



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 171

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2025

No. 201

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Father, strong to save, empower our lawmakers to serve You today, to solve problems, and to remove impediments. Give them Your higher wisdom as they seek You, the source of their strength. Lord, surround them with the shield of Your divine approbation so that no weapon formed against them will prosper.

Almighty God, provide our Senators strength for the adventures and challenges of these hours, inspiring them with the courage to oppose falsehood in all of its forms. May Your truth, love, and power fill their hearts.

We pray in Your great 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. MORENO). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

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

The Senator from Iowa.

HONORING SPECIALIST SARAH BECKSTROM AND STAFF SERGEANT ANDREW WOLFE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, last week, two members of the West Virginia National Guard were tragically shot here, while on duty, in Washington, DC. They were attacked by an Afghan national, brought here under the Biden administration. Sadly, Specialist Beckstrom has passed away, and Staff Sergeant Wolfe continues to fight for his life.

May God bless both of them. Our prayers and mine are with them and their families.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, also last week, an Afghan evacuee was arrested for threatening to bomb a building in Texas. The terrorists entered our country as part of a program called Operation Allies Welcome in the aftermath of the Biden administration's chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Since 2021, I have warned the Biden administration, my congressional allies and colleagues, and the American public about the failure to vet Afghan evacuees. Unfortunately, the Biden administration was not honest with the American people about the program's vetting vulnerabilities.

I asked then-Director Wray about the program's national security, and I asked the same, this year, of Director Patel of the FBI.

This year, Director of National Intelligence Gabbard told my office an important data point: Of the more than 100,000 Afghan evacuees, as of August 2022, 1.6 percent had links to terrorism or other derogatory information. So, when you take that 1.6 percent, that is over 1,600 people who at the time of Biden's disastrous evacuation posed a potential threat to our homeland and to the American people.

On July 8, 2025, I came to the Senate floor and urged the current FBI and

the intelligence community leadership to aggressively investigate evacuees. In September of this year, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Noem told my office that, as of August 12, 2025, thousands of Operation Allies Welcome parolees were potential national security threats.

As we have tragically witnessed, the Biden administration's failure to properly vet Afghan evacuees has serious consequences and probably consequences we haven't seen beyond the killing last week.

I think we should thank the Trump administration's efforts—and I thank them—for responding to my oversight requests and their efforts to fix the Biden administration's failures.

This Senator's oversight work will continue.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I want to begin with a truly disgusting and alarming piece of news the American people got this morning. This morning, the former President of Honduras, Juan Orlando Hernández, was released from prison after Donald Trump gave him a pardon.

We all know Donald Trump does a lot of hypocritical things. Almost every day there is hypocrisy oozing from the White House. But pardoning one of the world's biggest drug traffickers is egregious, shameful, and dangerous, even for Donald Trump.

It would be bad enough on its own for Donald Trump to pardon this horrible drug trafficker, but for him to pardon this drug lord while putting a quarter of our military in the Caribbean, right nearby Honduras, to fight drug trafficking makes an utter mockery of

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S8425

Donald Trump's supposed desire to root out all drug trafficking.

Let's be clear of the facts: The person Donald Trump just pardoned was convicted of helping move 400 tons of cocaine to the United States, all the while Trump blows up alleged drug boats to prevent drugs from getting to America and risks leapfrogging the United States into war with Venezuela.

You can't have it both ways, Mr. President. You talk a big game about hunting down drug traffickers and getting drugs off our streets and then turn around and free a dangerous, convicted drug lord. That sends a message to other criminals: Suck up to Trump, and you will get a pardon, no matter how many boatloads of drugs you pump into our streets.

Even one Trump adviser admitted that "how we justify this is really hard."

Trump's pardon reeks of hypocrisy; it reeks of corruption, which is the MO of the Trump administration.

The failure of the leadership at the Department of Defense is also a national embarrassment. The mess Secretary Hegseth creates regularly shows the consequences of picking an inexperienced FOX News host to lead a massively complex life-or-death Federal Agency. Donald Trump is learning it the hard way: If you pick a FOX News cable host to lead the largest, most complicated Federal Agency of all, you get burnt, and Hegseth is just way beyond what anyone would imagine in how bad he is at that Department.

In the past few days, more questions have arisen about Hegseth's order to attack alleged drug trafficking vessels off the coast of Venezuela. It is possible those strikes—which may have included verbal orders from the Secretary of Defense to "kill everybody" on those boats—violated the law.

But this is the problem: The American people still don't know exactly what happened because Pete Hegseth refuses to tell the truth.

Months ago, right after the strikes, Hegseth went on FOX News and bragged that he was present at every moment of the operation. He said on FOX News that he "watched it live." He said the same to us in person.

But then, last night, he tweeted that his admiral was actually the one who made all the combat decisions.

This is so spineless.

Pete Hegseth won't hesitate for a moment to talk a big game and take credit if he thinks it makes him look good, but the minute trouble arises, suddenly Hegseth says someone else was making the decision.

Now, let's be very clear about something: There is a very easy way for the American people to get the truth. Pete Hegseth should release the full tapes of the September 2 attack—both the first and second strike; not a clip, not some edited or redacted snippet. The full, unedited tapes of each strike must be released so the American people can see what happened with their own eyes.

Now, Pete Hegseth says he did nothing wrong. So prove it. If it is true, he should have nothing to fear from the truth. But if he refuses to release the tapes, if he stonewalls, if he keeps hiding the facts, then the question becomes unavoidable: What is Pete Hegseth hiding? What does Pete Hegseth not want the American people to see?

Is it that his story doesn't add up? We don't know because Pete Hegseth is right now hiding the truth. And, sadly, that has become the theme with this administration. When facts are inconvenient, they cover up.

So, Secretary Hegseth, release the tapes.

I also want to commend my Senate colleagues, including the chairman and ranking member of the Armed Services Committee, Senators WICKER and REED, for working together in good faith in a bipartisan way to conduct oversight of these boat strikes. I support those efforts wholeheartedly.

One of the first things we need is a classified briefing from the DOD—Department of Defense—about exactly what happened during these operations. Let me be clear: Secretary Hegseth must be part of those briefings. We need documentation. We need the tapes.

But we should go one step further: Secretary Hegseth should testify publicly before the committee, under oath, so that the American people hear the facts.

The truth should not be kept behind closed doors. The fresh air of public scrutiny should be let in. The public has a right to know. That is why Pete Hegseth must testify publicly and, most importantly, why he must release the full tape of the attacks.

HEALTHCARE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on healthcare, let me start with a shockingly candid quote from a senior House Republican on their plan to fix healthcare. This senior House Republican, when it came to healthcare, said about the Republicans in the House:

We're nowhere on healthcare.

That is what a senior House Republican said. It is a grim thing to say, but it is the truth. There has never been a clearer divide on what Democrats want on healthcare and what Republicans want on healthcare.

Democrats want to lower healthcare costs for families. We want to make healthcare cheaper, more effective, more accessible. We are united on that issue from one end of the party to the other.

Republicans, meanwhile, are a total mess when it comes to healthcare. Republicans don't know what to do. One day Trump floats a so-called healthcare plan. The next day, Speaker JOHNSON forces him to shoot it down.

Some Republicans say they want to dismantle the ACA—probably a major-

ity of them in the House and a large number in the Senate—just dismantle it altogether. Other Republicans seem more focused on eradicating reproductive care in every State than helping people afford healthcare.

The bottom line is, Republicans are in total disarray on healthcare. And while Republicans continue the infighting, who is paying the price? The American people, the people whose premiums are going up by \$500 to \$1,000 a month. These people know that Trump and the Republicans are to blame.

America, we all know, is in a healthcare crisis, and Republicans are only adding fuel to the fire.

Democrats have been clear from the start: The first step—the first step—to solve this crisis is extending the ACA tax credits. Democrats are ready to do so. We are united, and we are committed to lowering the cost of healthcare.

Republicans, however, by their own admission, are nowhere on healthcare, and that is a disastrous message to send to the American people who are suffering from skyrocketing healthcare costs.

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 PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

HEALTHCARE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, the Democrat leader was just talking about healthcare, and obviously there has been a lot of conversation around that here in these past few weeks and months. In fact, the Democrats shut down the government for 43 days, the longest shutdown in history, allegedly, for healthcare; although, I think we all know that it was Trump derangement syndrome more than anything else that led to the government shutdown.

But I would just say because there is a—you know, sometimes you have to take a walk down memory lane to remind people that facts are stubborn things, and facts are stubborn things.

The Democrat leader implied Republicans are not interested in lowering healthcare costs and that somehow they are. The contrary is actually the truth.

If you look at what has happened since the ObamaCare exchanges went live over 10 years ago, healthcare premiums on the exchange have gone up, on average, 221 percent—a 221-percent increase in healthcare premiums in the

individual marketplace on the ObamaCare exchanges.

Now, you might ask, why is that? There are a lot of reasons behind it. When they put the law in place in the first place, it was flawed structurally. But then he referred to these so-called Biden COVID bonuses, which were the enhancements that the Democrats now want to lock into place.

Now, remember, this was done in 2021 with a Democrat majority, Democrat in the White House, under reconciliation. So there wasn't a single Republican who voted for these enhancements in the first place. But, remember, they were enhancements designed to be responsive to the pandemic.

They were COVID bonuses, only supposed to be temporary. And then, in 2022, they extended them again and set them up to expire at the end of this year. This is a problem of Democrats' making, pure and simple.

So to suggest for a moment that Republicans somehow aren't interested in lowering healthcare costs when, in fact, it is Democrat policies that have led to the runup, the rampant increase—221 percent increase in premiums since the exchanges went live over 10 years ago. You find me anything else in our economy that has seen that kind of an increase over that same time period, Mr. President. That is a staggering increase.

The Biden COVID bonuses that were enacted with all Democrat votes in 2021 and then extended again in 2022 and are set to expire at the end of this year were, again, designed to be a response to a COVID emergency which no longer exists.

So what has happened? They locked in the Biden COVID bonuses that are set to expire at the end of this year, and they expect Republicans now to bail them out. Well, frankly, Republicans are interested in things that will drive down and lower healthcare costs.

The other thing they did in 2022, which is sort of interesting, is that the base ObamaCare policies covered people up to 400 percent of the poverty level. Well, today, that is about, for a family of four, \$128,000. So in the exchanges, you could get coverage, and if your healthcare insurance premiums hit a certain percentage of your income, anything above and beyond that was covered by a government subsidy. That is, in fact, the way it worked prior to 2021. The Biden COVID bonuses took that cap off. There is no cap—no cap. So now you have people making \$500,000, \$600,000 a year who are getting subsidies from the Federal Government to buy insurance.

The other thing they did is they did away with—there are what are called zero-dollar policies or zero-dollar premiums. In other words, there are people out there who pay nothing for coverage. Their coverage is entirely covered by the Federal Government through the subsidy.

Well, what that has done and because of the way the program is structured—

they structured it—is to provide the subsidies directly to insurance companies. This is called, falsely, a premium tax credit. It is not a tax credit. A tax credit would be something that would lower tax liability dollar for dollar when you file your income taxes. This is a subsidy, a direct subsidy.

So you have literally millions of people—millions of people—who have no idea they are covered because they aren't paying anything for it, and the insurance companies are getting the payment. So the insurance companies are incentivized to go out and autoenroll all these people across the country. So what you have today are literally millions of people of the 23 to 24 million people who get their coverage in the exchanges—millions of those have no idea that they are even covered because the insurance company is getting the subsidy, autoenrolling them, which might explain why last year 40 percent of the people who get their insurance coverage through the exchanges didn't file a claim.

Now, you could say that maybe they are healthy; maybe they are younger. That is all partially true, but do you think 40 percent of the people in the exchanges didn't file a claim? I mean, think about that. That means there are literally millions of people out there—millions of people who don't know they have coverage, and the insurance companies are getting the payments and making bank at the expense of everybody else in this country. And those who are paying premiums are seeing those premiums go up, as I said, 221 percent since these exchanges went live 10 years ago.

So this is not something the Republicans—they blame the Republicans for the healthcare crisis. The healthcare crisis was created by Democrats with all Democrat votes in 2021 and then again in 2022, setting them up to expire at the end of this year and with no income limits and zero-dollar premiums and the subsidies going directly to the insurance companies instead of into the pockets of the American people.

Now, there is a better way to do this, but it is going to take cooperation from both sides to do that. It seems to me, at least, that what the Democrats would rather have than a solution is an issue. They want a political issue, and they want to blame Republicans. But you have to come back to the basic premise that facts are stubborn things.

These are the facts: In 2021, these Biden COVID bonuses went into effect. Lifted the cap, so there is no cap, so you can have unlimited amounts of income and still get coverage in the exchanges; zero-dollar premiums, so some people are paying nothing for their health insurance premiums; and insurance companies that are incentivized to autoenroll those very people. In many cases, those people have no idea they are covered. That is a pretty amazing contraption, if you will, and, some would argue, scam on behalf of

the insurance companies in this country but certainly to the detriment of the American people, who do need more affordable coverage. They need to be able to afford healthcare along with the other things they buy on a daily basis. People need access to healthcare in this country, and they need affordability when it comes to healthcare in this country.

I would say there is a path forward here. It can't happen unless there are significant reforms because you can't have people who are making unlimited amounts of money being able to qualify for government subsidies in these exchanges. Nor should you have, in my view, people who pay absolutely nothing—not one dollar—for coverage getting coverage and insurance companies being incentivized, because they get a subsidy for doing it, to cover these very people who don't even know they are covered. That is a really, really bizarre business model. I mean, you couldn't make this stuff up.

Now the Democrats are saying: Oh, we created this, but it is your problem. Please, please fix it. If you don't, if you don't do something that will extend this program that has premiums that continue to go up like this for the American people, we will use it against you in a political campaign as a political issue.

That is the state of play right now, which is why we need a solution and a solution that brings us back to where the American people have options, where there are some sort of income limits, where there are people at least paying something for their coverage, where the insurance companies aren't being enriched at the expense of the American people, and where the American people have choices and options to get the plan they want that works for them and for their families. That is a business model that works. Competition, optionality, market forces, driving down prices, giving the American people more choices to buy the insurance they want at a price they can afford—that is a business model.

The business model we are operating under today was created by the Democrats, and now there is some expectation that somehow Republicans are supposed to come here and fix the problem they created.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. THUNE. So let me get back to my remarks here and start by saying that last month, the incoming mayor of New York City, who is a leading voice in today's Democratic Party, promised New Yorkers:

We will prove that there is no problem too large for government to solve, and no concern too small for it to care about.

No problem too large and no concern too small for government to get involved. That was the quote. That is a dangerous way of thinking. It is a license for government growing

unbounded, and it is a recipe for expanded bureaucracy and greater frustration for Americans who are just trying to live their lives.

But growing government is the driving philosophy of the Democratic Party, and you can just look at the Biden years. We had the Federal Government mandating masks for 2-year-olds outside—not in a building, outside for 2-year-olds; the EPA regulating puddles and saddling farmers and ranchers with massive compliance laws, which we experienced in my State of South Dakota; electric vehicle mandates. If they had their way, by next year, 35 percent of the vehicles on the highway would be EVs. Thirty-five percent. Do you know what that number is today? It is about 10, 11, maybe 12. There is no way—no way—that could have been complied with. And there was a reckless tax-and-spending spree that caused a yearslong inflation crisis. Inflation got up in the double-digit range—something we haven't seen in several decades.

Republicans have spent the last year cleaning up from the consequences of Democrats' Big Government philosophy. President Trump has repealed a number of burdensome regulations and rules, and here in Congress, we have used the Congressional Review Act to repeal rules, regulations, and mandates that were creeping into seemingly every facet of Americans' lives. That includes four separate rules on appliances.

That is right—last year, appliances became the latest focus of Democrats' radical environmental agenda. One rule applied expensive, unnecessary, new standards to commercial fridges and freezers, the kind used in restaurants and grocery stores. The Energy Department estimated that it would take 90 years for a business to see savings from these more expensive appliances.

Another rule sought to take gas water heaters off the market, raising costs for homeowners and imperiling American manufacturing jobs.

Then there were the Biden administration's proposed reporting and certification requirements for everything from light bulbs and dishwashers to dehumidifiers and air-conditioners.

Reporting and certification requirements may not sound like much, but those requirements mean a lot of front-end work that has to be done—work that costs time and money and places a huge burden on businesses and drives up prices for consumers.

In its public comments on the Biden administration's appliance standards, Carrier, an appliance manufacturer, said that the Department of Energy failed to adequately account for “the cost and burden . . . to comply with updated requirements.” A manufacturers association said that the proposed reporting standards had “no practical utility.” Another objected to what they called “burden without benefit.”

Thanks to Republicans' efforts, hard-working Americans and small busi-

nesses have been spared these costly regulations.

We have also been able to dismantle Democrats' regulatory assault on Americans' cars. President Trump repealed the Biden administration's electric vehicle mandate, and here in Congress, we approved legislation to repeal waivers that would have allowed California to impose a de facto electric vehicle mandate on the whole country.

We also passed a CRA resolution repealing the Biden rubber tire manufacturing rule—a gross example of unnecessary regulation. The Biden administration proposed new emissions standards for tire manufacturers—an industry that is already subject to strict emissions rules.

The Biden rule, while it would have reduced the emissions of certain pollutants, would have actually increased—increased—emissions of carbon dioxide and methane. That is right. You can't make that up. It would have increased emissions of carbon dioxide and methane, and it would have cost tire manufacturers \$13 million per year and possibly more than that.

Unfortunately, these are not the only examples of the overreach of the Biden administration's Green New Deal-style regulations. No, the Biden administration also went after energy production, heaping additional costs and restrictions on energy producers that would have driven energy costs higher and higher.

Earlier this year, Republicans repealed the Biden administration's marine archaeology rule. Energy producers are already required to submit an archaeological report before drilling in areas that are thought to include things like shipwrecks, settlements, and other archaeological sites, but the Biden administration wanted energy producers to submit reports even when there is no reason to suspect a project will be near an archaeological site. It was just another way to slow down production and heap more costs on energy producers—costs that would eventually have been paid by American consumers. Republicans repealed that rule.

Then there was Democrats' natural gas tax. In 2022, Democrats enacted a tax on methane emissions from natural gas producers—a tax that would have driven up energy prices and destroyed jobs in the energy sector. Republicans repealed this regulatory implementation through the CRA—the Congressional Review Act—process and then blocked this misguided tax in the One Big Beautiful Bill this summer.

Our efforts continue. A few weeks ago, the Senate passed a resolution blocking the Biden administration's restriction on energy development in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska—an area established specifically—specifically—for the purpose of providing the United States with energy resources. The Biden administration tried to close a significant portion of it, but when President Trump signs this resolution and repeals these re-

strictions, we will once again be able to leverage these abundant natural resources for the benefit of the American people.

Regulations have consequences. Democrats may believe there is nothing that couldn't be improved by a little government intervention, but Republicans and I think the American people know what too often happens when government decides to get involved.

Reagan said 40 years ago:

[T]he nine most terrifying words in the English language are: I'm from the government, and I'm here to help.

When I am talking to business owners in South Dakota, I often tell them to let me know how we can help, even if that means getting out of the way.

And, Mr. President, that is often the right answer. While some regulations are necessary, too often regulations do more harm than good. And regulations mean costs—costs that are almost always passed on to the consumer.

Republicans are continuing our efforts to get government out of the way and to bring down costs for the American people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

WYOMING SERVICEMEMBERS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, each year, I look forward to spending Thanksgiving with Wyoming men and women in uniform who are serving overseas. I had the privilege of doing it again this year. This Thanksgiving, I was with Wyoming airmen at Ramstein Air Base, which is in Germany.

These young men and women came from Casper, Cheyenne, and Riverton, serving our Nation. They are doing an outstanding job in their work and supporting missions in Europe, in Asia, and in the Middle East. They are a long way from home—eight time zones away from Wyoming—away from family, away from friends, away for the holidays.

And I go every year, wherever I can find Wyoming troops, to thank them for their service, to thank them for their commitment, to thank them for what they do to keep us safe and to keep us free, and for the sacrifices that they are making. And I also want them to know that the people at home are thinking about them and know that they are a long way from home and caring for all of us.

To me, they are heroes. They wear the uniform not for their safety but for ours. We see it abroad, and we also see it at home.

And what we have seen at home is, since August, National Guard troops have been deployed right here in Washington, DC. As a result, Washington, DC, is safer for residents and for visitors, for people who come from your State and from mine who want to come and see the Nation's Capital. What we have seen since this has begun is that

the numbers of murders, rapes, and robberies have fallen dramatically.

Tragically, just 1 day before Thanksgiving, two members of the National Guard were targeted. It was an ambush attack, and it happened just blocks away from the White House. It was an act of terrorism. The act was not only on our National Guardsmen; it was on our entire Nation.

One of the servicemembers was Sarah Beckstrom. She was an Army specialist from West Virginia. She died on Thanksgiving Day. She was only 20 years old.

The other is Andrew Wolfe. He is a staff sergeant in the Air Force, also from West Virginia, and is 24 years old. He remains hospitalized in critical condition, fighting for his life.

We join all Americans in praying for them and their families.

The terrorist who attacked them was an Afghan national. He is one of tens of thousands of Afghans who were flown into our country following Joe Biden's disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan. We now know for a fact that thousands of these individuals were not properly vetted.

I specifically questioned Joe Biden's Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, here in the Senate about this, and I questioned him under oath. Under oath, he testified—Joe Biden's Secretary of State—that “most of them were not” vetted.

It didn't matter to Joe Biden. He waved them all into our country.

Republicans warned repeatedly that bringing people without proper clearance from a war-torn country was a major national security risk. The negligent Biden administration ignored the warning.

In 2021, 13 American heroes were killed in the botched withdrawal from Kabul, Afghanistan. One of them was Wyoming's own Rylee McCollum. He embodied the best of Wyoming. He was a marine. He joined the Marines on his 18th birthday.

I spoke at his funeral. He was Wyoming's wrestling champion. He was about to become a father. He was just 20 years old when he died. He was the same age as Sarah Beckstrom from West Virginia.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, the fallout from Joe Biden's disastrous decision hurt Americans then, and it continues to hurt Americans today. President Trump and Republicans are working to reverse these failures. The President is strengthening law enforcement. He is deporting criminals who are here in our country illegally, and he is taking a hard look at anyone who has been improperly vetted. His actions will make America safer and more secure.

Joe Biden's disgraceful withdrawal was not an isolated failure. It was part of a pattern of dangerous, destructive, and deadly policies. More than 10 million illegal immigrants entered our

country under Joe Biden and the Democrats. Millions more are known “got-aways.” They are individuals who were seen by the Border Patrol but never charged, never stopped, never questioned.

How many more terrorists slipped into our country because Democrats threw open the borders? Where are they now? What are they up to? We don't know.

Most Americans understand that national security begins with border security. That means we must stop people from entering our country illegally. It means we must ensure dangerous individuals do not enter our country, even through legal means, and it certainly means we must remove dangerous criminals that are in the country today.

As the Trump administration recently warned, “mass migration poses an existential threat to Western civilization.”

So what do the Democrats think? Well, on Sunday, on “Face the Nation,” CBS asked the junior Senator from Virginia if the vetting process should be strengthened after the shooting. Now, that is exactly what President Trump is doing. The Senator refused to answer that question. Instead, he told a national television audience that having the National Guard in Washington, DC, was a “political stunt.” He blamed President Trump.

“Political stunt”? It is a matter of public safety.

President Trump is the one who is protecting American citizens from terrorist attacks—attacks like the one witnessed last week, just in front of the White House. President Trump and Republicans want every American to be safe, to be secure, and to be prosperous. This is our top priority.

After last week's brutal attack, securing our border and our communities is more urgent than ever, and Republicans are going to continue to remove criminals from the streets and get the terrorists out of the country.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

HEALTHCARE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, many of us bring life experiences to the Senate Chamber, and it shapes our judgment on critical issues.

When I was first married, my wife and I were blessed with a beautiful little baby girl. I was going to law school here in Washington, DC. It turns out that our little girl had a serious, serious medical problem.

The difficulty I faced was the fact that I had no health insurance. I was a law student, and I ended up going to Children's Hospital here in Washington, DC, with my wife and our little baby girl and sitting in the charity ward, which basically was there for people who couldn't pay their medical bills and had no health insurance. We

waited for the door to open and for our family name to be called out to meet, for the first time, the doctor who was going to treat my little girl.

I never felt more helpless in my life, as a father, to have that baby with that medical problem and to have no health insurance. I am sure that colored my judgment the rest of my life and my service of over 40 years in Congress.

I have always voted to give families a better chance of having health insurance. Having lived without it, I value it so much. It has been a major part of my feelings about healthcare and about the role of Congress.

And so then, 15 years ago, when President Obama, my former colleague from Illinois, was President of the United States and set out to achieve something that had never been done in the United States—to dramatically expand the coverage of health insurance to families that otherwise wouldn't qualify under the existing law or couldn't afford it—I worked hard to pass that bill. It took us a long time and a lot of effort.

I was whip of the Senate Democrats at that point, and I used to go to Harry Reid's office several times a day to talk about the next step in passing the Affordable Care Act.

The day finally came. I won't dwell on the minutia or the details of how we reached, but we did it. Unfortunately, throughout that process, we never—had one Republican vote of support, ever. We were fortunate to have 60 Democrats at the right moment politically to pass a bill in the U.S. Senate.

I was sorry that the Republicans didn't join us in this effort. They could have made a better bill out of it—I am sure of it—if they had joined us, but they decided not to.

And so, for the last 15 years, the Affordable Care Act has offered to millions of Americans health insurance coverage, which was unthinkable before it passed.

Let me give you a couple of examples.

There was a time when health insurance plans in the United States, before the Affordable Care Act, didn't cover mental health issues or addiction issues. You think to yourself, well, those are serious issues. They affect people's health. Why wouldn't they cover it? Because they are expensive, and they didn't want to.

But two Senators came out on the floor here—one a Democrat, Paul Wellstone of Minnesota, and the other a Republican, Pete Domenici of New Mexico—and pushed to include as a requirement, in all health insurance plans, that they cover mental illness.

I supported that. My family, like most families, has a story to tell when it comes to mental illness, and I viewed it as an issue of health, not an issue of a curse that a person has to try to outlive. So we included it. Thank goodness we did. Not only did mental illness have health insurance coverage, but

the addiction problem did as well. Just at the time, we entered into the opioid addiction, which swamped the United States and needed this kind of response in Congress. That was one thing.

The second thing, before the Affordable Care Act, if you had any history of any illness, coverage would be excluded for that illness when you got your health insurance plan. So most plans were worthless for people who came into the market looking for healthcare coverage if they had any history whatsoever. That was eliminated, and I am glad it was.

We also extended health insurance coverage for children of families to age 26. The belief was simple: When your child, your son or your daughter, graduates college and starts looking for a job, they may not have luck at the outset. They may not have a full-time job when they finally do find employment. And they probably, in those days, had no health insurance offered to them as part-time employees. So we let young people stay under their family health insurance plan until they reached the age of 26.

Those are the types of things that have been decried by many Republicans as socialism, too much government, too much regulation. But it meant that the health insurance market was actually worth something to families who otherwise were excluded from it or found it too expensive.

As I said, we passed that major legislation 15 years ago—roughly 15 years ago—at a time when not a single Republican would support it.

Now we are back into a period—and I listened closely to the Republican leader this morning—where we are asking: What are we going to do moving forward?

Here is the problem: For those people who had limited income, health insurance was beyond their reach. And so we offered a tax break—a tax credit—for people to help pay their health insurance premiums. Otherwise, they were too expensive. That health insurance tax credit helped millions of American families afford health insurance, and we moved forward.

But there came a time when the Republicans had a chance, with their own majority, to address the Affordable Care Act, and they started eliminating that health insurance credit.

As a consequence, many families—24 million, we believe, nationwide—face the prospect that their health insurance premiums are going to be too high and increase dramatically, beyond their reach in family income.

And that is exactly what is happening. Families across America who qualify for the Affordable Care Act health insurance tax credit are learning that their health insurance premiums are going up dramatically. I receive letters and contacts from people in Illinois, which I will put in the record in just a moment here.

But Senator THUNE, who is a friend and the Republican leader of the Sen-

ate, came to the floor this morning and pointed to two areas he thinks needed to be changed in the Affordable Care Act. One is whether your income level should be taken into consideration for the tax credit, and I believe it should and he does, too, I think. I don't want to put words in his mouth, but that is what I understood him to say this morning. Secondly, that there are zero premium policies that are being taken advantage of by some unethical people.

I think those are two legitimate areas of debate. I want to offer, as a Democratic Senator, my good offices and personal effort to try to fix those two problems if it means we can come together and restore tax credits for families that otherwise cannot afford their health insurance premiums. We are going to have a chance to do it.

And it was Senator THUNE who created that chance. He said the Democrats could offer a basic bill to improve the system, which I am sure we will. And I hope that the Republicans may offer amendments to it or may have their own approach that we can debate leading into it. The problem is, we have precious little time. It is supposed to be done before December 12, and that is only a few days away. Some of these changes are significant. We ought to take a little time to make sure we get them right.

I am just saying, as an offer—and I hope the American people follow this closely—this Democrat, and I am sure others as well on my side of the aisle, will sit down with Senator THUNE to try to address the problems that he raised this morning. They are legitimate concerns. We may see them a little differently, but let's discuss it.

Let's do something we hardly ever do in the U.S. Senate anymore: Let's legislate. Let's do it on a bipartisan basis. They don't have 60 votes on their side of the aisle, nor do we. But if we come together, we can muster 60 votes for a good change and say to millions of Americans with health insurance premiums they can't afford that there is a way out of this.

Let us extend the Affordable Care Act tax credits with some changes, as suggested, but do it for a period of time that is reasonable and gives people peace of mind. If we are concerned about the cost of living and family budgets, for goodness' sake, it starts with healthcare. Health insurance premiums can be so high, people have no choice.

OPERATION MIDWAY BLITZ

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I would like to address another issue on a different topic. For more than 3 months, Chicago has endured President Trump's Operation Midway Blitz. It is a cruel campaign that swept up innocent citizens, legal American residents, and immigrants who pose absolutely no threat to public safety.

Remember why the President wanted to send troops and more resources to

the Department of Homeland Security into the city of Chicago? Because he was going after "the worst of the worst." He was going after terrorists, murderers, rapists, the criminally insane who somehow got into this country, and he was going to make it safer by going after them. What has actually happened? The Trump administration justified their actions by saying that they were going after "the worst of the worst," but what happened was just the opposite.

Federal agents, under President Trump, have used excessive force in Chicago while patrolling our streets, including deploying pepper balls and tear gas into crowds, using zip ties to contain women and children, and physically tackling peaceful protesters to the ground. If you think I am making this up, virtually everything I just said is verified by video.

In a hearing challenging the treatment of press and protesters by Federal immigration agents, U.S. District Judge Sara Ellis said the "use of force shocks the conscience" and "this conduct shows no sign of stopping," said the Federal judge. In contrast to this judge's observation, Border Patrol Chief Greg Bovino boasted in his deposition, almost mockingly, that "all uses of force have been more than exemplary." I will just tell you, Mr. Bovino, look at the videotape.

To rein in the lawlessness, Judge Ellis issued a preliminary injunction restricting the agents' use of chemical agents against protesters. Outside of a Lutheran church in Albany Park several weeks ago, after an 11 o'clock service broke up, the parishioners were leaving the church. The ICE agents were waiting on the sidewalk and dropped a tear gas canister in front of the church. Whistles were going off and eventually ICE agents left. But do you think would-be terrorists were at that Lutheran service? I don't think so. It was harassment in that neighborhood.

Judge Ellis issued a finding, a 233-page opinion, explaining her ruling on examining specific instances of Federal immigration agents' use of excessive force. While the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals has temporarily paused that injunction, which she issued while it considers the government's appeal, the court noted that Judge Ellis "has developed voluminous . . . robust factual findings" of wrongdoing by these agents.

And though some courts have acted as a critical guard against the President's lawlessness, those rulings don't change the fact that the Trump administration's militarized raids are dangerous political theater meant to spread fear and advance an anti-immigrant agenda.

After wreaking havoc in Illinois and now Charlotte, reports indicate the city of New Orleans is Greg Bovino's next target. I ask my Republican colleagues: What if this Midway Blitz comes to your State, your hometown? What is stopping the President from

sowing fear there, conducting lawless raids in your cities? It is up to all of us to denounce this kind of conduct.

Just incidentally, they did a survey of 600 of the people who have been arrested in Chicago in the Midway Blitz, going after “the worst of the worst” criminals. What percentage of those 600 do you think actually had any kind of criminal record that was serious? It was 2 percent, 16 of them—16 people out of 600.

Millions of dollars being spent to terrorize innocent people and wreck these communities and their economies, and it turns out the return rate was 2 percent. Sixteen would-be criminals were brought to justice at the expense of our community.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on a separate subject, in just a few weeks, the Affordable Care Act’s enhanced premium tax credits are set to expire. We have precious little time to act. That means, on January 1 of next year, millions of Americans will see their health insurance costs skyrocket, and some will have to drop health insurance coverage completely because they just can’t afford the premiums. Will they get sick? You bet. Will they go to the hospital? Many will. Will they get treated? Yes. Will they be able to pay their bills with their health insurance premiums? Unfortunately, not if they drop coverage.

That includes my constituent Jess, a hair stylist in Chicago who was diagnosed with breast cancer last year. Jess said that if the tax credits go away, as they are supposed to on January 1, she would be forced to pay more for healthcare and will have to make a “lifestyle change to pay the difference,” potentially working more shifts. She also worries about a lapse of coverage if the price increase forces her to switch plans. Any gap in coverage could jeopardize her lifesaving cancer treatment.

How would you like to have that hanging over your head? Premiums of your health insurance plan go through the roof, and you need constant coverage because of a diagnosis of breast cancer. No American family should face that.

Here is the good news though. We can make a difference here in the Senate. We can stop Americans like Jess from falling off this looming healthcare cliff. As part of the bipartisan agreement to end the longest government shutdown in American history, Leader THUNE, who was on the floor this morning, gave me his word, and I accepted it, that he will hold a vote in this Chamber extending these subsidies to Jess and others who desperately need help.

Last week, reports emerged from the White House about plans to release a proposal that would extend these subsidies for 2 years. The President was supporting that. Imagine my surprise

after trying to cut or repeal the Affordable Care Act more than 70 times, after he promised on the campaign trail that he had “concepts of a plan,” whatever the heck that is—finally, we were to see the details of the Republican healthcare agenda for America.

But congressional Republicans jumped all over the White House and told the President he couldn’t do it. They threw cold water on the idea of the President cooperating with the Democrats to solve this problem. The President has been tough to pin down on this subject, and Republicans know that they have a losing hand because they have no plan.

So far, their signature accomplishment is a law that would kick 11 million Americans off Medicaid and shutter rural hospitals in my State and others.

It is my hope that the President and Republicans will come to the table and negotiate in good faith in the few days that remain in the December session. Let’s do this together. Let’s fix the tax credit that is available to families who struggle to pay health insurance premiums. If they don’t, we will put our proposal on the floor, and the American people will see where each party stands when it comes to helping deserving American families who need a helping hand.

If our offer on the Democrat side is rejected, the American public will know, with every paycheck, with every prescription, with every hospital bill, which party stood on their side and which didn’t.

The time to make a good-faith effort on a bipartisan basis is now. Just 13 days from now is the deadline to enroll or change plans before the first of the year. Before and during the shutdown, my Republican colleagues argued there was plenty of time to craft a fix before the subsidies expire. The clock is ticking, and we need to act on a bipartisan basis.

When I voted to end the government shutdown, it was controversial. But I said I would not wage a political strategy at the expense of my neighbor’s paycheck or food for his family. I meant it. But I, too, cannot sit idly by while 20 million Americans go without gas or groceries in order to pay their health insurance premiums. This is a question of fundamentals: Will you be able to afford the healthcare you and your family need? Let’s get this done on behalf of every American in red and blue communities alike.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). The Senator from Maine.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Freeman nomination.

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

(The remarks of Ms. COLLINS pertaining to the introduction of S. 3296

are printed in today’s RECORD under “Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.”)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The youthful junior Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. JUSTICE. Youthful. I like that.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to complete my remarks prior to the scheduled rollcall vote.

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

HONORING SPECIALIST SARAH BECKSTROM AND STAFF SERGEANT ANDREW WOLFE

Mr. JUSTICE. Mr. President, I would tell everyone just this—all those up in the Galleries, everybody—I am probably going to need your prayers to get through this, because we have had something happen in the small but great State of West Virginia that absolutely is tragic beyond belief.

I mean, look at these two young, beautiful people. We have lost Sarah, haven’t we? And Andrew is just clinging for his life.

West Virginia is really hurting—really hurting. Our National Guard is really hurting but nowhere close—nowhere possibly close—to how these families are really hurting. So in every single way, I ask for your prayers.

Just think of the call that came right before Thanksgiving—Thanksgiving, of all times of the year. Think about that call. Think about basically the senseless attack on America, but think about that call to these families and how bad bad really is.

You see, in my little State of West Virginia—I will just tell you this—the people are proud; the people are smart; the people are craftsmen; they are good people; they are loving people; they are neighbors. They are absolutely a people that are appreciative—appreciative of all. It is amazing just how deeply appreciative they are when somebody does something that helps them in any way.

I have got to tell you this real quick. I had brown hair at one time, and I was really skinny. I grew up in the little town of Beckley, WV. I used to ride my bike absolutely from where we lived on a little dirt road, a little red dog road at the time—and “red dog” is something they just make out of, you know, coal piles that become slate and just got burnt, and they built a great road. With all that being said, I would ride my bike 8 miles across town to Little League practice. You see, I lived in Mayberry. That is all there is to it.

Now, think about our National Guard. You know, there is story after story.

I was able to be the Governor of the great State of West Virginia for 8 years, and I worked hand in hand with them. It was unbelievable what General Hoyer and General Crane and all the great people of the National Guard—they are phenomenal beyond all possible comparison. That is why

Sarah and Andrew wanted to be guardsmen. Absolutely they are unbelievable.

I have been right in the middle of the flood. And my family happens to own the Greenbrier Hotel, and it is a little place in West Virginia. But with all that being said, with the terrible flood that happened in 2016, we hunted bodies on the golf courses and found three bodies on the golf courses. We hunted for 6 weeks for a little 14-year old girl, Mykala Phillips, and we found her 5 miles downstream 6 weeks later.

I have been with the National Guard, and I have seen every single part of the National Guard and just how great—and I mean great—these people are. I think, though, just at this time, please, please keep your focus on these families.

Andrew is clinging to life and showing signs of goodness towards maybe coming out and coming through this, but life will be really, really tough, won't it?

And Sarah—20 years old, beautiful beyond belief, and gone. And why? Why? Why on Earth? Why?

You know, many of you may say this. You may say: Well, we don't agree with what the President has done.

And I would say to you just this. I would say to you: How many body bags—how many body bags do we have to have in our cities to do something?

What was he trying to do? What does he continue to try to do? He is trying every way in the world to give Mayberry back to us, to give us what we all deserve in every single way. He is trying with all in it.

My little town of Beckley, WV, now has turned into, in many ways, not a great place from the standpoint of crime. If you ask JIM JUSTICE this, if you said to JIM JUSTICE “Well, you know, I will tell you what we have got. We have got three Canadian Mounted Police that can come to Beckley, WV, and can really make a difference, they can really help,” who would turn that down? Who would say “No, no, we don't want to do that. No, we don't want to do that because that is going to infringe on somebody” or whatever it may be? Do you not realize that every day that goes by, it gets worse? We have got to do something.

I would say: If this isn't the answer, then you fix it because we want to be Mayberry. We deserve to be Mayberry.

Last thing I would say is just this: America, please listen to me and listen now. What in the world has happened to us? What in the world has happened to us? Is the next thing you don't have enough dead bolts or locks on the front door of your house or your back door? Are we going to absolutely lock our bedrooms when we go to bed at night? because we will put locks on that too.

America, something is really wrong, and we have to really do something about it.

From the standpoint of Congress, are we dysfunctional? You are dad gum right in a lot of ways. I haven't been

here very long, but I see absolutely the food fight going on all the time and the respect level almost nonexistent. That is bad.

We should absolutely respect one another, and we should look at each other's views and opinions and honor them, and we don't. And vote after vote after vote after vote, 59—51, 49. It is not good. It is not good, America, and it is not a game.

You see, at the end of the rainbow on every single thing we do here, there is a name. Today, the names are Sarah and Andrew.

America, please let's not gloss over. Let's absolutely let them have the opportunity to be a change—a change of who we are. Think about what they have given. Think about how many are hurting.

Absolutely first and foremost, again, I ask for your prayers for these great, great, great young people and their unbelievable families. God bless each and every one of them.

God bless this great Nation. And let's do something about it. Absolutely, let's let them change America. Don't forget them. Don't forget them no matter what you do. Don't ever forget them.

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of David A. Bragdon, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of North Carolina.

NOMINATION OF DAVID A. BRAGDON

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm David Alan Bragdon to the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina.

I will vote in opposition to Mr. Bragdon's confirmation to a lifetime appointment on the Federal bench.

While in college, Mr. Bragdon ran a personal website, whose homepage was titled, “DAVID BRAGDON'S RADICAL Conservative, Republican, Libertarian Home page.” He took it upon himself to share his views on a host of issues, and these views gravely concern me. Mr. Bragdon wrote that seeking an abortion is the “wrong decision” and it is due to “the woman's poor judgment.” Even more disturbing, he said that a woman “must face the consequences [sic]” if she does not use birth control. Mr. Bragdon also argued that welfare caused immorality and encouraged drugs and crime. He also contended that children of welfare recipients are more likely to drop out of school, end up in prison, and have children out of wedlock.

I recognize that nominees often write things in college that no longer reflect their views today. But when I asked Mr. Bragdon about the views he expressed on his website, he refused to disavow his prior writings.

For these reasons, I will oppose Mr. Bragdon's nomination, and I urge my colleagues to join me.

VOTE ON BRAGDON NOMINATION

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 625 Ex.]

YEAS—53

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

NAYS—45

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

NOT VOTING—2

Duckworth	Fetterman
-----------	-----------

The nomination was confirmed.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 473, Lindsey Ann Freeman, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of North Carolina.

John Thune, John Barrasso, Jon A. Husted, John R. Curtis, Tom Cotton, Bernie Moreno, John Boozman, Chuck Grassley, James Lankford, John Cornyn, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Markwayne Mullin, Kevin Cramer, Pete Ricketts, Katie Boyd Britt, Tim Sheehy, Jim Banks.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Lindsey Ann Freeman, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of North Carolina, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGRO) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 61, nays 36, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 626 Ex.]

YEAS—61

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

NAYS—36

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

NOT VOTING—3

Duckworth	Fetterman	Gallego
-----------	-----------	---------

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas are 61, the nays are 36. The motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Lindsey Ann Freeman, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of North Carolina.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:07 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. BRITT).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

VOTE ON FREEMAN NOMINATION

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) would have voted "yea."

The result was announced—yeas 60, nays 39, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 627 Ex.]

YEAS—60

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

NAYS—39

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

NOT VOTING—1

Cruz

The nomination was confirmed.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Executive Calendar No. 3, S. Res. 520.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

An executive resolution (S. Res. 520) authorizing the en bloc consideration in Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Executive Calendar No. 3, S. Res. 520, an executive resolution authorizing the en bloc consideration in Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar.

John Thune, John Barrasso, Tim Sheehy, Mike Rounds, Pete Ricketts, Roger F. Wicker, Steve Daines, Todd Young, Mike Crapo, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Bernie Moreno, Markwayne Mullin, John R. Curtis, Marsha Blackburn, Tom Cotton, David McCormick, Ted Budd.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session.

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

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026—Motion to Proceed

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 136, H.R. 4016.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 136, H.R. 4016, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. KAINÉ. Mr. President, Juan Orlando Hernandez is the former President of Honduras, a country I lived in when I worked with Jesuit missionaries in 1980 and 1981. In a landmark criminal prosecution, he was convicted by a jury in an American Federal court of a massive conspiracy to traffic more than 400 tons of cocaine into the United States while he was President of this very poor country.

Trial testimony included a witness who quoted Hernandez saying that he wanted to “shove drugs right up the noses of the gringos and they’re never even going to know it.”

The case against Hernandez began when Donald Trump’s Department of Justice prosecuted his brother Tony in 2019. During that trial and the subsequent trial of the former Honduran President in 2024, evidence showed that President Hernandez led a conspiracy to distribute cocaine in the United States, engaged in serious firearms offenses, and collected millions of dollars in bribes from some of the most dangerous criminals in the world, including Joaquin “El Chapo” Guzman of the Sinaloa Cartel. These actions coincided with a spike in violent crime in Honduras, rendering it, for a time, the most dangerous nation on Earth, forcing many Hondurans to leave their country, some coming to the United States.

The jury that heard the 3-week-long case against the disgraced former President convicted him on multiple offenses. He was sentenced to 45 years in prison.

Last Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, President Trump announced that he would pardon this notorious narco-trafficking kingpin after just 1 year of serving his 45-year sentence in a Federal penitentiary in West Virginia. Hernandez was released from prison yesterday.

The unconscionable Hernandez pardon followed another Trump pardon of another notorious narco-trafficker. On January 21, 2025, the day after President Trump’s inauguration, he pardoned Ross Ulbricht. Ulbricht was convicted in a Federal court after a 4-week jury trial in 2015 of seven serious charges stemming from his operation of a criminal enterprise known as Silk Road. Silk Road, for those not familiar, was an underground online marketplace where drug dealers and other criminals conducted more than \$200 million in illegal drug trade and other unlawful activities. Ulbricht was sentenced to life in prison by an American jury.

President Trump is claiming to be taking action to stop the flow of narcotics into the United States. Yet these two outrageous pardons show that he is willing to excuse and free the worst narco-traffickers in the world. How does this protect Americans from the flow of narcotics entering our country?

As someone who knows this region very well because of my time spent liv-

ing there and my subsequent work in this body as chairman and ranking member of the America subcommittee of Senate Foreign Relations, I can tell you that the decision with respect to ex-President Hernandez will severely tarnish our reputation with our regional friends and allies. Pardoning him sends a message of impunity to those involved in drug trafficking, violent crime, and corruption, which are often clear causes of irregular migration to the United States.

Why pardon a crook who successfully “shoved” 400 tons of cocaine right up the “noses of the gringos”? Why pardon a criminal who established the largest underground illegal drug market in the world? How come President Trump is willing to ignore the American juries who looked at the overwhelming evidence against these narco-traffickers and convicted them?

It is hard to see any reason for these pardons except that Hernandez and Ulbricht are megarich. Their bank accounts are stuffed with millions from illegal activities, which gives them the means and the motive to pump large sums of money into downtown DC to get out of jail.

It is true that a President has expansive pardon authorities. But it is also true that American politicians have been successfully prosecuted for selling pardons. I can’t say for sure what is going on here, but the pardon of Hernandez is so bizarre, so counter to the President’s stated priorities, that it is difficult for me to fathom any reason why this would happen, other than that someone in the administration was benefiting from it. None of it makes any logical sense.

I hope that our justice system is up to the task of finding the real story behind these pardons, especially since President Trump has a track record of pardoning those who have contributed to him.

Drug kingpins who become rich by profiting off the addictions of everyday Americans shouldn’t be allowed to get away scot-free, and Federal officials who facilitate the pardon of these individuals have to be held to account.

Now, the pardon of disgraced former President Hernandez and Russ Ulbricht also raises serious questions about the Trump administration’s ongoing war against boats in the Caribbean and the Pacific and the threatened war against Venezuela. The President and his Secretary of Defense claim that these actions, taken without congressional authorization, are designed to stop narcotics flows into the United States.

Is that the real story?

Even before we get to the question of what is motivating the President to kill unknown civilians on boats and threaten to start a costly war of choice with Venezuela, the serious legal questions about these military actions continue to multiply. The U.S. military began to strike boats in the Caribbean and Pacific on September 2. So far, the United States has engaged in more

than 20 known strikes, killing at least 83 people. The first strike happened on a boat in the Caribbean on September 2, based on public reporting.

We now know—we now know—that the initial strike killed most on board, but two survivors were left clinging to wreckage in the water. The U.S. Defense Department rules about war make plain that it is illegal to kill wounded survivors under these circumstances. International law commands the same. Those surviving cannot be wantonly slaughtered. Yet acting pursuant to an alleged order from the Secretary of Defense to “kill everybody,” U.S. Special Forces returned to kill the two survivors and hid the fact from Congress and the American public for more than 2 months until enterprising journalists broke the story last week.

On September 10, I led a letter with 25 Senate colleagues directly to the President asking basic questions about the military strikes. We saw no evidence that those on board the boats were combatants or narco-traffickers. We asked for the legal rationale justifying such military action without congressional approval. We inquired why the military was striking boats to kill all on board without interdicting the traffic and using the arrest of the civilians and the seizure of drugs to build criminal cases against drug kingpins. We have not yet received sufficient answers to these basic questions.

The Armed Services Committee held a single classified briefing with administration officials on October 1. As a member of the committee, I attended the briefing. I am not allowed to discuss the facts that I learned in that briefing, but I can say the following: The briefing did not provide us with the legal rationale justifying the strikes. The briefers did not provide us with concrete information about the identity of the individuals killed or the groups targeted with the strikes. The briefers would provide no information about the policy for determining when boats would be attacked rather than interdicted.

Eventually, after weeks and weeks of pressure, the administration finally allowed Senators to read in the SCIF a classified legal rationale it prepared to justify these military actions. By the time Senators—charged with overseeing military operations and providing the budget for national defense—were allowed to review the legal rationale, the strikes had been underway for nearly 2 months.

I reviewed the legal rationale, but because the administration continues to call it classified, I am not allowed to disclose its contents. But I can say the following: The legal rationale is weak. It misinterprets and misuses historical materials regarding the Constitution’s allocation of war powers. Its analysis of the domestic law allowing Presidential action is flimsy and would essentially repeal the careful language used in the Constitution and further

clarified in the War Powers Act vesting Congress, the article I branch, with the power to initiate war. And its analysis of international law justifying these military strikes is, frankly, embarrassing.

I can also say this. Nothing in the rationale that Senators can read in a classified setting would allow any military action against the nation of Venezuela. The dangerous nature of the administration's legal rationale and strategy are magnified by a series of events that have happened in the last 3 months. Before the strikes even began, public reporting has it that the senior Judge Advocate General, the chief legal officer in SOUTHCOM, raised serious concerns about the legality of these strikes in August.

On October 1, when the Department of Defense briefed the Senate Armed Services Committee about these strikes, they neglected to bring any uniformed officers or personnel from SOUTHCOM to the briefing. This fact was an immediate red flag and tipoff that there was deep division within the ranks about the legality of this current military operation.

On October 16, the military struck a vessel and recovered two survivors. The survivors were then returned to their homes in Colombia and Ecuador and released.

Wait a minute. Wait a minute. If they were narcotraffickers, why weren't they arrested and prosecuted? If they weren't narcotraffickers, was a mistake made? Were mistakes made in the other strikes? Were they innocent of wrongdoing? Was the case against them so flimsy that it wouldn't stand up in a court and that is why they were not arrested but instead released in their home countries?

The administration's refusal to share any information about who has been killed, paired with the lack of prosecution of these two individuals, raises serious concerns over exactly who is being killed and why.

In mid-October, SOUTHCOM Commander, Admiral Holsey, announced his premature retirement from the military. A posting to be head of SOUTHCOM would normally go for 3 years. Admiral Holsey was confirmed less than a year ago, and he announced he was prematurely retiring at the peak of his career—a three-star admiral being given command of this important COCOM. Reporting suggests that the retirement followed tense argument between Admiral Holsey, Secretary Hegseth, and Chairman Dan Caine over the legality of these military strikes.

At around the same time, the Pentagon announced that the operational responsibility for the military strikes was being transferred from SOUTHCOM—where their chief legal officer and apparently their Commander had raised questions about the legality of killing civilians on open seas—the responsibility was being transferred from SOUTHCOM to the

Special Operations Command. My read of this shift, together with the other evidence about the JAG opinion in SOUTHCOM and the premature retirement of the SOUTHCOM Commander, is that it signifies a deep concern within the Pentagon leadership over the legality of the ongoing military action.

On November 11, we learned that one of our closest allies, the United Kingdom, was restricting traditional information-sharing with the United States in the SOUTHCOM area due to its concerns about the legality of the U.S. military actions. The UK has fought alongside us in Iraq, Afghanistan, and all over the world, but they are not participating in intelligence-sharing on this particular American military mission.

Just last week, we learned that the first strike left survivors who were then killed on orders from Secretary Hegseth. The United States has, in the past, prosecuted such actions as war crimes, beginning with the Nuremberg trials and heading forward into the current era.

Over the weekend, President Trump announced that he was closing Venezuelan airspace. Where is his authority to close the airspace over a sovereign nation? Did the Pentagon even know that he would announce such a policy via his social media account? Do we even know whether the airspace has been closed or whether any flights are still occurring?

Most recently—most recently—our Secretary of Defense, who likes to cosplay by giving himself the fake title “Secretary of War,” posted an image on Twitter of Franklin the turtle firing missiles at narcoterrorists.

Pete Hegseth's social media account: For your Christmas wish list. . . . Franklin Targets Narco Terrorists.

This is the Secretary of Defense, folks, of the greatest Nation on Earth, and to him, this thing is just a big joke.

Think about that. America's Secretary of Defense has enough time on his hands that he and his minions get to come up with cartoon memes to make light of the fact that the United States is killing people in international waters. He is spending his time and energy thinking about cartoons rather than keeping us safe.

I just have to ask this. I was intrigued at this particular detail. There is a great Biblical phrase that says, “From the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks.” So something that you are feeling inside tends to come outside of your mouth even if it is somewhat unintentional.

Why Franklin? I mean, if you are going to do a cartoon—like, Franklin is a Canadian cartoon. Why not Scooby-Doo or Peanuts or, you know, Snoopy? I mean, why Franklin? Of all the cartoon figures that Pete Hegseth could spend time imaging into an AI-generated cartoon making fun of killing narco—why Franklin?

Well, I don't know the answer to that. Secretary Hegseth does. But I

have an intuition. Check and see the name of the Special Forces commander whom Secretary Hegseth is now trying to blame for the second strike killing struggling civilians in international waters.

This is no way to wage war. This is no way to wage war.

Orders of dubious legality offered by civilian leaders of questionable judgment are leading to dozens of anonymous deaths, division within the U.S. military, and tension with our allies. The administration's actions are risking the careers of officers and troops, many having served for decades with great distinction, who face the life-and-death question of whether to obey a superior or follow the law—follow the clear law.

All this is occurring with an administration hell-bent on hiding from Congress and the American public the actual facts, strategy, and legal justification for its actions. America is not supposed to be at war based on a Presidential say-so.

Abraham Lincoln said it well when he was a Member of Congress in 1848:

The reason why the Constitution has given the war-making power to Congress was because Kings had always been involving and impoverishing their people in wars. This our [constitutional] convention understood to be the most oppressive of all kingly oppressions and they resolved to so frame the Constitution that no one man should hold the power of bringing this oppression upon us.

No one man should hold the power of bringing this oppression upon us.

It is past time for Congress to reclaim its role in the decision on whether to initiate war. The Framers in 1787 wouldn't allow George Washington to make these decisions on his own. We shouldn't allow our current President—a man perfectly comfortable pardoning a convicted criminal who boasted about shoving drugs up the gringos' noses—to make such a decision on his own.

It is time for Congress to reassert the role that was handed to us in a sacred way in the Constitution in 1787 and exercise oversight over this mushrooming military operation in the Americas.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEE. 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 REQUESTS

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, it is a shame that we don't have more of an opportunity to pass more bills, particularly bills that are not controversial. This is an opportunity that we should take to pass noncontroversial bills every time we get the chance.

We have four bills coming out of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee that we can, and I believe we

should, pass today—bills with no substantive objections that I am aware of, bills that have been cleared by both parties in the Senate, bills that will have positive impact for Americans—Americans that the bills themselves were designed to serve.

And yet, sadly, I am anticipating an objection today when I offer those up for passage. So why am I anticipating an objection? Well, I am looking forward to hearing from my colleague—my friend and colleague from New Mexico—Senator HEINRICH, on what objections he might have to a bill from Senator HAWLEY that would designate America's National Churchill Museum in Missouri as a national historic landmark. I am looking forward to hearing from him what problems he might have with Senator PADILLA's uncontroversial bill to adjust the boundaries of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. I am looking forward to hearing what changes he would propose to Senator HUSTED's bill, which simply adjusts the boundaries of the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park, or what he thinks would be harmed by passing a bill from Senator GILLIBRAND and Minority Leader SCHUMER, his own colleagues on the other side of the aisle, that would establish the Fort Ontario Holocaust Refugee Shelter National Historical Park.

All the bills that I am offering have passed out of this body and did, in fact, pass out of this body last year with unanimous support—not just bipartisan but unanimous support. All are locally supported. All should be passed today.

And I fear they might not be, and I am really looking forward to why—looking forward to hearing why my colleague might want to stop these—because if there are real substantive objections to these bills, to any of them, bring them forward. I will be the first to work with him or others who may have concerns on those. Perhaps, then, we can work to improve the bill and resolve what concerns might exist around it to get it to a place where everyone is happy with it and where we could get something done for the American people.

After all, this is the business of law making. But I don't think we are likely to hear substantive objections today, based on what I have heard. I don't anticipate that my friend and colleague Senator HEINRICH will offer substantive objections or changes that he wants made to these particular bills. I hope I am wrong.

But if he doesn't have any problems with the substance of the bills, then why not let them pass? Well, there is a tendency sometimes exhibited in the Senate, and I have seen it done by people of both political parties and by Members at different ends of the political continuum, from time to time. When Members want leverage, sometimes, they will reach for whatever is popular, in some cases even what is uncontroversial.

During the shutdown, we saw a parallel use of the technique with some using air traffic controllers, TSA officers, and Coast Guard families as pressure points because the public trusted those people and needs the services that they routinely and uniquely perform.

And, sometimes, Members—again, of both political parties and of every political persuasion—will sometimes use popular bills the same way. In other words, they will oppose popular, noncontroversial bills not because they are controversial or unpopular but because they are uncontroversial and popular. They are blocked because their broad support makes them useful cargo for a lands package or another aggregated legislative vehicle packed with measures that might not withstand scrutiny under the light of day if they were considered on their own or even when paired with a small handful of other bills.

Instead of moving bills off the floor one by one or two by two in a transparent, bipartisan process, some would prefer a really big omnibus package, often prepared by staff behind closed doors, where only a few Senators and no members of the public are participating or even allowed to participate. Then Members are told to take it or leave it in its entirety—up or down, binary choice, no other option, no amendments, no adequate time for debate. Simply, take it all or leave it all, even the uncontroversial and the popular.

Now, this puts many of us—particularly, those of us from public lands States, like Utah, where the Federal Government owns two-thirds of the land—in a difficult position. In States like mine, almost every action requires some sort of “Mother, may I” from the Federal Government.

This is not a process that can continue, at least not one that can continue without causing a lot of other problems. So as chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, I have set out to change that. I have set out to—at least with regard to noncontroversial bills that have passed the Senate in the last year, unanimously, it is a good place to start—where there is consensus, because there is consensus.

My aim is to build on the progress from last year, when this body passed out 41 bills, and to that end, I have suggested that we start by passing the bills, at least a few of them, paired Republican and Democrat bills at the same time—bills that passed the Senate unanimously last year, including bills that the ranking member himself agreed to less than a year ago.

And, again, if there is a policy objection, then let's hear it. I am more than willing to work with you to address whatever substantive objections there might be.

But these bills should pass in the light of day, where every Member—Republican or Democrat or Independent—could be part of the process.

This has been going on, back and forth, in one way or another for a few months. In May, I came to the floor and asked unanimous consent to pass two Republican bills alongside two Democrat bills, both of which, like the bills that are at issue today, passed the Senate unanimously last year. Now, this drew an objection from the other side of the aisle.

And in July I came to the floor again and offered to work with the ranking member on these bills. I offered two additional Republican and two Democrat bills that passed out of this body last year, also with unanimous support, and it drew the same objection.

Now, as always, I have offered to work with the ranking member and the minority if they have any substantive concerns on any of these bills, and I make that offer again now. But as you may see in just a moment—as I suspect we will see; I can't tell the future—I haven't heard any substantive policy concerns with them.

Now, a small minority of Members who want to block bills—including bills supported by, introduced by, sponsored by Members of their own caucus—just because they want them in a broader package isn't going to cut it.

Now, 2 weeks ago, you had the junior Senator from Alaska, Senator SULLIVAN, who came to the floor and asked consent to pass his bill to give Alaska Native Vietnam veterans the land they earned and have long been owed. At the request of Senator PADILLA and the ranking member, Senator SULLIVAN paired his bill with the bill from Senator GALLEGO, keeping it bipartisan.

However, to the surprise of Senator SULLIVAN and the Native Vietnam veterans who were relying on the legislation, this, too, drew the aforementioned objection, moving the goalpost again.

That process isn't defensible. It is not sustainable. It is not going to work. It is not going to work for a whole host of reasons, including the fact that I have heard from our counterparts in the House of Representatives—including in a conversation as recently as just a couple of hours ago with Chairman WESTERMAN, my committee chairman counterpart on the House of Representatives side—that this is problematic. They want them to come over not as a big, sewn-together package but as bills, even if passed while paired over here. They will also be paired over there.

Sometimes, the concern is raised: Well, then Democrat bills will suffer and atrophy over there, while Republican bills are prioritized and passed to the exclusion of the Democrat bills.

This is not true. In fact, because these bills are passed as a matter of course—routinely passed—under suspension of the rules on the House side—and I believe suspension of the rules requires a super majority, about 290 votes—these always end up getting paired together. You end up with Democrat-Republican balance as they submit them on the floor.

So, today, I will again ask the minority to work with me to pass both Republican and Democrat bills—bills that, yet again, are noncontroversial and have passed this body unanimously within the last year.

These four bills are just the start. I have a list of 19 bills that Republicans are prepared to pass today. My staff has shared the list with the ranking member's staff. In fact, we did so weeks ago. And yet we continue to hear talk of an objection today.

I am willing to commit to working with my colleagues on the lands bills they wish to pass, with the understanding that, as we bring them to the floor to try to pass them by unanimous consent, we will continue to pair them so that there is balance.

So, please, let's work together. We can do this. This isn't hard.

There is a lot in the legislative process that is difficult. The last thing we ought to be doing is making the areas where we do agree, where there is unanimity, to make that, too, part of the unresolvable conundrum of bills.

And another thing happens. If we do this, it tends to slow down the process. Last year, there was an effort to try to sew a bunch of these together for some sort of year-end lands package. One thing led to another, and we got to the end of the year, which was the end of the Congress, and as the list got bigger, it got more and more difficult to sustain it. Whereas, if we go a little bit at a time, pair a few Republican bills and Democrat bills, bring them forward, pass them by unanimous consent, little by little, throughout the 2-year Congress, we are much more likely to be able to achieve passage, not just in the House but also here. That is a recipe for success.

But when we box stuff that has been passed unanimously, where there is no substantive policy objection, it is not the best way to serve those who elected us.

Our country faces huge challenges. And in many of those challenges, public policy consensus can be difficult—not impossible—to achieve but much more difficult than it is with these bills, these unanimously passed bills from just last year.

We have health prices that are soaring. Our national debt is out of control. How can we come together as a legislative body to tackle these more vexing issues if we can't even agree to something as unanimously supported, as totally noncontroversial, as a proposal to adjust the boundaries of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and the Dayton Aviation Heritage National and Historical Park?

The American people deserve a government that tells them what it is doing and why. The American people deserve bills that succeed or fail on their own merit in a digestible format. They do not deserve a process in which someone can slip a controversial idea past the public without debate by smuggling it into a much broader pack-

age, consisting mostly, but not entirely, of completely uncontroversial bills? This Chamber should reject that approach. If nothing else, then, because it has failed. It brought us to failure in the last Congress at the end of last year, just as it will end in failure if we try to do that again.

We have been told—we have been reminded by our counterparts in the House of Representatives as recently as a few hours ago—it will also contribute to failure over there. We can do better. This is a start. This won't solve all of our problems or resolve all of our disagreements, but it will bring this one to a close because there is no disagreement here.

At the end of the day—this should end today but only if we insist bills be able to stand on their own two feet and that we are willing to bring them forward one by one, two by two, with Democrat and Republican balance.

To that end, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged and that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the following bills en bloc; further, that the bills be considered read a third time and passed en bloc, and that the motions to reconsider these bills be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc: S. 650, America's National Churchill Museum National Historic Landmark Act from Senator HAWLEY; S. 432, Fort Ontario Holocaust Refugee Shelter National Historic Park Establishment Act from Senator GILLIBRAND; S. 2434, to amend the Dayton Aviation Preservation Act from Senator HUSTED; and S. 1142, Golden Gate National Recreation Area from Senator PADILLA.

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

The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. HEINRICH. Reserving the right to object, what we have in front of us are four bills, two Democrat and two Republican.

My concern remains the same as it was, literally, 11 months ago; that passing bills one by one does not guarantee their final passage or being signed into law or that important local priorities from Democratic States will be honored along with those from Republican States.

As the chair said, I do not have substantive policy concerns with these particular bills, but we passed a set of bills as a test like this over the summer, and we have seen no action from the House. And continuing to pass individual bills in this manner, when we have so many stacked up in committee, will be unproductive until our House colleagues work with us on a path to get bills actually signed into law.

We need a way to ensure that Member priorities, transparently—regardless of size, political party, or State—have a way to be considered and actually become law. This current process is not working.

I remain committed to working with the chair to find a solution that en-

sures the priorities of both Chambers and both parties can be met.

In the meantime, I do have a proposal for the chair. I would like to take these four bills and pass them together under a single bill number. This is not a large, ominous package. These have all been vetted.

Each bill in this set has been supported by the Republican caucus and the chair, and it remains two Democratic priorities and two Republican priorities. But by combining these bills together under one bill number, it helps to ensure that none of the priorities are left behind on the cutting-room floor and all have an equal pathway to becoming law.

Therefore, I would ask that the Senator modify his request and, instead, the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of my bill, which combines the text of the aforementioned four bills and is at the desk; that the bill be considered read three times and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the modification?

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Reserving the right to object.

Look, the package just proposed by Senator HEINRICH harkens back to a time when a Senate sometimes did those things. Sometimes it worked; sometimes it didn't. More recently, it doesn't work. More recently—as recently as a year ago—it proved not to work right here in the Senate and has proven not to work over in the House.

My friend and colleague insists that this process isn't working. It is not working only because of this particular objection. It is not working here only because of these specific pairings—pairings suggested to us by the ranking members' own staff a matter of weeks ago.

It is not just that he has voted for these within the last year, 11 months ago; these specific pairings were suggested by his own team to mine. I don't understand why this means that we should put them all together.

Now, let's take it at face value. We received word that this was happening just a few hours ago. Just a few hours ago, we got the bill that, to my knowledge, hasn't been read yet. Let's assume for a second all that this does is to put the exact text in each of those four bills into one large bill introduced in Senator HEINRICH's name, then brought to the floor. I struggle to understand why that is acceptable, but passing them in one fell swoop, in one unanimous consent request on the floor of the Senate, is objectionable to him.

We heard a moment ago an argument that I foreshadowed a moment ago—the argument that somehow this would result in Democratic bills in the other Chamber being neglected while Republican bills were expedited. Were this a concern that were borne out, in fact, it would be a reasonable and legitimate

one. But we have been told by the House not only that they will pass these, if at all, on the suspension calendar, which requires a supermajority vote, about 290 votes, as I recall, but that because it has to be passed that way over there—they pair them just as we pair things here quite frequently with uncontroversial bills like this to make sure we have party balance between Republican bills and Democratic bills.

We have been told it will cause problems and likely signal doom. The two bills, when we sewed them all together in one package, that is not how they like to do it over there and, in many cases, not how our Members want to do it here—from our own colleagues today, some of whom are affected by these bills who are concerned about what this practice will do to them.

So, look, we tried to do this. We paired these according to suggestions made by the ranking member's own staff. We requested a meeting with him in September. We were rebuffed, declined. We remain ready to meet at any time to discuss how we can do them. I am simply trying to move bills that have been sponsored by both Republicans and Democrats in a fair and balanced fashion, in a way that everyone can understand in the Member-driven process for which this body was built and rather uniquely designed.

Yet my colleague, the ranking member, continues to object. It makes me wonder what the end is here. If the end is passing good legislation, legislation that we can all agree on, then why not pass these now? It isn't always possible to present bills like this. It is not on every issue, which is not lost on any of us, but on most issues we don't have unanimity. We pass a lot by unanimous consent, but not everything can pass that way.

These bills, individually, are uncontroversial here, and they are in the House. But they become controversial the minute someone insists that they be sewn together in one package where you have to vote for all of them or none of them in order to get them through. That kind of practice—used by Members of both parties at times in the past with varying degrees of success but less success more recently—is a type of extortion for bills imposed on the bills that have no opposition and that have no substantive objections. There is no legitimate reason to not pass these here today.

I can't, in good conscience, let that process continue. I will work with any Member, Republican or Democrat, including the ranking member, to move noncontroversial bills and get them across the finish line for our constituents. I will be happy to do it with packages like these that are fair and balanced between the two parties.

It is not an objection that is rooted in anything about these bills. It is just a vehicle by which they are presented. But if we have to sew them all together in one package, that is not going to

work. It is not going to work here. It is not going to work on the other side of this building.

So I will continue to come to the floor and try to move these, particularly these noncontroversial bills that have passed unanimously within the last year. We will be back to do this.

On this basis for the reasons articulated, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection to the modification has been heard.

Is there objection to the original request?

The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. HEINRICH. I object to the original request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LEE. 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. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 25-1D. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 18-07 of July 26, 2018.

Sincerely,

MARY BETH MORGAN,
(For Michael F. Miller, Director).

Enclosure.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 25-1D. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 18-07 of July 26, 2018.

Sincerely,

MARY BETH MORGAN,
(For Michael F. Miller, Director).

Enclosure.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BRIAN MAST,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 25-1D. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 18-07 of July 26, 2018.

Sincerely,

MARY BETH MORGAN,
(For Michael F. Miller, Director).

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-1D

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

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Bahrain.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 18-07; Date: July 26, 2018; Implementing Agency: Navy.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description: On July 26, 2018, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 18-07 of the possible sale under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act of items and services in support of Follow-On Technical Support (FOTS) for the Royal Bahrain Navy Ship SABHA (FFG-90), formerly USS *Jack Williams* (FFG-24), transferred as Excess Defense Articles on September 13, 1996. Also included were engineering, technical, and logistics services, documentation, and modification material for U.S. Navy supplied systems and equipment and other related elements of logistics and programs support. The estimated total cost was \$70 million. There was no Major Defense Equipment (MDE) associated with this sale.

This transmittal notifies Congress of the inclusion of the following non-MDE: items and services in support of follow-on technical support (FOTS) for various vessels consisting of three classes of Royal Bahrain Navy ships and vessels transferred as excess defense articles from the U.S. Navy to the Bahrain Navy. The following are also included: engineering, technical, and logistics services; documentation; modification material for U.S. Navy supplied systems and equipment; and other related elements of logistics and programs support. The estimated total cost of the new items is \$430 million. The estimated total case value will increase by \$430 million to a revised \$500 million. There is no MDE associated with this sale.

(iv) Significance: This notification is being provided as the additional non-MDE items were not enumerated in the original notification. The inclusion of these items represents an increase in capability over what

was previously notified. The proposed sale will support Bahrain's defense by maintaining the operational readiness of Bahrain navy ships.

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

(vi) Date Report Delivered to Congress: November 24, 2025.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

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

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

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-84, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Bahrain for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$445 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.

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. 25-84, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Bahrain for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$445 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.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BRIAN MAST,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, 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. 25-84, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Bahrain for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$445 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. 25-84

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 Bahrain.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$0.
Other \$445 million.
Total \$445 million.
Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: Foreign Military Sales case BA-D-QDH was below congressional notification threshold at \$47 million (\$0 in major defense equipment) for F-16 aircraft sustainment. The Government of Bahrain has requested that the case be amended to include additional support which will cause the case to exceed the notification threshold, and thus notification of the entire program is required. The notification requirements are combined as follows:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-Major Defense Equipment: Major and minor modifications; Computer Program Identification Numbers (CPINs); aircraft maintenance support equipment; launcher spare parts and support equipment; spare parts, consumables and accessories, and repair and return support; aircraft components; missile containers; radar warning receiver component parts; guidance and control section spares; weapons system support; ground handling equipment; instruments and lab equipment; classified and unclassified software delivery and support; classified and unclassified publications and technical documentation; studies and surveys; transportation support; 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 (BA-D-QDH).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: BA-D-SAB.

(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: December 1, 2025.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Bahrain—F-16 Sustainment

The Government of Bahrain has requested to buy aircraft components; missile containers; radar receiver component parts; guidance and control section spares; weapons system support; ground handling equipment; and instruments and lab equipment that will

be added to a previously implemented case whose value was under the congressional notification threshold. The original Foreign Military Sales case, valued at \$47 million (\$0 in major defense equipment), included major and minor modifications; Computer Program Identification Numbers (CPINs); aircraft maintenance support equipment; launcher spare parts and support equipment; spare parts, consumables and accessories, and repair and return support; classified and unclassified software delivery and support; classified and unclassified publications and technical documentation; studies and surveys; transportation support; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$445 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a major non-NATO ally that is an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East.

The proposed sale will improve Bahrain's capability to meet current and future threats by providing a credible force that can deter adversaries and provide the capability to participate in regional operations with the United States and other U.S. partner nations. Bahrain will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

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

The principal contractors will be General Electric Aerospace, located in Evendale, OH; and Lockheed Martin Aeronautics, located in Fort Worth, TX. 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 additional U.S. Government and U.S. contractor representatives to Bahrain.

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. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-77, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$500 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MARY BETH MORGAN
(For Michael F. Miller, Director).

Enclosures.

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. 25-77, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$500 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MARY BETH MORGAN
(For Michael F. Miller, Director).

Enclosures.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY
Washington, DC.

Hon. BRIAN MAST,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives, 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. 25-77, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$500 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MARY BETH MORGAN
(For Michael F. Miller, Director).

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-77

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: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$0.
Other \$500 million.
Total \$500 million.

Funding Source: National Funds.

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

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-Major Defense Equipment: The following non-MDE items will be included: A Cooperative Logistics Supply Support Arrangement (CLSSA) Foreign Military Sales Order (FMSO) II case to requisition orders for centrally managed spares and repair parts. This case supports the Royal Saudi Land Forces Aviation Corps' UH-60A/L/M Black Hawk utility helicopters; AH-64A/D/E

Apache attack helicopters; CH-47F Chinook cargo helicopters; Schweizer 333 helicopters; and Aerial Scout helicopters; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (SR-B-KYQ).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: SR-B-KUW, SR-B-KVG, SR-B-KYO, SR-B-KRH, SR-B-KRL, SR-B-KRU, SR-B-KRX, SR-B-KRY.

(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: December 1, 2025.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—Cooperative Logistics Supply Support Arrangement Program, Foreign Military Sales Order II Case

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has requested to buy a Cooperative Logistics Supply Support Arrangement (CLSSA) Foreign Military Sales Order (FMSO) II case to requisition orders for centrally managed spares and repair parts. This case supports the Royal Saudi Land Forces Aviation Corps' UH-60A/L/M Black Hawk utility helicopters; AH-64 A/D/E Apache attack helicopters; CH-47F Chinook cargo helicopters; Schweizer 333 helicopters; and Aerial Scout helicopters; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$500 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 contributes to political stability and economic progress in the Gulf region.

The proposed sale will enhance Saudi Arabia's ability to effectively maintain and operate their U.S.-procured helicopter fleet. This will allow better integration with U.S.-led coalitions and operate independently in support of U.S. interests and the security of U.S. forces in theater and is consistent with U.S. bilateral and multilateral defense plans in the Central Command region. Saudi Arabia will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

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

There are no principal contractors involved with this potential sale. 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 the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

There will be no adverse impact on 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. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-78, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$500 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MARY BETH MORGAN
(For Michael F. Miller, Director).

Enclosures.

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. 25-78, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$500 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MARY BETH MORGAN
(For Michael F. Miller, Director).

Enclosures.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BRIAN MAST,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives, 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. 25-78, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$500 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MARY BETH MORGAN
(For Michael F. Miller, Director).

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-78

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: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment * \$0.
Other \$500 million.
Total \$500 million.
Funding Source: National Funds.
(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.
Non-Major Defense Equipment:

The following non-MDE items will be included: initial through advanced rotary-wing flight and maintainer training for personnel of the Royal Saudi Land Forces Aviation Corps (RSLFAC) under sponsorship of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC). The training will be conducted by U.S. Army instructors on the AH-64E Apache, CH-47F Chinook, UH-72A Lakota, and UH-60L/M Black Hawk Helicopters.

(iv) Military Department: Army (SR-B-OTA).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: SR-B-OPA, SR-B-OTT, SR-B-OPF, SR-B-OPT, SR-B-OPQ.

(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: December 1, 2025.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—Blanket Order Training

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has requested to buy blanket order aviation training services for the Royal Saudi Land Forces Aviation Corps (RSLFAC) from the U.S. Army. The following non-MDE items will be included: initial through advanced rotary-wing flight and maintainer training for personnel of the (RSLFAC) under sponsorship of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC). The training will be conducted by U.S. Army instructors on the AH-64E Apache, CH-47F Chinook, UH-72A Lakota, and UH-60L/M Black Hawk Helicopters. The estimated total cost is \$500 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 the Gulf Region.

The proposed sale will enhance Saudi Arabia's capability to meet current and future threats by providing initial through advanced aviation operator and maintainer training for the safe and professional operation of the RSLFAC's U.S.-procured helicopter fleet. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will have no difficulty absorbing the training into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this training will not alter the military balance in the region.

This training will be provided at various CONUS based U.S. Army training sites under sponsorship of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC). 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 the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

There will be no adverse impact on 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. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 25-1J. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 21-43 of May 24, 2021.

Sincerely,

MARY BETH MORGAN
(For Michael F. Miller, Director).

Enclosure.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BRIAN MAST,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 25-1J. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 21-43 of May 24, 2021.

Sincerely,

MARY BETH MORGAN
(For Michael F. Miller, Director).

Enclosure.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 25-1J. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 21-43 of May 24, 2021.

Sincerely,

MARY BETH MORGAN
(For Michael F. Miller, Director).

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-1J

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

(i) Purchaser: Government of Spain.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 21-43; Date: May 24, 2021; Military Department: Air Force.

(iii) Description: On May 24, 2021, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 21-43 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of the Government of Spain's request to buy follow on Contractor Logistics Support to include contractor provided MQ-9A Blk 5 aircraft components, spares, and accessories; repair and return; software and software support services; simulator software; personnel training and training equipment; publications and technical documentation; U.S. Government and contractor provided engineering, technical and logistical support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The total estimated program cost was \$110 million. There was no Major Defense Equipment (MDE) associated with this sale.

On August 8, 2024, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 0G-24 of the addition of the following non-MDE items: modification kits, M299 launchers, and BRU-71 pylons to enable the employment of weapons on the previously notified MQ-9 Remotely Piloted Aircraft; personnel training and training equipment; publications and technical documentation; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total value of added non-MDE articles and services was \$11.6 million. The estimated total case value remained at \$110 million. There was no MDE associated with this sale.

This transmittal notifies an extension of the previously notified technical support services; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support for the MQ-9 unmanned aerial system. The estimated total cost of the newly extended, non-MDE services is \$200 million. The estimated total case value will increase by \$200 million to a revised \$310 million. There is no MDE associated with this potential sale.

(iv) Significance: This proposed sale will support Spain's effort to build intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) and strike capabilities.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a NATO Ally which is an important force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

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

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

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: November 26, 2025.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

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

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

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-95, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of the United Kingdom for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$200 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MARY BETH MORGAN,
(for Michael F. Miller, Director).

Enclosures.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-95, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of the United Kingdom for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$200 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MARY BETH MORGAN,
(for Michael F. Miller, Director).

Enclosures.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BRIAN MAST,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, 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. 25-95, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of the United Kingdom for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$200 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MARY BETH MORGAN,
(for Michael F. Miller, Director).

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-95

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 the United Kingdom.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* \$75 million.

Other \$125 million.

Total \$200 million.

(iii) Description and Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: Foreign Military Sales (FMS) case UK-P-LYN was below the congressional notification threshold at \$41.02 million (\$14.63 million in MDE) and included two (2) Advanced Extremely High Frequency (AEHF) Navy Multiband Terminals (NMT), as well as non-MDE KGV-136R COMSEC devices and other communications equipment. The Government of the United Kingdom has requested that the case be amended to include an additional six (6) AEHF NMTs. This amendment will cause the case to exceed the notification threshold, and thus notification of the entire program is required. The above notification requirements are combined as follows:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Eight (8) Advanced Extremely High Frequency Navy Multiband Terminals.

Non-Major Defense Equipment: The following non-MDE items will also be included: KGV-136R communications security devices; communications equipment; submarine high data rate masts; ancillary equipment; containers; integration and test support; spare and repair parts; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (UK-P-LYN).

(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: November 24, 2025.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

United Kingdom—Navy Multiband Terminals

The Government of the United Kingdom has requested to buy an additional six (6) Advanced Extremely High Frequency (AEHF) Navy Multiband Terminals (NMT) that will be added to a previously implemented case whose value was under the congressional notification threshold. The original Foreign Military Sales (FMS) case, valued at \$41.02 million (\$14.63 million in MDE), included two (2) AEHF NMTs. This notification is for a combined total of eight (8) AEHF NMTs. The following non-MDE items will also be included: KGV-136R communications security devices; communications equipment; submarine high data rate masts; ancillary equipment; containers; integration and test support; spare and repair parts; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$200 million.

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

The proposed sale will improve the United Kingdom's capability to meet current and future threats by ensuring communications interoperability. The United Kingdom will have no difficulty absorbing these articles and services into its armed forces. The UK Royal Navy will install the NMT system aboard Dreadnought submarines to enable

AEHF satellite communications to Royal Navy and Minister of Defence shore sites, ships, and submarines in a non-contested threat environment.

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

The principal contractor will be RTX Corporation, located in Arlington, 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 not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to the United Kingdom.

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

TRANSMITTAL NO 25-95

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 Advanced Extremely High Frequency Navy Multiband Terminal (AEHF NMT) is the next generation of maritime military satellite communications (SATCOM) terminal for the Navy and its coalition partners. The Navy uses it for accessing protected and survivable SATCOM over the AEHF SATCOM constellation. In addition, NMT provides access to wideband communications through the Defense Satellite Communications System (DSCS) and Wideband Global SATCOM (WGS) constellations. The NMT is interoperable with the current and legacy service SATCOM terminals, including the family of advanced beyond-line-of-sight terminals, secure mobile anti-jam reliable tactical terminals, and follow-on terminals. The NMT provides communications interoperability for at-sea assets in non-contested threat environments. The system includes AEHF communications security KGV-136R National Security Agency Type 1 releasable controlled cryptographic items, enabling secure anti-jam communications.

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

3. 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.

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

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

PALESTINE

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, for those of us who have long supported U.S. diplomatic leadership in pursuit of a secure, democratic Israel alongside a demilitarized, independent Palestinian state, the protection of due process and the rule of law has central importance.

Equal access to justice is essential for lasting peace in the Middle East. Today, I voice a concern shared by many of my colleagues: the incarceration, prosecution, and punishment of Palestinian children in the Israeli military justice system.

As a former public defender and member of the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on the Constitution, which has jurisdiction over human rights, I have a perspective on the way justice systems should treat children. To put it categorically, civilians, and especially children, should not be prosecuted in military courts. It is analogous to how I feel about child soldiers; children should not be recruited or allowed to serve in the armed forces.

The reasons should be obvious. Civilians are, by definition, noncombatants. Military justice systems lack independence and routinely fall short in providing the fundamental protections of due process and a fair trial that exist in the civilian justice system and which are rooted in international law.

Israel, however, automatically and systematically prosecutes Palestinian civilians in the West Bank in Israeli military courts under Israeli military law. These courts lack impartiality and transparency, as military court judges and military court prosecutors are active or reserve duty officers in the Israeli military and subject to the chain of command.

To make the process even less credible, in the West Bank Israeli military law only applies to the Palestinian population, while Israeli citizens have the benefit of the protections of Israeli civil law and courts. This double standard is glaringly inconsistent with the principle of equal justice that is foundational to a democracy.

According to numerous credible reports, Palestinian children are frequently arrested in their homes by heavily armed Israeli soldiers. They are bound, blindfolded, and often beaten in military vehicles during transport before arriving at an Israeli police station for interrogation, which is often located in an Israeli settlement. They are routinely interrogated alone without the presence of a family member or attorney and often threatened with physical violence if they don't confess.

Nearly half of the approximately 350 Palestinian children currently detained by Israel are in administrative detention. Most have not been formally charged or brought to trial. When they are charged in military courts, they are overwhelmingly accused of throwing rocks. Rarely are they accused of causing injury or significant property damage. Generally, there is no evidence-gathering process by Israeli authorities for children who are charged in the military courts, so the crux of the case is the child's confession or a signature on a document in Hebrew they don't understand. There can also be an affidavit from an arresting soldier or intelligence officer or an in-

criminating statement made against the child by another child who was also arrested and accused in connection with the same alleged incident.

Only a small percentage of Palestinian children in the military courts are released on bail. Custodial pre-trial—and often pre-charge—detention is the norm. Almost all prosecutions of children in military courts are resolved with plea agreements, which are the fastest way for a Palestinian child to be released from detention. Entering a not guilty plea is rare, and contesting a charge in the military courts means legal proceedings can be long and drawn out. To put it bluntly, punishment, not justice, is the goal of the military courts. The system is stacked unfairly against the child defendant, whose family is not even allowed to be present during court hearings, so irrespective of the facts or the reliability of the confession, pleading guilty in return for the shortest time in jail—which can still mean weeks or months or even years—is the norm.

I think of Mohammed Ibrahim, a Palestinian American who was detained for nearly 10 months after being arrested at the age of 15 in his home at 3 in the morning by heavily armed Israeli soldiers. He described being bound and beaten while being transported and threatened while being interrogated without the presence of a family member or an attorney. U.S. Embassy officials who visited him most recently in November described obvious deterioration in his mental and physical condition.

Mohammed's case fits the pattern, except that he is an American citizen. Putting aside that his confession may have been coerced, even if everything he was accused of—throwing stones that caused no harm—were true, it is unconscionable that he was abused and detained for months. He was deprived of adequate food and reportedly lost a third of his body weight. Senator VAN HOLLEN, I, and other Members of Congress repeatedly raised concerns about him, and thankfully, on Thanksgiving Day, he was released. It is now the Israeli Government's obligation to hold accountable the soldiers who beat him and the jailers who mistreated him.

Israeli authorities have defended this inherently flawed and discriminatory system as a necessary response to an ongoing state of hostilities. There are at least three problems with that argument:

First, these are children. Children do not belong in military detention or military courts, and the fact that they are caught in the middle of a decades-long conflict doesn't change that. A child does not become an armed combatant deserving of prosecution and punishment in the military justice system because of throwing a stone that causes no injury. Yet that is the reality for Palestinian children in the West Bank.

Second, administrative detention, compounded by physical and psycho-

logical abuse and humiliation of Palestinian detainees and the lack of due process that is endemic in the military justice system, have long-lasting impacts on a child. They have difficulty re-entering and continuing school, face increased restriction on freedom of movement, disruptions to family life, behavior and mental health issues, and it fuels resentment and hatred.

And third, Israeli settlers routinely and increasingly engage in provocations, threats, and violence—sometimes deadly violence—against Palestinians with impunity. These attacks and gratuitous destruction and theft of Palestinian property are often observed and tolerated by IDF soldiers. This too fuels hatred and more violence.

Absent a legitimate claim of self-defense, violence is wrong no matter who engages in it. But the incarceration, prosecution, and punishment of Palestinian children by Israeli military prosecutors and judges should stop. It is a flagrant violation of international law. It perpetuates an indefensible double standard of tiers of justice based on ethnicity, religion, and nationality. And by fomenting hatred, it makes Israel less secure.

Finally, it should stop because it reflects badly on the United States. The Israel Defense Forces are a major recipient of U.S. aid, and the United States should not explicitly or implicitly condone a flawed system of justice that systematically abuses and violates the rights of Palestinian children.

COMMEMORATING THE VISIT OF ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the visit of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to the United States. As the spiritual head of the world's second-largest Christian Church, he is a significant figure for Orthodox Christians worldwide, including many within Nevada's nearly 10,000-strong Greek-American community. His visit is especially meaningful to that community and to all who look to him for guidance.

As he has done during previous visits, His All-Holiness met with the President in the Oval Office and with congressional leaders here at the Capitol, meetings that reflect the long-standing respect between our Nation and the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Congress has also acknowledged his leadership in the past, awarding him the Congressional Gold Medal in 1997.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is the 270th Ecumenical Patriarch and the 269th direct successor of the Apostle Andrew. From Istanbul, he has spent decades building relationships across faiths, promoting what he calls "a dialogue of loving truth," and reminding the world that "War in the name of religion is war against religion."

I also want to note that during this visit, he received the Templeton Prize

in New York, a meaningful recognition of his work to encourage dialogue, understanding, and care for our shared humanity. He now joins distinguished figures such as the Dalai Lama and Jane Goodall.

I am pleased to recognize His All-Holiness's visit and the impact of his leadership, both globally and for the Greek-American community in Nevada and across the country.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL SHANNON "SOJU" BEERS

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I would like to recognize Lt. Col. Shannon Beers, known as "Soju," for his exceptional work as a defense fellow in my Senate office for the past year. For more than a decade, Lieutenant Colonel Beers has served his country with honor and distinction, both out in the field and most recently in our Nation's Capitol.

In 2008, Lieutenant Colonel Beers commissioned into the U.S. Air Force as a distinguished graduate of the ROTC program at North Carolina State University, where he received his Bachelor of Science in electrical and computer engineering. He went on to complete the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training in Texas before completing F-16 fighter aircraft training in 2011. Since that time, Lieutenant Colonel Beers has flown F-16s in the United States, Korea, Japan, Germany, Singapore, and Jordan.

From August 2011 to February 2013, Lieutenant Colonel Beers served as the F-16 flight lead and electronic combat pilot, 36th Fighter Squadron, at Osan Air Base in South Korea. He then went to Shaw Air Force Base in South Carolina, where he served as an F-16 flight lead and assistant chief of scheduling at the 79th Fighter Squadron, as well as an F-16 instructor pilot and wing electronic combat pilot at the 20th Operational Support Squadron. Lieutenant Colonel Beers was then stationed in South Korea from October 2015 to July 2016 as the scheduling flight commander of the 36th Fighter Squadron.

After graduating from the highly selective U.S. Air Force Weapons School, he returned to Osan Air Base in 2017 as the lead tactician of the 36th Fighter Squadron. While serving in South Korea, during a period of heightened tensions due to North Korea's multiple missile tests, he played a key role in the 36th Fighter Squadron's preparations for possible contingencies on the peninsula.

Next, Lieutenant Colonel Beers spent 2 years at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida, where he led the tactical execution of the U.S. military's only evaluation program for air-to-ground weapon systems. While there, Lieutenant Colonel Beers was responsible for validating weapons requirements and testing weapon systems in possible combat scenarios. His work still impacts yearly technical publications and recommendations to the defense industry.

In 2020, after 12 years of Active-Duty service, Lieutenant Colonel Beers joined the D.C. Air National Guard full-time at Joint Base Andrews-Naval Air Facility Washington. He flew F-16 alert missions in defense of the National Capitol Region, playing an integral role in our Nation's defense. In 2022, Lieutenant Colonel Beers transitioned to the C-40C and has flown numerous executive airlift missions supporting U.S. diplomacy around the world.

Adding to this field experience, Lieutenant Colonel Beers also has an exemplary education record. Only the best Air Force pilots are selected to attend the USAF Weapons School, and Lieutenant Colonel Beers's graduation from the school further honed his tactical acumen and superior leadership skills. He also received a Masters of Science in aeronautical science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. He also graduated from the Air Command and Staff College in 2023.

Given this impressive background, it is no surprise that Lieutenant Colonel Beers came highly recommended to my office. His defense expertise, vast experience, and desire to learn solidified his position as an invaluable member of my national security team. Aside from his tactical acumen, Lieutenant Colonel Beers is an honest, helpful, and generous person who is always willing to pitch in on any task. He quickly became a trusted adviser on all Air Force-related matters, especially concerning my duties on the Airland Subcommittee of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

During his year in the Senate, Lieutenant Colonel Beers staffed numerous high-level engagements and hearings, for which he provided top-quality preparation materials. He drafted various pieces of legislation for this year's National Defense Authorization Act, which will positively impact the military. He has also been instrumental in advocating for and ensuring the future of foreign fighter jet training at Ebbing Air National Guard Base, a top priority for Arkansas.

One of Lieutenant Colonel Beers's most significant contributions to both my office and the nation was his excellent work on the COUNTER Act. This crucial and timely legislation gives the military the necessary authority it currently lacks to protect our bases in the homeland from drone incursions. Lieutenant Colonel Beers's wide-ranging knowledge, deep understanding of technical details, and limitless perseverance through challenges were instrumental to the success of this effort.

Lieutenant Colonel Beers also played a major role in securing support for the Integrated Viper Electronic Warfare Suite. This package provides F-16s with essential electronic warfare capabilities, allowing for more effective operations against the latest generation of aircraft. Lieutenant Colonel Beers's diligent work and persistent efforts—which were reflected in both the One

Big Beautiful Bill passed earlier this year and in the National Defense Authorization Act—contributed to maintaining America's air superiority.

Finally, I cannot honor Lieutenant Colonel Beers without also thanking members of his family, specifically his wife Jenn, an Active-Duty Air Force Officer, and his father, a veteran of the U.S. Army. Their support, encouragement, and influence have helped to make Soju an exceptional servicemember, staffer, and leader.

Lieutenant Colonel Beers has had an impressive career, spanning the Air Force, the Air National Guard, and now, the legislative branch. It has been an honor to have him as part of our team for the past year.

Soju, thank you for your service to the United States and the State of Arkansas. May God continue to bless you and your family in all of your future endeavors.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING 3C ROOFING & CONSTRUCTION

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to honor 3C Roofing & Construction of Crawford County, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In just a little over a year since opening their doors, Brendan and Amanda Allard, owners of 3C Roofing & Construction, have demonstrated how a young business can strengthen a community when it is built on compassion, integrity, and service. Named after their three sons, Caius, Callum, and Coe, the company carries the Allards' family values into every project. Though newly established, Brendan brings more than a decade of residential and commercial contracting experience, giving the company a solid foundation from the start. Today, 3C Roofing & Construction and their team of three provide roofing, coatings, repairs, siding, interior and exterior work, seamless gutters, and handyman services. The team has quickly earned a reputation for reliability across Crawford County.

What truly sets the company apart is the Allards' belief that their work extends beyond construction; they see their business as a way to support neighbors when they need it most, a belief that has shaped their actions from day one. When Crossroads of Crawford County began preparing for a fundraiser, the Allards immediately offered a substantial discount to ensure more resources went directly to families in need. Their commitment to the community was further demonstrated when a devastating house fire in Denison displaced a local family. Folks

from 3C Roofing & Construction were first on site to help and later worked to raise funds to support the family's recovery.

They have continued this spirit of generosity by donating goody bags to Kiron Speech Path, providing playground equipment to Immanuel Lutheran Church, and supporting the Cortez family after their home was lost in a late-September fire. In another heartwarming project, the Allards teamed up with Arrick Clausen to help the preschool students at Immanuel Lutheran Preschool in Schleswig create Mother's Day planter boxes. The children used power tools and wood glue to assemble and paint the boxes, which were later engraved with their handwriting, giving them a chance to contribute to something lasting while enjoying hands-on learning.

While many contractors focus solely on the job, Brendan and Amanda have built 3C Roofing & Construction around empathy and service. They regularly use their platform to share local fundraisers and highlight community needs, reflecting their belief that small businesses play a vital role in sustaining rural life. As they continue to grow, the Allards remain committed to pairing high-quality craftsmanship with meaningful contributions to their community, proving that strong businesses don't just build structures, they help build hope.

It is my honor to recognize the Allard family and the entire 3C Roofing & Construction team for their outstanding work and dedication to their community. I look forward to their continued success and wish them the very best in the years ahead.●

RECOGNIZING PAULLINA HARDWARE

● Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to honor Paullina Hardware of O'Brien County, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In May 2018, Eric and Heidi Brown purchased Weidaman's True Value Hardware, now Paullina Hardware, in Eric's hometown of Paullina, IA. From day one, their mission has been rooted in community pride, providing essential hardware goods, trusted service, and convenience right in their hometown. In 2025, they expanded that mission by acquiring the former Shea's True Value in Primghar, IA, and ensuring that O'Brien County continues to benefit from locally-owned hardware stores. Their belief that "every little community needs a good hardware store" isn't just a slogan, but the guiding philosophy behind their work.

For more than 50 years, the Paullina store has stood as a cornerstone of the community, and under the Browns'

leadership, it has reached new heights. They expanded product lines, modernized inventory systems, and shaped the store to reflect the needs of the people they serve. Today, their two locations operate with a dedicated team of eight employees, whose friendly and reliable service helps maintain the welcoming atmosphere customers value. They have enhanced their toy and seasonal departments and even partnered with independent suppliers to remain flexible and responsive. Long known as "coffee people," the Browns have woven one of their personal passions into the store and now offer coffee equipment and teach customers how to brew quality coffee at home, part of their commitment to bringing neighbors together in meaningful ways.

Eric and Heidi's impact extends well beyond hardware supplies. Thanks to Eric's knowledge of and enthusiasm for biking, Paullina Hardware has also become a trusted regional bike repair shop. They have also expanded into recreational rentals, offering kayaks, paddleboards, and splash mat rentals at Mill Creek State Park. These services help families enjoy the outdoors and support local tourism. During Paullina's 2024 Gemboree celebration, the store proudly sponsored the Paddler Olympics, further demonstrating their commitment to community spirit.

The Browns' dedication to serving rural communities, improving local quality of life, and supporting economic growth is a testament to the power of local ownership. They have partnered with the O'Brien County Economic Development Corporation to expand their business and are members of both the Paullina and Primghar Chambers of Commerce. Eric and Heidi have built more than hardware stores; they have built service hubs and pillars of smalltown resilience. Their innovation, passion, and unwavering commitment to their neighbors make Paullina Hardware and their new Primghar location shining examples of what small businesses can accomplish.

It is my honor to recognize Eric and Heidi Brown and the entire Paullina Hardware team for their outstanding work and dedication to their community. I look forward to their continued success and wish them the very best in the years to come.●

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 which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT TO ADVISE THAT HE IS EXERCISING HIS AUTHORITY TO DESIGNATE AN ACTING INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY—PM 41

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am hereby notifying the Congress that I intend to designate Christian Schrank (Deputy Inspector General for Investigations, Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General) as Acting Inspector General of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, in place of the current Acting Inspector General, James Lisle. Such designation will be effective no less than 30 days from delivery of this message.

The Constitution vests "the executive Power" in the President, who has a duty to "take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed." U.S. Const., Art. II, §1, cl. 1; *id.* at §3. In exercising that power and duty, I have determined that, based on the qualities outlined in 5 U.S.C. 403(a) and the confidence I must place in my appointees, Mr. Schrank is the best available person to serve as Acting Inspector General of the Federal Housing Finance Agency at this time. In my judgment, Mr. Lisle can better serve the Nation performing other duties (i.e., returning to his position as the Federal Housing Finance Agency's audit director).

I am providing this notification as a courtesy, a show of comity and respect between the executive and legislative branches. It should not be interpreted as a concession that the Congress can limit my power to remove any officer. "Because no single person could fulfill [the President's] responsibility[ies] alone, the Framers expected that the President would rely on subordinate officers for assistance." *Seila Law LLC v. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau*, 591 U.S. 197, 203–204 (2020). And the Constitution gives the President "the authority to remove those who assist him in carrying out his duties." *Free Enterprise Fund v. Public Company Accounting Oversight Board*, 561 U.S. 477, 513–514 (2010). "Without such power, the President could not be held fully accountable for discharging his own responsibilities; the buck would stop somewhere else." *Id.* at 514.

Ultimately, I have determined that the priorities of my Administration will be better implemented with this individual in this office. Therefore, I

am apprising you of my intention to designate Mr. Schrank as Acting Inspector General of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, effective no less than 30 days from delivery of this message.

DONALD J. TRUMP.

THE WHITE HOUSE, December 1, 2025.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 5:18 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 616. An act to amend title 36, United States Code, to revise the Federal charter for the Foundation of the Federal Bar Association.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 176. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to aliens who carried out participated in, planned, financed, supported, or otherwise the attacks against Israel.

H.R. 225. An act to require the Inspector General of the Department of Housing and Urban Development to testify before the Congress annually, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1262. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to molecularly targeted pediatric cancer investigations, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1949. An act to repeal restrictions on the export and import of natural gas.

H.R. 2066. An act to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to exclude from the limit on leverage certain amounts invested in smaller enterprises located in rural or low-income areas and small businesses in critical technology areas, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2159. An act to direct the Attorney General of the United States to submit to the Congress a report on Federal criminal offenses, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3174. An act to increase loan limits for loans made to small manufacturers, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3716. An act to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to require reports on the use of the systemic risk authority applicable to winding up a failed insured depository institution, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4313. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend acute hospital care at home waiver flexibilities, and to require an additional study and report on such flexibilities.

H.R. 4323. An act to provide for the vacating of certain convictions and expungement of certain arrests of victims of human trafficking.

H.R. 4423. An act to continue the pause on disbursements and new financing commitments to the Government of Burma.

H.R. 4429. An act to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise the definition of a qualifying investment, for purposes of the exemption from registration for venture capital fund advisers under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, to include an equity security issued by a qualifying portfolio company and to include an investment in another venture capital fund, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4430. An act to lower the aggregate market value of voting and non-voting common equity necessary for an insurer to qualify as a well-known seasoned issuer.

H.R. 4431. An act to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 with respect to the defi-

nition of qualifying venture capital funds, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4491. An act to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to implement certain recommendations relating to information technology modernization, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4495. An act to extend the statute of limitations for fraud under certain pandemic programs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4549. An act to amend the Small Business Act to clarify the responsibilities of the Office of Rural Affairs of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5284. An act to require the Social Security Administration to make changes to the social security terminology used in the rules, regulation, guidance, or other materials of the Administration.

H.R. 5345. An act to amend title VII of the Social Security Act to provide for a single point of contact at the Social Security Administration for individuals who are victims of identity theft.

H.R. 5346. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform certain penalty and interest provisions.

H.R. 5348. An act to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide for the reissuance of social security account numbers to young children in cases where confidentiality has been compromised.

H.R. 5349. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve services provided to taxpayers by the Internal Revenue Service by providing greater judicial review.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 176. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to aliens who carried out, participated in, planned, financed, supported, or otherwise facilitated the attacks against Israel; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 225. An act to require the Inspector General of the Department of Housing and Urban Development to testify before the Congress annually, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 2066. An act to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to exclude from the limit on leverage certain amounts invested in smaller enterprises located in rural or low-income areas and small businesses in critical technology areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 2159. An act to direct the Attorney General of the United States to submit to the Congress a report on Federal criminal offenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 3174. An act to increase loan limits for loans made to small manufacturers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 3716. An act to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to require reports on the use of the systemic risk authority applicable to winding up a failed insured depository institution, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 4313. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend acute hospital care at home waiver flexibilities, and to require an additional study and report on such flexibilities; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 4423. An act to continue the pause on disbursements and new financing commit-

ments to the Government of Burma; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 4429. An act to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise the definition of a qualifying investment, for purposes of the exemption from registration for venture capital fund advisers under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, to include an equity security issued by a qualifying portfolio company and to include an investment in another venture capital fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 4430. An act to lower the aggregate market value of voting and non-voting common equity necessary for an issuer to qualify as a well-known seasoned issuer; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 4431. An act to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 with respect to the definition of qualifying venture capital funds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 4491. An act to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to implement certain recommendations relating to information technology modernization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 5284. An act to require the Social Security Administration to make changes to the social security terminology used in the rules, regulation, guidance, or other materials of the Administration; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 5345. An act to amend title VII of the Social Security Act to provide for a single point of contact at the Social Security Administration for individuals who are victims of identity theft; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 5346. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform certain penalty and interest provisions; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 5348. An act to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide for the reissuance of social security account numbers to young children in cases where confidentiality has been compromised; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 5349. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve services provided to taxpayers by the Internal Revenue Service by providing greater judicial review; to the Committee on Finance.

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 Energy and Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of S.J. Res. 91, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to "Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Record of Decision" and, further, that the joint resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Lisa Murkowski, Dan Sullivan, John R. Curtis, Josh Hawley, Ted Cruz, Jon Husted, John Hoeven, David McCormick, Eric Schmitt, Cynthia M. Lummis, John Cornyn, Mitch McConnell, Bill Hagerty, Marsha Blackburn, Mike Lee, Ron Johnson, Lindsey Graham, Roger F. Wicker, James E. Risch, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Bill Cassidy, Thom Tillis, Pete Ricketts, Tom Cotton, John Barrasso, Tim Sheehy, John Boozman, Markwayne Mullin, Kevin Cramer, John Thune.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following joint resolution was discharged from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, by petition, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 802(c), and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 91. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to "Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Record of Decision".

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 4495. An act to extend the statute of limitations for fraud under certain pandemic programs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4549. An act to amend the Small Business Act to clarify the responsibilities of the Office of Rural Affairs of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on November 25, 2025, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills and joint resolution:

S. 260. An act to amend the Bottles and Breastfeeding Equipment Screening Act to require hygienic handling of breast milk and baby formula by security screening personnel of the Transportation Security Administration and personnel of private security companies providing security screening, and for other purposes.

S. 2392. An act to increase, effective as of December 1, 2025, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

S.J. Res. 80. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to "National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Integrated Activity Plan Record of Decision".

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. MORAN, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1591. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to reorganize the acquisition structure of the Department of Veterans Affairs and to establish the Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation in the Department, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 119-97).

S. 787. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a commission to review operations at the Veterans Health Administration and submit to Congress reports with respect to that review, and for other programs (Rept. No. 119-98).

By Mr. MORAN, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

S. 607. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish an integrated project team to improve the process for scheduling appointments for health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

By Mr. MORAN, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, without amendment:

S. 610. A bill to expand the VetSuccess on Campus program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

By Mr. MORAN, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 654. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish an external provider scheduling program to assist the Department of Veterans Affairs in scheduling appointments for care and services under the Veterans Community Care Program, and for other purposes.

By Mr. MORAN, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with amendments:

S. 1320. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to take certain steps regarding research related to menopause, perimenopause, or mid-life women's health, and for other purposes.

By Mr. MORAN, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1383. A bill to establish the Veterans Advisory Committee on Equal Access, and for other purposes.

By Mr. MORAN, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, without amendment:

S. 2393. A bill to authorize a major medical facility project for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2026 in St. Louis, Missouri, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

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

S. 3294. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10660 Page Avenue in Fairfax, Virginia, as the "Congressman Gerald E. Connolly Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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

S. 3295. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a credit for adult child caregivers; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 3296. A bill to amend chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to cover, for purposes of workers' compensation under such chapter, services by physician assistants and nurse practitioners provided to injured Federal workers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

S. 3297. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to temporarily reinstate the biodiesel fuels credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

S. 3298. A bill to facilitate direct primary care arrangements under Medicaid; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 3299. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide a permanent dis-

proportionate share hospital allotment to Tennessee for fiscal year 2026 and succeeding fiscal years, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

S. 3300. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to establish a State option to provide medical assistance to certain individuals with serious mental illness or substance use disorder; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KELLY (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 3301. A bill to prohibit purchases of certain semiconductor manufacturing equipment from foreign entities of concern or subsidiaries of foreign entities of concern, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MULLIN (for himself, Mr. BENNETT, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. KELLY, Mr. HUSTED, Mr. KIM, Mr. SHEEHY, Mrs. MOODY, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. REED, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. JUSTICE):

S. 3302. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to molecularly targeted pediatric cancer investigations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 3303. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to establish or enhance a community integration platform for services for veterans, to require the collection from veterans of information related to social determinants of health, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 3304. A bill to provide for the coverage of medical food and vitamins and individual amino acids for digestive and inherited metabolic disorders under Federal health programs, to ensure State and Federal protection for existing coverage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. 3305. A bill to preclude repeat litigation involving energy projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 3306. A bill to amend section 1078 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 to increase the effectiveness of the Technology Modernization Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. LEE, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. COONS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. OSSOFF, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 3307. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, relative to the powers of the Inspector General of the Department of Justice; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 3308. A bill to establish protections for individual rights with respect to computational algorithms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. GALLEGOS:

S. 3309. A bill to amend section 203(b)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act to spur

an increase in the supply of housing, including low-income housing, in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 3310. A bill to require verification of the personal and biometric information of all individuals evacuated from Afghanistan, to require in-person interviews of such individuals, and to prohibit Afghan evacuees who do not provide such information or submit to such interviews from receiving Federal assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. BOOZEMAN, and Ms. SLOTKIN):

S. 3311. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate conflicts of interest in peer review for quality management of care conducted by the Veterans Health Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 3312. A bill to require the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to develop guidance for upgrading information systems to post-quantum cryptography, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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

S. 3313. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to issue a right-of-way for an emergency exit on certain National Park Service land in the State of Virginia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

S. 3314. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to expand a directive of the Veterans Health Administration regarding informed consent to apply to certain types of medications; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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

S. 3315. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to coordinate to improve cybersecurity in the health care and public health sectors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN:

S. Res. 521. A resolution celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act on November 29, 2025, and recognizing its transformative impact on the education of children with learning disabilities; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. Res. 522. A resolution commemorating and supporting the goals of World AIDS Day; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SULLIVAN:

S. Res. 523. A resolution expressing the opposition of the Senate to the Chinese Communist Party's "stolen valor" historical revisionism with regard to Allied Victory in Asia, commemorating the contributions made by the Republic of China to Allied Victory, and acknowledging the postwar contributions of the Government of Japan to peace and stability in Asia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. Con. Res. 24. A concurrent resolution recognizing the 30th anniversary of the Dayton Peace Accords; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 142

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 142, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to wildland firefighters in recognition of their strength, resiliency, sacrifice, and service to protect the forests, grasslands, and communities of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 494

At the request of Mr. SCHMITT, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) 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. 522

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 522, a bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to modify the frequency of board of directors meetings, and for other purposes.

S. 607

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 607, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish an integrated project team to improve the process for scheduling appointments for health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 624

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 624, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to achieve parity between the cost-of-living adjustment with respect to an annuity under the Federal Employees Retirement System and an annuity under the Civil Service Retirement System, and for other purposes.

S. 649

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 649, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for Post-9/11 Educational Assistance to members of the National Guard who perform certain full-time duty, and for other purposes.

S. 726

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 726, a bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States

Code, to require the safe storage of firearms, and for other purposes.

S. 787

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 787, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a commission to review operations at the Veterans Health Administration and submit to Congress reports with respect to that review, and for other programs.

S. 1027

At the request of Mr. KAINÉ, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) 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. 1227

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1227, a bill to require the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the Commissioner of Social Security to review and simplify the processes, procedures, forms, and communications for family caregivers to assist individuals in establishing eligibility for, enrolling in, and maintaining and utilizing coverage and benefits under the Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, and Social Security programs respectively, and for other purposes.

S. 1506

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1506, a bill to establish a Medicare-for-All national health insurance program.

S. 1552

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1552, a bill to promote and protect from discrimination living organ donors.

S. 1576

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1576, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the denial of deduction for certain excessive employee remuneration, and for other purposes.

S. 1649

At the request of Mr. TUBERVILLE, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1649, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain marketplace providers as importers for purposes of the excise tax on sporting goods.

S. 1748

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1748, a bill to protect the safety of children on the internet.

S. 2196

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2196, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to define intimate partner to include someone with whom there is or was a dating relationship, and for other purposes.

S. 2252

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2252, a bill to require United States foreign assistance commodities to be made available for their intended purposes before they expire.

S. 2255

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2255, a bill to provide for the vacating of certain convictions and expungement of certain arrests of victims of human trafficking.

S. 2341

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2341, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to impose requirements for substances generally recognized as safe, to require the Commissioner of Food and Drugs to reassess the safety of chemicals added to food, and for other purposes.

S. 2426

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2426, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide pharmacy payment of certain services.

S. 2613

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEG0) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2613, a bill to establish protections for warehouse workers, and for other purposes.

S. 2667

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2667, a bill to prevent violence in the West Bank and authorize the imposition of sanctions with respect to any foreign person endangering United States national security and undermining prospects for a two-state solution by committing illegal violent acts.

S. 2746

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from California (Mr.

SCHIFF) were added as cosponsors of S. 2746, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to produce suspicious activity reports relating to Jeffrey Epstein and his associates, and for other purposes.

S. 2859

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2859, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to ensure campus access at public institutions of higher education for religious groups.

S. 2892

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2892, a bill to direct the Secretary of Education to make grants to support early college high schools and dual or concurrent enrollment programs, and for other purposes.

S. 2951

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2951, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide for certain adjustments to Medicare payment for items of durable medical equipment that were formerly included in round 2021 of the DMEPOS competitive bidding program.

S. 2960

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2960, a bill to develop economic tools to deter aggression by the People's Republic of China against Taiwan.

S. 2983

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2983, a bill to reauthorize the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015.

S. 2988

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2988, a bill to bolster upgrades and infrastructure for lasting development at the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 3062

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3062, a bill to require artificial intelligence chatbots to implement age verification measures and make certain disclosures, and for other purposes.

S. 3093

At the request of Mr. SCHMITT, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3093, a bill to require the Science and Technology Directorate in the Department of Homeland Security to work with the Drug Enforcement Agency to develop greater capacity to

detect, identify, and disrupt illicit substances, such as nitazenes, in very low concentrations.

S. 3114

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3114, a bill to amend the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959 to require labor organizations to make certain disclosures to its members, and for other purposes.

S. 3116

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3116, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to restrict charges of unfair labor practices that are not filed in good faith or are frivolous, and for other purposes.

S. 3142

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3142, a bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to identify each alien who is serving, or has served, in the Armed Forces of the United States on the application of any such alien for an immigration benefit or the placement of any such alien in an immigration enforcement proceeding, and for other purposes.

S. 3143

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3143, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to allow certain alien veterans to be paroled into the United States to receive health care furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

S. 3144

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3144, a bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a veterans visa program to permit veterans who have been removed from the United States to return as immigrants, and for other purposes.

S. 3179

At the request of Mrs. MOODY, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3179, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to establish a criminal penalty for obstructing immigration enforcement activities.

S. 3183

At the request of Mr. SCHIFF, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3183, a bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to improve safety standards for wildland firefighters, and for other purposes.

S. 3218

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3218, a bill to provide for the first credible audit of gold owned by the United

States in decades, to upgrade the purity of gold to meet global market standards, and to conduct subsequent audits every 5 years.

S. 3235

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3235, a bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to provide for food-based interventions.

S. 3279

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3279, a bill to prohibit discrimination on the basis of religion, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), and marital status in the administration and provision of child welfare services, to improve safety, well-being, and permanency for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer or questioning foster youth, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 95

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 95, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Internal Revenue Service relating to "Interim Guidance Simplifying Application of the Corporate Alternative Minimum Tax to Partnerships".

S. RES. 236

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

S. RES. 323

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 323, a resolution urging the United States to lead a global effort to halt and reverse the nuclear arms race.

S. RES. 511

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 511, a resolution supporting the goals and principles of Transgender Day of Remembrance by recognizing the epidemic of violence toward transgender people and memorializing the lives lost this year.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

S. 3296. A bill to amend chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to cover,

for purposes of workers' compensation under such chapter, services by physician assistants and nurse practitioners provided to injured Federal workers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act. I am pleased that my colleague from Connecticut Senator BLUMENTHAL is my lead cosponsor on this bill.

Our bipartisan bill would allow physician assistants and nurse practitioners to certify disabilities and oversee treatment for Federal workers with injuries or illnesses that occur on the job, when doing so is consistent with the scope of their practice under State law.

Civil servants bring dedication, competence, and experience to their work, and this proposal affords them greater choice over their own healthcare in the event that they suffer a work-related injury or illness. Federal employees can already select a PA or NP as their primary healthcare provider within the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program.

However, and inexplicably, the Federal Employees' Compensation Act permits only a physician to make the diagnosis, certify the injury and extent of the disability, and to oversee the patient's treatments and care when a Federal employee is injured on the job.

This bill would allow the more than 2 million Federal employees in our country, including more than 12,000 Federal employees in the State of Maine, the ability to receive their healthcare from the practitioner of their choice after a work-related injury. When they can make their own choice, they have access to more timely care and continuity of care. They are also having the decisions about their healthcare and the extent of their disability or illness made by their primary care physician who knows them best, who understands their healthcare history.

Mainers, especially in our very rural communities, are often cared for by nurse practitioners or physician assistants. They act as their primary care providers. Let me give you an example. Jackie Carter and Corinne Malenfant are two nurse practitioners with a primary care practice in Orland, ME. They have described the challenges they face when they treat Federal employees.

Despite being the chosen healthcare provider of their federally employed patients, Jackie and Corinne are not authorized to certify their patients' injuries and illnesses and oversee the care for their work-related injuries under the Federal Employees' Compensation Act. As a result, their patients can experience lengthy delays in starting treatment due to the requirement that only a physician can certify the injury and oversee the Federal employee's care while in the Workers' Compensation Program.

In some very rural communities, Mr. President—and I suspect this may be true in parts of your State as well—there simply aren't any physicians who are practicing, or they are unable to accommodate additional patients.

So think about the situation that is created here. A Federal employee, who has a primary care provider who is, say, a nurse practitioner or a physician assistant, is injured on the job, but instead of immediately being able to go to this primary care provider, they have to wait until they can get in to see a physician—a physician who may be miles away and unable to see them quickly, a physician who does not know their history. They can't proceed with getting the Federal employee's benefits and healthcare treatments they need to get well and return to work. That just makes no sense in rural America today.

It is important to emphasize that this bill defers to State law. It would not expand the scope of any practice. Instead, it would simply remove a barrier that prevents dedicated healthcare professionals from practicing as their State permits them to do.

NPs and PAs already provide a significant amount of healthcare to injured Federal employees, but within the Federal Employees' Compensation Act, while they are not currently authorized to certify injuries and oversee patient treatment, they are authorized to treat injured Federal employees and be reimbursed for their services but only in cases where a physician has first certified the injury and continues to oversee the treatment. That is redundant, it causes delays, and it does not make sense.

Federal programs have long recognized the importance of nurse practitioners and physician assistants. Yet the Federal Employees' Compensation Act is an outlier in the restrictive nature of the program when it comes to NPs and PAs and their patients. Modernizing the Federal Employees' Compensation Act through the reforms contained in this legislation would be consistent with the practices of numerous other Federal Agencies and programs, including Medicare, the Veterans' Administration, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, the Indian Health Service, and the Social Security Administration. They don't create this additional barrier.

In rural communities, NPs and PAs may well be the only provider within a reasonable distance. Delaying the certification of injuries or illnesses for Federal workers means delays in their care. The longer those delays take, the longer before they can get the treatment they need to return to their jobs.

I also want to note that this bill would not increase Federal spending. The Congressional Budget Office has found that this bill would have an insignificant net effect on direct spending, reasoning that while it may increase access to care for injured Federal employees, it would be offset by

enabling them to return to work more quickly and to continue to serve the American people.

Passage of the Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act is a winner across the board. It simply makes common sense. It provides our dedicated Federal employees with additional healthcare options when they need it most. It allows NPs and PAs to share the knowledge they already have about their patients and treat their illnesses and injuries that are work-related in a timely fashion.

I urge all of my colleagues to join Senator BLUMENTHAL and me in supporting our bill.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. LEE, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. COONS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. OSSOFF, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 3307. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, relative to the powers of the Inspector General of the Department of Justice; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 3307

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Inspector General Access Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. INVESTIGATIONS OF DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE PERSONNEL.

Section 413 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

- (1) in subsection (b)—
 - (A) in paragraph (2), by striking "and paragraph (3)";
 - (B) by striking paragraph (3);
 - (C) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively; and
 - (D) in paragraph (4), as so redesignated, by striking "paragraph (4)" and inserting "paragraph (3)"; and
- (2) in subsection (d), by striking ", except with respect to allegations described in subsection (b)(3)."

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 521—CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT ON NOVEMBER 29, 2025, AND RECOGNIZING ITS TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT ON THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

Mr. VAN HOLLEN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 521

Whereas, on November 29, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed the Education for All Handicapped Children Act (Public Law 94-

142; 89 Stat. 773), which was later renamed the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.);

Whereas, prior to the enactment of IDEA, more than 1,000,000 children with disabilities were excluded from public schools, and many children with disabilities were institutionalized or received inadequate or segregated education;

Whereas IDEA established the right of every child with a disability to a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment, fundamentally transforming the educational landscape for millions of students;

Whereas IDEA affirms and protects the rights of children with disabilities and their families, ensuring access to educational opportunities and procedural safeguards;

Whereas IDEA supports the development and implementation of statewide, comprehensive, coordinated, multidisciplinary, and interagency systems of early intervention services for infants, toddlers, and preschool-age children with disabilities and their families;

Whereas IDEA ensures parents are meaningful partners with educators in determining the individualized education program or early intervention services a child needs;

Whereas IDEA provides the necessary tools to improve educational access and opportunity through systemic supports and improvement activities, parent training, coordinated research and personnel preparation, technical assistance, dissemination of best practices, and access to accessible assistive technology and other supports; and

Whereas Congress appropriates funding annually for Part B, C, and D programs of IDEA, which support the full range of evidence-based services and supports for students with disabilities, families, educators, States, and localities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

- (1) recognizes and celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.) and its enduring legacy and impact;
- (2) honors the millions of infants, toddlers, children, and youth who have benefited from IDEA;
- (3) commends the educators, families, advocates, and policymakers who have worked to uphold, advance, and ensure students benefit from IDEA; and
- (4) reaffirms its commitment to carrying out IDEA to ensure that every child with a disability has access to a high-quality education and the opportunity to thrive.

SENATE RESOLUTION 522—COMMEMORATING AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF WORLD AIDS DAY

Mr. BOOKER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 522

Whereas, as of the end of 2024, an estimated 40,800,000 people were living with human immunodeficiency virus (referred to in this preamble as "HIV") or acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (referred to in this preamble as "AIDS"), including 1,400,000 children;

Whereas, in the United States, more than 790,000 people with AIDS have died since the beginning of the HIV epidemic, including over 19,300 deaths among people with diagnosed HIV in 2022, with the disease disproportionately affecting communities of color;

Whereas, in 2023, over 39,000 people became newly diagnosed with HIV in the United States;

Whereas, while all races and ethnicities are affected by HIV in the United States, communities of color are disproportionately impacted;

Whereas, in order to address the HIV epidemic in the United States, on August 18, 1990, Congress enacted the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act (Public Law 101-381; 104 Stat. 576) (commonly referred to as the "Ryan White CARE Act") to provide primary medical care and essential support services for people living with HIV who are uninsured or underinsured;

Whereas the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program provides services and support for over half of all people diagnosed with HIV in the United States;

Whereas, to further focus attention on the HIV and AIDS epidemic among minority communities in the United States, in 1998, the Minority AIDS Initiative was established to provide funds to State and local institutions and organizations to best serve the needs of racial and ethnic minorities living with HIV;

Whereas the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals established a global target to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030;

Whereas, in order to further address the global HIV and AIDS epidemic, in 2003, Congress and the administration of President George W. Bush, with bipartisan support, created the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (referred to in this preamble as "PEPFAR"), which for more than 2 decades has served as the primary policy instrument of the United States to address HIV and AIDS in the developing world;

Whereas the United States PEPFAR program remains the largest commitment in history by any country to combat a single disease;

Whereas 26,000,000 lives have been saved through PEPFAR;

Whereas, as of September 30, 2024, PEPFAR has supported treatment for approximately 20,600,000 people and has enabled 7,800,000 infants of mothers living with HIV to be born HIV-free;

Whereas, in fiscal year 2024, PEPFAR directly supported testing and counseling for 84,100,000 people;

Whereas the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, launched in 2002, has helped provide antiretroviral therapy to approximately 25,600,000 people living with HIV or AIDS and to 648,000 pregnant women to prevent the transmission of HIV and AIDS to their children and, as of 2025, has saved an estimated 70,000,000 lives;

Whereas the United States is the largest donor to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and every \$1 contributed by the United States leverages an additional \$2 from other donors, as required by law;

Whereas considerable progress has been made in the fight against HIV and AIDS, including an approximately 40-percent reduction in new HIV transmissions, an approximately 60-percent reduction in new HIV infections among children, and a reduction of over 50 percent in the number of AIDS-related deaths between 2010 and 2024;

Whereas approximately 31,600,000 people had access to antiretroviral therapy in 2024, compared to only 7,700,000 people who had access to such therapy in 2010;

Whereas research funded by the National Institutes of Health found not only that HIV treatment saves the lives of people living with HIV, but people living with HIV on effective antiretroviral therapy and who are durably virally suppressed cannot sexually transmit HIV, proving that HIV treatment is prevention;

Whereas it is estimated that, without treatment, half of all infants living with HIV will die before their second birthday;

Whereas, despite the remarkable progress in combating HIV, significant challenges remain;

Whereas, in 2024, there were approximately 1,300,000 new HIV diagnoses globally, structural barriers continue to make testing and treatment programs inaccessible to highly vulnerable populations, and an estimated 5,300,000 people living with HIV globally still do not know their HIV status;

Whereas children living with HIV are significantly less likely than adults to know their HIV status, and, as a result, are prevented from accessing life-saving treatment;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that over 39,000 people were diagnosed with HIV in the United States in 2023, and 13 percent of the 1,200,000 people in the United States living with HIV are not aware of their HIV status;

Whereas men who have sex with men (referred to in this preamble as “MSM”), particularly young MSM of color, are the population most affected by HIV in the United States;

Whereas Southern States bear the greatest burden of HIV in the United States, accounting for 52 percent of all diagnoses in 2022;

Whereas people living with HIV are frequently susceptible to other infections, such as hepatitis B and C and tuberculosis;

Whereas the opioid and heroin epidemics have led to increased numbers of new HIV infections among people who inject drugs, and the crisis has disproportionately affected nonurban areas, where HIV prevalence rates have been low historically and services for HIV prevention and treatment and substance use disorder treatment are limited;

Whereas December 1 of each year is internationally recognized as “World AIDS Day”; and

Whereas, in 2025, commemorations for World AIDS Day will recognize the essential role of community and collective action to sustain and accelerate HIV progress in the global HIV and AIDS response: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of World AIDS Day, including the goal to achieve 0 new human immunodeficiency virus (referred to in this resolution as “HIV”) transmissions, 0 discrimination, and 0 deaths related to acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (referred to in this resolution as “AIDS”);

(2) commends the efforts and achievements in combating HIV and AIDS through the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act (Public Law 101-381; 104 Stat. 576), the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-87; 123 Stat. 2885), the Minority HIV/AIDS Initiative, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the Office of Minority Health, and the Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Services;

(3) commends the achievements in combating HIV and AIDS made by the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS;

(4) supports efforts to end the HIV epidemic in the United States and around the world by 2030;

(5) supports continued funding for prevention, care, and treatment services and research programs for communities impacted by HIV and people living with HIV in the United States and globally;

(6) urges, in order to ensure that an AIDS-free generation is achievable, rapid action by all countries toward further expansion and scale-up of testing and antiretroviral treatment programs, including efforts to reduce growing disparities and improve access to life-saving medications for children;

(7) encourages the scaling up of comprehensive prevention services, including biomedical and structural interventions, to ensure inclusive access to programs and appropriate protections for all people at risk of contracting HIV, especially in communities disproportionately impacted by the disease;

(8) calls for greater focus on HIV-related vulnerabilities of women and girls, including women and girls at risk for, or who have survived, violence or faced discrimination as a result of the disease;

(9) supports continued leadership by the United States in domestic, bilateral, multilateral, and private sector efforts to fight HIV;

(10) encourages input from civil society in the development and implementation of domestic and global HIV policies and programs that guide the response to the disease;

(11) encourages and supports greater degrees of ownership and shared responsibility by developing countries in order to ensure the sustainability of the domestic responses to HIV and AIDS by those countries; and

(12) urges other members of the international community to sustain and scale up their support for, and financial contributions to, efforts around the world to combat HIV.

SENATE RESOLUTION 523—EXPRESSING THE OPPOSITION OF THE SENATE TO THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY’S “STOLEN VALOR” HISTORICAL REVISIONISM WITH REGARD TO ALLIED VICTORY IN ASIA, COMMEMORATING THE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO ALLIED VICTORY, AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE POSTWAR CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN TO PEACE AND STABILITY IN ASIA

Mr. SULLIVAN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 523

Whereas, on September 3, 2025, the Chinese Communist Party held an exercise in orchestrated propaganda in Beijing ostensibly commemorating the 80th anniversary of the end of what it called the “Chinese People’s War against Japanese Aggression”, a theater of the “World Anti-Fascist War”, attended by heads of state or government from countries that included the Russian Federation, the People’s Democratic Republic of Korea, Belarus, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Cuba, and other totalitarian and authoritarian nations that the People’s Republic of China seeks to align with its vision of a future world order, or “Community of Common Destiny for Mankind”;

Whereas the claim by the Chinese Communist Party that forces under its command deserve primary credit for the victory of the Allies over the Empire of Japan in World War II is a historical revisionist claim that amounts to “stolen valor” at the expense of the Republic of China, the United States’ wartime ally, and the Armed Forces of the United States, which carried out the bulk of the fighting in the Pacific Theater;

Whereas the brunt of the war effort against the then-Empire of Japan in China was borne

by the Republic of China and armed forces under the leadership of Chinese Nationalists (also known as the “Kuomintang”);

Whereas, even before the formal declaration of war between the United States and the Empire of Japan, former American servicemen formed the American Volunteer Group, known as the “Flying Tigers”, to assist the Republic of China in its war of resistance;

Whereas, following the entry of the United States into World War II, Lieutenant General Joseph Stilwell, the Allied commander for forces operating in the China-Burma-India Theater, and General Sun Li-jen, a graduate of Virginia Military Institute, collaborated extensively in such theater;

Whereas the Chinese Communist Party and its forces did minimal fighting against the Empire of Japan relative to the Chinese Nationalist and United States forces, allowing the armed forces of the Republic of China to bear the brunt of the mainland fighting and casualties while building up military strength, with the support of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (commonly known as the “Soviet Union”), for the upcoming civil war the Chinese Communist Party intended to wage against the Government of the Republic of China, with the objective of bringing China under Communist control;

Whereas, in a 1939 report to Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin, Chou En-lai (Zhou Enlai), a member of the Chinese Communist Party, acknowledged that of an estimated 1,000,000 casualties suffered in combat with the Empire of Japan through the summer of 1939, only three percent were Communist forces, conceding the leadership role of the Chinese Nationalist forces of the Republic of China;

Whereas the Soviet Union, which signed a non-aggression pact with Japan in April 1941, entered the Pacific Theater on August 9, 1945, six days before the de facto cessation of hostilities by the Empire of Japan, and continued military campaigns beyond August 15 in an effort to occupy as much territory and weaponry in Northeastern China and Manchuria for the benefit of the Chinese Communist Party and obtain as much materiel and industrial equipment as possible for shipment back to the Soviet Union;

Whereas, on September 2, 1945, the Government of the Empire of Japan signed the Instrument of Surrender (referred to in this preamble as the “Instrument”) and affixed seals to it aboard the USS *Missouri*, bringing the War in the Pacific to an end;

Whereas, at the signing of the Instrument, the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers and General of the Army Douglas MacArthur signed for the Allied Powers, the Republic of China, as a wartime ally of the United States, was represented by General Hsu Yung-ch’ang, and the United States was represented by Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz;

Whereas the Empire of Japan presented the Instrument to the Government of the Republic of China at its capital in Nanking on September 9, 1945, satisfying the requirement that a signed copy of the Instrument be formally conveyed;

Whereas, despite the Chinese Communist Party having entered into a United Front coalition with the Chinese Nationalists in 1937, the Chinese Communist Party restarted a civil war soon after the end of World War II, seeking to defeat the Chinese Nationalists and take control of mainland China;

Whereas, on November 3, 1946, Japan promulgated a new constitution, effective May 3, 1947, and became a partner for peace in East Asia;

Whereas, on September 8, 1951, Japan signed the Security Treaty Between the

United States of America and Japan, which entered into force on April 28, 1952;

Whereas the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between the United States of America and Japan (commonly known as the “United States-Japan Security Treaty”), done at Washington, January 19, 1960, allows for robust cooperation between Japan and the United States to preserve peace in Asia;

Whereas the Japan Self-Defense Forces are able to rapidly deploy a humanitarian disaster relief response;

Whereas Japan is a member of “the Quad” and other multilateral dialogues that emphasize the need to preserve freedom of navigation and peace in the Indo-Pacific in the face of the aggressive activities by the People’s Republic of China threatening those principles;

Whereas the Republic of China, often referred to as the “Republic of China Taiwan”, endures today, and President Lai Ching-te in his public addresses has—

(1) also invoked this name, recalling the pre-1945 history of the Republic of China and the contributions made by Chinese Nationalist soldiers and graduates of the Whampoa Military Academy; and

(2) joined with other World War II allies of the Republic of China in commemoration of Victory in Europe; and

Whereas the Chinese Communist Party routinely employs propaganda and censorship to construct a distorted narrative about its past and present actions that are at odds with actual history: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) urges the United States Government, via public diplomacy and media outreach, to counter—

(A) the historical revisionism and propaganda of the Chinese Communist Party, particularly with regard to the Allied Victory in World War II; and

(B) the “stolen valor” narrative of the Chinese Communist Party, which seeks to downplay the role of the Republic of China and elevate that of the forces of the Chinese Communist Party;

(2) calls upon the Secretary of State to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States at the United Nations and other international organizations to counter efforts by the Chinese Communist Party to distort history, including efforts to distort and disregard the actual text of United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2758 (XXVI);

(3) exhorts the Secretary of Education and State and local school boards to ensure that history regarding allies of the United States during World War II is taught with historical accuracy and guards against propaganda narratives perpetuated by the Chinese Communist Party;

(4) recognizes the wartime accomplishments of the Republic of China, the United States, and their allies;

(5) commends the heroism and altruism of the American Volunteer Group;

(6) recognizes the critical role played by Japan, along with the United States and Taiwan, and other likeminded allies and partners of the United States to preserve peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region; and

(7) supports efforts by Taiwan, consistent with the Taiwan Allies International Protection and Enhancement (TAIPEI) Act of 2019 (Public Law 116-135), in strengthening its official diplomatic relationships and other partnerships with countries around the world, as well as its participation in international organizations.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 24—RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAYTON PEACE ACCORDS

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 24

Whereas December 14, 2025, marks the 30th anniversary of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (commonly referred to as the “Dayton Peace Accords”), which ended the Bosnian War and brought peace to Bosnia and Herzegovina;

Whereas widespread and systematic ethnic cleansing and concentration camps were used as a tool of war against Bosnian Muslim men, women, and children, culminating in the July 1995 genocide at Srebrenica, where over 8,000 Muslim men and teenagers were detained and killed;

Whereas the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (referred to in this preamble as “NATO”), led by the United States, initiated air strikes against Bosnian Serbs to stop grave human rights abuses, which led to ceasefire negotiations and the peace accords;

Whereas negotiations began on November 1, 1995, at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, culminating in a historic peace agreement on December 14, 1995 to halt the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina and bring peace to the region;

Whereas, despite seemingly insurmountable differences in opinions, the negotiations succeeded due to dedicated foreign service professionals, a common yearning for a peaceful resolution, and an outpouring of support from the global community;

Whereas the NATO and European Union (referred to in this preamble as “EU”) stabilization missions over the past 30 years have allowed the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina to live peacefully and to prosper;

Whereas the Dayton Literary Peace Prize, which was established in 2006—

(1) remains the only literary peace prize awarded in the United States;

(2) recognizes the power of the written word to promote peace; and

(3) was renamed the Ambassador Richard C. Holbrooke Award for Distinguished Achievement after the death of Ambassador Holbrooke in 2011;

Whereas the peace negotiations were strongly supported by the City of Dayton, Ohio, its leaders, and the broader community, which created strong relationships between all parties involved in the negotiations, including a sister city relationship between Dayton and Sarajevo;

Whereas the United States Government—

(1) reaffirms support for Bosnia and Herzegovina’s sovereignty and territorial integrity; and

(2) upholds the commitment to equality for all ethnicities according to the Dayton Peace Accords;

Whereas, since the signing of the Dayton Peace Accords, the Government and people of Bosnia and Herzegovina have been working in partnership with the international community towards building a peaceful and democratic society based on the rule of law, respect for human rights, and a free-market economy;

Whereas the EU opened accession negotiations with Bosnia and Herzegovina in March 2024;

Whereas the NATO Parliament Assembly held its 2025 Spring Session in Dayton, Ohio,

to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Dayton Peace Accords;

Whereas NATO and Bosnia and Herzegovina agreed to an Individually Tailored Partnership Programme in October 2025, which—

(1) strengthens NATO and Bosnia and Herzegovina’s strategic partnership; and

(2) positions Bosnia and Herzegovina closer to NATO membership status; and

Whereas the United States hosts a diaspora of an estimated 350,000 individuals of Bosnian descent, large numbers of whom reside in St. Louis, Missouri, Chicago, Illinois, and Bowling Green, Kentucky: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) reaffirms the joint United States and European Union (EU) commitment to promote and protect human rights, democracy, and the rule of law in Bosnia and Herzegovina and around the world;

(2) commends the continued commitment of the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina to peace and cooperation 30 years after the signing of the Dayton Peace Accords;

(3) notes the efforts undertaken by the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina toward North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and EU membership, including measures to resolve its constitutional issues, strengthen its governance structures, and undertake necessary economic, rule of law, and judicial reforms;

(4) reiterates the continued importance of the Dayton Peace Accords as the basis of constitutional reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the promotion of political, economic, legal, and religious equality, which are also key requirements for EU accession;

(5) urges the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina—

(A) to continue to pursue constitutional reforms needed to reconcile the past and engage across ethnic and religious lines with empathy and respect to build a common future; and

(B) through its respective leaders, to uphold the integrity of the tripartite presidency, strengthen its key institutions, and work to achieve an independent democracy;

(6) urges the United States Government—

(A) to maintain support for the Office of the High Representative until members of the Peace Implementation Council reach a unanimous agreement that the presence of the Office of the High Representative is no longer necessary; and

(B) to work closely with Bosnia and Herzegovina and its neighboring countries, especially countries who are signatories of the Dayton Peace Accords, to support full implementation of Stabilisation and Association Agreements between the EU and the Balkan States;

(7) encourages continued regional cooperation to combat the malign influence of foreign actors, such as the Russian Federation and the People’s Republic of China;

(8) recognizes the State of Ohio and the greater Dayton community for—

(A) their roles in fostering the Dayton Peace Accords; and

(B) their continued support for diplomacy, security, and peace around the world; and

(9) acknowledges the important contributions of the Bosnian-American diaspora in their communities throughout the United States.

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 ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet in closed session during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 2, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 2, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a subcommittee hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 2, 2025, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 2, 2025, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a subcommittee hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 2, 2025, at 3 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

DRIVE SAFER SUNDAY

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 512.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 512) designating November 30, 2025, as "Drive Safer Sunday".

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

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 512) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of November 20, 2025, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2025

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate

completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m., Wednesday, December 3; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Orso nomination; further, that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture motions filed during Monday's session of the Senate ripen at 11:15 a.m. tomorrow; and if cloture is invoked on the Orso nomination, the Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination at 2:15 p.m. tomorrow; and if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action. I further ask that following disposition of the Orso nomination, the Senate resume legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each and Senator MURKOWSKI or her designee be recognized to make a motion to proceed to S.J. Res. 91; further, that if the motion to proceed is agreed to, all debate time be expired and the Senate vote on passage of the joint resolution at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader, on Thursday, December 4; I further ask that following the vote on the motion to proceed to S.J. Res. 91, the Senate resume executive session to consider the Rodriguez nomination and the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Rodriguez nomination at 4:30 p.m. tomorrow; finally, that if cloture is invoked on the Rodriguez nomination, the postcloture time be expired and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader, on Thursday, December 4, notwithstanding rule XXII.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. LEE. 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 5:30 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, December 3, 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 UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

PETER S. SALFEETY

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

SEAN M. DIXON
JEFFREY A. GEISENDAFFER
MATTHEW E. HEADLEY
BRYAN D. HUEBSCH
PATRICK D. MCGRAIL

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

JAMES BURKE
STEVEN T. CONTRASCERE
DUSTIN A. KERLIN
KENNETH W. MALONE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

SHEA S. ALLEN
BARET L. BAILEY
DANIEL L. BARTLETT
NEWEL R. BARTLETT
MATTHEW J. BAUMAN
MATTHEW D. BERTHINET
HERBERT J. BOWSHER, JR.
MICHAEL K. BURKE
BRANDON M. BUSCH
RONALD J. CAMPIONE
CRAIG W. CLARK
THOMAS F. COLLINS III
JAMES F. COLVIN
ANGELA B. CREWS
CARINA A. CUELLARAMROD
RICHARD W. DAWSON
JUSTIN T. DIRICO
DUSTIN B. ELLIOTT
JOSEPH R. FALLER
DOMINIC F. FATTORE
KATHRYN C. HOLLIER
ETHAN M. HOWELL
NICHOLAS A. JABLONSKI
DAVID A. KELM, JR.
RYAN P. KENNY
STEPHEN J. KOPACH
ERIC M. KOPKA
ADAM D. LYNCH
THEODORE P. MARTIN
MARK R. MAUBERRET
JEREMY D. MOORE
MICHAEL J. MULVANEY
TIMOTHY R. NEWKIRK
VINCENT J. NOBLE
KEVIN M. O'DONNELL
ANTHONY L. PAGES
MICHAEL W. RAUSEO
MATTHEW J. SAMSON
JOHN W. TORRESALA
ANDREW J. TYSON
ERIK N. WALKER
JOSEPH T. WHITTINGTON
BRADLEY W. WITAM
WILLIAM C. WOODWARD, JR.
KRISTOPHER S. YOUNG
ANDREW J. ZETTS

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS OF THE COAST GUARD PERMANENT COMMISSIONED TEACHING STAFF FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 1944:

To be commander

MARGARET A. HARWARD
JENNIFER A. ROGERS

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate December 2, 2025:

THE JUDICIARY

DAVID A. BRAGDON, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA.

LINDSEY ANN FREEMAN, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA.