or

(B) an officer of the Senate.

(9) GOVERNMENT AGENCY.—The term “Government agency” includes—

(A) an Executive agency, as defined in section 105 of title 5, United States Code; and

(B) any agency in the judicial branch or legislative branch.

(10) IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER.—The term “immediate family member” means an at-risk individual—

(A) who is the spouse, parent, sibling, or child of another at-risk individual;

(B) to whom another at-risk individual stands in loco parentis; or

(C) living in the household of another at-risk individual.

(11) MEMBER OF CONGRESS.—The term “Member of Congress” means—

(A) a Member of the Senate; or

(B) a Member of, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the House of Representatives.

(12) TRANSFER.—The term “transfer” means to sell, license, trade, or exchange for

consideration the covered information of an at-risk individual.

(b) GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each at-risk individual may—

(A) file written notice of the status of the individual as an at-risk individual, for themselves and their immediate family members, with each Government agency that includes information necessary to ensure compliance with this section, as determined by the applicable legislative officers; and

(B) request that each Government agency described in subparagraph (A) mark as private their covered information and that of their immediate family members.

(2) NO PUBLIC POSTING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Government agencies shall not publicly post or display publicly available content that includes covered information of an at-risk individual.

(B) DEADLINE.—Upon receipt of a request by an at-risk individual under paragraph (1)(B), a Government agency shall remove the covered information of the at-risk individual, and any immediate family member on whose behalf the at-risk individual submitted the request, from publicly available content not later than 72 hours after such receipt.

(3) EXCEPTIONS.—Nothing in this section shall prohibit a Government agency from providing access to records containing the covered information of an at-risk individual to a third party if the third party—

(A) possesses a signed release from the at-risk individual or a court order;

(B) is subject to the requirements of title V of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (15 U.S.C. 6801 et seq.); or

(C) executes a confidentiality agreement with the Government agency.

(c) DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An at-risk individual may directly, or through an agent designated by the at-risk individual, make any notice or request required or authorized by this section on behalf of the at-risk individual. The notice or request shall include information necessary to ensure compliance with this section.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF LEGISLATIVE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES TO MAKE REQUESTS.—

(A) LEGISLATIVE OFFICERS.—Upon written request of a Member of Congress, designated Senate employee, or designated House employee, the applicable legislative officers are authorized to make any notice or request required or authorized by this section on behalf of the Member of Congress, designated Senate employee, or designated House employee, respectively. The notice or request shall include information necessary to ensure compliance with this section, as determined by the applicable legislative officers. Any notice or request made under this subparagraph shall be deemed to have been made by the Member of Congress, designated Senate employee, or designated House employee, as applicable, and comply with the notice and request requirements of this section.

(B) LIST.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—In lieu of individual notices or requests, the applicable legislative officers may provide Government agencies, data brokers, persons, businesses, or associations with a list of—

(I) Members of Congress, designated Senate employees, and designated House employees making a written request described in subparagraph (A); and

(II) immediate family members of the Members of Congress, designated Senate employees, and designated House employees on whose behalf the written request was made.

(ii) CONTENTS.—A list provided under clause (i) shall include information nec-

essary to ensure compliance with this section, as determined by the applicable legislative officers for the purpose of maintaining compliance with this section.

(iii) COMPLIANCE WITH NOTICE AND REQUEST REQUIREMENT.—A list provided under clause (i) shall be deemed to comply with individual notice and request requirements of this section.

(d) DATA BROKERS AND OTHER BUSINESSES.—

(1) PROHIBITIONS.—

(A) DATA BROKERS.—It shall be unlawful for a data broker to knowingly sell, license, trade for consideration, or purchase covered information of an at-risk individual.

(B) OTHER BUSINESSES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), no person, business, or association shall publicly post or publicly display on the internet covered information of an at-risk individual if the at-risk individual, or an immediate family member on behalf of the at-risk individual, has made a written request to that person, business, or association to not disclose the covered information of the at-risk individual.

(ii) EXCEPTIONS.—Clause (i) shall not apply to—

(I) the display on the internet of the covered information of an at-risk individual if the information is relevant to and displayed as part of a news story, commentary, editorial, or other speech on a matter of public concern;

(II) covered information that the at-risk individual voluntarily publishes on the internet after the date of enactment of this Act; or

(III) covered information lawfully received from a Federal Government source (or from an employee or agent of the Federal Government).

(2) REQUIRED CONDUCT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—After receiving a written request under paragraph (1)(B)(i), the person, business, or association shall—

(i) remove within 72 hours the covered information from the internet and ensure that the information is not made available on any website or subsidiary website controlled by that person, business, or association; and

(ii) ensure that the covered information of the at-risk individual is not made available on any website or subsidiary website controlled by that person, business, or association.

(B) TRANSFER.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), after receiving a written request under paragraph (1)(B)(i), the person, business, or association shall not transfer the covered information of the at-risk individual to any other person, business, or association through any medium.

(ii) EXCEPTIONS.—Clause (i) shall not apply to—

(I) the transfer of the covered information of the at-risk individual if the information is relevant to and displayed as part of a news story, commentary, editorial, or other speech on a matter of public concern;

(II) covered information that the at-risk individual voluntarily publishes on the internet after the date of enactment of this Act; or

(III) a transfer made at the request of the at-risk individual or that is necessary to effectuate a request to the person, business, or association from the at-risk individual.

(e) REDRESS.—An at-risk individual whose covered information is made public as a result of a violation of this section may bring an action seeking injunctive or declaratory relief in any court of competent jurisdiction.

(f) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this section shall be construed—

(A) to prohibit, restrain, or limit—

(i) the lawful investigation or reporting by the press of any unlawful activity or misconduct alleged to have been committed by an at-risk individual;

(ii) the reporting on an at-risk individual regarding matters of public concern; or

(iii) the disclosure of information otherwise required under Federal law;

(B) to impair access to the actions or statements of a Member of Congress in the course of carrying out the public functions of the Member of Congress;

(C) to limit the publication or transfer of covered information with the written consent of the at-risk individual; or

(D) to prohibit information sharing by a data broker to a Federal, State, Tribal, or local government, or any unit thereof.

(2) PROTECTION OF COVERED INFORMATION.—This section shall be broadly construed to favor the protection of the covered information of at-risk individuals.

(g) SEVERABILITY.—If any provision of this section, or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remaining provisions of this section, and the application of the provision to any other person or circumstance, shall not be affected.

**SA 3752.** Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. KIM, and Mr. BOOKER) 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. REINSTATEMENT ELIGIBILITY FOR VETERAN FEDERAL EMPLOYEES; EXECUTIVE AGENCY REPORTS ON REMOVAL OF VETERANS.**

(a) ELIGIBILITY FOR REINSTATEMENT.—Any individual who is a veteran and who was involuntarily removed or otherwise dismissed without cause from a position in the civil service during the period beginning on January 20, 2025, and ending on the date of the enactment of this Act shall be eligible for reinstatement to such position, if such position is vacant or has otherwise been eliminated from the relevant agency, or any other position in the civil service for which the individual is qualified.

(b) COORDINATION WITH AGENCIES.—The head of each Executive agency shall coordinate with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management—

(1) to identify veterans described in subsection (a);

(2) to determine the status of the position for which each such veteran served when they received notice of termination; and

(3) to develop and implement a publicly available, agency-wide procedural instruction for terminated veteran outreach and job placement.

(c) REPORTS REQUIRED.—

(1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the head of each Executive agency shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on former employees of such agency who are veterans and were removed or otherwise dismissed from the agency as described in subsection (a).

(2) SUBSEQUENT REPORTS.—Not later than 90 days after submission of the report re-

quired under paragraph (1), and every 90 days thereafter until January 20, 2029, the head of each Executive agency shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on former employees of such agency who are veterans and were removed or otherwise dismissed from the agency since the most recent report submitted under this subsection.

(3) ELEMENTS.—Each report required under this subsection shall include the following:

(A) The total number of former employees of the agency who are veterans and were removed or otherwise dismissed from the agency during the period covered by the report.

(B) The reason for each such removal or dismissal.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(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 Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) CIVIL SERVICE.—The term “civil service” has the meaning given that term in section 2101 of title 5, United States Code.

(3) EXECUTIVE AGENCY.—The term “Executive agency” has the meaning given that term in section 105 of title 5, United States Code.

(4) VETERAN.—The term “veteran” has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

**SA 3753.** Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. ERNST, Mr. COTTON, Mr. KAIN, Mr. KING, 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 F of title X, insert the following:

**SEC. 1067. MAPPING AMERICA’S PHARMACEUTICAL SUPPLY.**

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Mapping America’s Pharmaceutical Supply Act” or the “MAPS Act”.

(b) U.S. PHARMACEUTICAL SUPPLY CHAINS MAPPING.—

(1) PHARMACEUTICAL SUPPLY CHAIN MAPPING.—The Secretary, in coordination with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall ensure coordination of efforts of the Department of Health and Human Services, including through public-private partnerships, as appropriate, to—

(A) map, or otherwise visualize, the supply chains, from manufacturing of key starting materials through manufacturing of finished dosage forms and distribution, of drugs and biological products, including the active ingredients of those drugs and biological products, that are—

(i) directly related to responding to chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear threats and incidents covered by the National Response Framework; or

(ii) of greatest priority for providing health care and identified as being at high risk of shortage; and

(B) use data analytics to identify supply chain vulnerabilities that pose a threat to

national security, as determined by the Secretary or the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) describe the roles and responsibilities of agencies and offices within the Department of Health and Human Services related to monitoring such supply chains and assessing any related vulnerabilities;

(B) facilitate the exchange of information between Federal departments, agencies, and offices, as appropriate and necessary to enable such agencies and offices to carry out roles and responsibilities described in subparagraph (A) related to drugs and biological products described in paragraph 1(A), which may include—

(i) the location of establishments registered under subsection (b), (c), or (i) of section 510 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360) involved in the production of drugs and biological products, including the active ingredients of those drugs and biological products, described in paragraph 1(A), and to the extent available, the amount of each such drug and biological product, including the active ingredients of those drugs and biological products, produced at each such establishment;

(ii) to the extent available and as appropriate, the location of establishments so registered involved in the production of the key starting materials and excipients needed to produce each drug and biological product, including the active ingredients of those drugs and biological products, and the amount of such materials and excipients produced at each such establishment; and

(iii) any applicable regulatory actions with respect to each such drug and biological product, or the establishments manufacturing such drugs and biological products, including with respect to—

(I) inspections and related regulatory activities conducted under section 704 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 374);

(II) seizures pursuant to section 304 of such Act (21 U.S.C. 334);

(III) any recalls issued;

(IV) drugs or biological products that are, at the time of the determination, or that were at a previous time, included on the drug shortage list consistent with section 506E of such Act (21 U.S.C. 356e); and

(V) discontinuances or interruptions in the production of such drugs or biological products under 506C of such Act (21 U.S.C. 355d).

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary, in consultation with the heads of departments and agencies with which the Secretary coordinates under paragraph (1), shall submit a report to the relevant committees of Congress on—

(A) the current status of efforts to map and analyze pharmaceutical supply chains, as described in paragraph (1);

(B) activities of the Secretary carried out under this subsection to coordinate efforts as described in paragraph (1), including information sharing between relevant Federal departments, agencies, and offices;

(C) the roles and responsibilities described in paragraph 2(A), including the identification of any gaps, data limitations, or areas of unnecessary duplication between such roles and responsibilities;

(D) the extent to which Federal agencies use data analytics to conduct predictive modeling of anticipated drug shortages or risks associated with supply chain vulnerabilities that pose a threat to national security;

(E) the extent to which the Secretary has engaged relevant industry in such mapping;

(F) the drugs and biological products, including the active ingredients of those drugs and biological products, described in paragraph (1)(A) that rely on, for more than 50 percent of production, a high-risk foreign supplier or foreign entity of concern (as defined in section 9901(8) of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (15 U.S.C. 4651(8)));

(G) the drugs and biological products, including the active ingredients of those drugs and biological products, described in paragraph (1)(A) that are sourced from foreign establishments for more than 50 percent of production, including drugs manufactured domestically from active pharmaceutical ingredients sourced from foreign establishments for more than 50 percent of production;

(H) the current domestic manufacturing capabilities for drugs and biological products, including the active ingredients of those drugs and biological products, described in paragraph (1)(A), including the key starting materials and excipients of such drugs, biological products, and ingredients, and whether such capabilities utilize advanced manufacturing technologies; and

(I) any public health or national security risks, including cybersecurity threats and critical infrastructure designations, with respect to the supply chains of drugs and biological products, including the active ingredients of those drugs and biological products, described in paragraph (1)(A).

(C) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BIENNIAL REPORTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the relevant committees of Congress a report that lists all drugs purchased by the Department of Defense during the 180-day period preceding the date of the report—

(1) that contain key starting materials, excipients, or active pharmaceutical ingredients sourced from the People's Republic of China; or

(2) for which the finished drug product was manufactured in the People's Republic of China.

(D) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADVANCED MANUFACTURING.—The term “advanced manufacturing” has the meaning given the term “advanced and continuous pharmaceutical manufacturing” in section 3016(h) of the 21st Century Cures Act (21 U.S.C. 399h(h)).

(2) BIOLOGICAL PRODUCT.—The term “biological product” has the meaning given such term in section 351(i) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262(i)).

(3) CYBERSECURITY THREAT.—The term “cybersecurity threat” has the meaning given such term in section 2200 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 650).

(4) DRUG.—The term “drug” has the meaning given such term in section 201(g) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321(g)).

(5) RELEVANT COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term “relevant committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

(6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”, except as otherwise specified, means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(E) ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.—

(1) CONFIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL INFORMATION.—The exchange of information among the Secretary and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies for

purposes of carrying out subsection (b) shall not be a violation of section 1905 of title 18, United States Code. This section shall not be construed to affect the status, if any, of such information as trade secret or confidential commercial information for purposes of section 301(j) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 331(j)), section 552 of title 5, United States Code, or section 1905 of title 18, United States Code.

(2) CYBERSECURITY MEASURES.—The Secretary shall ensure that robust cybersecurity measures are in place to prevent inappropriate access to, or unauthorized disclosure of, the information identified, exchanged, or disclosed under subsection (b).

**SA 3754.** 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, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_.** INTEREST ON FUNDS PROVIDED TO THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall not charge interest on funds provided to the Federal Communications Commission in accordance with section 5404 of the Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 (Public Law 118-159; 138 Stat. 2450).

(b) RETURN OF INTEREST.—Any interest described in subsection (a) already collected by the Secretary of the Treasury shall be returned to the Federal Communications Commission for the use consistent with the purposes of section 5404 of the Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 (Public Law 118-159; 138 Stat. 2450) as though the interest had not been paid in interest to the Secretary of the Treasury.

(c) UNPAID INTEREST.—The obligation of the Federal Communications Commission to pay any unpaid interest which has accrued on the funds described in subsection (a) is terminated.

**SA 3755.** Mr. KELLY (for himself, Mr. SHEEHY, and Mrs. BRITT) 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 U.S. SPACE & ROCKET CENTER IN HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA.

(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 U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama (in this section referred to as the “Center”), 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 Center 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 Center.

**SA 3756.** Mr. KAINÉ 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.** PROHIBITION AGAINST THE DEPLOYMENT OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES IN GAZA AND THE WEST BANK.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) as the United States and Israel have mutually benefited from the decades of friendship and strategic security partnership between our two countries, it is in the interest of the United States to support and facilitate Israel's ability to defend itself from terrorism and from threats posed by the Islamic Republic of Iran and its proxies;

(2) it is not in the interest of the United States to engage in a new and extended military deployment to the Middle East, to expend taxpayer dollars to support United States military operations in Gaza or the West Bank, or to support any other military actions that would worsen the suffering or facilitate the forcible displacement of the 2,000,000 civilians residing in Gaza;

(3) the United States should not deploy United States Armed Forces to Gaza or the West Bank, risk United States lives in Gaza or the West Bank, or otherwise use United States funds to conduct military operations in Gaza or the West Bank; and

(4) there is no congressional authorization, as required by law, for the use of United States military force in Gaza or the West Bank.

(b) IN GENERAL.—The United States Armed Forces shall not deploy personnel, engage in hostilities, or conduct any operations (other than intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance operations) within the boundaries of the Gaza Strip or the West Bank.

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to prevent the United States from—

(1) defending against an attack on the United States or its personnel or facilities located outside the United States; or

(2) collecting, analyzing, or sharing intelligence, including with the Government of Israel and other nations or international organizations, as appropriate, related to

threats from Hamas or the Islamic Republic of Iran or its proxies.

**SA 3757.** 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 XII, add the following:

**SEC. 1248. DENIAL OF ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES OF CURRENT OR FORMER OFFICIALS ENGAGED IN FORCED REPATRIATION OF UYGHURS AND MEMBERS OF OTHER ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS GROUPS TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.**

(a) INELIGIBILITY FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—

(1) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—An official described in subsection (b) 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 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 official described in subsection (b) regardless of when the visa or other entry documentation is or was issued.

(B) IMMEDIATE EFFECT.—A visa revocation under subparagraph (A) shall—

- (i) take effect immediately; and
- (ii) automatically cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the official's possession.

(b) OFFICIALS DESCRIBED.—A official described in this subsection is any current or former official of the government of a foreign country who the Secretary of State determines is or was responsible for, or complicit in, the forced departure from the country of last habitual residence and return to the People's Republic of China of—

- (1) any Uyghur individual; or
  - (2) any individual who—
- (A) is a member of any other ethnic or religious group; and
- (B) is more likely than not to be subject to persecution by the Government of the People's Republic of China.

(c) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS.—Sanctions under this section 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.

(d) WAIVER.—The Secretary of State may waive the application of subsection (a) with respect to an official described in subsection (b) if the Secretary determines that—

- (1) such a waiver is in the national interest of the United States; or
- (2) the circumstances that caused the official to be subject to subsection (a) have changed sufficiently.

(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.—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 a foreign person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of subsection (a) to the same extent that such penalties apply to a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of such section 206.

(f) REFERRAL TO OFFICE OF FOREIGN ASSETS CONTROL.—Concurrent with the application of subsection (a) to an official described in subsection (b), the Secretary shall refer the matter to the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury to determine whether to block and prohibit, pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), all transactions in all property and interests in property of the official 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.

(g) REPORT REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter until the termination date specified in subsection (h), the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that includes, for the covered period—

- (A) information on each official determined to be subject to subsection (a); and
- (B) a list of waivers granted under subsection (d) and a justification for each such waiver.

(2) FORM.—Each report submitted under this subsection shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

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

- (i) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate; and
- (ii) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

(B) COVERED PERIOD.—The term “covered period”, with respect to a report required by paragraph (1), means—

- (i) in the case of the first such report, the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on the date on which the report is submitted; and
- (ii) in the case of any subsequent such report, the period beginning on the date on which the preceding such report was submitted and ending on the date on which the subsequent report is submitted.

(h) TERMINATION.—This section shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(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) 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.

**SA 3758.** 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 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 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 Co-operation 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 business links 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 business links 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 and 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. 1274. 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 Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

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

(F) the Committee on Financial Services 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 (F) 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 (f).

(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 14033 (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 amended by 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 the date of the enactment of Executive Order 14140.

(d) TERMINATION OF SANCTIONS.—The President may terminate the application of a sanction authorized under Executive Order 14033, as amended by Executive Order 14140, 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 such sanction or has taken significant verifiable steps toward stopping such activity; and

(2) the President has received reliable assurances that the person will not knowingly engage in activity subject to such sanction 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 committees of Congress 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 authorized under this section 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 authorized under this section 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 authorized under this section 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 section 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) **RULES 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. 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, 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 ECONOMIC CONNECTIVITY 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 economic activity 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 economic activity 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 economic activity 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 prosperity-related 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 ECONOMIC CONNECTIVITY 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 economic connectivity 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 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 economic connectivity 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 prosperity-related 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 economic ties 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 includes—

(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 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. 2151(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 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. 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 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. 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 economic ties 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 committees of Congress, the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives 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.

**SA 3759.** Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BANKS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. ERNST, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. RICKETTS, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. SLOTKIN, 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 E of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 350. MODIFICATION OF PROTECTION OF CERTAIN FACILITIES AND ASSETS FROM INCURSIONS.**

Section 1301 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “any provision of title 18” and inserting “sections 32, 1030, and 1367 and chapters 119 and 206 of title 18”; and

(B) by striking “officers and civilian employees” and inserting “officers, civilian employees, and contractors”;

(2) in subsection (b)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “Detect” and inserting “During the operation of the unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft, detect”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, including through the use of remote identification broadcast or other means”;

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking “Any unmanned” and inserting “(1) Any unmanned”; and

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

“(2) Any forfeiture conducted under paragraph (1) shall be made subject to the requirements for civil, criminal, or adminis-

trative forfeiture, as the case may be, under applicable law or regulation.”;

(4) in subsection (d), by adding at the end the following:

“(3)(A) The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that the regulations prescribed or guidance issued under paragraph (1) require that, when taking an action described in subsection (a)(1), all due consideration is given to—

“(i) mitigating impacts on privacy and civil liberties under the First and Fourth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States;

“(ii) mitigating damage to, or loss of, real and personal property;

“(iii) mitigating any risk of personal injury or death; and

“(iv) when practicable, obtaining the identification of or issuing a warning to the operator of an unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft prior to taking action under subparagraphs (C) through (F) of subsection (b)(1), unless doing so would—

“(I) endanger the safety of members of the armed forces or civilians;

“(II) create a flight risk or result in the destruction of evidence; or

“(III) seriously jeopardize an investigation, criminal proceeding, or legal proceeding pursuant to subsection (c).

“(B) Nothing in this paragraph may be construed to limit the inherent right to self defense of a member of the armed forces.”;

(5) in subsection (e)—

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

“(1) the interception, acquisition, maintenance, or use of, or access to, communications to or from an unmanned aircraft system under this section is conducted in a manner consistent with the First and Fourth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States and applicable provisions of Federal law;”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “a function of the Department of Defense” and inserting “an action described in subsection (b)(1)”;

(C) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) records of such communications are maintained only for as long as necessary, and in no event for more than 180 days unless the Secretary of Defense determines that maintenance of such records—

“(A) is necessary to investigate or prosecute a violation of law or to directly support an ongoing security operation; or

“(B) is required under Federal law or for the purpose of any litigation;”;

(D) in paragraph (4)—

(i) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

“(A) is necessary to support an ongoing action described in subsection (b)(1);”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “; or” and inserting a semicolon;

(iii) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (D);

(iv) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following new subparagraph:

“(C) is necessary to support the counter unmanned aircraft systems activities of another Federal agency with authority to mitigate the threat of unmanned aircraft systems or unmanned aircraft in mitigating such threats; or”;

(v) in subparagraph (D), as redesignated by clause (iii), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(6) by redesignating subsections (f), (g), (h), (i), and (j) as subsections (g), (h), (j), (k), (l), respectively;

(7) by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

“(f) CLAIMS.—Claims for loss of property, injury, or death pursuant to actions under

subsection (b) may be made consistent with chapter 171 of title 28, and chapter 163 of this title, as applicable.”;

(8) in subsection (h), as redesignated by paragraph (6), by striking “March 1, 2018” and inserting “March 1, 2026”;

(9) by inserting after subsection (h), as so redesignated, the following:

“(i) ANNUAL REPORT.—(1) Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and publish on a publicly available website a report summarizing all detection and mitigation activities conducted under this section during the previous year to counter unmanned aircraft systems.

“(2) Each report under paragraph (1) shall include—

“(A) information on any violation of, or failure to comply with, this section by personnel authorized to conduct detection and mitigation activities, including a description of any such violation or failure;

“(B) data on the number of detection activities conducted, the number of mitigation activities conducted, and the number of instances of communications interception from an unmanned aircraft system;

“(C) whether any unmanned aircraft that experienced mitigation was engaged in or attempting to engage in activities protected under the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

“(D) whether any unmanned aircraft or unmanned aircraft system was properly or improperly seized, disabled, damaged, or destroyed and an identification of any methods used to seize, disable, damage, or destroy such aircraft or system; and

“(E) a description of the efforts of the Federal Government to protect privacy and civil liberties when carrying out detection and mitigation activities under this section to counter unmanned aircraft systems.

“(3) Each report required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted and published in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.”.

(10) by striking subsection (k), as so redesignated, and inserting the following:

“(k) SUNSET.—This section shall terminate on December 31, 2030.”; and

(11) in subsection (l), as so redesignated—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs,” after “the Committee on the Judiciary.”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “the Committee on Homeland Security,” after “the Committee on the Judiciary.”; and

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (C), by redesignating clauses (i) through (ix) as subclauses (I) through (IX), respectively, and moving those subclauses, as so redesignated, two ems to the right;

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (C) as clauses (i), (ii), and (iii), respectively, and moving those clauses, as so redesignated, two ems to the right; and

(iii) in the matter preceding clause (i), as redesignated by clause (ii), by striking “means any facility or asset that—” and inserting “means—

“(A) any facility or asset that—”;

(iv) in clause (iii), as redesignated by clause (ii)—

(I) in subclause (VIII), as redesignated by clause (i), by striking “; or” and inserting a semicolon;

(II) in subclause (IX), as so redesignated, by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(III) by adding at the end the following new subclauses:

“(X) 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;

“(XI) assistance to Federal, State, or local officials in responding to incidents involving nuclear, radiological, biological, or chemical weapons, high-yield explosives, or related materials or technologies, as well as support pursuant to section 282 of this title or the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq); or

“(XII) activities listed in section 2692(b) of this title; or”;

(v) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) any personnel associated with a facility or asset specified under subparagraph (A) while engaged in direct support of a mission of the Department of Defense specified in clause (iii) of such subparagraph.”.

**SA 3760.** Ms. LUMMIS (for herself and Mr. BARRASSO) 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. \_\_\_\_ . REMEDIATION AND RESOURCE RECOVERY AT DEFENSE-RELATED URANIUM MINE SITES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, shall identify and evaluate advanced technologies capable of remediating environmental hazards at defense-related uranium mine sites at no cost to the Federal Government while recovering uranium and other critical minerals suitable for national security or energy purposes.

(b) DEPLOYMENT OF TECHNOLOGIES.—By not later than September 30, 2026, the Secretary of Energy shall deploy such technologies approved by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission at not fewer than 3 defense-related uranium mine sites.

(c) PRIORITIZATION.—In considering technologies under this section, the Secretary of Energy shall prioritize systems that do not require chemical reagents, explosives, or subsurface excavation and enable both the separation and recovery of uranium or other minerals suitable for entry into the national nuclear fuel cycle or civilian energy markets.

(d) CONDITIONS.—The Secretary of Energy may establish terms and conditions to ensure compliance with environmental, health, and safety standards.

**SA 3761.** Mr. PAUL 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. \_\_\_\_ . PROHIBITION ON EARNINGS AND OVERNIGHT REVERSE REPURCHASE AGREEMENT FACILITIES.**

(a) EARNINGS.—Section 19(b) of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 461(b)) is amended by striking paragraph (12) and inserting the following:

“(12) EARNINGS ON BALANCES.—No Federal Reserve bank may pay earnings on balances maintained at a Federal Reserve bank by or on behalf of a depository institution.”.

(b) OVERNIGHT REVERSE REPURCHASE AGREEMENT FACILITIES.—Section 14(b)(2) of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 355(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking “(2) To” and inserting “(2)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), to”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) No Federal reserve bank may participate in any overnight reverse repurchase agreement facility or enter into any reverse repurchase agreement.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section and the amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

**SA 3762.** Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and 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:

Strike section 319.

**SA 3763.** Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and 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:

Strike section 318.

**SA 3764.** 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:

In section 220(b)(2), insert “, biomanufacturing equipment,” after “metal printers”.

In section 220(b), at the end, add the following:

(7) utilize, to the maximum extent possible, advanced manufacturing capabilities and capacity established under the Regional Technology and Innovation Hub Program established under section 28 of the Stevenson-Wylder Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3722a), especially where capabilities are co-located with a facility of a Department of Defense Manufacturing Innovation Institute.

In section 220B(b)(2), insert “the 2025 National Security Commission on Emerging

Biotechnology Final Report,” before “and Department of Defense Instruction 5000.93”.

In section 220B(b)(4)(A), at the end, add the following:

(viii) Biomanufacturing.

In section 220B(b)(4)(H), in the subparagraph heading, strike “ADDITIVE” and insert “ADVANCED”.

In section 220B(b)(4)(H), strikes clauses (iii) and (iv) and insert the following:

(iii) improve supply chain risk management;

(iv) stimulate supply chain agility within the Department; and

(v) utilize, to the maximum extent practicable, existing public private partnerships capable of rapidly proliferating advanced manufacturing capabilities, including Department of Defense Manufacturing Innovation Institutes.

In section 220B(b)(4)(I), amend clause (ii) to read as follows:

(ii) utilize, to the maximum extent practicable, existing public private partnerships capable of rapidly scaling apprenticeships and skilled technician training pipelines to support Department research and development programs and programs of record, including Department of Defense Manufacturing Innovation Institutes; and

In section 232(b), insert “, including bio-industrial and biomedical products, coordinated with the dual-use advanced manufacturing hubs established under section 220(a)” before the period at the end.

In section 232, at the end, add the following:

(c) MODIFICATION OF DEFINITION OF BIOINDUSTRIAL MANUFACTURING FOR PURPOSES OF SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF BIOINDUSTRIAL MANUFACTURING PROCESSES.—Section 215(f) of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117–263; 10 U.S.C. 4841 note) is amended by inserting “for both biomedical and” before “non-pharmaceutical applications”.

**SA 3765.** 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. PRC SANCTIONS 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 and 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 provide a briefing 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 al-

lies 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. ANNUAL REPORT.**

Not later than 180 days after the briefing required under section 1274(b), and annually 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 3766.** Mr. RISCHE (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amend-

ment 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 Republic 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 foreign 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.

“(f) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

“(1) the Corporation should continuously operate in a manner that advances its core mission and purposes, as described in this title; and

“(2) resources of the Corporation should not be diverted for domestic or other activities extending beyond the scope of such mission and purpose.”.

## 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:

“(1) 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. DEVELOPMENT FINANCE EDUCATION.

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:

“(m) REPORT ON THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A DEVELOPMENT FINANCE EDUCATION PROGRAM AT THE FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the DFC Modernization and Reauthorization Act of 2025, the Secretary of State, acting through the Director of the Foreign Service Institute and in collaboration with the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation, shall conduct a review and submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the utility of establishing elective training classes or programs on development finance within the School of Professional and Area Studies for all levels of the foreign service.

“(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include a description of how a proposed class would be structured to ensure an appropriate level of training in development finance, including descriptions of—

“(A) the potential benefits and challenges of development finance as a component of United States foreign policy in promoting development outcomes and in promoting United States interests in advocating for the advancement of free-market principles;

“(B) the operations of the Corporation, generally, and a comparative analysis of similarly situated development finance institutions, both bilateral and multilateral;

“(C) how development finance can further the foreign policies of the United States, generally;

“(D) the anticipated foreign service consumers of any proposed classes on development finance;

“(E) the resources that may be required to establish such training classes, including through the use of detailed staff from the Corporation or temporary fellows brought in from the development finance community; and

“(F) other relevant issues, as determined by the Secretary of State and the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation determines appropriate.”.

#### SEC. 1284. INTERNSHIPS.

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:

“(n) INTERNSHIPS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Chief Executive Officer shall establish the Development Finance Corporation Student Internship Program (referred to in this subsection as the ‘Program’) to offer internship opportunities at the Corporation to eligible individuals to provide important professional development and work experience opportunities and raise awareness among future development and international finance professionals of the career opportunities at the Corporation and to supply important human capital for the implementation of the Corporation’s critically important development finance tools.

“(2) ELIGIBILITY.—An individual is eligible to participate in the Program if the applicant—

“(A) is a United States citizen;

“(B) is enrolled at least half-time at—

“(i) an institution of higher education (as such term is defined in section 102(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002(a)); or

“(ii) an institution of higher education based outside the United States, as determined by the Secretary of State; and

“(C) satisfies such other qualifications as established by the Chief Executive Officer.

“(3) SELECTION.—The Chief Executive Officer shall establish selection criteria for individuals to be admitted into the Program that includes a demonstrated interest in a career in international relations and international economic development policy.

“(4) COMPENSATION.—

“(A) HOUSING ASSISTANCE.—The Chief Executive Officer may provide housing assistance to an eligible individual participating in the Program whose permanent address is within the United States if the location of the internship in which such individual is participating is more than 50 miles away from such individual’s permanent address.

“(B) TRAVEL ASSISTANCE.—The Chief Executive Officer shall provide to an eligible individual participating in the Program, whose permanent address is within the United States, financial assistance that is sufficient to cover the travel costs of a single round trip by air, train, bus, or other appropriate transportation between the eligible individual’s permanent address and the location of the internship in which such eligible individual is participating if such location is—

“(i) more than 50 miles from the eligible individual’s permanent address; or

“(ii) outside of the United States.

“(5) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this section may be construed to compel any individual who is a participant in an internship program of the Corporation to participate in the collection of the data or divulge any personal information. Such individuals shall be informed that any participation in data collection under this subsection is voluntary.

“(B) PRIVACY PROTECTION.—Any data collected under this subsection shall be subject to the relevant privacy protection statutes and regulations applicable to Federal employees.

“(6) SPECIAL HIRING AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, with respect to the number of interns to be hired under this subsection each year, may—

“(A) select, appoint, and employ individuals for up to 1 year through compensated internships in the excepted service; and

“(B) remove any compensated intern employed pursuant to subparagraph (A) without regard to the provisions of law governing appointments in the competitive excepted service.

“(7) AVAILABILITY OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Internships offered and compensated by the Corporation under this subsection shall be funded solely by available amounts appropriated to the Corporate Capital Account established under section 1434.”.

#### SEC. 1285. 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. 1286. 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. 1287. 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) PURPOSE.—The Corporation shall—

“(i) manage the Fund in ways that demonstrate a commitment to pursuing cata-

lytic investments in less developed countries in accordance with section 1412(c)(1) and paragraph (1); and

“(ii) collect data and information about the use of the Fund to inform the Corporation’s record of returns on investments and reevaluation of equity investment subsidy rates prior to the termination of the authorities provided under this title.

“(C) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Fund \$3,000,000,000 for fiscal years 2026 through 2030.

“(D) OFFSETTING COLLECTIONS AND FUNDS.—Earnings and proceeds from the sale or redemption of, and fees, credits, and other collections from, the equity investments of the Corporation under the Corporation Equity Investment Fund shall be retained and deposited into the Fund and shall remain available to carry out this subsection without fiscal year limitation without further appropriation.

“(E) IMPACT QUOTIENT.—The Corporation shall ensure that at least 25 percent of its obligations from funds authorized to be appropriated under subparagraph (C) or otherwise made available for the Fund for Corporation projects are rated as highly impactful on the Impact Quotient assessment developed pursuant to section 1442(b)(1).”.

(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. 1288. SPECIAL PROJECTS.

Section 1421 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9621) is amended by striking subsection (f) and inserting the following:

“(f) SPECIAL PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS.—The Corporation may administer and manage special projects and programs in support of specific transactions undertaken by the Corporation—

“(1) for the provision of post-investment technical assistance for existing projects of the Corporation, including programs of financial and advisory support that provides private technical, professional, or managerial assistance in the development of Human Resources, skills, technology, or capital savings; or

“(2) subject to the nondelegable review and approval of the Board, to create holding companies or investment funds where the Corporation is the general partner, to provide international support that advance both the development objectives and foreign policy interests outlined in the purposes of this division if, not later than 30 days prior to entering into an agreement or other arrangement to provide support pursuant to this section, the Chief Executive Officer—

“(A) notifies the appropriate congressional committees; and

“(B) includes in the notification required by subparagraph (A) a certification that such support—

“(i) is designed to meet an exigent need that is critical to the national security interests of the United States; and

“(ii) could not otherwise be secured utilizing the authorities under this section.”.

##### SEC. 1289. 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. 1290. 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. 1291. 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 inter-

mediaries 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. 1292. 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. 1293. 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. 1294. 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. 1295. 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.**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The maximum contingent liability of the Corporation outstanding

at any one time shall not exceed in the aggregate \$200,000,000,000.

“(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The maximum contingent liability shall apply to all extension of liability by the Corporation regardless of the authority cited thereto.”.

**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”;

(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 Corpora-

tion 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”;

(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 country 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 3767.** 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. Promoting reutilization of language skills in the Foreign Service.  
Sec. 5107. Requirement for Uyghur language training.

**TITLE LXII—ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONS**

Sec. 5201. Periodic briefings from Bureau of Intelligence and Research.  
Sec. 5202. Support for congressional delegations.  
Sec. 5203. Eliminating 1-year tours.  
Sec. 5204. Notification requirements for authorized and ordered departures.  
Sec. 5205. Diplomats-in-Residence.  
Sec. 5206. Strengthening enterprise governance.  
Sec. 5207. Report to Congress on diplomatic reserve corps within the Department of State.  
Sec. 5208. Establishing and expanding the Regional China Officer program.  
Sec. 5209. Foreign affairs manual changes.  
Sec. 5210. Report required before closure of diplomatic posts.  
Sec. 5211. 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. Security review of science and technology agreement with the People’s Republic of China.

**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. Report concerning Department of State consular officers joining Coast Guard and Navy missions to Pacific island countries.  
Sec. 5502. Report on security conditions in Damascus, Syria, required for the reopening of the United States diplomatic mission.  
Sec. 5503. Embassies, consulates, and other diplomatic installations return to standards report.  
Sec. 5504. 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. Facilitating regulatory exchanges with allies and partners.  
Sec. 5558. Pilot program to audit barriers to commerce in developing partner countries.  
Sec. 5559. Strategy for promoting supply chain diversification.  
Sec. 5560. Extensions.  
Sec. 5561. Permitting for international bridges and land ports of entry.

**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 re-investigations, 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.

(e) **EXCEPTION FOR THE BUREAU OF INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH.**—The policy described in subsection (a) shall not apply to officers and employees of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research.

**SEC. 5106. 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. 5107. 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 committees of Congress a joint briefing facilitated by the Bureau of Intelligence and Research and including other bureaus, as appropriate, 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”.

(c) **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;

(2) and the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

**SEC. 5202. 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. 5203. 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. 5204. 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. 5205. 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. 5206. 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. 5207. 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 reserve 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. 5208. 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 Peoples 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. 5209. 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. 5210. 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;

(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 committees of Congress 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.”; and

(4) in amending subsection (f), as redesignated by paragraph (2), to read as follows:

“(f) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.**—The term ‘appropriate committees of Congress’ means—

“(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

“(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

“(2) **CONSULAR OR DIPLOMATIC POST.**—The term ‘consular or diplomatic post’ does not include a post to which only personnel of agencies other than the Department of State are assigned.”.

**SEC. 5211. 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 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 committees of Congress on the proposed new guidelines, including—

(1) relevant risk assessments; and

(2) any security challenges regarding implementation.

(d) **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;

(2) and the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

**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. 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 Govern-

ment 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 Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Commerce, Science of Technology, and the Committee on Judiciary of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the Committee on Judiciary 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.

### 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 consultation 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 non-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 U.S.C. 2452b) is hereby repealed.

**TITLE LXV—DIPLOMATIC SECURITY AND CONSULAR AFFAIRS**

**SEC. 5501. 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, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and the Committee on Judiciary of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the Committee on Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

**SEC. 5502. 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, in consultation with the relevant Federal agencies, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress 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.

(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;

(2) and the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

**SEC. 5503. 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 committees of Congress 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.

(c) 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;

(2) and the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

**SEC. 5504. 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 committees of Congress 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.

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

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Judiciary of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

**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 dip-

lomatic 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 LICENSURE APPLICATIONS.**

Not 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”.

(3) in subsection (h), by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) LIMITATIONS.—

“(A) APPROPRIATIONS REQUIRED.—Payments under subsections (a) and (b) in a fiscal year may only be made using amounts appropriated in advance specifically for payments under such paragraph in such fiscal year.

“(B) MATTER OF PAYMENTS.—Payments under subsections (a) and (b) using amounts appropriated for such purpose shall be made on a first come, first serve, or pro rata basis.

“(C) AMOUNTS OF PAYMENTS.—The total amount of funding obligated for payments under subsections (a) and (b) may not exceed the amount specifically appropriated for providing payments under such paragraph during its period of availability.”.

**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; and

(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.

(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. 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. 5558. 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. 5559. STRATEGY FOR PROMOTING SUPPLY CHAIN DIVERSIFICATION.**

(a) **STRATEGY.**—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce and 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 diplomatic strategy to support efforts 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 the International Trade Administration and other 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) advance, in coordination with the National Institute of Standards [and] Technology, diplomatic initiatives towards mutually beneficial dialogues on standards and regulations; and

(8) in coordination with the International Trade Administration, 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.

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

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

#### SEC. 5560. 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 Stat. 3909) is amended by striking “fiscal years 2023 and 2024” and inserting “fiscal years 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, and 2028”.

#### SEC. 5561. 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.

**SA 3768.** Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XII, add the following:

#### Subtitle F—Seizure and Forfeiture of Assets of Russian Kleptocrats

##### SEC. 1271. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Detering Adversary Ill-Gotten Gains Act”.

##### SEC. 1272. PROCEDURES FOR FORFEITURE OF ASSETS OF RUSSIAN KLEPTOCRATS.

(a) **NONJUDICIAL FORFEITURE.**—Property subject to forfeiture under title 18, United States Code, may be forfeited through non-judicial civil forfeiture under section 609 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1609), without regard to limitation under section 607(a)(1) of that Act (19 U.S.C. 1607(a)(1)), if the Attorney General, or a designee, makes the certification described in subsection (b) with respect to the property.

(b) **CERTIFICATION.**—After seizure of property and prior to forfeiture of the property under subsection (a), the Attorney General, or a designee, shall certify that, upon forfeiture, the property will be covered forfeited property (as defined in section 1708(c) of the Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023 (division M of Public Law 117-328; 136 Stat. 5200), as amended by this subtitle).

##### SEC. 1273. EXPANSION OF FORFEITED PROPERTY AVAILABLE TO REMEDIATE HARMS TO UKRAINE FROM RUSSIAN AGGRESSION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 1708(c) of the Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023 (division M of Public Law 117-328; 136 Stat. 5200) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking “which property belonged” and all that follows and inserting the following: “which property—

“(A) belonged to, was possessed by, or was controlled by a person the property or interests in property of which were blocked pursuant to any license, order, regulation, or prohibition imposed by the United States under the authority provided by the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) or any other provision of law, with respect to—

“(i) the Russian Federation; or

“(ii) actions or policies that undermine the democratic processes and institutions in Ukraine or threaten the peace, security, stability, sovereignty, or territorial integrity of Ukraine;

“(B) was involved in an act in violation of or a conspiracy or scheme to violate—

“(i) any license, order, regulation, or prohibition described in subparagraph (A); or

“(ii) any restriction on the export, reexport, or in-country transfer of items imposed by the United States under the Export Administration Regulations, or any restriction on the export, reexport, or retransfer of defense articles under the International Traffic in Arms Regulations under subchapter M of chapter I of title 22, Code of Federal Regulations, with respect to—

“(I) the Russian Federation, Belarus, the Crimea region of Ukraine, or the so-called ‘Donetsk People’s Republic’ or ‘Luhansk People’s Republic’ regions of Ukraine;

“(II) any person in any such country or region on a restricted parties list; or

“(III) any person located in any other country that has been added to a restricted parties list in connection with the malign conduct of the Russian Federation in Ukraine, including the annexation of the Crimea region of Ukraine in March 2014 and the invasion beginning in February 2022 of Ukraine, as substantially enabled by Belarus; or

“(C) was involved in any related conspiracy, scheme, or other Federal offense arising from the actions of, or doing business with or acting on behalf of, the Russian Federation, Belarus, the Crimea region of

Ukraine, or the so-called ‘Donetsk People’s Republic’ or ‘Luhansk People’s Republic’ regions of Ukraine.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) 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).

“(4) The term ‘restricted parties list’ means any of the following lists maintained by the Bureau of Industry and Security:

“(A) The Entity List set forth in Supplement No. 4 to part 744 of the Export Administration Regulations.

“(B) The Denied Persons List maintained pursuant to section 764.3(a)(2) of the Export Administration Regulations.

“(C) The Unverified List set forth in Supplement No. 6 to part 744 of the Export Administration Regulations.”.

(b) EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY.—Section 1708(d) of the Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023, is amended by striking “May 1, 2025” and inserting “the date that is 3 years after the date of the enactment of the Deterring Adversary Ill-Gotten Gains Act”.

#### SEC. 1274. RULEMAKING.

The Attorney General and the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe regulations to carry out this subtitle without regard to the requirements of section 553 of title 5, United States Code.

#### SEC. 1275. TERMINATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The provisions of this subtitle shall terminate on the date that is 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) SAVINGS PROVISION.—The termination of this subtitle under subsection (a) shall not—

(1) terminate the applicability of the procedures under this subtitle to any property seized prior to the date of the termination under subsection (a); or

(2) moot any legal action taken or pending legal proceeding not finally concluded or determined on that date.

**SA 3769.** 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, insert the following:

#### SEC. \_\_\_\_ PROHIBITIONS RELATING TO LEAKS OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FOR PERSONAL OR POLITICAL GAIN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a government official who has leaked classified information for personal or political gain may not access or receive classified information.

(b) SERVICE ON CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—A Member of Congress who has leaked classified information for personal or political gain may not serve on any of the following:

(1) The Committee on Armed Services of the Senate.

(2) The Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

(3) The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

(4) The Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate.

(5) The Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

(6) The Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

(7) The Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(8) The Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives.

(9) The Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

(10) The Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL.—The term “government official” means, with respect to a leak of classified information described in subsection (a), an individual who, at the time of such leak, holds any of the following offices or positions:

(A) An elective public office in the executive or legislative branch of the Government of the United States.

(B) An office in the executive or judicial branch of the Government of the United States, appointment to which was made by the President.

(C) A position in the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of the Government of the United States—

(i) that is listed in schedule C of rule VI of the Civil Service Rules; or

(ii) the compensation for which is equal to or greater than the lowest rate of basic pay for the Senior Executive Service under section 5382 of title 5, United States Code.

(D) A position under the House of Representatives or the Senate of the United States held by an individual receiving gross compensation at an annual rate of \$15,000 or more.

(E) An elective or appointive public office in the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of the government of a State, possession of the United States, or political subdivision or other area of any of the foregoing, or of the District of Columbia, held by an individual receiving gross compensation at an annual rate of \$20,000 or more.

(F) A position as personal or executive assistant or secretary to any of the foregoing.

(2) MEMBER OF CONGRESS.—The term “Member of Congress” means a Member of the Senate or the House of Representatives, a Delegate to the House of Representatives, or the Resident Commissioner from Puerto Rico.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I have five requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

#### COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 3, 2025, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 3, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

#### COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 3, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

#### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 3, 2025, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

#### SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

The Special Committee on Aging is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 3, 2025, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2025

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Thursday, September 4; that following the prayer and the 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 notwithstanding rule XXII, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of Executive Calendar No. 262, Maria Lanahan, and that at 11:30 a.m., the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Lanahan nomination, and following that cloture vote, the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 292, Edward Artau, and if cloture is invoked on the nominations individually, all postcloture time be expired, and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader, no earlier than Monday, September 8, and if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action; further, notwithstanding rule XXII, following the cloture vote on the Artau nomination, the Senate resume legislative session and resume consideration of the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 115, S. 2296, the National Defense Authorization Act, and all postcloture time be expired at 1:45 p.m.

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

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:37 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, September 4, 2025, at 10 a.m.

## NOMINATIONS

## Executive nominations received by the Senate:

## IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C. SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

*To be major*

RICHARD A. BENSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

*To be major*

WILLIAM R. CARY  
KYLE S. JASCHEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C. SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

*To be colonel*

ERIC E. ABRAHAMSEN  
DEREK. KUNTZ  
DAVID D. WATSON  
JEFFREY W. WIESNER, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY AS CHAPLAINS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

*To be lieutenant colonel*

JONATHAN W. ANDERSON  
ANGEL L. BERRIOS  
ROBERT D. BILLINGSLEY  
TIMOTHY L. BROOKS  
MARLON W. BROWN  
JAMES E. BRYAN  
JOSHUA A. CHITTIM  
GENE R. DAVIDSON  
MICHAEL B. DAWSON  
WALTER L. FRYE  
WILLIAM J. GRIMES  
CHRISTIAN E. GROENENDAL  
EDWARD S. HARRIS  
MATTHEW J. HEBBERAND  
JEFFERY B. HERDEN  
DAVID A. HICKS  
JASON E. HILL  
JASON C. HOHNBERGER  
JAY F. HUDSON  
CHESTER R. IRWIN  
MICHAEL S. KIM  
SCOTT P. KING  
VINCENT J. LUTTRELL  
JOHN P. MCDOUGALL  
JONATHAN MELENDEZ  
ERIC J. MILLER  
JEFF S. PYUN  
PETER M. ROBINSON  
CARLOS R. RUIZ  
ABRAHAM SARMIENTO  
JACOB D. SNODGRASS  
JASON W. SOUTHARD  
JAMES M. SOUZA  
DAVID L. SPRINKLE  
WESLEY R. STEENBURG  
PAUL D. TOLBERT  
ALISON L. WARD  
JAMES WARD  
JASON WEBSTER  
0002254443

## IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be colonel*

MATTHEW S. ALLEN  
JAMES G. ARGENTINA, JR.  
JAMES R. ARMSTRONG  
BRIAN M. BAGLEY  
ROBERT D. BARBAREE III  
JEFFREY J. BARNES  
NICOLE V. BASTIAN  
ELDON W. BECK  
DANIEL H. BENSON  
TODD B. BOESE II  
REBECCA A. BOLZ  
EVAN F. BRADLEY  
DERRICK F. BRIVILLE  
JEFFREY M. BREWER  
JASON W. BRITAIN  
CHAD A. BUCKEL  
DAVID C. BURTON  
CHRISTOPHER J. BUSCEMI  
EBEN C. BUXTON  
JOHN F. CAMPBELL  
JASON R. CASTER  
PAUL B. CLIFFORD II  
CRAIG W. COLLINGS  
BRETT C. COLLINS  
JEREMY J. COLWELL  
PETER C. COMBE II  
JUSTIN M. COONS  
THOMAS A. COYLE

WILLIAM W. CRONKRIGHT  
COLIN J. CULKIN  
EMILY J. CULVER  
JEFFREY C. DAVIS  
MATTHEW D. DEFFENBAUGH  
WALTER R. DICKSON  
MATTHEW P. DINEEN  
DAMON A. DOYKOS  
GREGORY M. DUESTERHAUS  
IAN G. DUNLAP  
CALEB D. EAMES  
ANDREW C. ECKERT  
JOSHUA S. EDWARDS  
ADRIAN R. EVANGELISTA  
ALBERT L. EVANS III  
NICHOLAS J. FREEMAN  
JOHN A. FULTON  
GERRID M. GALL  
MICHAEL L. GARDNER  
GARRON J. GARN  
JOSEPH L. GILL II  
NATHAN L. GOLIKE  
RACHEL A. GONZALES  
SCOTT D. GRANIERO  
JACOB O. GRAY  
FELIX GUERRA III  
NATHAN J. GULOSH  
SCOTT D. GURLEY  
JORDAN M. GWIAZDON  
CLINTON K. HALL  
BRIAN HANSELL  
KEATON H. HARRELL  
CHRISTOPHER R. HART  
REBECCA M. HARVEY  
SCOTT H. HELMINSKI  
BENJAMIN R. HEREDIA  
ANDREW C. HIETPAS  
EMMALINE J. HILL  
BRYAN G. HOLE  
PATRICK C. HOLLAND  
JUSTIN A. HOOKER  
TRAVIS L. HORD  
JOHN C. HUENEFELD II  
SCOTT A. HUNTER  
JUSTIN D. HUNTER  
BLAKE JACKSON, JR.  
RICHARD S. JAHIELKA  
CEDRIC A. JEFFERSON  
JEROMY R. JOHNSON  
ERIC T. KAUFFMAN  
ERIK A. KEIM  
WILLIAM T. KERRIGAN  
CHRISTOPHER Y. KIM  
ANDREW W. KOCH  
ETHAN C. KRUMNOW  
STEPHEN A. LACOVARA  
KYLE E. LARISH  
NICHOLAS B. LAW  
GAVIN K. LOGAN  
CHRISTOPHER A. MACAK  
ADAN A. MALDONADO  
SCOTT A. MARTIN  
NICOLAS L. MARTINEZ  
LABARRON L. MCBRIDE  
BRIAN L. MCCARTHY  
JOHN A. MCNULTY  
SHAWN A. MEIER  
WILLIAM T. MESSMER  
JASMIN MOGBELLI  
ROBERT A. MONROE  
THOMAS W. MORROW  
SCOTT E. MURPHY  
JOHN B. NAUGHTON II  
ANGELA M. NELSON  
ROBERT J. NEMAN  
ANDREW C. NEWBRANDER  
ANDREW D. NICHOLSON  
SETH A. NICHOLSON  
MARK P. NOSTRO  
TRAVIS C. ONISCHUK  
PEDRO ORTIZ  
STEPHEN G. PAGE  
DAVID J. PALKO  
PANAGIOTIS A. PAPADOPOULOS  
CHRISTOPHER A. PASSERELLA  
NICOLE A. PENN  
MARK M. PHELPS  
HEATH A. PHILLIPS  
STEPHEN M. PIANATANIDA  
AARON K. POLANCO  
WILLIAM J. POMEROY  
ADAM E. POWERS  
DOUGLAS T. PUGH  
KEVIN M. RECTOR  
TODD B. RICHARDSON  
TIMOTHY F. RIEMANN  
PHILIPP E. RIGAUT  
GAVIN T. ROBILARD  
NATHAN M. ROLLINS  
DANIEL M. SCHIERLING  
WILL A. SCHMITT  
JOHN T. SCHREINER  
JESSE P. SCHWEIG  
OSMAN N. SESSAY  
MORRIS M. SHARBER, JR.  
WAYNE SHEW  
WILLIAM B. SIMI  
ERIC J. SKOZENSKI  
KENNETH W. SMITH  
KEVIN M. SOEBER  
JASON T. STEPHENSON  
RYAN A. STEVENS  
PATRICK C. SULLIVAN  
CHAD SUMMERVILLE  
BRYCESON K. TENOLD  
GABRIEL W. TIGGS  
DAVID L. TRAN

CHRISTOPHER D. UPTON  
SUSAN E. UPWARD  
RICHARD J. VACCARIELLO  
MATTHEW D. VERDIN  
RICHARD J. WAGNER  
MICHAEL P. WALLS  
JOSEPH J. WEAKLEY  
LONNIE C. WILSON  
JOSHUA W. WORT  
ADAM YANG

## IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 605:

*To be lieutenant commander*

JOEL ALMANZANUNEZ  
NOAH P. BAILY  
THOMAS J. BLACK  
JOHN G. BOLTON  
JEFFREY K. BRADLEY  
MARLIN S. BRUTKIEWICZ  
AB BUSTAMANTE  
SEAN P. CARLIN  
CHRISTOPHER P. COSTA  
JAMES H. CUNNINGHAM  
CHASE R. DAVIS  
KENNETH L. EDMOND II  
KYLE J. FRIES  
MICHAEL E. GREER  
RYAN P. HAMMARSKJOLD  
NICHOLAS R. HOBSON  
DANIEL A. HODGES  
WILLIAM S. JOHNSON  
CARL L. JONES, JR.  
GARY J. KALAPINSKI, JR.  
BENJAMIN P. KEEGAN  
JOSHUA L. KLEIN  
CHARLES A. KOPP  
ROBERT D. LAFUZE  
AMANDA C. LANGHAUSER  
CHARLES M. LINDER  
CHAD P. LODER  
PHILLIP E. LOWRY III  
TRENTON P. MAPES  
JOHN P. MCGILLICK  
JOSE E. MEZA  
NICHOLAS D. MOEHL  
NEAL E. NEFF III  
DENNISON T. RICHTER  
KYLE N. RITTERBECK  
DEREK Z. RODGERS  
JOSE R. ROS  
HARRISON P. SAMARIO  
EVAN A. SARINA  
CHRISTOPHER A. SURMAN  
WILLIAM M. SWITZER  
MICHAEL P. SYSON  
KARRICK N. THRESHER  
NICHOLAS D. WAGONER  
DAVID A. WAKEMAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 605:

*To be commander*

BRANDON L. BARKER  
AARON D. BELL  
JUAN F. CORA, JR.  
DONITA L. LOZADA  
PERRY J. SOLOMON  
PHILLIP M. TALARICO  
IAN H. R. TAYLOR  
DREW D. VISINTIN  
SHEU O. YUSUF  
GRAHAM D. ZIEMBA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 605:

*To be captain*

ERIC J. BLOMBERG  
VINCENT A. BOVE  
BETHANY R. BURDICK  
JASON CHUMA  
WILLIAM T. CICCHILLO, JR.  
JEFFREY A. CORNIELLE  
GREGORY M. COY  
CHRISTOPHER M. DANLEY  
MICHAEL E. DEBOER  
CLINTON D. EMRICH  
MICHAEL W. FRITTS  
JOHN W. GILLIGAN  
CHRISTOPHER L. HORNUNG  
ROBERT G. LECLERC  
YILEI LIU  
KERRY M. MAJOR  
NOAH L. MCBURNETT  
SAMUEL C. MILLS  
JASON R. PATTON  
ANDREW R. RA  
DUSTIN T. SMITH  
GREGORY B. STORER  
KEITH P. TURNBULL  
DESMOND K. WALKER  
GRANT A. WANIER  
THOMAS A. WILLIAMS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be lieutenant commander*

VIVEK M. ABRAHAM  
SEVERIANO B. ACEBO  
TAYLOR M. ADAMS  
SNOW ADLER  
NICHOLAS T. ALEXANDER  
RANDI B. ALLEN  
STEPHANIE G. ANDERSEN  
REBECA A. ARIAS  
DANIEL B. ARMSTRONG  
BRAEDEN C. ARNOLD  
JOHN D. ATTONITO  
STEVEN E. AZZAM  
PETER E. BAGLIEN  
JOSEPH A. BARDINELLI  
MAKALA M. BASCOME  
KATHLEEN E. BATHON  
STEVEN C. BEALL  
JULIE E. BERNSTEIN  
SAMUEL A. BILLINGSLEA  
MICHELLE M. BOISVERT  
ROBIN E. BONOMI  
DEREK A. BOOTH  
MARK L. BOYER  
BURKE P. BOYLE  
COLLEEN S. BOYLE  
PHILIP D. BREWER  
MICHAEL BRODNANSKY  
NYSSA K. BURDICK  
BENJAMIN N. BURGESS  
ASHTON D. BURRUS  
KRISTINA A. CARNEY  
MEAGEN M. CARTER  
RODGER B. CARTER III  
KALVIN W. CAUNAN  
BENJAMIN CHADEKPEELEY  
JOSEPH A. CHILBERT  
JONATHAN J. CHO  
ERIC J. CHRISTENSEN  
MATTHEW J. CHRISTENSEN  
WESTON D. CHRISTENSEN  
KEVIN M. CLAUNCH  
FAYTON M. CLINE  
JESSICA N. COLE  
CARLETON G. COLLINS  
MARISSA A. CONNOLLY  
JOHN M. COOK  
DAVID H. DACOSTA  
LOUIS M. DAMIANO  
SHAJAYLYN L. DAVIS  
CHRISTOPHER R. DEBARGE  
JOSHUA P. DEHART  
NATALE DEMARCO, JR.  
RACHEL L. DENNIS  
JUSTIN K. DENNY  
PIERCE L. C. DERICO  
JUSTIN J. D. DEVERA  
MAGGIE R. DILLIONE  
TRADD D. DOBBINS  
WILLIAM S. DOUTHITT  
MICHAEL M. EASON  
TREVOR O. ELAM  
BRYAN L. ELDRETH  
JEFFREY S. ELLIOTT  
CASEY R. ERWIN  
JANINE J. FARAJ  
MARY B. FERGUSSON  
DANIEL H. FERMAN  
JORDAN A. FISCHER  
EMMA K. FISHER  
KATHRYN M. FLYNN  
RILEY E. FOREMAN  
BRANDON E. FOSTER  
MICHAEL A. FRANCO  
COLLEEN P. FRANCONI  
ANDREW W. FREEMAN  
FREDRICK C. FROST  
SHAR M. FULLER  
CORY S. GEOGHEGAN  
TYLER J. GERWIC  
SENNAY G. GHEENBOT  
LOVEPREET K. GREWAL  
ETHAN G. GUFFEY  
JUSTIN C. GUNN  
ADAM J. HALEY  
CORBETT S. HALL  
AARON J. HANCOCK  
GWENDOLYN A. HARDY  
CYRIL HARFOUCHE  
THOMAS S. HAUERT  
GREGORY R. HAY  
JONATHAN D. HICKMAN  
ALEXANDER S. HODGENS  
SCOTT M. HOENER  
NICHOLAS W. HOO  
MATTHEW J. HORCH  
ADAM D. HOWELL  
BRADFORD C. HUFF  
MIKHOLAE S. HUTCHINSON  
JARED A. INGERSOLL  
LAURINDA M. JACKSON  
ZACHARY M. JANIK  
HANNAH M. JOHNSON  
MICHAEL G. JOHNSTON  
ANDRE L. JONES  
RACHAEL D. JONES  
KAIA E. JYSTAD  
NOAH J. KAINRAD  
MICHELLE A. KAUTZ  
RYAN M. KAYLOR  
HENRY T. KEENAN  
CHRISTA E. KERBOW  
CASSANDRA E. KLJEK  
JIN A. KIM  
ANGELA C. LACEY  
BRANDON E. LAFFOON

HENDRIX LAFONTANT  
VICTORIA P. LAFONTANT  
MICHAEL J. LAUTH  
JIM D. LE  
KELLY A. L. LE  
HEATHER J. LEBLANC  
RICHARD C. LEE  
ALEXANDER D. F. LI  
JOSEPH N. LIPAT  
MATTHEW W. LONG  
RIKKI N. LONGMORE  
ROBERT D. LUKE  
ALEXI K. MASON  
CHRISTOPHER A. MATEY  
KEVIN P. MCMAHON III  
JYNNA O. MCMILLIN  
NATALIE L. MCVEY  
MARYKATE E. MEKHAIL  
KIEFER J. MESPELT  
JOHANNA S. MEYER  
LUCA MICCI  
HELEN C. J. MILLER  
KYLIE M. MILLER  
DAVID M. MONROE  
ERICA L. MORGENWECK  
PAUL I. MOSS  
CONNER D. MURPHY  
MATTHEW C. OEHLER  
SEAN S. OENICK  
JAMES R. ONEIL  
COLE J. OWENS  
FRANCES M. PAGANAPONTE  
MICHAEL R. E. PIERCE  
ALEXANDER M. PODGORSKI  
SAVANNAH M. POUNDS  
BRADLEY T. POWSZOK  
JESSICA K. PROCK  
EMILY R. RAFFETTO  
ADAM D. RATCLIFF  
TYLER J. REED  
PAOLO Q. RIGO  
KIMBERLY RIVERA  
WILLIAM H. ROBINSON  
DORIS E. ROSEN  
CAROLYN F. ROSENBERG  
JOSEPH L. ROYER  
NICOLE B. RUH  
NICHOLAS F. RYAN  
SARAH E. SANDERS  
KORINA E. SANDOVAL  
MORGAN N. SCHMIDT  
MEGAN P. SCHNUR  
JASE A. SCHOSSOW  
ASHLEY SERJILUS  
KRISTEN N. SHAFER  
MELISSA D. SHAFER  
ADIT B. SHAH  
NICOLE L. SKAGGS  
HANNAH E. SKILLMAN  
KAITLIN M. SNYDER  
MAX A. STANKOVICH  
MATTHEW L. STEIN  
JILLIAN M. STONE  
KONRAD E. SURDEL  
VARUN TAKANTI  
BENJAMIN M. TAYLOR  
MARY E. TRAGLIA  
AARON M. VANDYNE  
PHILIP M. VAZQUEZ  
MARIA V. C. VIGLAR  
CHARISSE N. VILLAREAL  
GRANT M. WALLENFELSZ  
KEIFER P. WALLSH  
JACOB D. WARREN  
ALEXA R. WECKBACH  
OLIVIA M. WELKER  
NICOLE M. WESTPHAL  
LUKE A. WHITE  
KYLE P. WIESCHHAUS  
MALLORI M. WILSON  
AMA J. WINLAND  
CATHERINE A. WOODARD  
SARAH L. WRIGHT  
JACOB M. WYSE  
JOCELYN C. YOUNG  
IVAN L. YUE  
GREGORY S. ZHANG  
ARTEMISA A. ZUAZO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be lieutenant commander*

RIAZ M. ALI  
TARHYN E. AUGER  
CARMEN M. BOREN  
RONALD M. BRYANT III  
AUSTIN L. CACCIAGLIA  
BRITTNEY Y. CANNON  
KANDIS A. CARTER  
GABRIEL M. CASIAS  
JEFF W. CHANG  
JOSHUA Y. CHO  
CATHERINE N. CLOETTA  
ZANETA K. CORRAL  
SAMUEL J. C. DALEY  
TIMOTHY P. DAUDELIN  
NINO S. DIZON  
RYAN R. DULL  
NICOLE L. ELIA  
ANDRIE M. FANG  
KIRSTEN E. FAST  
MASON C. D. FORTUNO  
SAMER S. GAZALE  
CHRISTOPHER I. GOUGH  
TRAVIS L. HEDIGER

JORDAN A. HENKE  
JEFFREY E. HUNT  
RYAN X. HUO  
BRYAN E. JOHNSON  
RAMON E. JOHNSON  
NATHAN E. KOBOLD  
ANNE M. LAMB  
ZACHARY D. LANDGRAF  
HYE J. LEE  
CLAYTON P. LITTLE  
ROBERT H. LIU  
ROBERT A. LONDON  
MADELINE D. LOVE  
JOHN F. LUPPER  
SAMUEL R. LYNASS  
RYAN A. M. MAGSINO  
EMMA J. MATTEI  
RACHEL L. MEYER  
TANYA N. G. MULLIN  
STEPHANIE M. NORRIS  
GRANT H. PALMER  
MICHELLE K. PAPADAKIS  
CAITLIN J. PARKER  
DAGMARIE RODRIGUEZMALDONADO  
ASHLY M. ROTHROCK  
MARK I. SIDRANSKY  
CALVIN T. SKINNER  
MICHAEL R. SMITH  
WESLEY K. SON  
BRANDON M. TAYLOR  
KE D. TIAO  
GRANT D. H. TIPPET  
RANDY T. TO  
ALEXANDER J. VIDUNAS  
LINDSAY I. WELNIAK  
ANDREW P. WOOD  
EMMA J. WOOD  
PETER YAO  
FENGYUAN YU  
WON H. YU

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be lieutenant commander*

LEONARD E. ABADAM  
BUDDHIKA R. ABEYRATNE  
AARONCHRISTIAN T. ABREU  
BRENT E. ADKINS  
EGUONO V. AKPODUADO  
ABDULLA H. ALAMRI  
ZAINOB A. ANDU  
IRANI D. ARAUJO, JR.  
VALERIE A. ARNSPARGER  
BROOKE J. BARNSON  
MICAELA N. BARTER  
CHELATA A. BARTLETT  
ROSE M. BAULDRY  
SARAH C. BEADLE  
CORY W. BEAMER  
WILLIAM J. BECKER  
JUSTIN M. BENNINGER  
KITRINA L. BERRIOS  
AARON R. BISHOP  
CHRISTOPHER M. BLAIS  
KYLE J. BOSTEIT  
BARRY BOYD, JR.  
ADAM M. BRALY  
KEVIN J. BRELAND  
KATRINA S. BREWER  
CHARLES M. BRINEGAR, JR.  
MATTHEW R. BROWN  
XARVIERA S. BROWN  
GWENDOLYN M. BROWNJILES  
ANDRE D. BURNETT, JR.  
ALEXANDRA M. CARRY  
AARON J. CHAMBERLAIN  
GOLAM S. CHOWDHURY  
ALEXA D. CLIFTON  
GABRIEL T. CROSS  
RAYMOND M. CROSS  
CORAL A. CURCIO-BONNER  
SAMANTHA L. DELOSSANTOS  
ANNA A. DOLGOVA  
TERRY J. DRAPER  
ERIC R. EBERSPEAKER  
MATTHEW D. ESPER  
ADEOLU FAROHUN  
JOHN M. FAWCETT  
REGINA E. FEESK  
GABRIELLA E. FINGER  
GISSEL M. FLORESVELEZ  
SERGIO GALLEGO  
KATELYNN E. GLISSON  
JOSHUA M. GOLDENBERG  
ARA M. GUTIERREZ  
CATHERINE R. HANIGAN  
ASHRAFUL HAQUE  
MICHAEL R. HARDY  
EYOB S. HAWAZ  
ANDREA L. HAYES  
RICHARD W. HECKE  
MEGAN M. HEINS  
AMANDA J. HIRATA  
WILLIAM E. HOBAN, JR.  
STEPHANIE D. HOUSER  
JULLIANNE HUI  
KEVIN A. HUNT  
KEVIN D. HUNT  
FELIX A. IHEANACHO  
NATALIE N. IRELAND  
ALIC G. JACKSON  
JOSHUA A. JOHANSEN  
ZACHARY J. JOHNSON  
RUDY A. JONES  
DEAN F. JUNIO

JACOB K. KABBAAH  
ALEXANDRA D. KAPLAN  
REZAUL KARIM  
GRACE A. KENNEDY  
ALEXANDRIA E. KESTERSON  
NIRAJ KHANAL  
ROBERT A. KIRK  
JENNIFER A. KNAPP  
ERIN M. KOCHER  
ALEXANDRIA N. KUCERA  
LILY LAM  
MERCEDES S. LAWSONSMITH  
CHRISTOPHER D. LAY  
KATHRYN D. LEE  
JESSE R. LESTRONGE  
ERIN E. LOCK  
JENNIFER F. LOUIE  
JEREMY D. LUCAS  
JOHN L. MALLORY  
KEEGAN P. MARCANTEL  
WILLIAM P. MARTIN  
RAY MARTINEZ  
FREDDIE B. MAWANAY  
CRYSTAL Y. MCCULLUM  
KIMBERLY K. MELIN  
SARAH E. MILLER  
HUGO V. MIRANDAQUIJADA  
ELEANOR M. MOEN  
KENDALL D. MOORE  
ANGELITA M. MORENO  
KELSON A. MOSIER  
REBECCA L. NESMITH  
ELIZABETH J. NEVAREZ  
RUEL C. NISPEROS  
FRANK NKETSIAH  
ADEKUNLE B. OGUNYEMI  
MARIAH C. OLVERA  
MARCO PASCO  
JULIA G. PATE  
STEFEN C. PETRY  
THUY T. T. PHAM  
JOHN M. PRICE, JR.  
JUSTIN M. PURNELL  
RUBY N. QI  
CARRIE B. RAMIREZ  
JOEL A. RAMIREZ  
JEREMY S. RAUSCH  
RICHARD E. REEVEY, JR.  
KRIZANDRA H. REYES  
TIMOTHY J. RICHARDSON  
REBEKAH G. RILEY  
ZACHARY C. ROACH  
GRICEL P. RODRIGUEZ  
PETER C. SACKETT  
PAUL D. SALO  
TRISTAN F. SALOMON  
RENATO E. SAYO, JR.  
JAMES H. SELMONVASSER  
BROOK M. SIMS  
SARAH W. SINNOTT  
JEROME SMITH, JR.  
JESSE W. SMITH  
ALYSSA C. SMYTH  
PHOKHAM SOURIVANH  
CHRISTOPHER J. SPANGLER  
DANIEL M. STCLAIR  
AIDAN C. STUBBS  
NATHAN A. C. TAAG  
SASHA M. TITTEL  
BRITTANY M. TOLSTOY  
ROSS W. VOLLSTEDT  
NOEL C. WAGNER  
JEFFREY W. WALKER  
KAITLIN R. WALTER  
BRIAN I. WALTON  
CHRISTOPHER J. WEFER  
MICHALA R. WEICK  
JACOB R. WESTERBERG  
KEVIN M. WILFONG  
SAMANTHA S. WILLIAMS  
JONATHAN R. WILSON  
PAUL WINSTON  
ROBERT J. WOLFE  
DALE WOLKENHAUER, JR.  
KRYSTAL A. WOOD  
SHARLY R. YOWELL  
JENNIFER L. ZAMIAS  
KELLYLYNN ZUNI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUALS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

*To be lieutenant commander*

HANNAH J. ADDOM-TETTEH  
ABDUL S. BANGURA  
MARGIE A. GERENA LEWIS  
JONATHAN V. GILES  
JULIE J. E. KIM  
BRIAN S. MOHLENOFF  
WILLIAM E. OMALLEY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be lieutenant commander*

BRANDY D. BENNETT  
WILLIAM K. BOYER  
DANIEL T. BRUNO  
JEREMY E. CARR  
JASON S. CHRISTAFARIS  
STEVEN J. CLARK  
PHILIP R. COFFMAN  
CHARLES DANIELS III  
JOSEPH DELVALLE, JR.  
JESUS A. DOMINGUEZ

CLAY C. EDINGER  
JUSTIN A. ELLSWORTH  
ROSS M. ENGEL  
GRANT D. EUBANKS  
BRYAN H. GREENE  
JAMES S. HOLLIDAY  
STEPHEN L. HUEBSCHER  
NATHAN J. HUFFMAN  
JAMES F. HUMMEL  
ERIK C. HUNT  
CHANCELLOR R. JENKINS  
ZACHARY R. JUNIPER  
TIMON D. KELLER  
JAMES J. KIM  
BRADLEY T. LAWRENCE  
TIMOTHY T. W. LEE  
GREGORY L. LESHNER  
CHRISTOPHER J. LINZEY  
DANIEL T. LUBEGA  
CHRISTINA M. MAUNTEL  
ERIC H. MILLARD  
JEFFREY E. OWENS  
TIMOTHY S. PATE  
RENE J. PELLESIER  
JERRY L. ROBERTS  
PHILLIP A. SCARBROUGH  
JOSEPH A. SEIFERT  
DARRON P. SHADDIX  
ANTHONY M. SWANCOAT  
DANIEL J. SWARTZ  
STEVEN T. SZELMECZKI  
FRANKIE J. TILLOTSON  
IZAAK D. TOLIVER  
MARK A. WHITE  
JOSHUA M. WHITESIDE  
BILLY R. WICKHAM  
DAVID D. WOOTEN  
CHEOL YI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be lieutenant commander*

CALEB D. AABERG  
JOHN L. AMOS  
GUSTAVO A. BARON  
ANGELA M. CARANDANG  
ALEXANDER I. CINQMARS  
JACOB M. CONCANNON  
WILLIAM H. CORNETT  
MARTIN J. CRAIG  
JOHN A. DONOHUE  
DALLAS A. DUNBAR III  
CHRISTOPHER J. HUNKELBERG  
ERIC A. ENGLAND  
ADEMAYOKUN I. FAGBEMI  
ERIC T. FALLON  
DERRICK J. FETTES  
TYLER C. PINCHUM  
SILVIA P. FITTE  
NICOLAS A. GONZALEZ  
STEPHEN V. GONZALEZ  
AUSTIN J. HOWARD  
DANIEL T. HULSE  
AARON D. IGNACIO  
YONGJIN JEON  
JOSHUA A. JEPSEN  
YAMILETH JIMENEZ  
CALEB A. LENNON  
ISAAC J. LESKOWAT  
COLTEN B. LYBBERT  
TYSON M. MCLELLAN  
BENJAMIN J. MCCORMACK  
JOSHUA P. MILLS  
DANIEL K. NGATIA  
CALEB B. OSBORNE  
BRENDAN E. OWEN  
KATELYN A. PEKALA  
JACOB M. PLUMB  
JOSEPH C. PLUNKETT  
BRENNAN W. POCHÉ  
RACHEL R. RADWAN  
SHAWN M. REED  
KELSEY N. ROBINSON  
PETER E. SCHMILLEN  
COLBY JAY F. SCIARRILLA  
WELDON E. SHAFFER  
JAIME R. SIGALA  
DON J. UDOFIA  
OMAR VEGACAMPOS  
JACOB L. WAGGONER  
TREY A. WIESE  
JESSICA L. WILLIAMS  
ANDREW B. WILLIAMSON  
SHANNON F. WOJCIEHOWSKI  
MATTHEW S. WOOLWINE  
DMITRIY YAKUBOV

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be lieutenant commander*

WILLIAM J. DEAN  
JEREMY M. HARRIS  
BRENTON W. HEISSERER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be lieutenant commander*

JESSICA L. ABBEY  
SHARON L. AIKEN  
CAYLA R. BARBOUR  
DERRICK J. BARKSDALE  
NATHANIEL A. BOSIAK

KENNETH S. BOSTWICK  
KILLIAN G. BUCKLEY  
ANA M. BURGOSOLIS  
WILLIAM F. BURKE III  
DANIEL P. CHASSE  
KELLY J. CHUNG  
ISABEL S. COELLO  
BENJAMIN M. COOK  
ZOE R. DANIELCZYK  
CHRISTOPHER B. DEMPSEY  
MATTHEW C. DOHERTY  
MEREDITH J. DONALDSON  
GREGORY A. ESCOBAR  
SARAH K. FOSTER  
JADE G. GAUTAM  
JAMES K. GERLACH  
ANDREW J. GILBERT  
SHERIF H. Y. GOHAR  
TERENCE D. GRADO  
ELAINE V. HANSON  
DENISA M. HORNE  
MARK A. HUDSON  
TYLER JARAMILLO  
PHILIP E. JONES  
MEGGIE C. KANE-CRUZ  
SEELY A. KAUFMANN  
CHRISTOPHER R. KENT  
RYAN D. KINKADE  
GEORGE J. KUNTHARA  
LANE A. LANSDOWN  
CHRISTOPHER M. LINNAN  
ZACHARY A. MEISLER  
ALEXANDRA M. MOONEY  
ALEXIS Y. MOORE  
KEVIN R. MORRIS  
MICHAEL R. MORRIS  
ERIC P. MUSSHORN  
GRACE E. NGUYEN  
STEVEN T. OWENS  
WILLEM M. W. PEGLAU  
DANIEL D. PETROSKY  
SARAH A. PHELPS  
CORY O. PIHL  
DANIEL J. SAWEY  
MITCHELL T. SONG  
BRITTANY R. STROMKO  
CONOR B. SULLIVAN  
CASEY T. VERRICHA  
JONATHAN WILBERSSCHEID  
MELISA J. WINK  
JOSHUA M. WON  
WILLIAM Z. XU

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be lieutenant commander*

CHRISTINA M. ACOSTA  
KENDRA L. ARIAS  
COURTNEY A. BALLOU  
TESS L. BANDY  
ERNEST L. BANES  
CHARMAINE E. BANKS  
SHERIE A. D. BERNADOS  
TYLER J. BILLUPS  
ASHLEY M. BOSTIC  
WILLIAM G. BRINKLEY III  
ALEXIS C. BROWN  
ROBERT T. BROWN  
JANELLE C. BROZOVICH  
MELESSA A. CANADY  
MAYRA A. CARLES  
TIFFANI A. CHAPMAN  
KRYSTLE M. COULTER  
WILLIAM B. COWDEN  
APRIL K. CUNNINGHAM  
CANDACE M. CUNNINGHAM  
NICHOLAS L. DARGIS  
HOELRUPERT G. DAVID  
KRISTIN E. DAVIS  
NOAH J. DIETSCHÉ  
JOYMICHELLE D. DIZON  
ZACHARY J. DOTSON  
WILLIAM W. EDMONSON  
LIESL A. EICHENMULLER  
SYDNEY M. ESCOE  
JOHN M. FASSOTH  
ERIN L. FISHER  
JACOB A. FORET  
ROBERT J. FORTIN  
DANA M. FOSTER  
NICHOLAS M. GILMORE  
SHANNON S. GRANT  
ALISHA T. GRASS  
ANDREW K. GREENE  
BRIANNA C. GREGG  
RACHEL M. HALL  
MEGAN S. HARRISON  
MARY B. HINSON  
SHAWN L. HOLDSWORTH  
JACARLOS M. HOUSE  
LAQUETO L. HOUSTON  
BEVERLY A. M. HOWELL  
BRITTANEY M. HUGHES  
MADISON R. IPPOLITO  
MARLENA P. KRZABRY  
ELIZABETH S. JEFFERS  
KAREN L. JIMENEZ-GUDINO  
JOSHUA B. JONES  
STEPHANIE A. KAISER  
JENNIFER KENTKINTHA  
BARBARA C. KENT  
LATISHA D. KING  
MATTHEW E. KIRCHOFF  
CAROLINE A. KIVISTO  
ALEKSANDR I. KOROTAYEV

JOHN KOWALSKI IV  
 PANAWAT KRIANGCHAIVECH  
 LAURA A. KRIEG  
 KELLY R. KUEHNER  
 SARAH A. LEBLANC  
 ELIZABETH R. LEBOLD  
 MONICA M. LEE  
 JENNEY LU  
 AARON J. LUEKE  
 STEPHANIE J. LYON  
 SYDNEY M. MACINTYRE  
 SHAHZAAD C. MACLIN  
 KRISTA M. MACMURRAY  
 RIVALYN D. MESA  
 TARA A. MEZAMACDONALD  
 RONALD J. MICKLOS  
 HENRY D. MILAR, JR.  
 ALEXANDER J. MILLER  
 NOELLE E. MITCHELL  
 KATELYN M. MOORMAN  
 PHILLIP A. NETTE  
 ALEXANDRIA L. NEUZIL  
 CATHARYN D. NOSEK  
 JOSE OLIVERIA III  
 ELENA H. ONOFRECIUC  
 MICHAEL S. ORBITA  
 PRINCE M. OWUSU  
 MICHELLE M. F. PALOMO  
 JON P. PARKS  
 RYAN M. PAVELKA  
 VICTOR M. PEARSON  
 CHRISTOPHER PHAN  
 LOUIS W. PINGOTTI, JR.  
 MARGARET M. PINTO  
 ADEL C. PONDER  
 LIZANN M. PONFERRADA  
 ALLISON E. PORTER  
 KAMRON D. PRATT  
 KATHERINE E. PRINS  
 MERCEDES J. PROCTOR  
 BEN P. Y. QUINN  
 LORI A. QUINN  
 ELIZABETH M. RAEBEL  
 LUCAS D. RAVENTOS  
 KEVIN L. READY  
 HANA S. K. REICHERT  
 CHARITY L. ROBERTS  
 AARON J. ROBINSON  
 ADAM R. ROBLES  
 CARLOS A. ROBLES  
 NICOLE E. P. RODDY  
 KYLIE L. RODGERS  
 BETHEL N. ROMERO  
 ADAM P. RONDINA  
 COURTNEY JAMAAL T. ROUSE  
 IAN P. RYAN  
 TCHAA P. SAMA  
 ERIK A. SANCHEZ  
 TY L. SCHALLENGERBERGER  
 TAYLOR M. SCOTT  
 HARLEY T. SHEFFIELD  
 KRYSTAL M. SMITH  
 TAYLOR L. SMITH  
 NATALIE L. SPRITZER  
 TAMARAN D. STEWART  
 ALEXIS W. TOMLIN  
 HANNAH J. TUMAE  
 JOSEPH R. VAHALY  
 ARMANDO VARELA  
 SUZANNE F. WATERS  
 MILTON WHITE, JR.  
 FEIFEI WILLIAMS  
 RHONAKA D. WILLIAMS  
 GREGORY YUEN  
 ANYA L. ZAPP

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be lieutenant commander*

ABRAHAM D. AGUS  
 GODWIN D. APOSTOL

CRYSTAL B. BLAGG  
 BRIAN K. BOYD  
 MARCUS P. BROWN  
 RICHARD D. BROWN  
 MICHAEL C. BUTTS  
 MATTHEW E. CANON  
 JOHNNATHAN A. CASTILLO  
 VICTOR J. CASTRO  
 JAMES H. CLIFT  
 WILLIAM A. COFFEY, JR.  
 PHONG M. COONG  
 MARY K. CORCORAN  
 RACHEL E. CRAWFORD  
 HENRY R. DAWSON  
 ARMANDO DEL VALL EMARQUEZ  
 OMAR DIAZ  
 JESSE R. DOIRON  
 DELANCY A. DOTSON, JR.  
 SHEENA FERNANDEZ  
 MARIEL S. GATBONTON  
 KAMEEK S. GORDON  
 BRANDON J. HEALY  
 BRANDON J. HICKS  
 TERRY M. HOGAN II  
 MELISSA D. HOWARD  
 SEHEE KIM  
 WILLIAM P. C. KRUGER  
 CHRISTOPHER M. LAFRANCOIS  
 SHEROD L. LEWISSIDNEY  
 SALVADOR M. LIEVANOS  
 JONATHAN H. LIN  
 CARLOS A. LONDONO  
 JOSHUA D. LOWERY  
 ASHLEY S. LOYER  
 DEREK A. MANN  
 DEJAH A. MCGEE  
 BRANDON A. MCNUTT  
 ANTHONY C. MONTGOMERY  
 JACKSON W. MURPHY  
 CHRISTOPHER A. NOCHOWICZ  
 DUSTIN D. NOLLKAMPER  
 JAMES E. OHALLORAN IV  
 BABATUNDE A. OLAOYE  
 ALEJANDRA PALACIO  
 LILLY A. PAYNE  
 ALEJANDRO G. PEREZ  
 JOHNNY S. QUINTONG  
 MANUEL REYNOSO  
 BRIAN L. RHODEHOUSE  
 JUANMIGUELYSIDORE G. SESE  
 PETER H. SHIN  
 GREGORY T. SHUMAKER  
 MARIO L. SMALDINO  
 MASSIMO L. SMALDINO  
 BERNARDO TINOCO  
 ADRIAN W. O. TOMANENG  
 TANA K. TOMLINSON  
 MARIA A. TORRESGUEVARA  
 ALYSSA P. VISCOMI  
 VERONICA B. WALKER  
 ANTHONY C. WILLIAMS  
 JASON M. WOLLBERG  
 JUSTIN M. WRIGHT  
 KRISTA L. YARBROUGH  
 DAVID ZHU

#### DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

ERWIN ANTONI, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE COMMISSIONER OF LABOR STATISTICS, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE ERIKA L. MCENTARFER.

#### FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

LAURA DIBELLA, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSIONER FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2028, VICE L. E. SOLA, TERM EXPIRED.

#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

STEVEN HAINES, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE, VICE GRANT T. HARRIS, RESIGNED.

#### FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

ROBERT HARVEY, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSIONER FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2029, VICE CARL WHITNEY BENTZEL, TERM EXPIRED.

#### EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

GEORGE HOLDING, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES DIRECTOR OF THE EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT, VICE J. STEVEN DOWD.

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

SRIPRAKASH KOTHARI, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, VICE BENJAMIN HARRIS, RESIGNED.

#### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

RYAN MCCORMACK, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION FOR POLICY, VICE CARLOS ALBERTO MONJE, JR.

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

PETER METZGER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INTELLIGENCE AND ANALYSIS, DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY, VICE SHANNON CORLESS, RESIGNED.

#### DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

BRIAN DAVID MILLER, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE GERARD M. KARAM.

#### METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY

TRENT MORSE, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 30, 2030, VICE SEAN BURTON, TERM EXPIRED.

#### CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

JOSHUA SIMMONS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, VICE KATE ELIZABETH HEINZELMAN, RESIGNED.

#### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CHRISTOPHER YEAW, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (ARMS CONTROL, NON-PROLIFERATION, AND STABILITY), VICE MALLORY A. STEWART, RESIGNED.

## WITHDRAWALS

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on September 3, 2025 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nominations:

PENNY SCHWINN, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF EDUCATION, VICE CYNTHIA MINETTE MARTEN, RESIGNED, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JANUARY 22, 2025.

CHRISTOPHER GILBERT, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE CHRISTOPHER R. KAVANAUGH, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JUNE 30, 2025.

TERRENCE GORMAN, OF FLORIDA, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF VETERANS' APPEALS FOR A TERM OF SIX YEARS, VICE JAIME AREIZAGA-SOTO, RESIGNED, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON AUGUST 1, 2025.