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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable DAVID MCCORMICK, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O God, our hope for years to come, guide our lawmakers on each step of their pilgrimage. Make them supreme in compassion, mercy, and love. Inspire them to fellowship with one another in a way that will promote unity.

Lord, bring our Senators more and more into oneness with You. May they obey Your commands. Fill them with the spirit of Your peace. In their weakness, give strength; in their troubles, give serenity; and in their doubts, give hope. Work through them to fulfill Your will for our Nation and world.

We pray in Your wondrous Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

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

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable DAVID MCCORMICK, a

Senator from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 1071, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Message to accompany S. 1071, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to disinter the remains of Fernando V. Cota from Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, Texas, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Thune motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the bill.

Thune motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the bill, with Thune amendment No. 3961 (to the House amendment to the bill), to change the enactment date.

Thune amendment No. 3962 (to amendment No. 3961), to change the enactment date.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

NOMINATIONS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, either today or tomorrow, we will confirm another nominations package, bringing the total number of the President's nominees confirmed this year to more than 400. That far exceeds the total confirmations of both President Trump's previous term and President Biden's.

It is an impressive number on its own, but it is particularly impressive when you consider the obstacles the Democrats have put up. I am not exaggerating when I say that President Trump's nominees have faced a historic level of obstruction from Senate Democrats.

When you look at this term, President Trump remains the only President on record not to have had a single civilian nomination confirmed by unanimous consent or voice vote.

Let me repeat that. President Trump remains the only President on record not to have had a single civilian nomination confirmed by unanimous consent or voice vote.

Democrats have required a rollcall vote on every single one of the President's nominations, an unprecedented level of obstruction in modern times.

Now, of course, Democrats would like you to believe that they have engaged in this historic level of obstruction because the President has put up, in the words of the Democrat leader, "historically bad nominees." The only problem is a lot of these nominees have gotten Democrat votes on final passage. So either Democrats are voting for "historically bad nominees" or something else has been going on here. That something else looks a lot like petty partisanship.

It became abundantly clear, a while ago, that the real reason Democrats have been dragging out nominations for Assistant Administrator of the Office of Solid Waste and Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement is nothing more than

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



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petty politics. Democrats cannot deal with the fact that the American people elected President Trump, and so they have engaged in this pointless political obstruction and revenge.

Republicans, however, have not been daunted. We have just kept plowing through confirmations, racking up an impressive number of hours in session and a historic number of votes in the process.

In September, we took steps to restore Senate precedent on largely non-controversial Presidential nominees to ensure that no other President has to face the kind of petty partisanship President Trump has encountered.

When the American people elect a President, they expect that President to be able to get his or her team in place. That doesn't mean that Senators should never oppose nominations, but it does mean the nominations should not be held up for purely partisan reasons. Or, in the words of the Democrat leader, just a few short years ago:

That doesn't mean we don't disagree. But it does mean, when nominees are held up, opposed, or blocked—it's for a legitimate purpose, not for leverage in partisan games, to score political points at the expense of public safety.

Democrats have engaged in a lot of partisan games this year, but Republicans have just kept doing our jobs. I am proud of just how much we accomplished on nominations, and I look forward to continuing to get the President's team in place in the new year.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, the Republican Party has delivered for the American people. We promised and delivered a country that is safer, stronger, and more prosperous. That is what we have seen in the last year.

Americans are now seeing more money in their pockets. Inflation is now under 3 percent. During the Biden years, it was at a 40-year high of 9 percent inflation.

This Christmas, gas prices are going to be the lowest that they have been, basically, in the last 5 years. In 38 States, including mine, Wyoming, we now have gasoline prices lower than \$3 a gallon. That is because Americans are seeing the impact of Republicans who have unleashed American energy.

Our borders are now secured. Not a single illegal immigrant has been released into this country under this administration. Compare that with 10,000 illegal immigrants, every day, flooding across our southern border and bringing with them the drugs and the crime,

as so many of them were released into the country and others were never captured.

What we see happening globally is the world's most successful companies are investing in America, and \$10 trillion is coming to our shores. Record investment is driving job growth. It drives innovation and drives opportunity.

We passed a comprehensive economic plan called the working families tax cut law. It is the central part of our economic plan. I really want to thank Senator MIKE CRAPO, chairman of the Finance Committee, for his hard work on seeing this through.

Republicans cut taxes. Every single Democrat voted to raise taxes to the tune of \$4 trillion. That would have impacted every working family in America. It would also have been the largest tax increase in American history.

So why is it that we want to cut taxes for American families? It is because you want more money in their pockets. You want waiters and barbers and bartenders to be able to keep up to \$1,300 more in money that they wouldn't have in their pockets now but by what we passed, which is no tax on tips.

In my home State and in yours, nurses and firefighters and police officers and coal miners are going to see about a \$1,400 increase in their take-home pay in their paychecks next year because of the no tax on overtime.

Seniors are going to see more money in their bank accounts, as well. There is a new \$6,000 deduction on Social Security income. Senator MARSHA BLACKBURN fought hard to make sure that deduction stayed in the bill.

Thanks to Senator KATIE BRITT of Alabama, Republicans modernized tax credits for childcare. That helps parents pay for childcare.

Thanks to Senator TED CRUZ of Texas, new parents now get a \$1,000 Trump account for every newborn child. Parents can use that to invest in their child's future. Also, parents get a bigger tax credit—\$2,200 for every child.

America is now energy dominant once again. The working families' tax cuts unleashed American energy. It reopened Federal lands and waters for energy production.

This is a historic victory for Wyoming. Wyoming is America's energy breadbasket. We have world-class coal and world-class oil and natural gas, and this Republican bill helps American energy workers compete globally.

Republicans also rolled back punishing Biden regulations. Those regulations were burdensome, expensive, and time-consuming. By reining in Biden's heavy-handed bureaucrats, we have saved the American public \$180 billion. That pencils out to over \$2,000 in savings for each and every working family.

Republicans repealed 23 bad Biden regulations, and we used the Congressional Review Act to do it. That is a record as well.

We stopped California's electric vehicle mandate madness. Thanks to the leadership of Senators SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO, DEB FISCHER, MARKWAYNE MULLIN, and BERNIE MORENO, Americans are now back in the driver's seat.

My colleague and friend Senator CYNTHIA LUMMIS of Wyoming led the repeal of the harmful Buffalo Resource Management Plan. That is really good news for Wyoming's energy producers. The Powder River Basin in Wyoming supplies about 45 percent of all the coal in the country.

Senate Republicans also cut wasteful Washington spending. We cut over \$1 trillion in waste, fraud, and abuse as part of the working families tax cuts law.

We also passed the first standalone rescissions bill in over 30 years—a special thanks to Senator ERIC SCHMITT of Missouri.

Taxpayers saved over \$9 billion because we cut liberal projects. Let's look at some of them. One of those pet projects included net-zero cities in Mexico. Another cut out electric buses in Africa and taxpayer-funded classes on "environmental racism."

Additionally, Republicans created a \$50 billion rural hospital fund. It is the single largest Federal investment in rural healthcare in American history.

Do you want to help patients with rare diseases find treatments? We were able to do that. We passed a bill that I introduced called the ORPHAN Cures Act. As a doctor in Wyoming, I saw the challenges that patients faced when they had few or no treatment options. That is why I fought to bring hope for millions of Americans living with rare diseases.

Republicans are also making our communities safer. We began this year by passing a bill from Senator BRITT and from Senator TED BUDD of North Carolina. It is called the Laken Riley Act. It was the first bill that we passed this year and the first bill that President Trump signed into law. It mandates the detention of illegal immigrant criminals. Amendments from Senator JONI ERNST and Senator JOHN CORNYN made it even stronger.

We also passed the HALT Fentanyl Act. It cracks down on deadly fentanyl trafficking. This is thanks to Senator BILL CASSIDY of Louisiana and CHUCK GRASSLEY of Iowa. They have done incredibly hard work and important work.

On top of that, the working families tax cuts made a historic \$170 billion investment in border security. It finishes the wall. It hires more ICE and Border Patrol agents.

As we finish this year, Senate Republicans have confirmed a record number of President Trump's nominees. We began the year by confirming President Trump's Cabinet faster than any Senate in modern history. By week's end, President Trump will have 417 nominees confirmed by the Senate this year. That is far more than the 365 that Joe Biden had in his first year in office.

This historic record comes despite unprecedented obstruction from the Democrat minority. What have they done?

Well, basically, they have just tried to obstruct. They have spent the entire year on the side of higher taxes, on the side of illegal immigrant criminals, on the side of wasteful spending, and on the side of burdensome regulations. If Democrats had their way, Americans would face the largest tax increase in history. If Democrats had their way, illegal immigrants would get free healthcare. If Democrats had their way, the government would still be shut down.

Republicans are putting more money in people's pockets; we are delivering safer neighborhoods; and we are providing more opportunities. Republicans are going to continue to deliver the safety and the prosperity that the American people want and deserve.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

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

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

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

SENATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, after Mayor Mamdani was elected in New York City, the word "affordability" became all the buzz among the political classes and among the media as if this were something new. Obviously, affordability is not something new. It has, actually, always been the most important issue that voters and my constituents in Texas and Americans, generally, have felt was important because, of course, it deals with their quality of life and their standard of living. It has always been an important issue.

But, a year ago in November, the American people delivered a clear message that the Biden administration, which presided over 40-year high inflation, was taking the country in the wrong direction. President Trump received the electoral vote and the popular vote, and he won every swing State. Republicans secured majorities in both the House and the Senate.

This year, it has been up to the Republicans to course-correct. One of the most significant factors that has guided us is the need to address the burden of rising costs on everything: inputs into farming and ranching and the cost of commodities—food on the kitchen

table. All of these are very real and important and urgent issues that we have tried to address, and there is more we can and should do.

But, under President Biden, the country experienced, as I said, historic levels of inflation not seen since Jimmy Carter was President of the United States. The cumulative inflation from the time President Biden took office until he left was 20.6 percent. Stated another way, everything cost more than 20 percent more from the time President Biden took office to the time he left. That is a huge cut in the standard of living and a huge increase in the cost of living for all Americans.

By the time he left the White House, a typical family in Texas, for example, would have to pay an additional \$12,427 every year just to maintain the same standard of living that they had enjoyed when President Biden first took office. So that is like getting a \$12,427 pay cut each year for the average Texas family.

Last November, when President Trump was reelected, 58 percent of Americans said they thought the country was on the wrong track. So it is no surprise that they voted for a new direction. Actually, I think two things helped President Trump the most. One was his pledge to secure the border, which he has done. Secondly, it was his pledge to deal with this issue of rising inflation and the increasing cost of living.

President Biden's policy, no doubt, contributed to the pain that families were and still are feeling in their paychecks.

Of course, it is one thing to identify a problem, but it is harder still to do something about it. There is, obviously, no silver bullet that can magically make inflation disappear. The Federal Reserve continues to struggle with this issue when they deal with the monetary policy, with what the interest rates are. The good news is the rate of inflation has gone down, but we still have the higher baseline sticking around from the Biden era. In other words, prices are rising more slowly, but they are still high.

The good news is that Republicans have taken important steps that will help ease the affordability crunch for all Americans, particularly when it comes time to file their taxes next year. The Working Families Tax Cuts Act was signed into law by President Trump on July 4. This is one of the most significant pieces of legislation that we have seen in a long, long time, and one of the challenges we have had in trying to explain it is there is so much in there that it is really hard to break it down into digestible pieces that folks can understand.

The truth is, this legislation will help Americans keep more of what they earn by lowering taxes across the board, and not a single Senate Democrat voted for it. Essentially, by voting against it, they voted for a \$3,000 tax

increase on most families back in Texas.

The Working Families Tax Cuts Act permanently increased the standard deduction to \$15,750, including an annual adjustment for inflation. Without our legislation, the standard deduction would have dropped to \$8,300 next year. This means that the 12 million Texas families who claim the standard deduction each year would have had to pay an additional \$7,450 in taxes next spring without that legislation having passed. The lower rates from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act from 2017 were set to expire at the end of this year, but the Working Families Tax Cuts bill made these lower rates permanent.

In addition to the increased standard deduction and lower rates across all income brackets, our legislation delivered targeted relief to those who were feeling squeezed the most. One of these groups is families with children. Those with small kids often have to choose between living on one income or incurring the increasingly high cost of childcare. If we hadn't passed the Working Families Tax Cuts bill, these families would have been slapped with a tax increase, with the child tax credit scheduled to decrease from \$2,000 to \$1,000. Our legislation prevented this from happening. We raised the child tax credit up to \$2,200 and indexed it to inflation so that it will continue to go up year after year.

We also permanently strengthened the employer-provided childcare credit. This tax credit will incentivize businesses to provide childcare for their employees.

Of course, for some families, these credits seem like a drop in the bucket compared to the cost of raising a family, but I hope these small steps are a step in the right direction toward making family life more affordable, which we must do.

Another area my colleagues and I have been discussing on both sides of the aisle, which is a real issue for most Texans, is the rising cost of healthcare.

Now, if you have only been listening to our Democratic colleagues, you would be forgiven for thinking Republicans have done nothing to address the cost of healthcare in this country. But that is not true.

In the working families tax cuts, we expanded access to health savings accounts, also known as HSAs. These savings accounts allow individuals to save pretax dollars and then use those funds to cover eligible medical expenses. These accounts are particularly useful in the case of a medical emergency when an unexpected bill arrives.

We expanded eligibility for these health savings accounts to individual bronze market and catastrophic plans starting in 2026. We also ensured that high-deductible health plans cover telehealth and other remote access or virtual healthcare services before the deductible kicks in, while remaining HSA-eligible.

I know we are all concerned about access to healthcare, and actually one of

the biggest, most important things that came out of the COVID pandemic and the way we responded, in addition to Operation Warp Speed, was the broader application of telehealth.

Most places around the country are being served by broadband. Many people have access to the internet. Now we have provided the incentives and the reimbursement for more people to get access to healthcare through the internet using telehealth. Not every medical condition requires people to show up at a hospital or emergency room or a doctor's office. Many people can more conveniently, more inexpensively be served by accessing telehealth, and we made that more available.

Of course, there is a lot more work that needs to be done, and I look forward to working with all of our colleagues next year to continue to develop policy solutions that will lower costs for patients and families. But one of the things we should not and we must not and we will not do is expand the fraud-riddled ObamaCare enhanced subsidies that were provided during the Biden administration.

The Biden administration and Democrats at the time took the cap off of the subsidies for healthcare for people making well in excess of half a million dollars a year. That is crazy. We ought to be focused on the vulnerable, the people who need access to care, and not people who can afford to buy healthcare on their own.

In addition to medical bills, many families struggle to deal with their car payments. You have to have a way to get around. Not everybody has access to mass transportation.

Interest rates have remained high because of the historic levels of inflation during the Biden administration and the efforts by the Federal Reserve to combat that inflation through keeping interest rates high. But these interest rates mean that the monthly loan payments for cars have been higher and that buying a new car for most families is more expensive.

For those making less than \$100,000 a year, the working families tax cuts introduced a new deduction that will ease this burden when it comes time to buy a new car. These individuals—those who make less than \$100,000 a year—can now deduct up to \$10,000 for interest paid on a new vehicle if that vehicle was made here in the United States.

This was a much needed course correction from President Biden's so-called Inflation Reduction Act—which did nothing to reduce inflation, by the way—which offered tax credits for electric vehicles that are produced with reliance on Chinese supply chains and, perversely, taxed low-income and working-class families in order to provide the subsidies for rich people who could buy electric vehicles. Just bizarre.

Instead of incentivizing the purchase of these exotic vehicles that undermine American manufacturing, Republicans

are rightly delivering tax relief to the working middle class who are struggling just to make ends meet and, in this case, to afford a new car.

But that is not all. This legislation also delivered a historic win for the working class with no tax on tips and no tax on overtime. Many folks—me included—at some point in their adult lives end up working waiting tables or in some sort of service industry. So the idea now is that more folks working their way up the economic ladder can now enjoy no tax on tips and no tax on overtime, which will actually incentivize people to work more, which we need, without seeing their tax bill go up.

Employees and self-employed individuals can now deduct up to \$25,000 in qualified tip income through 2028.

Next time you go to a restaurant or a bar, why don't you ask the waitstaff what they think about President Trump's no tax on tips and no tax on overtime. I have done that, and it is no surprise that they welcomed that with open arms.

Single filers can now deduct up to \$12,500 on qualified overtime income. A lot of our law enforcement personnel and first responders work more than one job. They may work a side job in security or something like that. Now, if they choose to work overtime, they can now deduct up to \$12,500 in qualified overtime income.

Now seniors can deduct an additional \$6,000 on their Social Security benefits.

All of these enhanced deductions will ensure that those who are experiencing the brunt of the affordability burden will have a little more breathing room when tax day comes around next year.

The Biden administration created long-lasting harm with its profligate spending habits. It is wasteful Washington spending which drove inflation and prices high and inputs for everybody who makes anything in America or grows anything, for that matter.

So while we tackle the 40-year high inflation rate—and it is coming down, thankfully—these steps we have taken in the Working Families Tax Cut Act I think will help us nudge the economy where it matters most—which is at the kitchen table—in the right direction and make life more affordable and the standard of living better for our constituents.

The working families tax cuts may seem abstract right now, but when it comes to next year, I think folks back home in Texas, Pennsylvania, California, and all around the country are going to welcome the good work that we did, together with President Trump, to pass the Working Families Tax Cuts Act because it will improve their standard of living and make life more affordable for them.

There is still more work to be done, but I believe Republicans have delivered an important first step toward making life more affordable for the people we represent.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, tonight, President Trump will address the Nation on what he claims is a speech on his supposed victories this year.

President Trump can say whatever he wants on camera, but the reality is for Americans across the country that costs are up, unemployment is rising, the holidays are more expensive and stressful than ever, and tariffs are taxing people to no end.

If Donald Trump had any shred of honesty and self-respect and self-insight, he would look into the camera tonight and say to the American people: I have failed you.

I mean, just last week, Donald Trump seriously suggested the one way families can lower costs is for parents to buy their kids fewer toys. What kind of Christmas is that? Donald Trump is like the Grinch—just with a lot more bronzer.

Now, today, Senate Democrats will hold a special caucus lunch to roll out a new initiative to lower costs for the American people and show precisely how Donald Trump and Republicans have made life far more expensive for Americans.

This morning, a report came out that Americans will pay 13 percent more on energy costs than they did last year. In part, why? Because Donald Trump and his obseant Republicans cut out the cheapest way to get new power and new electrons on the grid—solar energy. They cut it out in obedience to the oil industry. It was disgraceful.

That is what is wrong with this government—the corruption. The oil industry promises Donald Trump that Harold Hamm will raise him a ton of money, so Trump cuts out clean energy, and these guys went right along with it. The cost of groceries is up. Rent is up. Housing foreclosures are up. Healthcare is about to soar through the roof while Republicans refuse to do anything about it. JOHN THUNE said he doesn't want to extend the ACA tax credits at all. And Americans will pay the price.

Donald Trump and his billionaire buddies and the Republican Senators just don't get it. They don't understand what it is like to struggle to pay for groceries or struggle to keep a roof over your head. They don't know what it is like if your car breaks down and you don't have enough money to fix it and you wonder, how am I going to get to work?

Donald Trump, after all, calls affordability a hoax.

Well, if anything is a hoax, Donald Trump, it has been your promise to lower costs on day one.

The biggest hoax on affordability was Donald Trump's promise to lower costs on day one.

So, today, Democrats are going to come together to do precisely what Republicans refuse to do, fight on behalf

of the American people to lower their costs. We are going to focus on five major issues: healthcare, energy, housing, groceries, and Donald Trump's tariffs. When Americans think about lowering costs, these are five things they think about most, and these are the issues that will be our focus.

Senate Democrats will focus on these five issues like a laser. We will come back to them again and again and again, in the coming weeks, just like we came back to healthcare, over and over and over again, this fall. And the American people know who is on their side when it comes to healthcare costs.

Americans are tired of feeling like the cost of living is a constant crisis. Americans are tired of hearing Donald Trump call their struggles a hoax. Americans didn't sign up for higher grocery costs and more expensive healthcare, but that is what the Republicans and Donald Trump have given them in just 1 year in office.

So Democrats will show the American people another way forward, a way focused on lower costs, more prosperity, and an agenda focused on the working- and middle-class families of America—not the billionaires, not the special interests, not the huge lobbyists who seem to dictate what the Republicans do.

U.S. COAST GUARD

Mr. President, on the Coast Guard swastika, earlier this week, the U.S. Coast Guard enacted a policy downgrading the swastika from its list of recognized hate symbols.

Can you believe it? Can you believe it? The swastika is no longer a recognized hate symbol?

They did this just after the horrible shootings in Sydney and so many other shootings—anti-Semitic shootings—and activities that have been plaguing America.

The new policy of the Coast Guard is shameful. It is dangerous and another troubling instance of the Trump administration normalizing the threat of Nazism and White supremacy.

This policy has all the markings of a dog whistle. It is a “stand back and stand by” in the form of an office memo. Not 4 days ago, 15 Jews were slaughtered in cold blood—a beautiful picture of a little 10-year-old girl celebrating the first night of Hanukkah—and a day later, the Trump administration chose to soften its stance against Nazis and swastikas.

Can you believe it? Can it get any lower? Can it get any more insensitive? Can they be any more in a bubble than they are in?

And for the millions of American men and women who served in the Coast Guard, this is an insult to them. How about the Coast Guard members who served during World War II and fought that swastika? Why was this policy change even necessary at all? Why did the administration go out of its way to soften its policies against swastikas of all things?

Today, Republicans will attempt to confirm the Commandant of the Coast

Guard by unanimous consent, before the end of the year. If he is to be the head of the Coast Guard, this new nominee must reverse this egregious policy, and I am asking him right now: Change that policy now.

Let's be very clear. If you are a Jew, if your family gave their lives to fight the Nazis in World War II, if you are a minority in any way, there is nothing, nothing potentially divisive about a swastika. It is just about the most unmistakable hate symbol in existence.

Now, this is part of an emerging pattern on the right. Young Republicans were texting about gas chambers. Trump officials were talking about having a Nazi streak. Tucker Carlson interviews Nick Fuentes, and Donald Trump refuses to condemn Fuentes. Yesterday, JD VANCE took to social media to suggest that anti-Semitism only exists because of immigrants.

Where has he been? Does he know the history of anti-Semitism? What an ignorant statement from VANCE. Sometimes you think he must know better, but he doesn't. He just plays along with the rightwing, sucks up to them.

And now, according to the Trump administration, swastikas no longer count as hate symbols within the Coast Guard. This is exactly why I introduced my resolution condemning Nick Fuentes, Tucker Carlson, and neo-Nazism. Neo-Nazism is no longer a fringe or theoretical threat. It is real. It is growing. It threatens our democracy, and every elected official must condemn it forcefully.

HEALTHCARE

Mr. President, now, on healthcare, there is breaking news this morning—good news—that the discharge petition in the House got the necessary 218 signatures to move forward.

It shows that the demand by the American people for Congress—the House and the Senate—to extend the ACA premium tax credits is undeniable. Yet Republican leaders inside the House and the Senate are making it clear that they are opposed and will be responsible for healthcare costs rising through the roof.

Yesterday, Leader THUNE admitted:

We're not going to pass anything by the end of this week.

That is a clear admission of failure—a failure to govern, a failure to lower costs for the American people.

The damage has been done, no matter what happens, because, at this point, Republicans have made it impossible to prevent many Americans from paying more on their monthly premiums on January 1. And Republicans can't even say they tried to stop it.

House Republicans, meanwhile, are on the warpath to vote on a rightwing healthcare sham bill, one that doesn't extend the ACA credits a day, doesn't lower premiums, and does absolutely nothing to help people afford coverage.

So let's be very clear. There is only one reason—one reason—Americans' premiums are going through the roof starting in just 14 days: It is because

Republicans—Trump, the Republican Senate, the Republican House—chose for it to happen.

VENEZUELA

Mr. President, on Venezuela, yesterday, President Trump announced “a total and complete” blockade of all sanctioned oil tankers entering and leaving Venezuela—another dangerous escalation with no clear plan whatsoever. Donald Trump has offered precisely zero explanations—zero—to the American people for what he is trying to accomplish in the Caribbean.

Most Senate Republicans, meanwhile, appear to have no interest in doing any congressional oversight in a serious way of the administration's military buildup. We have had no serious public congressional hearings on the threat of military conflict off the coast of Venezuela, no public testimony from Defense officials on this issue.

Where are Senate Republicans? Where is the oversight?

The purpose of hearings is to challenge an administration when it may well be going off course, and they certainly seem to be going off course in Venezuela.

Donald Trump talks one way, then another. I have asked some of our leaders: Where is the limit to how far they will go? No answer. Could this be getting us into an endless war?

The American people fear that above most other things, maybe all things. That is why we need oversight, and the Senate Republicans are nowhere.

Meanwhile, the briefing we had, yesterday, with Secretary Rubio and Hegseth was utterly disappointing. The administration walked into the room totally empty-handed. They gave us no real answers about what the objective is in the Caribbean. Hegseth also refused to give Senators full access to the video of the September 2 strikes.

The same, same lack of transparency that is affecting the September 2 video is affecting our whole policy in the Caribbean and with Venezuela—no oversight, no plan, no discussion with either the Senate, the House, or the American people. That is what leads to trouble—big trouble.

Let's be very clear. Donald Trump does not have the authority to use military force to carry out his current plans in the Caribbean, without authorization from Congress. If Trump acts without congressional authorization, the Senate stands ready with a bipartisan resolution—led by Senator KAINE, myself, Senators PAUL and SCHIFF—preventing the unauthorized use of force.

TRIBUTE TO GERMAN VAZQUEZ

Mr. President, finally, let's say good-bye to German Vazquez—a very special good-bye to one of the Senate's unsung heroes, German Vazquez, who will retire soon, after 28 incredible years of service.

The public may not know German, but every single Senator knows him. You see his face, and you smile. You

can always find him near the Chamber, working as a doorkeeper, at the elevators, or up in the Gallery. No matter the role, he is professional, warm, and a positive presence that makes the Senate come to life.

He has been wonderful to our staffs, as well—kind, steady, and generous in the way that matters every day in a place like this.

So, German, on behalf of all of us in the Senate, thank you, thank you, thank you. Godspeed on your next adventure, and we wish you and your family all the best.

I yield the floor.

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

S. 1071

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, at the beginning of every year, the White House, on behalf of the President of the United States, and the Department of Defense come to Congress with a request. They come to Congress as a co-equal branch of government to ask that we, Congress, authorize and appropriate the funding they need to defend our Nation and to protect our national interests on the world stage. And that request traditionally includes a justification and a rationale for the proposed plan.

For over 60 years, Congress has met its responsibilities, not by rubberstamping the Department of Defense's requests but by, yes, identifying areas of agreement, identifying and negotiating or saying no to areas of disagreement, and, ultimately, passing, on a bipartisan basis, what we refer to as the National Defense Authorization Act, the final product reflecting the priorities of both Congress and the White House for protecting our Nation. That is how it normally works.

But make no mistake, this year is anything but normal. What we have seen just 1 year into this second Trump administration is the destruction of eight decades of bipartisan foreign policy consensus and the destruction of postwar alliances that have kept Americans safe for generations.

And we have seen growing abuses of power meant to enrich Donald Trump and his allies. And as best as I can tell, the Trump doctrine in his second term is a transactional national security and foreign policy, not of values but to the highest bidder.

Under Trump, the United States has pulled away from NATO and grown closer to authoritarian dictators like Xi, Kim, and Putin, who Trump idolizes. He has engaged in repeated hostilities against our closest European democratic allies and cozied up to anyone who will shower him with gifts or praise or both.

He is enabling Russia's plans to carve up Ukraine, a catastrophic decision that will only encourage future aggression and pain for innocent civilians.

He has even threatened to forcibly annex Greenland from our ally Denmark.

And, earlier this month, the Trump administration released its new National Security Strategy.

And some folks may wonder: What is the National Security Strategy document?

It is a blueprint that provides strategic guidance for the administration. It sets priorities and articulates a vision for achieving them—or at least it should.

Trump's strategy rejects leading with democratic values in favor of making short-term, transactional alliances. It is a complete abandonment of the idea that democracies should stand together against authoritarian governments.

And while it is foolish and shortsighted, it is also not surprising to hear Defense Secretary Hegseth recently declare, at the Reagan Defense Forum, an end to what he calls "idealistic utopianism," while calling for a renewed focus on the Western Hemisphere.

So what exactly does a renewed focus on the Western Hemisphere look like for the Trump administration?

So far it has meant bombing alleged drug traffickers in the Caribbean and Pacific, on shaky legal grounds—so shaky they won't release the legal opinion that they are using to try to justify it.

Now, just this week, we heard the White House Chief of Staff—the White House Chief of Staff—admit on the record that Donald Trump "wants to keep on blowing boats up until Maduro cries uncle."

Folks, the fact of the matter is, Congress has not declared war, nor has Congress authorized the use of military force in Latin America. Do you want to have that debate? Let's have that debate. Let's put that up for a vote if you agree, but that has not happened yet. And we know the American people overwhelmingly oppose a military campaign there as well.

But every week—it doesn't matter—Donald Trump keeps testing us to see just how much he can get away with, threatening now a land invasion of Venezuela and even seizing an oil tanker off its coast. Now, if this were solely about stopping drug traffickers, I don't think there would be disagreement or objection here to a law enforcement-based approach to do exactly that. Of course, we want to stop drug trafficking. But the Trump administration seemingly can't decide if it wants to be crime fighters or warmongers, and they have decided to use the U.S. military to bomb their way through the Caribbean either way.

And that is the larger point here. Donald Trump wants unchallenged use of the military to achieve his every whim and every grievance—even when it means violating our international norms, betraying our allies, and violating the Constitution. How is that going to make us any safer?

If we can't be trusted in Europe and if we are manufacturing conflicts in

Central or South America, who would want to work with us in the future? And if the United States won't respect international law, why should we expect other countries to do so?

But somehow, even more shocking, is what is happening domestically. Donald Trump is politicizing our servicemembers both by word and by deed. He has diverted military resources away from numerous—numerous—critical missions for his chaotic and violent mass deportation campaign. He has federalized and deployed National Guard troops in American cities against our own citizens in violation of the law.

That is why just last Friday the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ordered National Guard troops off the streets of Los Angeles, ruling the deployment was unlawful. But that won't stop Trump from targeting States and cities led by Democratic Governors and mayors for speaking out against his power grabs.

Now, just imagine if President Biden would have federalized and deployed troops into Florida or Texas to combat gun violence. Republicans would be beside themselves. They would be apoplectic.

Finally, when six of our colleagues published a video reminding servicemembers of their oath to the Constitution of the United States and reminding servicemembers about their obligation to refuse unlawful orders, Trump called that "seditious behavior, punishable by death." And he demanded that the FBI and top Defense officials investigate them and intimidate them.

This President is trying to corrupt the military for his own personal gain and to silence all opposition. He is pushing the legal limits of his authority.

But through all those unprecedented and dangerous decisions, what has been the response from the Republican majority in Congress—both the House and the Senate? "Sir. Yes, sir." Maybe not quite, but their silence has equaled acquiescence. Congress, under this Republican majority, is nowhere near acting like the "equal branch of government" that it is.

Let's just look at the record from this past year. Congress, not just once but twice, failed to pass a War Powers Resolution and assert its constitutional authority in response to the escalating attacks in the Caribbean. In reaction to the controversial double-tap strike against survivors in the Caribbean, the Defense Department has refused to release videos so the American people can see for themselves what played out. And if it is too sensitive to release to the American public, then at least show it to all Members of the Senate, even if it is in a secure classified setting. But the Defense Department refuses to do even that.

Meanwhile, congressional committees have failed to conduct our oversight responsibility and to demand it from the administration. With each

passing day, Donald Trump continues to use the Department of Defense as an extension of his administration's border enforcement apparatus. Republicans have cheered him on the whole way, abdicating their responsibility to this institution, to their constituents, and to their oath of office.

And even with a majority party bending to his will, the Trump administration is still floating proposals to blow up the bipartisan Defense appropriations process altogether and pursue a party-line reconciliation bill instead.

Colleagues, this is the President doing everything he can to build unquestioned power over our military and a Republican Party that refuses to challenge him.

At a time when the Trump administration is abusing its power, destroying our standing in the world, deploying troops against our own people, the annual Defense authorization bill offers an important opportunity. It is an opportunity to hold this administration accountable, not just out of responsibility to our constituents but to the Constitution and to this coequal branch of government.

Mr. President, \$900 billion is a lot to rubberstamp, and I refuse to hand this administration any more tools to enrich themselves and undermine our national security and our standing in the world. So for these reasons, I will be voting no on this year's NDAA and encourage all of you to do the same.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following Senators be permitted to speak prior to the scheduled rollcall vote: Myself for up to 10 minutes, Senator WICKER for up to 10 minutes.

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

The Senator from Washington.

WASHINGTON STATE WEATHER

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in favor of the nomination of Jared Isaacman to be the next NASA Administrator, but first, I want to make a few comments about the unbelievable weather events that are impacting the Pacific Northwest.

We have had, as many people have seen from national news, atmospheric rivers and unbelievable rain impacting many of our rivers in the western part of Washington—reaching record levels and above record levels and impacting flooding throughout the region.

We, obviously, had another weather event last night, and the last couple of days have had what some people described as 50 to 60 miles per hour winds that ultimately, in some places in the State, were recorded at 90 miles per hour winds. So, this morning, we are facing 350,000 people who are without power and a blizzard on the way.

And, while I think that some people think, well, it is a very mountainous area and you should probably have severe winter weather, not really in the

history of our State. I think we have only had a few lowland blizzards in the whole history of our State. So the fact that now a blizzard is on the way, on top of the record flooding and the flooding events still predicted to come back to record cresting of many of our rivers, is making it a very challenging time for the State of Washington.

So we certainly appreciate all the first responders, all the law enforcement that are working in the community, all the work that the Governor's office is doing, all the work that we are—a partnership we are now getting from FEMA, the Army Corps of Engineers, and Homeland Security to try to address this as a national emergency and clearly to try to gather information about the direct economic impacts in hopes that we will get support for these issues.

We have had a border crossing, that that was closed and certainly is still closed to commercial traffic. We have one of our major highways, Highway 2, that the Governor has now announced will be closed for months, greatly impacting transportation and trade within our region. We have other routes across the Cascades duly impacted.

So I can say that there are some positive stories out of this, that coordination, that actually things that mitigated and adapted with a levee system to prevent some of the record amount of rain from doing even more damage have been successful. I am sure that we will all share this with our colleagues in the future, but right now, we need continued help and focus in the State of Washington, given these severe weather impacts. And again, I appreciate those Federal Agencies who are helping: FEMA and the Army Corps of Engineers.

NOMINATION OF JARED ISAACMAN

Mr. President, I support the Isaacman nomination. In fact, I supported him the first time he was nominated. He was not pushed through the Senate, not the usual path for somebody to be nominated, and then their nomination reversed, but then supported again by the President. But I do believe Mr. Isaacman is capable of successfully navigating the challenges facing the Agency.

I want to take a minute and thank Secretary Duffy for serving as an excellent steward of NASA during his tenure where we had an acting Administrator. I hope the experience is giving the Secretary an increased appreciation for the expertise and research capabilities that NASA brings to bear in developing technology to protect aviation safety and the competitiveness of our aeronautics sector.

That is clearly an important missing aspect of the FAA—having the best technology and the best understanding of how that technology impacts aviation safety. So I support more partnerships here. I also want to highlight a key decision that Secretary Duffy made that I believe is important to our national leadership in human space exploration.

In September, witnesses told the Commerce Committee that the SpaceX lunar lander would not be ready to put Americans back on the Moon, either in 2027 or 2028. This would almost certainly mean we would lose the race to the Moon to China, which was unacceptable. In response, Secretary Duffy directed NASA to reopen the competition for the Artemis lunar landing mission to ensure that a lander can be ready by the end of 2028, and I believe this was a correct decision, and I am pleased that our nominee Mr. Isaacman agrees.

I would also like to note that Secretary Duffy came to NASA in a particularly perilous time for the Agency, as evidenced in a whistleblower report that my office released in September. Before Secretary Duffy arrived, OMB Director Vought had been pushing NASA to implement dangerous cuts in the President's proposed budget proposal for fiscal year 2026, disregarding the law and the impacts on NASA's mission and safety.

As my colleagues know, the President's budget request called for cutting NASA's budget nearly a quarter, its workforce by nearly a third, and its science funding by half. Simply put, this is not the way we are going to win the race to the Moon or accomplish anything else enduring, for that matter.

Fortunately, I believe Mr. Isaacman recognizes that some of the most talented people in America work at NASA. I know the Presiding Officer agrees with this, and that we need to be investing in NASA's mission, not gutting them. During his nomination process, Mr. Isaacman emphasized the importance of developing a pipeline of future scientists, engineers, researchers, and astronauts to support the science and technology development and align with NASA's objectives. I strongly agree.

I look forward to working with Administrator Isaacman on the future STEM talent with both NASA and more broadly with the aerospace and innovation sector. Fair questions have been raised about Mr. Isaacman's Project Athena strategic plan, which was drafted in May and leaked to the press. I have asked Mr. Isaacman about this plan.

In response, he told me the plan was intended to be a proposed approach to collecting data and information from NASA and the space community, serving as a starting point in an in-depth conversation with NASA's management employees on how to ensure NASA remains the world's preeminent aerospace and technology organization.

Mr. Isaacman assured me that this plan was not part of a misguided effort to sell off capacities or slash the workforce or have reckless actions like DOGE had proposed earlier. He promised to share with us the results of the study and analysis with Congress and to engage in a dialog with the committee before doing any implementation. I take Mr. Isaacman at his word,

and I do look forward to working with him on these particular promises.

So, Mr. President, I know you are a huge supporter of Mr. Isaacman and have helped promote his renomination. We are here now with an important mission between this institution and what our national objectives are in going back to the Moon. I am optimistic that Mr. Isaacman will bring a steady hand and clear vision to NASA.

I hope we can partner together, all of us, to achieve this incredible thing for the American people. I know it is time for us to return to the Moon, and there is much at stake with international competition.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting Mr. Isaacman on the floor.

S. 1071

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, every year, Congress considers the National Defense Authorization Act which has critical investments in our national defense, including in Maryland. In my State, tens of thousands of military personnel and civilians work at military installations and in the defense sector, driving innovation and research to advance our defense. The NDAA governs this work and provides essential support to our servicemembers and veterans.

But at this moment, we are at an inflection point in the United States. We are witnessing increasingly authoritarian actions by President Trump and his administration. The President is using tools of government to pressure and silence dissenting voices, terrorize communities, lead our Nation into conflict without congressional authority, and undermine institutions critical to our democracy.

As I noted during Senate consideration of the NDAA a few months ago, the President has played politics with our Nation's military and tried to use them to advance his authoritarian agenda, be it here at home or abroad. He has deployed the National Guard to the District of Columbia, Los Angeles, Memphis, and Chicago and has attempted to deploy the National Guard to Portland. These deployments are a flagrant violation of U.S. law, including the Posse Comitatus Act, as noted in recent court decisions. Not only have these deployments created chaos in American cities and communities, they have also pulled the military away from its mission and expended funds meant to defend our Nation. Senator WARREN and I, along with several other colleagues, put out a report that outlines how the Pentagon has diverted at least \$2 billion from its core missions to support the President's mass deportation agenda.

The President's decision in DC and others cities to activate the National Guard without the recipient State Governor's or mayor's consent is why I offered an amendment to the Senate version of the NDAA to block the President from deploying the National Guard to a State, or the District of Columbia, if that State's Governor, or the

DC Mayor, objects. Unfortunately, the effort failed, and this bill does not prevent the President's efforts to militarize American streets.

And abroad, Trump has resurrected a policy of a bygone era: the Trump version of the Monroe Doctrine, carrying out an illegal airstrike campaign against boats in international waters, which have been flagrant violations of both U.S. and international law, and can only be seen as extrajudicial killings amounting to state-sanctioned murder. Trump has pursued these actions not to stop "narco-terrorists," as the administration claims, but as a pretext to start a regime change war in Venezuela. There is simply no evidence that these vessels posed an imminent threat, nor is there an active armed conflict between the United States and Venezuela. The Constitution gives Congress the power to declare war, making the President's acts flat out illegal. Trump's warmongering with Venezuela, including the recent declaration of a blockade on oil tankers from Venezuela is not about stopping drug traffickers. The real goal is regime change and to grab Venezuelan oil and gas reserves for the President's billionaire friends.

These escalating abuses demonstrate an administration increasingly willing to sidestep the law using military force. They also underscore my broader concern about unchecked increases in defense spending, despite the Pentagon's repeated audit failures, including in November 2024. From FY 2021 to FY 2025, defense authorizations rose from \$740 billion to \$895 billion, a 21 percent increase, and this bill would raise that to \$900.6 billion, approximately \$8 billion more than the President's budget request. That excludes the July 2025 reconciliation bill, which added over \$150 billion in mandatory spending. We need to more carefully examine how our defense spending increases year after year, seemingly without fail, and demand the same accountability from the Department of Defense as from every other Agency.

In addition to these concerns, embedded within this legislation is a provision that walks back a key National Transportation Safety Board recommendation implemented in the wake of the deadly air collision between a commercial airplane and a U.S. Army helicopter near Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, DCA, specifically that military aircraft in the area broadcast their location to other aircraft using the most effective collision avoidance technology available. It also allows the military to waive their own requirements for usage of any collision avoidance technology in the DCA area. The inclusion of these provisions is unconscionable when families are still grieving, and the airspace congestion has not improved.

I also remain concerned by the Trump administration's actions to weaken the merit-based civil service across the Federal Government, includ-

ing at the Department of Defense. One such action was a recently issued executive order that misuses national security exemptions, expanding them to cover two-thirds of the Federal workforce, including many civilian employees at DOD who have long been protected by collective bargaining. For decades, collective bargaining agreements at DOD have enhanced transparency and allowed employees to perform their work free from political interference. The Trump administration's move to limit these protections undermines employee trust and could harm the DOD's ability to maintain a skilled workforce. The bill before us strips out a House-passed bipartisan amendment to restore collective bargaining rights of DOD employees.

I appreciate that the NDAA process each year gives us the opportunity to conduct oversight, update our defense policy, and assert congressional prerogatives. This bill does include important provisions, including an increase in pay for servicemembers, investments in research, and reauthorization of the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative. It includes a provision I worked on to ensure continued public access to Greenbury Point near the Naval Academy and my efforts with Senator KENNEDY to protect investors from foreign insider trading. And there are provisions that will assist in future oversight by requiring the Department of Defense to share more information with Congress.

But these are not ordinary times. We must go farther to stand up to an administration that is currently diverting the military to conduct local law enforcement operations. That is conducting unlawful military operations in service of regime change and threatening further actions, including troops on the ground.

Our military is meant to protect and defend our homeland and our citizens, not carry out actions against them. It must be governed by the rule of law, not undermine it. I am opposing the NDAA because we must do more to rein in these abuses.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. WICKER. Our colleagues in the House of Representatives have passed this year's National Defense Authorization Act, and we are about to follow suit. This will be the 65th year in a row—the 65th consecutive year—that Congress has come together across the aisle and across two Chambers to send the President a bill designed to sustain and strengthen the national defense.

Everyone in this Senate played a role. I want to thank all 99 of my colleagues. First among them, I thank JACK REED, the ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, who has been a steadfast partner. I also express my gratitude to the other distinguished members of the committee from both sides of the aisle who worked hard to shape this legislation.

In July, the Senate Armed Services Committee approved the committee

version of the bill on a vote of 26 to 1. The bill at that time contained 985 items formulated by our fellow Members. Over the next few months, we continued working across this body to add amendments.

Our September substitute amendment had 20 Republican, 20 Democrat, and 9 bipartisan amendments. The second managers' package was similarly bipartisan.

In October, we considered the NDAA amid stark partisan divide during the longest Federal shutdown in the history of our Republic. Nevertheless, during that shutdown, this body came together to pass this very important legislation. We debated amendments, and we improved on the bill, and we approved it. We passed the NDAA after 14 rollcall votes and 9 voice votes. For once, we did it in prime time, finishing around 9 p.m. It cleared this Chamber by a vote of 77 to 20. We sent a strong bill to the House of Representatives, and it had the clear backing of a huge majority of this body.

Now that negotiations between Chambers have concluded, we have a bill that provides for the common defense, as the Constitution requires. This NDAA helps us align the priorities of the U.S. military with the threats of today, and they are serious—serious threats from the People's Republic of China and the entire axis of aggressors that it leads and partners with. It makes warfighting a top priority of the Department, and it reinforces a culture of merit in the Armed Forces.

Servicemembers will receive a 3.8-percent pay raise. We expanded initiatives that will reinforce President Trump's recruiting surge, and we supercharged our efforts to rebuild the American defense industrial base.

Let me talk about that for a moment. This legislation reforms decades of bureaucratic inefficiency in the Pentagon's acquisition process. It contains numerous elements of my bill, the *Fostering Reform and Government Efficiency in Defense Act*, more easily known as the *FORGED Act*.

We are about to pass and the President will enthusiastically sign the most sweeping upgrades to DOD's business practices in 60 years. This is a monumental achievement.

The 21st century poses threats that will require the most creative and innovative defenses. Americans are already building the technology to meet those threats, and these reforms will help the Pentagon tap into that energetic innovation ecosystem.

Secretary Hegseth and his staff have been strong partners in these efforts as we seek to implement our shared peace through strength agenda with President Trump. Our reforms, plus our increased defense investments, will enable us to achieve that vision. Through this bill, we will continue revitalizing the defense industrial base—an absolute requirement during these dangerous times.

I am thankful to all of my colleagues for putting in the work to make this

bill good for our servicemembers and for national security. It succeeds because it is driven by Members across this body.

I am, as I said, especially grateful to the ranking member, JACK REED. He is himself a distinguished veteran, a patriot, a statesman, and a great partner in this work.

I would also be remiss if I did not mention the staunch partnership we have with our House counterparts: Chairman MIKE ROGERS and Ranking Member ADAM SMITH. That goes, too, for the many other committee chairs and ranking members who worked so hard all year to include crucial legislation in this National Defense Authorization Act.

Speaking of great partners, I want to specifically thank my soon-to-be-retired staff director John Keast. John has been with me for the better part of three decades now—since I first ran for Congress in 1994. He will be retiring from the Senate in January to return to Mississippi, where his family lives, and to pursue new opportunities.

This bill, this 65th NDAA in a row, would not have been possible without John Keast. His work ethic, his sound advice, and his partnership with his Democrat counterpart Liz King—all were essential. We could not have achieved this bill without his tireless leadership.

I want to thank him and the rest of my staff who have labored long days and nights and weekends—Saturdays and Sundays—to get this legislation done. They include Adam Barker, Kristina Belcourt, Jonathan Bowen, Leah Brewer, Levi Brunt, Luke Chaney, Glen Diehl, Cody Emerson, Marty Fromuth, Megan Galindo, Mike Gerhart, Anna Given, Meredith Gravatte, Madeline Guenther, Isaac Jalkanen, Lauren Johnson, Katie Karam, Greg Lilly, Eric Lofgren, Katie Magnus, Jonathan Moore, Katie Stanton, Sophie Schloegel, Mike Tokar, Eric Trager, Adam Trull, Mike Urena, Dave Vasquez, Christina Sandstedt—who has been give privileges of the floor this very day—Julia Wood, Terry Miller, Emily Yetter, Dan Hillenbrand, Beth Spivey, Brendan Gavin, Brad Patout, Rick Berger, and, as I said before, my adviser and personal friend John Keast.

That is a lot of names and a lot of effort and a lot of talent. That is just the members on my side of the aisle.

I thank them all, and I thank this Senate and our friends in the House for coming together in the spirit of patriotism and comity to get this very important quantum leap in our defense accomplished.

With that said, let's begin the vote and take the next step to rebuild America's national defense.

MOTION WITHDRAWN

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the motion to concur with the Senate amendment No. 3961.

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

The motion to concur with amendment is withdrawn.

The amendment No. 3962 falls.

VOTE ON MOTION TO CONCUR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to concur to House amendment to S. 1071.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY).

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

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 77, nays 20, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 648 Leg.]

YEAS—77

Alsobrooks	Graham	Mullin
Baldwin	Hagerty	Murkowski
Banks	Hassan	Ossoff
Barrasso	Hawley	Peters
Blackburn	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Ricketts
Blunt Rochester	Hirono	Risch
Boozman	Hoeven	Rosen
Britt	Husted	Rounds
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Capito	Johnson	Schumer
Cassidy	Justice	Scott (FL)
Collins	Kaine	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kelly	Shaheen
Cortez Masto	Kennedy	Sheehy
Cotton	King	Slotkin
Cramer	Klobuchar	Sullivan
Crapo	Lankford	Thune
Cruz	Lujan	Tillis
Curtis	Lummis	Tuberville
Daines	Marshall	Warner
Durbin	McConnell	Warnock
Fetterman	McCormick	Whitehouse
Fischer	Moody	Wicker
Gallo	Moran	Young
Gillibrand	Moreno	

NAYS—20

Bennet	Merkley	Schiff
Booker	Murphy	Smith
Cantwell	Murray	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Padilla	Warren
Kim	Paul	Welch
Lee	Sanders	Wyden
Markley	Schatz	

NOT VOTING—3

Coons	Ernst	Grassley
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(Mr. RICKETTS assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TILLIS). The yeas are 77, the nays are 20.

The motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 1071 is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 593, Jared Isaacman, of Pennsylvania, to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

John Thune, John R. Curtis, Tim Sheehy, Roger F. Wicker, Joni Ernst, Markwayne Mullin, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Pete Ricketts, John Boozman, Lindsey Graham, John Barrasso, Dan Sullivan, Steve Daines, Tom Cotton, Ted Cruz, John Kennedy, Deb Fischer.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Jared Isaacman, of Pennsylvania, to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Iowa (Mr. ERNST) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 67, nays 30, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 649 Leg.]

YEAS—67

Baldwin	Graham	Moreno
Banks	Hagerty	Mullin
Barrasso	Hassan	Murkowski
Blackburn	Hawley	Paul
Boozman	Heinrich	Ricketts
Britt	Hoeven	Risch
Budd	Husted	Rounds
Cantwell	Hyde-Smith	Schiff
Capito	Johnson	Schmitt
Cassidy	Justice	Scott (FL)
Collins	Kaine	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kelly	Shaheen
Cotton	Kennedy	Sheehy
Cramer	Kim	Slotkin
Crapo	King	Sullivan
Cruz	Lankford	Thune
Curtis	Lee	Tillis
Daines	Lummis	Tuberville
Durbin	Marshall	Warner
Fetterman	McConnell	Wicker
Fischer	McCormick	Young
Gallego	Moody	
Gillibrand	Moran	

NAYS—30

Alsobrooks	Lujan	Sanders
Bennet	Markey	Schatz
Blumenthal	Merkley	Schumer
Blunt Rochester	Murphy	Smith
Booker	Murray	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Ossoff	Warnock
Duckworth	Padilla	Warren
Hickenlooper	Peters	Welch
Hirono	Reed	Whitehouse
Klobuchar	Rosen	Wyden

NOT VOTING—3

Coons	Ernst	Grassley
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(Mr. RICKETTS assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). On this vote, the yeas are 67, the nays are 30.

The motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jared Isaacman, of Pennsylvania, to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUESTS—THE CALENDAR

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, the American people understand to varying degrees but have a general understanding of the fact that the work we do here in the Senate is a combination of things.

Some of the things that we address are controversial. Some of them make the daily or evening news or the cover of the newspaper the next day. Those tend to be the things that are more controversial, things on which there might be sharp disagreements, sometimes sharply divided down partisan lines, reflected based on where one's desk sits in relation to the center aisle of this Chamber.

Other times, there might be controversy, but the controversy doesn't cut cleanly across party lines. We might have some Republicans and some Democrats on one side or the other.

In many instances—maybe not enough but, mercifully, there are many instances—there is not only not much controversy but no controversy at all.

There is a significant amount of legislation that passes through this Chamber every single year unanimously, without a single "no" vote. Some of this, to be sure, might recognize the naming of a post office or it might recognize—I don't know—"National Sofa Care Month," if there is such a thing. Others deal with discrete, local issues—issues that, while important to a select few people who live around, for example, a particular piece of land owned by the Federal Government and might be affected by the land management policy associated with that parcel, are very important to that local population but might be completely unknown not only to people on the other side of the country but even to people in other parts of that same State.

There is a fair amount of legislation that moves through the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources—a committee that I currently chair—that fits into each of these categories: controversial bills where there is a sharp Republican-Democratic divide; bills that have some controversy that cut across party lines; and, yes, mercifully, this other category of noncontroversial votes without a single substantive objection.

The American people understand that there will be opposition to a lot of pieces of legislation, but they also, justifiably, expect us to consider and pass bills on their merits. As to this category of bills that are important to some, unknown to most, and controversial to no one, well, they expect us to get those passed in a timely fashion.

I am trying to do this quickly, expeditiously, and to do it in the right way.

Now, I tried doing it the right way—the same way I am going to try today—back in May, on the 22nd of May. I tried to do it the right way again on July 29. I tried doing it the right way again, 2 weeks ago. This will be my fourth attempt to try to pass a small handful of extremely noncontroversial bills that already passed this Chamber unanimously, without a single "no" vote in the last Congress, at the end of last year, and that have moved forward from the Energy and Natural Resources Committee—again, without opposition from either side of the aisle, from any Senator—earlier this year.

Each of these times, I have received an objection from the Democratic side of the aisle. At no point have I heard a single substantive objection to any of these bills in this category that I have tried to pass through this procedure—a procedure which is well-worn and which exists for exactly this circumstance. You know, across multiple committees—certainly within the Energy and Natural Resources Committee—there is a lot of legislation that falls into that category.

We are told repeatedly that there are simply too many bills for the Senate to consider individually. This is often the case. And it is often the case, in particular, that for a bill that has no opposition, for a bill that is very important to a population of people within a particular State as to a discrete issue—it might be important or interesting to literally no one else in any other State or in other parts of the same State—we are told that these bloated bills that sometimes get combined, which are multiple pieces of legislation, sometimes amounting to thousands of pages at a time, can become a necessary evil to accommodate all of the small lands bills important to our States.

I am here to tell you that this is simply not the case. It certainly need not be the case here, and it isn't.

Now, had we moved these bills each time I have been on the floor this year, we certainly would have already been able to make significant progress in clearing the backlog, so that we could deal with this problem that many people cite as a reason we would need a massive, all-or-nothing, bloated, sewn-together lands package—take it or leave it, all or nothing.

If we really need the bills passed, why can't we start, at least, with the low-hanging fruit?

I have no delusions that this makes everything easy. It certainly doesn't, as there is a lot of this process that can be difficult. But we ought to start with the bills that are noncontroversial,

that have yet to receive a single substantive objection on their merits, and that are things that we all agree on.

Why can't we move the bills that have already passed unanimously, that have already been vetted in committee this year and last year, and that passed on the Senate floor without a single "no" vote last year?

Why come down here and object, over and over again, to bills that are noncontroversial?

Well, sometimes this is the muscle memory that can start to evolve, that can start to take hold within this body. But it need not be this way; it ought not be this way, as it doesn't lead to good decisions. If this is how we treat the things that are noncontroversial, it is going to make the things where there is some debate, some opposition, some dissent more difficult and, as to the stuff that is sharply partisan, impossible.

If you have a bill that you know can't pass on its own, well then, what do you do?

Well, perhaps what you want to do is pair it with a bunch of other bills that are themselves noncontroversial, hoping that it won't get noticed or hoping that there will be enough other Senators who will say: I guess we have to take it or leave it; so let's let it all pass.

They might say: Are you really going to sink all of this important work just for one section of this much larger bill that you disagree with?

Well, look, taken to its logical conclusion and repeated, over and over again, and applied even to noncontroversial bills, this ends up being sort of extortive in its effect, and it doesn't produce a good outcome—not for people of either party, not for people of either legislative Chamber, and, certainly, not for the American people.

Just yesterday, we were able to do some things on the floor the right way. Senator SULLIVAN came to the floor and passed his bill to extend the deadline for Alaska Native Vietnam-era vets to claim the land allotments that they earned through their service. This was only after Democrats—including my friend and colleague the distinguished senior Senator from New Mexico, Senator HEINRICH—had objected to it twice. But his bill—Senator SULLIVAN's legislation that I just mentioned—is now headed to the President's desk to be signed into law. Now, there is no reason that that success that we tasted, just yesterday afternoon, can't continue here with similarly situated, similarly noncontroversial, unanimously passed bills.

So, again, I have got four bills that I will be asking unanimous consent to pass here today. They include S. 1084, which is the North Dakota Trust Lands Completion Act of 2025. This bill, sponsored by Senator HOEVEN, passed last year with unanimous support and would authorize equal value exchanges to enable the State of North Dakota to manage its own State lands.

S. 1142 is the Scarper Ridge Golden Gate National Recreation Area Boundary Adjustment Act. This bill, sponsored by Senator PADILLA, passed last year and would make a minor boundary adjustment to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. It is entirely noncontroversial.

S. 1016 is the Vicksburg National Military Park Boundary Modification Act. This bill, sponsored by Senator WICKER, is a minor but important boundary adjustment to the park, and it passed last year with unanimous support.

S. 603, sponsored by Senator KAINE, designates the George C. Marshall House in Virginia as an affiliated area within the National Park System. It is simply allowing them to be affiliated with the National Park Service. This bill also passed with unanimous support.

What do these bills have in common? Well, they are bipartisan. They all passed the body unanimously, without a single "no" vote in the last Congress. I have heard zero substantive objections on the merits to any single one of these bills.

I stand ready to work with any Member—Republican or Democrat—to move their bills off the floor, especially with regard to these noncontroversial bills.

We can get this done. We can work through this broken process. It need not be broken, especially as to this category of bills. This is the easy stuff. Let's not make the easy stuff hard, lest we incur the risk of making the harder stuff impossible.

So to that end, Mr. President, as if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, 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, as amended, if amended, where applicable, be considered read a third time and passed en bloc and that motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc: S. 1084, North Dakota Trust Lands Completion Act of 2025 from Senator HOEVEN; S. 1142, the Scarper Ridge Golden Gate National Recreation Area Boundary Adjustment Act from Senator PADILLA; S. 1016, the Vicksburg National Military Park Boundary Modification Act with a substitute amendment from Senator WICKER; and S. 603, to designate the General George C. Marshall House in the Commonwealth of Virginia from Senator KING.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, as I have said a number of times now, I am not willing to send Democratic bills to the House without an agreement to get them through the House and to the President's desk.

Just last week, we saw the House pass a Senate Republican bill without

the Senate Democratic bill that it had been paired with. Both bills are bipartisan; both even have a budget score, and yet the Democratic bill sits with no plan to get it signed into law.

We need to pass bills over here in a way that ensures that both Republican and Democratic priorities and bills become law.

In addition, I do have substantive concerns with S. 1084. I was not the ranking member of the previous Congress, but it would give away public land without an equal value exchange or payment for conservation of other public land.

The public is simply left out of the equation. That is not something I can support, and I am certainly willing to work with the bill's sponsor on finding a path forward. But in its current form, I must object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I appreciate my friend and colleague, the distinguished Senator from New Mexico, who has a genuine concern. It is a worthy concern, and it is a concern that I share in the sense that I want to make sure that both Democrats and Republicans serving in this body on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, when they submit these bills—particularly bills in this category that I described that have passed unanimously in this body—be given ample opportunity for consideration and passage over in the House of Representatives.

He is understandably concerned about the possibility of Republican and Democratic bills being sent over together, only to discover after the fact, that the Democratic bills would languish. I understand that concern. I am deeply sympathetic to it.

And it is because I share that concern—and not in spite of it—that I believe this is the way we ought to do things. This is the way we do things elsewhere in the Senate where we have got noncontroversial legislation. Let's move them forward. Now, we have moved them forward. You have seen pairings here; Democratic bills brought to the floor, not stitched together surgically in one legislative package but paper-clipped together in one stack so that we are presenting them for unanimous consent passage at the same time but not as part of the same legislation.

Why do we do this rather than the other way?

Understanding the legitimacy of his concerns, we want to make sure that bills in this category, in particular, receive fair consideration regardless of whether there is a Democrat or Republican sponsor of the bill.

No. 1, our House counterpart committee and others within the House of Representatives have told us that not only is this their preference—that they would rather have them paper-clipped and not stitched together as one bill but sent over as separate bills—they

said this will actually expedite, facilitate their ability to get them passed, whether they are introduced by Republicans or Democrats in the House or in the Senate.

Not always, by the way, is a Democrat bill here a Democrat bill on the other side of the Capitol. Sometimes it switches. But regardless, even for the bills that are introduced by a Democrat here and a Democrat there, these bills are considered—and we have been told over and over again by those with responsibility over this, they have got a better chance of passing separately than they would if we start stitching them together.

In their view, as they have told me repeatedly, it will hinder—not expedite or facilitate—their chances of being passed if we surgically stitch them together in one bill.

There are a number of reasons for this, including the fact that the laws of gravity don't always operate the same way here as they do on the other side of the Capitol. Sometimes a bill that can move through over here without a single objection might draw some opposition on the other side of the Capitol for reasons that can be difficult to predict.

In any event, there is a great safeguard in all of this in the way the House of Representatives passes this—and I think this is inherent in why it is that they want them as separate bills that can be paper-clipped together for purposes of getting it passed by unanimous consent over here—over there.

When they do it over there, they use a procedure in the House known as suspension of the rules. Under suspension of the rules, you have got to have 290 votes to pass it rather than a simple majority of 218 votes. That feature ends up replicating, to a significant degree, the effect of the cloture standard over here such that it has got to be bipartisan. So they can't afford to—and therefore don't on bills like this—favor Republican bills over Democrat bills.

Now, my friend and colleague the distinguished Senator from New Mexico noted a moment ago that his concerns are already materializing and that they are neglecting Democrat bills in the House while preferencing Republican bills.

I don't see this. In fact, to the contrary. Within the last week, the House of Representatives has passed multiple bills—I believe it was three or four bills—introduced by Democrats; Democrat bills run through the suspension of the rules calendar passed this week.

They are not depreferencing them. And from what I have heard from multiple credible sources on the other side of the Capitol, this is because of the way the suspension of the rules practice works over there. They don't, in part, because they can't get these passed if they preference Republican bills and depreference Democrat bills in this respect.

Look, at the end of the day, we have to remember that a lot of what this

Chamber does operates by means of unanimous consent, certainly in scheduling votes, scheduling just about anything. Heck, scheduling what time we are going to go to lunch or adjourn for the evening until the next day requires unanimous consent.

But a lot of legislation we pass gets done that way, too, and thank Heaven above that it can. If we can't do the easy stuff this way, the harder stuff becomes much more difficult. And the really tough stuff, the stuff that still needs to get done—things like permitting reform, for example, where on both sides of the aisle you have strong opinions, you have a strong desire overall to see that permitting reform gets accomplished, you have somewhat differing ideas on what must be in there and what must not be included—things like that that are very important to the public but that are by no means noncontroversial become far more difficult to impossible.

Let's get the easy stuff done. We did it yesterday afternoon. We can do it again. I will be back as I am determined to push these bills forward, Republican and Democrat. And if we tie them together surgically in one bill, it will impair their passage, Republican and Democratic alike. We don't need to do that here. We ought not. This is unfortunate, but I will be back soon.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

REMEMBERING NORMAN PODHORETZ

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I am sad to share that Norman Podhoretz, a towering figure of American letters and politics, passed away last night.

Not many men change the course of history. Those who do usually do it through their actions, like GEN Ulysses Grant's brilliant military campaigns in the Civil War. Fewer still do it with a combination of words and actions like Abraham Lincoln.

Perhaps rarest of all are men like Norman Podhoretz, who changed history with mere words—and what words they were. Norman was not only the longtime legendary editor and soul of *Commentary* Magazine but also a prolific author of a dozen books, hundreds of essays, articles and columns and no telling how many speeches.

He could turn out 10,000 words of elegant, sparkling, cogent prose, seemingly, at a moment's notice while identifying for his readers the deeper meaning of the day's news. Norman was an original neoconservative and proud to be so.

These days, some historically illiterate podcasters and so-called influencers use the term “neocon” as an all-purpose slur for anything they don't like. But the neocons were just that, new conservatives, a collection of anticommunist liberals between World War II and the Vietnam war who were, as the saying goes, mugged by reality—in this case, the reality of the New Left's turn against America.

Norman followed this path and blazed it for others. Born in 1930 to working-

class Jewish immigrants in Brooklyn, Norman later said the first Republican he met was in high school. Blessed with natural abilities and good teachers, Norman earned a scholarship to Columbia, while at his father's insistence, he also studied concurrently at the Jewish Theological Seminary and earned a degree in Hebrew literature.

After more studies at Cambridge and 2 years in the Army, he returned to New York and wrote for magazines such as *The New Yorker* and *Partisan Review* and ran in the liberal intellectual social circles of the times with the likes of Norman Mailer and Allen Ginsberg.

He also wrote for and worked at *Commentary*, a journal of Jewish thought which, at the time, fit well into those circles. He became editor-in-chief in 1960, on the eve of the disorder, chaos, and anti-Americanism that would be unleashed by the New Left that decade.

They considered this country to be evil—

Norman said of the New Left in 1995.

We neoconservatives were not only outraged by this attitude and thought it intellectually wrong in almost every detail, but also thought it was morally outrageous, contemptible, and dangerous.

Soon enough, Norman and *Commentary* defined this neoconservative movement, especially on foreign policy. They published famous path-setting essays, such as Jeane Kirkpatrick's “Dictatorships and Double Standards” and “The United States in Opposition” by Pat Moynihan.

No less a titan than Ronald Reagan called Norman a “must-read” for conservatives of all stripes.

Norman, Kirkpatrick, and other neocons both followed and led Reagan into the Presidency, helping to shape a strong and confident foreign policy of defending American interests and free peoples against the menace of Soviet Russia and anti-American insurgencies around the world.

Norman maintained a friendly dialogue with Reagan over the years and received a richly deserved Presidential Medal of Freedom from President George W. Bush.

Norman turned over the reins of *Commentary* in 1995, but he never put down the pen. I am thankful he didn't because that was also the year I discovered the magazine and became a 30-year subscriber.

Norman and *Commentary* were there to chronicle the threat from militant Islam, communist China, and growing anti-Semitism and radicalism at home.

Thanks to great thinkers like Norman, I cannot claim to be a neoconservative. I was, if I could borrow the phrase, “right from the beginning.” Generations of young readers learned the easy way from Norman what he had learned the hard way, never flirting with liberalism in our youth.

As, in his own words, “a filthy little slum child” of Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe, Norman was eternally grateful to America for welcoming his

family and providing him with unlimited opportunity. Norman said that he had “a love affair with America.”

A love affair with America—I think that is a very apt way to put it, something we should all try to emulate and instill in our kids and grandkids.

Norman’s love affair with America, I suspect, was behind his dogged support for Donald Trump when so many of his old friends abandoned our party in 2016. But Norman saw President Trump’s election as “a kind of miracle.” He believed that President Trump could, in his words, “save us from the evil on the Left.”

Despite all their differences, with their shared love of America, their hatred of communism, their shared New York roots—indeed their shared Brooklyn-to-Manhattan journey—Norman and the President may not be quite the strange bedfellows they first appeared to be.

I am confident that Norman was pleased with the President’s muscular defense of the American way of life upon his return to office and especially pleased that Norman lived to watch America join with Israel to devastate Iran’s nuclear program on President Trump’s watch.

One of the great benefits of my work as a Senator is the opportunity to cross paths with great men like Norman Podhoretz. After learning from his writing for so many years, I have had the occasion to meet him and share a modest correspondence. I can share that Norman may have receded from public writing in recent years, but he remained as witty, brilliant, and courageous as ever in his private correspondence.

Yet, as we all sometimes do when we reflect on our lives, Norman too acknowledged that he at times wondered “what it all amounted to” and sometimes feared the answer was “not much.” But nothing could be further from the truth, I assured him. For nearly 70 years, Norman informed, educated, persuaded, and succeeded with his words. He taught multiple generations not just to love our country but also why we should love it and how to defend it. His words reached to the U.S. Congress, the Oval Office, and into the councils of nations.

Without Norman and the little magazine he led, the course of history—the Reagan revolution and the Cold War in particular—might indeed have been very different.

I, therefore, join Norman’s family not only in mourning the loss of this great man but also in celebrating the highly consequential life of a true American patriot.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

REMEMBERING ELLA COOK

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to honor the life of Ella Cook, one of the victims in last weekend’s horrific attack that killed two and left more wounded at Brown University.

Ella was a 19-year-old female and a sophomore at Brown. Her life was taken far too soon in a disgusting act of violence that leaves all of us searching for answers.

You know, moments like this remind all of us how short life really is and how important it is to take advantage of every moment. Ella certainly took advantage of every moment she had with us here on Earth.

She grew up in Mountain Brook, AL—a suburb of Birmingham—with two loving parents, Anna and Richard, and two siblings, Hooker and Mary Hamner.

Ella loved to play piano, dance, and travel. She was studying French at Brown University. She also loved kids and spent much of her time babysitting and serving in Sunday school. She believed her highest calling was to be a mom one day.

But the most important thing to know about Ella is that she was a devout Christian. She was very involved in her church, the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham, and was loved by everyone there.

In her obituary, it says:

Not only did her personal faith shine out like a bright Christmas star, but she loved others as real people, not as objects. Ella loved God with her whole heart and she loved people—with her whole heart!

The reverend of Ella’s church described her as “an incredible, grounded, faithful, bright light” who “lifted up those around her.” I can’t think of a better legacy to leave behind than that.

She went off to college at Brown, where she was studying French, mathematics, economics, and was obviously very, very smart. She also was a patriot who loved this country, and she served as vice president of the College Republicans at Brown University. She was clearly a very courageous young lady, and I can’t imagine that was an easy job on such a liberal campus as Brown. But Ella was resolute in her mission to speak the truth and to fight every day for Christian values that have made this country great.

The president of the College Republicans of America described Ella as being “known for her bold, brave, and kind heart as she served her chapter and her fellow classmates.”

You know, the true measure of a life is not found in its length but its impact. And in the stories shared and the grief that is being expressed, it is clear that Ella left a lasting imprint on the people she touched. Alabama misses Ella, and we join her family and friends in grieving her loss.

You know, it certainly seems like this might have been a targeted attack. We will not rest until the deranged psychopath who did this is brought to justice. But that being said, may God bless the Cook family and give them peace and comfort in the midst of unspeakable tragedy. And may we honor Ella by carrying forward the values she lived by. Though her life

was taken far too soon, we know she is in Heaven now, and we will make sure that Ella’s legacy of patriotism and faith lives on here on Earth.

May God bless the Cook family, and may God bless Ella Cook.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

NATIONAL DEBT

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, we are quickly approaching the end of 2025, and this past year, particularly here in Congress, we have been met with a lot of challenges, chaos, as well as change. But there is one issue that unfortunately has not changed, and that is our ballooning national debt.

Throughout the year, I have repeatedly come to the Senate floor to pound the drum on this very serious issue. I have outlined the history of how we got to this point, and I have urged all of my colleagues, both Democrats and Republicans, to join me in taking action to address our runaway debt before it is too late.

So as we end the year, I am back on the floor today to remind my colleagues of the dire financial situation we currently face and to focus specifically on the harmful consequences that it has on the everyday lives of hard-working Americans.

Let’s first take a quick bird’s eye view of the situation. At the start of 2025, our national debt sat at a staggering \$36.2 trillion. Today, thanks in part to the irresponsible “Big Ugly Bill” that Republicans and President Trump passed this summer, that number has now ballooned by \$2 trillion. Just 1 year later, our debt now sits at \$38.4 trillion.

To put that number into perspective, when I was sworn into Congress back in January of 2009, the national debt stood at \$10.6 trillion, so that means that in 16 years, our national debt has nearly quadrupled. Unfortunately, it is only getting worse.

I think I speak for most Americans when I say it is hard to even fathom that amount of money. And Americans might wonder what our debt actually means for them and for their personal finances. Well, the reality is that it isn’t some abstract, made-up number; the national debt is a real-life burden that our country has to contend with. Ultimately, the brunt of that burden falls hardest on the people who are just fighting to make ends meet in this increasingly unaffordable economy.

So let’s break it down. On one front, it is simply an issue of having fewer resources available to invest in American families. Because our debt has gotten so out of control, each year, Congress is having to use more and more of everyday tax dollars to pay down just the interest on that debt. We are not even paying off the debt itself; we are just paying down the interest. In fact, the interest alone that we pay annually on our debt now exceeds the amount we spend on every single Federal program except Social Security.

That means fewer of your tax dollars are being sent back to your community to invest in stronger roads, safer neighborhoods, and better schools. It means that less resources are available for programs that help Americans put food on the table, afford childcare, or gain new skills through workforce training initiatives.

Particularly as American families continue to face an affordability crisis—the prices just keep going up—this support is needed now more than ever. Failing to invest in those who need it most because our debt is bogging us down will only add fuel to that fire.

On another front, Americans have continued to experience high inflation this year that can be tied to this growing national debt. When inflation goes up, the Federal Reserve has to raise interest rates to combat those higher prices. As interest rates rise, so do Americans' largest expenses, from their car payments, to their home mortgage, to their student loans.

Essentially, the longer we go without addressing this national debt, the purchasing power of Americans' hard-earned money will shrink each and every day, and families will continue struggling to afford the cost of everyday life because, unlike the Federal Government, Americans actually have to live within their means and adhere to their household budget. But unfortunately, today, too many American households find themselves trapped in a cycle of debt and financial insecurity just to meet their bottom line. More and more we see this is the case, even when both parents are working and doing everything they can to give their children a better future.

This is an entirely different reality than what Donald Trump and his billionaire supporters live in. Instead of paying their fair share like most Americans, Republicans just wrote for President Trump and the richest Americans a more favorable Tax Code, making sure that they get to hold on to their wealth and watch it grow. And when the richest Americans still don't succeed, they are given the leeway to bail themselves out.

We don't have to look any further than our President, whose companies have filed for bankruptcy at least four times. Four times, filed for bankruptcy—the President of the United States. Yet he contributes less to servicing our national debt than teachers and firefighters and hard-working Americans who play by the rules each and every day. The average American isn't afforded that luxury.

As a result, our Federal deficit has grown, inflation remains high, and the American people are left with nothing but rising prices, stagnant wages, and bitter, bitter feelings about being left behind.

For too long, we have propped up the wealthy and forced middle-class Americans to pay the bill. It is unacceptable, and if we have any hope of getting our fiscal house in order, this needs to change.

Congress is about to wrap up for the year, but when we reconvene, our debt will still be there—the largest it has ever been. We just can't make this debt go away. Lawmakers are going to have to put policies and politics aside and come together to figure out a way to address this issue.

So, in 2026, I am going to keep sounding the alarm on our national debt, highlighting the everyday consequences, and delving into the ways in which we can finally take steps to put our country on more sound financial footing.

We all say that we care about addressing our growing debt—everybody here in this Chamber says it—but in 2026, let's actually put our money where our mouth is, and let's make it happen.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

MILITARY RECRUITMENT

Mr. BANKS. Mr. President, last week, I had the pleasure of attending the Reagan National Defense Forum at the Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, CA. I have been to the event a few times before. It is a beautiful setting. The library is such a great tribute to one of our greatest Presidents, Ronald Reagan, who is known for his efforts to rebuild the military through peace through strength in the Reagan years that we often think about and talk so much about today.

The forum has been around for 12 years. This was the 12th annual event, and I have been able to attend the incredible event a few times early on in my time in the House, serving in the House of Representatives. It has been a few years since I have been there.

The event is filled with some of our Nation's top military leaders, Cabinet officials, administration officials—much of the leadership of the Pentagon. It is also a bipartisan event with a congressional delegation from both sides of the aisle. It also includes leaders and innovators in our national defense industry who join the event every year as well.

At this past forum, I participated in a panel discussion about recruitment and retention in our military. I was actually joined by a former Democrat colleague of mine in the House, JIMMY PANETTA, a Democrat from California.

Coincidentally, his father, the former Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta, was sitting in the audience to hear his son and myself and the other members of the panel talk about this important subject.

The panel got me thinking, though, as we close out 2025, about how far we have come in just 1 year on this subject—recruitment and retention in the military. As we close out 2025, I can think of many big wins that have come out of the Trump administration but none as significant as what President Trump and Secretary of War Hegseth have done to repair the recruitment

crisis that took place on Joe Biden's watch. This unbelievable accomplishment doesn't get as much attention as it deserves, and that is why I wanted to come down to the floor today and talk about that incredible success story and share with you some of what I talked about in that panel a little over a week ago.

When I served in the House of Representatives before I got to the Senate, I chaired the Military Personnel Subcommittee on the House Armed Services Committee, so I saw up close how bad things got under Joe Biden—especially at the Pentagon and in our military.

When Joe Biden was President, he presided over the worst recruitment crisis in the over 50 years of an All-Volunteer Force of our military. In 2022, the Army set a goal to recruit 60,000 new soldiers but only managed to recruit 45,000. That is 15,000 soldiers short. The same thing happened again the following year, in 2023, when the Army was again 15,000 soldiers short of its 65,000 soldier recruitment goal.

When you add up the recruitment losses under Joe Biden, between 2021 and 2025, the Army shrank by 40,000 soldiers due to a lack of new recruits—that is as much as 4 divisions of troops in the U.S. Army.

The same story, Mr. President, happened to the Navy, which I know is important to you, and it is important to me. In 2023, the Navy was 7,500 short of its goal to recruit 37,000 new sailors. In 2024, it was nearly 5,000 short of its goal to recruit over 40,000 new sailors. So between 2021 and 2025, the Navy shrank by 16,000 sailors, which is about 3 aircraft carriers' worth of U.S. sailors.

That is how bad the recruitment crisis got on Joe Biden's watch.

How did this happen? I think this is an important context in history when we evaluate where we are today. It is clear to everyone that the Biden administration treated the military as a political experiment. I don't think, Mr. President, we have seen the military politicized in a way that it was under the 4 years that Joe Biden was President ever before in American history.

The Biden Pentagon dropped physical fitness standards to promote equity and supported woke DEI initiatives throughout the armed services.

As a side note, by the way, the marines were the only good news on recruitment during those 4 years because the Marine Corps never dropped their standards.

You had former Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, who immediately, after Joe Biden was sworn into office, ordered a 60-day stand-down to "combat extremism" in the military. They spent nearly 6 million man-hours militarywide on that stand-down. Those are hours, Mr. President, that could have been spent on training our troops to combat our biggest enemy, our biggest threat—that being China—or, I would contend to you, those 6 million man-hours could have been spent

on preparing to evacuate and leave Afghanistan in a much more responsible way than what the military did. Instead, they focused it on politics at the beginning of the Biden administration.

Then you had Gen. CQ Brown, who at the time was the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, who issued racial quotas for the U.S. Air Force. You had Joe Biden's Secretary of the Army Christine Wormuth arguing that it was a bad thing that more than 80 percent of our recruits come from military families. Think about that for a minute. She said there was "a risk of developing a warrior caste" in America. When the Secretary of the Army should have been trying to boost recruitment, she insulted patriotic Americans who are inspired by their parents to serve and suggested that the Army didn't want them. It is no wonder that we had a recruitment crisis in the U.S. Army.

Mr. President, when you combine all of these factors, it is no wonder that the military under Joe Biden failed to meet its recruitment numbers.

Simply put, fewer young Americans wanted to serve because they stopped believing in the mission.

I often think back to an article from the Wall Street Journal that I read back in 2023. It had a poll that showed that patriotism among Americans, especially young Americans, had plummeted to historic lows.

Again, in 2023, Joe Biden is the President; the aftermath of what happened in Afghanistan; all of this other foolish experimentation; the politicization of our military.

According to that poll, only 38 percent of Americans in 2023 said that patriotism was very important to them. That is down from 70 percent in the 1990s.

To this day, this story astonishes me. I would love to see an update from the Wall Street Journal on that poll to show what those patriotism numbers look like today.

Mr. President, I know you know this: You can't build a military without patriots. You can't ask young men and women to put their lives on the line when the culture tells you that the country isn't worth fighting and dying for. You can't expect the next generation of Americans to raise their right hand—Mr. President, like you did, like I did, like so many of our colleagues did in the U.S. Senate—to protect this Nation when so few believe that America is the greatest country in the history of the world.

Something else that I think about is how the catastrophic withdrawal from Afghanistan played a huge part in the shortage in military recruitment under Joe Biden as well. Americans saw 13 brave servicemembers killed at Abbey Gate, including a Hoosier, and American guns and vehicles were abandoned to the Taliban on that embarrassing and disastrous and deadly day. It didn't exactly inspire people to serve. Young Americans asked themselves "Who

wants to be part of that type of military?" and they said "Not me."

Mr. President, the good news, though—and I want to get to the good news because this is really good news. The good news is that this has all been fixed in a really short period of time. President Trump changed everything. In fact, it changed immediately on election day just a little over a year ago. Military leaders testify to the fact that military recruitment increased dramatically the day that Donald Trump won the election. The Army met its 2025 recruitment numbers 4 months early. The Army reached its retention goals for the whole year in just 6 months. Navy recruitment hit a 20-year record.

How did all of this happen? President Trump and Secretary Hegseth inspired young people to serve again because President Trump and Secretary Hegseth are restoring our military's strength and greatness. They cut away the woke DEI initiatives throughout the Department of War and focused on what really matters to our military—patriotism, a sense of mission, and lethality.

Under Joe Biden, young Americans saw the botched withdrawal from Afghanistan. Today, they see a military that puts America first—taking out narcoterrorist drug boats before they can bring deadly drugs into our country.

Seventy-one percent of Americans say they support these strikes on these drug boats. When you ask young men and women if that is the type of military they want to be part of—one that is stopping drugs from flooding into America and killing our brothers, our sisters, our neighbors, our friends—you get an overwhelming yes.

When America is strong, when America is competent, when America wins, our young people want to be a part of that. They want to serve.

Patriotism isn't dead; it was just dormant during those 4 years, waiting for leadership that America can believe in, like what we have in the White House today in Donald Trump.

Secretary of War Hegseth is doing an extraordinary job. He is the exact leader at the Department that we need to restore the focus on lethality after 4 disastrous years under Joe Biden when the focus was on anything but that. He has brought back the warrior ethos to our military and has worked hard to ensure that America's military can meet tomorrow's challenges. Our enemies have been put on notice under Pete Hegseth's leadership at the Department of War.

Mr. President, the path forward is clear: We must continue supporting this administration's efforts to restore our military and make our military as great as it can be again.

Our All-Volunteer military depends on Americans who choose to serve, and Americans will choose to serve when they believe in the mission, trust their leaders, and take pride in this great

country. President Trump is giving them that, and America is stronger for it. That is some great news, Mr. President.

As we close out 2025, there are so many things to talk about, but this accomplishment in and of itself—what President Trump and Secretary Hegseth have done to restore recruitment, save our military—is really good news, and I wanted to come to the floor and talk about it as we close out this year, on the eve of going home for this Christmas break.

Mr. President, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy New Year. I am looking forward to a lot more good news like this to come in 2026.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

SENATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, we heard so much over the weekend from Tennesseans who were reaching out, just so saddened by the series of truly devastating attacks we saw in Syria. Two of our National Guard members from Iowa lost their lives. Indeed, we know that right now, President Trump and Senators GRASSLEY and ERNST are out at Dover to meet with those families. These are two that were killed by an ISIS gunman.

At Brown University, a gunman shot and killed two students that were in a session as they prepared for exams right there on the college campus. One of those was a young woman from Alabama who was vice president of the college Republican Club; another was an aspiring neurosurgeon. These are two young people who had very bright and promising futures in front of them.

In Australia, two terrorists opened fire on a Hanukkah celebration. They murdered 15 people, including a 10-year old girl and a Holocaust survivor.

We know that anti-Semitism is a sickness. It is spreading across the globe, and world leaders must do more to protect their Jewish communities.

Our Nation's prayers remain with all of these victims and with their families and those that experience these tragedies.

We can all be grateful that, in Donald J. Trump, we have a President who is committed to serving that justice when it is needed. Terrorism will not have the last word.

And we have seen how the FBI has worked to thwart these plots that are taking place here in our country. They announced, on Monday, that agents had thwarted a New Year's Eve terror plot that was planned for Los Angeles by a pro-Palestine extremist group. The four suspects are now in Federal custody, and we know they will face the full force of the law.

God bless the men and women in Federal law enforcement and in our armed services who are really working around the clock to restore safety and security here in our country.

Under President Trump, we have seen that national security has become a

priority. In fact, when we look back over the last year, one theme sticks out about the administration's accomplishments is that President Trump is keeping his word. He is making America safer and stronger than ever before.

You can look at the southern border. In a matter of months, President Trump completely fixed the Biden border crisis. The President was right when he said we didn't need more laws. We just needed a new President, one who would enforce the laws.

In October, there were just over 11,000 apprehensions at the southern border. The same month last year, in 2024, there were over 100,000 encounters at the border, and that was under the Biden border policy. Now, even the year before that, there were 240,000 encounters. Think about that: from 240,000 down to 100,000, down to 11,000. And what changed was the fact that we had a President who was enforcing the law.

Now, also in my wonderful State of Tennessee, Memphis saw the highest crime rate per capita in 2024. But since September, the administration's Memphis Safe Task Force has made more than 4,200 arrests, including hundreds of warrant arrests for domestic violence, aggravated assault; and dozens more for narcotics, sexual assault, and homicide. They also have located more than 120 missing children and have recovered 970 illegal firearms and 560 stolen vehicles.

With President Trump and AG Bondi and Kash Patel, and the commitment that they have made to Memphis, this is what you are seeing. Criminals are being apprehended, and the citizens in Memphis feel safe to go out and about. The crime rate has been cut in half. President Trump is replicating the success we are seeing in Memphis. He is replicating this all across the country, whether it is here in Washington, DC, or in Oregon and in other areas.

And around the globe, President Trump has restored peace through strength, after years of weakness from the Biden administration. We have to note, when we talk about globally, what he has done—ending eight wars, making the world a safer place not only for Americans but for so many.

Across the government, President Trump has also rooted out woke programs that abused taxpayer dollars under the previous administration. And we saw a lot of corruption in our institutions. With these programs, the Biden administration pushed a radical anti-American agenda, and now, with the Trump administration, we are restoring common sense and putting the American citizens first.

On the economy, the President's pro-growth and pro-worker agenda is already delivering. Since its peak under Biden, inflation is down 67 percent. Of course, we all remember, under Biden, it was at a 40-year high. And now that has come down 67 percent, and it will continue to come down.

The trade deficit is shrinking. Our Nation is bringing in trillions of dol-

lars in new investments, and this is going to create new factories, jobs, and opportunities.

Mr. President, we are so pleased that some of those jobs are coming into Tennessee. Some of those investments are coming into our State.

And the President has focused on making American energy dominant once again. We were pleased to see that, in his first few days in office, he eliminated a lot of the Green New Deal. And because of that, the national average for a gallon of gas is at its lowest price since March of 2021.

He has also signed Executive orders to support nuclear energy, including speeding up approvals for new reactors and strengthening fuel supply chains. And more than any other State, Tennessee is best positioned to lead our Nation's nuclear renaissance, especially with the work that is being done at the Oak Ridge National Lab and at our universities. I will remind my colleagues that our nuclear energy industry had its birth at the Oak Ridge National Lab, in Tennessee.

We also have the Clinch River site, which should soon be home to the Nation's first small modular reactor. And taking advantage of this opportunity, the Tennessee Valley Authority has got to step up, and they have to lead the way.

This week, the Senate is set to confirm four of the President's nominees to serve on TVA's Board of Directors and ensure that Tennessee and our Nation do lead in nuclear energy.

Supporting all of these accomplishments is the One Big Beautiful Bill, or the working families tax cut bill. This is something that was signed into law on Independence Day. And in that legislation was the largest tax cut in history, of \$4 trillion, including no tax on tips and overtime and Social Security, a provision I have worked to achieve for years; historic funding to finish the border wall; \$50 billion to support rural health; permitting reforms to make it easier to build in America again; a generational investment in our military; and I could go on and on.

And in the last year, this administration, with President Trump and Republicans, has been hard at work to make certain that we address the cost of living, that we address safety in our Nation and around the globe, and to improve the quality of life in a stronger, freer, and safer country than ever before.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BANKS). The Senator from California.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. President, in a moment, I am going to ask this body to pass legislation requiring the Department of Defense to show Congress and the American people the September 2 video of strikes that killed two survivors on a shipwrecked vessel after the administration's first strike disabled the craft. The American people deserve to see this video and to witness what is being done in their name.

The administration has proudly published the footage of countless other strikes, including the first one from the very same day, believing it could do so without compromising any sources or methods used by our military or intelligence services. This followup footage should be no different.

Since the beginning of this campaign of unauthorized strikes against boats in the Caribbean and Eastern Pacific, there has been one key feature from this administration: an eagerness to push out the videos of these attacks.

We first learned about these strikes when video of an attack was published by the President of the United States, who posted the video of it on his social media. That was video of the first strike on September 2.

In the strikes since—strikes that have killed nearly 100 people in the last few months—the attacks have been announced to the world by the President and the Secretary of Defense, posting videos of them on their social media.

Last week, we saw the administration distribute lengthy footage of the seizure of an oil tanker off the coast of Venezuela.

So why not release the video of the second strike that the administration ordered on September 2? Why is the administration hiding it behind closed doors, sharing it with only a small handful of Members, and leaving the rest of Congress and the country in the dark? What is it about the killing of these two survivors that the administration is unwilling to let the people see?

The legality of the entire campaign of striking these boats and killing those onboard, rather than interdicting and arresting them, has been called into serious question. An attack on shipwrecked sailors is expressly prohibited by the laws of war.

The rationale for hiding this video seems far less about any nebulous claim of the need to protect sources or methods, and far more about protecting the administration from accountability and oversight that the American people demand.

This legislation is simple: Make this video available—first, in full, without edits, to all Members of Congress. Then, if there is any legitimate basis to be concerned with the revelation of some source, method, modus operandi, or technology that isn't already apparent with the eager release of all the other videos, make it public with proper redaction.

Surely, the same people who scrub and declassify every other video the Pentagon has publicly posted can be enlisted to do the same for this one.

Or is the so-called "most transparent administration in history" afraid of what this video would show? Would it show a clear violation of the laws of war, which use the killing of shipwrecked combatants as the textbook definition of an illegal use of force?

The truth on this is going to come out. We know that it will. Let it be

now. We already know from the reports of our colleagues who have seen the video what it shows—first, a strike on a boat; and then, a short while later, a second strike on the disabled wreckage of the boat and two survivors, killing them.

I should make clear: None of these strikes is lawful because these targets are not combatants. There is no imminent threat of invasion, and there is no legal authorization in the United States or international law for the use of military force for drug interdiction alone.

We have condemned campaigns of extrajudicial killings in other countries that have done so to allegedly combat the drug trade—like the Philippines under Duterte—and we must not engage in that conduct here.

But the second strike on September 2 compounds the illegality. It flies directly in the face of laws and values to underpin the U.S. military.

So I ask my colleagues to support this bill. Allow this legislation to pass and ensure that we are not hiding information from the American people. After all, the President of the United States said he was fine with releasing the footage. “Whatever they have,” he said, “we’d certainly release. No problem.”

It is time we hold the President to his promise to be transparent with the American people. Our servicemembers and their families deserve nothing less.

Right now, we have a massive military force in the region. We have killed almost 100 people. We are beginning a blockade of a country with which we are not at war and with which the American people do not want us to go to war—not over regime change, as despicable as the Maduro regime is. The American people do not want to go to war over regime change, which is apparently the real objective here.

We should pass a War Powers Resolution to make clear that Congress does not support a military campaign that may draw us into another endless war or destabilize the region. And we can start by releasing the video of one deadly strike already undertaken, but the evidence of which has been withheld from the American people.

I urge passage of this bill.

As if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the bill at the desk to require the release of video strikes conducted on September 2, 2025, against designated terrorist organizations in the area of responsibility of the U.S. Southern Command; 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 an objection?

The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. President, I reserve the right to object.

The junior Senator from California knows good and well what “classifica-

tions” mean because he had 15 years on the House Intelligence Committee until his clearance was pulled in 2023. He understands classifications. He understands when certain things can be exposed and certain things cannot because of the sensitivity of them.

He also understands that committees of jurisdiction are privileged with the correct clearance to be able to watch this video because the junior Senator from California stated that himself. It has been shown to not a partisan but a bipartisan group of individuals who do have the accurate oversight and clearances to watch it.

Now, what is this really about? Politics? Maybe.

During the junior Senator’s time on the House Intelligence Committee, then-President Obama had 500 strikes on terrorist organizations. Let’s keep in mind that we are striking terrorist organizations, and no one is denying that. There are 24 cartels that are being deemed terrorist organizations that are poisoning our streets, that are killing our families, that are killing our friends, that are affecting all of our homes and all of our streets in all of our States all across the country—in fact, to the tune that there have been more people killed in 2024 by drug overdoses—the sum of 10,000 more individuals—than we lost in U.S. personnel during the entire Vietnam war. If that is not an attack on us, I don’t know. If that is not a terrorist organization that is truly poisoning our streets, then I don’t know.

During the time that the junior Senator from California sat on Intel, not one time did he ever ask for the release of the same videos from the Obama administration that killed 3,700 individuals, including U.S. citizens.

Now, if you think there would be transparency, that would need to be released. We would want to see the videos at least on the U.S. citizens who were killed in this manner, not these narcoboats that are poisoning our streets. But that really isn’t what this is about, and the junior Senator from California knows that. This is all about politics. That is what this is about.

Why are we protecting the ones who are poisoning our streets? Shouldn’t we be trying to protect the ones who are on our streets?

I don’t think it is crazy to think that we would want to be proactive about going after narcoboats. I, for sure, want to. I have zero issue with this. I have been able to be briefed. I know the junior Senator was recently briefed; he is just upset that he may not have the clearances to watch the videos anymore.

But there is sensitive material, and it was clearly explained why it can’t be released.

Of all the people in this Chamber, the junior Senator from California knows that when it is in certain classifications, there is a reason for that.

With that, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from California.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. President, first, as my colleague served on the Intelligence Committee when I chaired the committee, he should well know that Members of Congress actually don’t hold clearances that can be revoked; we either serve on certain committees or we don’t.

But more to the point, in listening to my colleague address this motion to release the video to the American people, I have heard very little of the basis for an objection to releasing this video except some nebulous claim that somehow this footage must be classified.

I would pose this question to my colleagues: Do you recognize that this video has already been partly displayed to the American people? The administration was all too proud to show the first part of this same video, the first attack on this ship, to the American people. There was no objection, obviously, to classification or to source of method. They showed that to the whole world. They just didn’t show all of us the rest of that video; that is, they only showed the footage of the first strike. What they withheld was the footage of the killing of the survivors of the strike.

So, to make the claim here without basis that, well, somehow the continuation of that footage is confidential but that the beginning of that footage showing the first attack can be released without injury to sources or methods—it just doesn’t pass the smell test.

This is going to come out. It is just a question of how long we have to fight to make this available to the American people.

But if the administration is proud of this, if the administration is proud of what it is doing in the name of the American people, it should be proud to show this video to the American people. And we should hold the President, who said: Whatever they have, we would certainly release; no problem—we should hold the President to that commitment.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

ROTORCRAFT OPERATIONS TRANSPARENCY AND OVERSIGHT REFORM ACT

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, in January of this year, tragedy struck just a few miles from here when an Army Black Hawk helicopter collided with American Airlines Flight 5342 at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. Sixty-seven souls were tragically lost in an instant.

After the crash, it quickly became evident that there were commonsense changes that would immediately enhance aviation safety.

The Army helicopter, flying along the Potomac River, had deliberately chosen not to broadcast its location to other aircraft or to air traffic control

using the common aviation technology called automatic dependent surveillance broadcast, or ADS-B. Had the Black Hawk been using ADS-B, like every other aircraft is required to do, tragedy could well have been averted.

We have since learned from the National Transportation Safety Board that the military was routinely flying by its own set of rules, particularly around Reagan National, which meant that there had been numerous near misses before this deadly crash. In fact, just last Friday, an Air Force tanker was flying without using ADS-B and nearly collided into a JetBlue plane headed to New York despite the justifiable public outrage over what happened at DCA. Clearly, the Pentagon's behavior needed to change.

In July, I, alongside eight of my Republican colleagues, introduced the Rotorcraft Operations Transparency and Oversight Reform—or ROTOR—Act. After several weeks negotiating a bipartisan agreement with the ranking member of the Senate Commerce Committee, MARIA CANTWELL, the committee passed the ROTOR Act unanimously.

Here is what the ROTOR Act does:

No. 1, it tightens the rules for military aircraft so air traffic control and other pilots have a better idea of nearby planes and helicopters.

No. 2, it requires all aircraft, civilian and military, to equip and receive ADS-B signals.

No. 3, it directs the FAA to comprehensively evaluate the safety of airspaces around airports across the country so that no other airspace has the same risk of collisions that DCA did.

No. 4, it improves aviation safety information sharing between the FAA and the military. No longer will there be silos of safety data.

These improvements will save lives.

Earlier this week, the families of the DCA crash victims joined Senator CANTWELL and me at a press conference to highlight how the NDAA had a provision moving backwards on safety and to call for the passage of the ROTOR Act.

Two of those family members, Amy Hunter and Laura Augendre, are in the Gallery today. I am happy that they are here to witness the Senate passing the ROTOR Act, along with the language removing the offending NDAA provision. Senator CANTWELL, Senator MORAN, and I have made significant progress with our Senate colleagues, and we have reached an agreement that will allow the Senate to pass this bill unanimously today.

I am also pleased to report that the ROTOR Act now has the explicit backing of the White House on this revised product. The White House is committed to helping us work with our House colleagues to see that the ROTOR Act passes in that Chamber. We still have a few small outstanding issues, but I am optimistic that we are going to get this done and signed into law as soon as next month.

Before turning it over to my colleagues, I want to note two things.

One, I want to say thank you to Senator CANTWELL for her partnership. She and I have worked hand in hand on this. I am grateful for the trust we have with each other and for the work ethic displayed by Senator CANTWELL and by her staff, who have worked very hard on this matter.

I also want to say that this bill will be a fitting way to honor the lives of those lost nearly 1 year ago over the Potomac River.

The goal of the victims' families is to ensure that no one else endures a similar, avoidable, completely unnecessary tragedy.

With that, I yield to Ranking Member CANTWELL.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I rise to support the gentleman's future request here and to say that the bipartisan ROTOR Act, the Rotorcraft Operations Transparency and Oversight Reform bill represents a major step forward for aviation safety.

Not even 1 year ago, 67 people lost their lives when a Black Hawk helicopter collided with American Airlines Flight 5342 over the Potomac, and it was one of the deadliest aviation disasters in history. I do thank the families who are represented in the gallery today for their steadfast support. This is an important step to honor the memory of their loved ones.

I want to thank Senator CRUZ for his bipartisanship in reaching this agreement. He and I worked together on legislation we had originally introduced called the Safe Operations of Shared Airspace Act and, working with him, achieved a date certain for when these requirements had to be met. We came together to craft that bill because safety is not a partisan issue, and this bill reflects it. Most of all, I want to thank the families for their steadfast pursuit of the right answers. Even in unimaginable grief, they refused to let their loved ones be forgotten.

When the NDAA language became public that rolled back postcrash safety measures that the FAA, NTSB, and the military had agreed to, the families spoke up. They stood at a press conference with Senator CRUZ and me. They made phone calls. They demanded better, and today, we are closer to delivering on that and what they have asked for.

The ROTOR Act ends the exemption for planes to be in the airspace without a broadcast signal—that includes the military, so no more flying in the dark. And what is most important, it strikes the deadly language that is in the NDAA bill that just passed here that had widened that loophole. The Senate passed the NDAA with that provision in it, but this bill repeals it, and we hope that our House colleagues will take it up very expeditiously, and I thank the chairman for working with the White House and the House to try to get that commitment from them.

But just as we have said, we have no idea how this language got in the bill

in the first place. I won't be surprised if somebody tries to stop us again. But we will be ready, along with the families, along with our colleague Senator MORAN, to fight for this.

This bill requires broadcast technology in aircraft operating in busy airspace. It gives pilots situational awareness and real-time alerts. And NTSB Chairwoman Homendy and her predecessors have been recommending this for over 15 years. So we want to thank her for her leadership.

It also mandates comprehensive safety reviews for all airports across the United States, military and civilian aircraft where they share the same skies. So not just here, but places like San Diego, Tampa, and Norfolk, and it requires the FAA to establish an office dedicated to FAA-DOD coordination. That is really important. It requires a memorandum of understanding with the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard to share safety data, and it directs the Army inspector general to audit pilot training, maintenance protocols and the compliance.

This bill represents real progress. I want to thank the chairman, Chairman CRUZ, for working with all of us on the committee to get this legislation where it is today, passing the U.S. Senate with a firm commitment for aviation safety.

We will work with our House colleagues to continue to strengthen this. We will work with our House colleagues in the future. But passing this bill today may not be the final step, but it is a huge step forward in getting this legislation to the President's desk.

I yield the floor.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I now yield to Senator MORAN, who has been a critical leader in fighting to pass the ROTOR Act and to ensure we have accountability and that we do not repeat the tragic mistakes that led to that horrific accident.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, Senator CRUZ, the Senator from Texas, and Senator CANTWELL, the Senator from Washington State, thank you very much for the opportunity to join with you today and throughout a long process since January 29, earlier this year.

That flight—Flight 5342—originated in Wichita, KS, and, as we know, on January 29, it collided with an Army Black Hawk helicopter, and it changed the way we look at air safety every moment since then.

I appreciate the leadership of my two colleagues on the full committee, as well as Senator DUCKWORTH, my colleague on the Subcommittee on Aviation, to make certain that we take all the steps necessary and to make certain for the families who remind us today, and almost every day since January 29, about the importance of making the skies of the United States safe for those who fly today and in the future.

There are numerous—numerous—circumstances that led to this horrific incident, and NTSB's critical investigation into this collision is continuing. While NTSB's final recommendations have not yet been released, the Chair of the NTSB, Jennifer Homendy, took the unprecedented step of publicly stating that the National Defense Authorization Act does not adequately address the safety concerns surrounding the mixed airspace at DCA.

And while the NDAA is critical to bolstering our defense capabilities, I have major concerns with the portion of the bill that is being fixed by the efforts today, here on the Senate floor, with this unanimous consent request.

After numerous conversations with my colleagues Senator CRUZ and Senator CANTWELL, we secured an agreement from the Senate leadership—and I thank that Senate leadership, Senator THUNE—for an amended version of the ROTOR Act that would be quickly brought to the Senate floor for consideration to reinstate and advance critical standards of safety for commercial and military aviation.

We are doing that right now.

The ROTOR Act closes the loopholes that have been described by my colleagues and strengthens ADS-B requirements for commercial and military aircraft, among many other things.

It requires safety reviews of DCA, and it requires better coordination between the FAA and DOD. I commend the FAA Administrator for his commitment, and particularly Secretary Duffy, for their combined commitment to air safety.

In fact, when we conclude this effort here on the Senate floor, our committee is in session. Our subcommittee is in session with Administrator Bedford, the FAA Administrator, to review what other steps are being taken across the country for safe airspace at every airport.

We are bringing technology to bear that has only been talked about in the past and is now being accomplished. Our aviation system is fragile, and over the last year, Congress has passed significant legislation investing in that airspace to increase the safety and to make sure that all who fly can be and are safe and feel safe.

Now is not the time to take any steps backward, and that is what we were worried and concerned about that the NDAA provision does.

While Congress works to ensure in law the safety of our airspace, our DOT and FAA leaders are committed to abide by current safety standards, maintaining that safety at the DCA airspace.

As both have said, more work can be done, but it is a pretty good day to be taking the steps we are taking and knowing that more is to come in honor of those who perished, on January 29, from Kansas, across the country, and around the world.

I yield back to the chairman of the committee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, as if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 269, S. 2503.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2503) to require all aircraft to be equipped with Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast In, to improve aviation safety, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which was reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic, as follows:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Rotorcraft Operations Transparency and Oversight Reform Act" or the "ROTOR Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term "Administrator" means the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration.

(2) **ADS-B IN.**—The term "ADS-B In" means onboard avionics equipment that receives and processes Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast transmissions that are broadcast in accordance with sections 91.225 and 91.227 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations), and other aviation advisory information from ground stations, that provides the aircraft with awareness to the location of other aircraft and traffic advisories.

(3) **ADS-B OUT.**—The term "ADS-B Out"—

(A) has the meaning given such term in section 91.227 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations; and

(B) broadcasts information from the aircraft in accordance with sections 91.225 and 91.227 of such title 14 (or any successor regulations).

(4) **AFFECTED AIRCRAFT.**—The term "affected aircraft" means any aircraft that is required to operate in accordance with section 91.225 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

(5) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.**—The term "appropriate committees of Congress" means the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

(6) **CABINET MEMBER.**—The term "Cabinet Member" means an individual who is the head (including an acting head) of the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Defense, the Department of Education, the Department of Energy, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Justice, the Department of Labor, the Department of State, the Department of Transportation, the Department of the Treasury, or the Department of Veterans Affairs, or any other individual who occupies a position designated by the President as a Cabinet-level position.

(7) **FAA.**—The term "FAA" means the Federal Aviation Administration.

(8) **NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION; NCR.**—The terms "National Capital Region" and "NCR" mean the geographic area located within the boundaries of—

(A) the District of Columbia;

(B) Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties in the State of Maryland;

(C) Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria in the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

(D) all cities and other units of government within the geographic areas described in subparagraphs (A) through (C).

(9) **POWERED-LIFT.**—The term "powered-lift"—

(A) has the meaning given such term in section 1.1 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation); and

(B) includes vertical-lift flight mode and wing-borne flight mode, as such terms are defined in section 194.103 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

(10) **ROTORCRAFT.**—The term "rotorcraft" has the meaning given such term in section 1.1 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

(11) **TRANSPORT AIRPLANE.**—The term "transport airplane" has the meaning given such term in section 4474(i) of title 49, United States Code.

(12) **UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM.**—The term "unmanned aircraft system" has the meaning given such term in section 44801 of title 49, United States Code.

SEC. 3. REVISION TO EXCEPTION FOR ADS-B OUT TRANSMISSION.

(a) **ADS-B OUT REFORMS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Beginning on the date of enactment of this section, in applying section 91.225(f)(1) of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, the term "sensitive government mission" shall be narrowly construed and shall not include training flights, proficiency flights, or flights of Federal officials below the rank of Cabinet Member.

(2) **RULEMAKING AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall—

(i) issue or revise regulations to update section 91.225(f) of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, to comply with the requirements of this section; and

(ii) revise any memorandum of agreement between the FAA and any other Federal, State, local, or Tribal agency to conform with the revised regulations described in clause (i).

(B) **REPORT.**—If the Administrator fails to issue or revise regulations pursuant to subparagraph (A) or revise any memorandum of agreement between the FAA and any other agency pursuant to such subparagraph, the Administrator shall, within 30 days, submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the status of such regulations, including the reasons that the Administrator has failed to issue or revise such regulations within the period required under such subparagraph.

(b) **GAO REVIEW AND REPORT.**—Not later than the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(1) review the utilization of exceptions under section 91.225(f) of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation), as revised under subsection (a), to determine—

(A) whether the Department of Defense and other relevant Federal agencies or other applicable operators have utilized such exceptions in accordance with relevant laws and regulations; and

(B) the extent of such utilization;

(2) compare the utilization of exceptions specified in such section 91.225(f) before and after the issuance of revised regulations under subsection (a); and

(3) submit to the Administrator and the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the findings of the review conducted under paragraph (1) and the comparison conducted under paragraph (2).

(c) **FAA REVIEW OF NON-COMPLIANT OPERATORS.**—Upon submission of the report under subsection (b)(3), the Administrator shall—

(1) determine whether any Federal agency or other applicable operator that has been found to

have not utilized the exceptions under section 91.225(f) of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation), as revised under subsection (a), in accordance with relevant laws and regulations shall be permitted to continue to utilize such exceptions; and

(2) not later than 30 days after the date on which the Comptroller General submits the report under subsection (b)(3), brief the appropriate committees of Congress on such determination.

(d) **REPORTS.**—

(1) **TO THE ADMINISTRATOR.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, and on a quarterly basis thereafter, each Federal, State, local, and Tribal agency that performs sensitive government missions as described in section 91.225(f)(1) of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation), as revised under subsection (a), shall submit to the Administrator a report that includes—

(A) an attestation that such operations are regularly transmitting ADS-B Out and are conducted with proper consideration to aviation safety; and

(B) a list of operations delineated by flight in which the ADS-B Out equipment is not in transmit mode because the aircraft was performing a sensitive government mission, including the airport, airspace location, date, time, duration, and mission type of each such operation.

(2) **TO CONGRESS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, and biannually thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the frequency and nature of the ADS-B Out exceptions granted to Federal, State, local, and Tribal agencies under section 91.225(f)(1) of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation), as revised under subsection (a). Such report—

(i) shall include—

(I) aggregated data on the operations in which ADS-B Out equipment is not in transmit mode by each agency described in paragraph (1); and

(II) a determination from the Administrator as to whether each operation described in paragraph (1)(B) jeopardizes aviation safety; and

(ii) may include a classified annex.

(B) **SPECIAL NOTIFICATION.**—If an agency described in paragraph (1) operates a flight using an exception granted under section 91.225(f)(1) of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation), as revised under subsection (a), 5 or more times in a calendar month, or fails to provide to the Administrator the attestation required under paragraph (1)(A), the Administrator shall notify the appropriate committees of Congress of such use within 14 days of being notified of such use. For the purposes of this subparagraph, a flight shall be interpreted as the period beginning when an aircraft moves under its own power for the purpose of flight and ending when the aircraft lands.

(e) **ANNUAL INSPECTOR GENERAL AUDITS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Beginning on the date that is 3 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation (in this section referred to as the “Inspector General”) shall conduct an annual audit of FAA oversight of all operations that utilize an exception under section 91.225(f) of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation), as revised under subsection (a), including Federal agency operations.

(2) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—In conducting an audit under paragraph (1), the Inspector General shall assess the efficacy of FAA oversight related to the following:

(A) Ensuring exceptions under such section 91.225(f)(1) (or any successor regulation) are strictly utilized by operators in accordance with relevant laws and regulations.

(B) Ensuring exceptions under such section 91.225(f)(1) (or any successor regulation) are not routinely used by operators.

(C) Identifying and engaging with any operator not in compliance with relevant laws and regulations relating to exceptions under such section 91.225(f)(1) (or any successor regulation).

(D) Any other factor determined appropriate by the Inspector General.

(3) **BRIEFINGS TO CONGRESS.**—The Inspector General shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress on an annual basis after the completion of each annual audit.

SEC. 4. ADS-B IN REQUIREMENTS.

(a) **REQUIREMENT FOR ADS-B IN OPERATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall issue a final rule in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code, to require any person operating an aircraft (other than an unmanned aircraft, as defined in section 44801 of title 49, United States Code) required to be equipped with ADS-B Out in accordance with section 91.225 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation), to be equipped with and operating with ADS-B In equipment that provides the aircraft with awareness to the location of other aircraft and traffic advisories, unless otherwise authorized by air traffic control.

(2) **COMPLIANCE DEADLINES.**—In issuing a final rule under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall—

(A) include an effective date of not later than 60 days after the date on which such final rule is published in the Federal Register; and

(B) require aircraft described in paragraph (1) to be equipped with ADS-B In not later than December 31, 2031.

(3) **FINAL REGULATION REQUIREMENTS.**—In issuing a final rule under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall, at a minimum, do the following:

(A) **PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.**—The Administrator shall establish appropriate performance requirements for ADS-B In equipment to provide integrated safety-enhancing capabilities for a pilot or other flight crew, including by increasing situational awareness to the location of other aircraft and providing traffic advisories with alerting sufficient to provide traffic advisory indications while airborne and on the airport surface, such as visual and aural advisories.

(B) **ALTERNATIVE EQUIPMENT OR TECHNOLOGY.**—With respect to aircraft with a maximum certificated takeoff weight of less than 12,500 pounds when operating under part 91 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, the Administrator shall establish performance requirements for alternative equipment or technology that the Administrator determines acceptable in satisfying the ADS-B In requirement. The performance requirements shall, at a minimum—

(i) provide similar or improved situational awareness to the location of other airborne traffic, as well as traffic advisory information; and

(ii) leverage the use of portable ADS-B In receivers or equipment that allow display on an existing or future electronic flight bag or panel mounted display, provided that the installation or use of such equipment does not adversely affect other required avionics or the airworthiness of the aircraft.

(C) **GUIDANCE.**—The Administrator shall issue relevant guidance for aircraft operators and other appropriate stakeholders regarding the types of equipment that satisfy the performance requirements described in this paragraph.

(4) **OTHER REQUIREMENTS.**—In issuing a final rule under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall include—

(A) requirements for ADS-B In equipment and the use of such equipment;

(B) technical assistance to facilitating ADS-B In equipage across the entire fleet of affected

aircraft, including, as appropriate, guidance under part 26 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, to provide support for affected transport airplane operators in complying with the requirements of this section;

(C) any other associated guidance necessary to assist operators and other stakeholders in identifying equipment that satisfies the ADS-B In performance standards described in paragraph (3) prior to the compliance deadline described in paragraph (2)(B);

(D) a determination of alternative equipment or technology described in subsection (e); and

(E) a presumption, absent clear and compelling evidence to the contrary, that ADS-B In equipment is cost beneficial and improves aviation safety.

(5) **CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFINGS.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, and every 90 days thereafter, the Administrator shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress, as well as publish a publicly available report, on the status of—

(A) the ADS-B In rulemaking required under paragraph (1); and

(B) after the compliance deadline described in paragraph (2)(A), the implementation and oversight of such ADS-B In requirement.

(b) **NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING COMMITTEE.**—

(1) **COMMITTEE.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator may establish a negotiated rulemaking committee (in this section referred to as the “committee”) pursuant to section 565 of title 5, United States Code, to negotiate proposed regulations to implement the requirements described in subsection (a).

(B) **MEMBERSHIP.**—If the Administrator elects to establish a committee under this subsection, the committee shall be composed of—

(i) representatives of—

(I) the FAA;

(II) air carriers;

(III) avionics manufacturers;

(IV) aircraft manufacturers; and

(V) general aviation organizations;

(ii) the exclusive bargaining representative of air traffic controllers of the FAA certified under section 7511 of title 5, United States Code;

(iii) organizations representing certified collective bargaining representatives of airline pilots, including the principal organization representing the largest certified collective bargaining representative of airline pilots;

(iv) aviation safety experts outside of the FAA; and

(v) any other representatives determined appropriate by the Administrator.

(2) **REQUIREMENTS.**—If the Administrator elects to establish a committee under this subsection, the Administrator shall do the following:

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator shall direct the committee to make recommendations relating to—

(i) ADS-B In equipment and its use;

(ii) ADS-B In equipment performance standards pursuant to subsection (a)(3);

(iii) the consideration of effective approaches to facilitating ADS-B In equipage across the entire fleet of affected aircraft, including requirements under part 26 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, to provide support for affected transport category airplane operators in complying with the requirements of this section; and

(iv) with respect to aircraft with a maximum certificated takeoff weight of less than 12,500 pounds when operating under part 91 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, a recommendation for low cost alternative equipment or technology in accordance with subsection (e).

(B) **LACK OF COMMITTEE CONSENSUS.**—In the event the committee does not reach a consensus regarding a recommendation for low cost alternative equipment or technology under subparagraph (A)(iv), the Administrator shall, after the submission of the committee under paragraph

(3), consider prescribing a low cost alternative that includes the criteria described in subsection (e).

(3) **SUBMISSION TO THE ADMINISTRATOR.**—If the Administrator elects to establish a committee under this subsection, not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the committee shall submit to the Administrator—

(A) a consensus proposal of regulations to implement the requirement described in subsection (a)(1); or

(B) in the event the committee does not reach a consensus, a report identifying any points of agreement and disagreement with respect to such proposed regulations.

(4) **PROPOSED RULE.**—If the Administrator elects to establish a committee under this subsection, not later than 180 days after receiving the submission of the committee under paragraph (3), the Administrator shall issue a proposed rule, in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code, that either—

(A) to the maximum extent possible consistent with the legal obligations of the FAA, uses the consensus proposal of the committee under paragraph (3)(A) as the basis for the proposed rule for notice and comment, including with respect to any standards or requirements described in subsection (a)(3); or

(B) in the event the committee does not reach a consensus, considers the points of agreement and disagreement submitted by the committee under paragraph (3)(B).

(c) **CONSULTATION REQUIRED WITHOUT NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING COMMITTEE.**—If the Administrator does not establish a committee under subsection (b), prior to issuing a final rule, the Administrator shall consult with appropriate stakeholders in conducting the rulemaking required under subsection (a)(1), including at a minimum the representatives described in subsection (b)(1)(B).

(d) **PHASED-IN RETROFIT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In issuing a final rule under subsection (a)(1), the Administrator shall—

(A) establish a process by which the operator of an affected aircraft, in service as of the date on which the final rule under subsection (a)(1) is published in the Federal Register in accordance with subsection (a)(2)(A), may apply to the Administrator to request additional time, not to exceed a period of 1 year after the deadline described in subsection (a)(2)(B), to finalize equipage of its fleet and make ADS-B In operational, provided that—

(i) an aircraft operator, owner, or their agent submits an application deemed acceptable to the Administrator for additional time for compliance, including a justification for such request and an attestation of actions to date demonstrating progress toward achieving compliance;

(ii) the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, determines additional time is required to mitigate a significant disruption to air transportation; and

(iii) the Administrator determines the aircraft operator or owner does not have any uncorrected violations of subchapters F and G of chapter 1 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations; and

(B) notify the appropriate committees of Congress not later than 14 days after making a determination under clause (ii) or (iii) of subparagraph (A).

(2) **SPECIAL RULE FOR AGENTS.**—With the exception of an agent representing an owner or operator of transport airplanes, for the purposes of this subsection, an agent may represent more than 1 aircraft operator or owner of the same type, model, or manufacturer and may submit 1 or more applications under paragraph (1)(A)(i), each of which may contain multiple aircraft operators or owners.

(e) **LOW COST ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF COMPLIANCE.**—In issuing a final rule under subsection (a)(1), the Administrator shall determine low cost equipment or technologies that provide

similar or improved situational awareness to the location of other airborne traffic, as well as traffic advisory information, that satisfy the ADS-B In equipage requirement for aircraft with a maximum certificated takeoff weight of less than 12,500 pounds when operated under part 91 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations. In making such a determination, the Administrator shall consider the use of—

(1) portable ADS-B In receivers; and

(2) equipment that allows display on an existing or future electronic flight bag or panel mounted display, provided the installation or use does not adversely affect other required avionics or the airworthiness of the aircraft.

(f) **PROACTIVE EQUIPAGE.**—With respect to any aircraft for which ADS-B In equipment is available and complies with the requirements of the final rule issued under subsection (a)(1), the operator of any such aircraft shall take all appropriate actions necessary to equip such aircraft with ADS-B In prior to the compliance deadline described in subsection (a)(2).

(g) **SEPARATION STANDARDS; RELEVANT CONTROLLER TRAINING.**—

(1) **RULEMAKING.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 18 months after the effective date of the final rule described in subsection (a), the Administrator shall issue a notice of proposed rulemaking to establish separation standards, as appropriate, that leverage ADS-B Out or ADS-B In equipment, and all other available technological capabilities in the air traffic control system, to achieve safety and efficiency benefits throughout the national airspace system, including on an airport surface and within Class E airspace (as defined in section 71.71 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation).

(B) **CONSULTATION.**—In conducting the rulemaking under this subsection, the Administrator shall consult with appropriate stakeholders, including, at a minimum—

(i) representatives of—

(I) air carriers;

(II) original equipment manufacturers; and

(III) general aviation organizations;

(ii) organizations representing certified collective bargaining representatives of airline pilots, including the principal organization representing the largest certified collective bargaining representative of airline pilots;

(iii) the exclusive bargaining representative of air traffic controllers of the FAA certified under section 7111 of title 5, United States Code;

(iv) aviation safety experts from outside the FAA; and

(v) any other stakeholder deemed appropriate by the Administrator.

(2) **REQUIRED UPDATES TO FAA ORDERS.**—Not later than 18 months after the issuance of the notice of proposed rulemaking under paragraph (1)(A), the Administrator shall complete revisions, as appropriate, to FAA Order 7110.65 and other relevant FAA Orders, to increase safety and efficiency benefits in the national airspace system.

(3) **RELEVANT CONTROLLER TRAINING.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the compliance deadline described in subsection (a)(2), the Administrator shall revise initial and recurrent air traffic controller training, as appropriate, in accordance with FAA Orders 3000.22 and 3120.4 and revise associated orders and directives, as appropriate, to ensure such controllers are trained to apply any new separation standards and procedures.

(B) **REQUIREMENTS.**—In revising training under subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall—

(i) consider human factors impacts, appropriate phraseology adjustments, and surface movement applications; and

(ii) consult with the exclusive bargaining representative of air traffic controllers of the FAA certified under section 7111 of title 5, United States Code.

(h) **ACAS-X ACTION PLAN.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress an action plan for advancing the deployment of the Airborne Collision Avoidance System-X (in this section referred to as “ACAS-X”), or any variant or successor technology, in the national airspace system. The Administrator shall publish the action plan in a publicly available format not later than 10 days after submitting such action plan to Congress.

(2) **CONTENTS.**—In developing the action plan under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall include—

(A) a strategic roadmap for the deployment of ACAS-X technology, including steps required for widespread adoption among aircraft operators (including rotorcraft operators);

(B) actions and funding necessary to complete any applicable research, development, testing, evaluation, and standards development needed to support the certification of such technology;

(C) plans for engagement with appropriate stakeholders, including—

(i) aircraft operators, including those in the Department of Defense;

(ii) aviation safety experts outside the FAA;

(iii) avionics manufacturers;

(iv) aircraft manufacturers;

(v) general aviation organizations;

(vi) the exclusive bargaining representative of air traffic controllers of the FAA certified under section 7511 of title 5, United States Code;

(vii) organizations representing certified collective bargaining representatives of airline pilots, including the principal organization representing the largest certified collective bargaining representative of airline pilots; and

(viii) any other stakeholders determined appropriate by the Administrator;

(D) engagement with foreign civil aviation authorities to harmonize international standards for certification of such technology;

(E) ACAS-X interoperability considerations for aircraft operators (including rotorcraft operators) equipped with ADS-B Out and ADS-B In equipment;

(F) an assessment of safety benefits for aircraft operators equipping with such technology, including civil and military operators; and

(G) any recommendations for administrative or legislative action, as determined appropriate by the Administrator, to advance such technology deployment.

(3) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—The Administrator may take actions, as appropriate, to implement the action plan developed under paragraph (1).

(4) **BRIEFING.**—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Administrator submits the action plan under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress on the contents of such action plan and any prospective actions to implement such plan.

(i) **ARAC TASKING.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator shall task the Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee (in this section referred to as the “ARAC”) with reviewing and assessing the need for aircraft operating in Class D airspace to be equipped with ADS-B Out and ADS-B In equipment.

(2) **REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS.**—Not later than 1 year after initiating the review and assessment under this section, the ARAC shall submit to the Administrator—

(A) a report on the findings of the review and assessment under paragraph (1); and

(B) any recommendations for legislative or regulatory action the ARAC determines appropriate.

(3) **BRIEFING.**—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the ARAC submits the report under paragraph (2), the Administrator shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress on—

(A) the findings and recommendations included in such report; and

(B) any plan to implement such recommendations, including a justification for any recommendations the Administrator determines should not be implemented.

SEC. 5. INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE ARMY AUDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Inspector General of the Army shall initiate an audit to evaluate the Army's coordination with the FAA, pilot training, and qualification standards, and the Army's use of ADS-B Out and whether it adheres to Army policy, regulation, and law.

(b) ASSESSMENT.—In conducting the audit required by subsection (a), the Inspector General of the Army shall assess practices and recommendations for the Army, including—

(1) whether Army policy and United States law was adhered to, and the Army's coordination with the FAA, during National Capital Region ("NCR") operations of pilot training and qualifications standards in the NCR;

(2) the Army's policy on ADS-B Out equipage, usage, and activation;

(3) maintenance protocols for UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters operated by the 12th Army Aviation Brigade including, but not limited to, the calibration of any system that transmits altitude and position information outside the aircraft and the calibration of systems that send altitude and position information to the pilots inside the aircraft, and the frequency with which such maintenance protocols occur;

(4) compliance with the September 29, 2021, Letter of Agreement executed between the Pentagon Heliport Air Traffic Control Tower and the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport Air Traffic Control Tower regarding flight operations in the NCR; and

(5) the Army's review of loss of separation incidents involving its rotorcraft in the NCR along with possible mitigations to prevent future mishaps.

(c) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE.—Not later than 14 days after the audit required by subsection (a) is concluded, the Secretary of the Army shall—

(1) transmit a report on the results of the audit, without redactions, to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives; and

(2) publicly release the report without redactions, except to the extent required for national security reasons.

(d) INTERIM REPORTING.—Not later than 180 days after initiating the audit required by subsection (a), and every 180 days thereafter until such audit is concluded, the Inspector General of the Army shall brief the committees of Congress described in subsection (c)(1) regarding the progress of such audit.

SEC. 6. SAFETY REVIEWS OF AIRSPACE.

(a) FAA-DOD COORDINATION.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall establish or designate an office within the FAA as the "Office of FAA-DOD Coordination" (in this section referred to as the "Office"), which shall—

(1) coordinate airspace usage of military aircraft and rotorcraft with relevant FAA lines of business, including the Air Traffic Organization;

(2) coordinate with the Office of Audit and Evaluation of the FAA to ensure employee complaints and whistleblower protections are considered;

(3) consider opportunities to improve management and consolidation of aviation safety information system databases to enhance civil and military aviation incident reporting; and

(4) carry out the safety review required by subsection (b).

(b) SAFETY REVIEWS.—

(1) REVIEW OF RONALD REAGAN WASHINGTON NATIONAL AIRPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Office is established or designated, the Administrator shall initiate a safety review of all military, law enforcement, and civilian rotary wing, powered lift, fixed wing, and unmanned aircraft system flight operations and flight routes in the Washington D.C. Metropolitan Area Special Flight Rules Area, including but not limited to flight operations conducted by the Department of Defense, emergency response providers, and air medical transport operators, to evaluate any associated safety risk to commercial transport airplane operations at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport.

(B) CONSULTATION.—In conducting a safety review under subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall consult with—

(i) the Secretary of Defense;

(ii) Federal, State, and local agencies;

(iii) law enforcement agencies;

(iv) emergency response providers, including air medical transport operators;

(v) air carriers;

(vi) aviation labor organizations, including, at a minimum—

(I) the exclusive bargaining representative of air traffic controllers of the FAA certified under section 7511 of title 5, United States Code; and

(II) organizations representing certified collective bargaining representatives of airline pilots, including the principal organization representing the largest certified collective bargaining representative of airline pilots; and

(vii) other stakeholders determined appropriate by the Administrator.

(2) OTHER AIRPORT REVIEWS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall conduct safety reviews of all military, law enforcement and civilian rotary wing, powered lift, fixed wing, and unmanned aircraft system flight operations and flight routes at other Class B airports (as listed in section 1 of Appendix D to part 91 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation)) and within the lateral boundary of Class B airspace, at commercial service Class C airports (as listed in FAA Order JO 7400.11J (or any successor order)) and within the lateral boundary of Class C airspace in the national airspace system, and at Class D airports that provide passenger service under part 121 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, determined to meet the risk criteria set forth in subparagraph (C), including flight operations conducted by the Department of Defense, emergency response providers, and air medical transport operators, to evaluate any associated safety risk to commercial transport airplane operations.

(B) CONSULTATION.—In conducting a safety review under subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall consult with—

(i) the Secretary of Defense;

(ii) Federal, State, local, and Tribal agencies;

(iii) law enforcement agencies;

(iv) emergency response providers;

(v) air carriers;

(vi) aviation labor organizations, including, at a minimum—

(I) the exclusive bargaining representative of air traffic controllers of the FAA certified under section 7511 of title 5, United States Code; and

(II) organizations representing certified collective bargaining representatives of airline pilots, including the principal organization representing the largest certified collective bargaining representative of airline pilots; and

(vii) other stakeholders determined appropriate by the Administrator.

(C) PRIORITIZATION AND RISK CRITERIA.—In prioritizing the safety reviews of Class B, Class C, and Class D airports described in subparagraph (A) and conducting the safety reviews pursuant to subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall, at a minimum, consider the following risk criteria:

(i) The type of airspace the airport is located in and the type of tower at the airport.

(ii) Whether the airport has radar on the field.

(iii) The total number of air traffic operations at the airport per calendar year, as reported in the Operations Network (OPSNET) data of the FAA, and the rate of growth measured over a 20-year period prior to the initiation of a safety review under this section.

(iv) The Traffic Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) resolution advisory rates at the airport compared to the number of arrivals at the airport.

(v) The presence of parallel runways.

(vi) The presence of visual flights (in this subparagraph referred to as "VFR") corridors in proximity to the airport.

(vii) The presence of a helicopter corridor in proximity to the airport or nearby helicopter operations.

(viii) The presence of dense VFR operations at the airport.

(ix) The presence of complex VFR procedures at the airport or in the adjacent airspace.

(D) DEADLINE OF INITIATION OF REVIEWS.—The Administrator shall initiate the reviews under this paragraph by the following deadlines:

(i) CLASS B AIRPORTS.—With respect to Class B airports, not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section.

(ii) CLASS C AIRPORTS.—With respect to Class C airports, not later than 90 days after the initiation date of the Class B airport reviews.

(iii) CLASS D AIRPORTS.—With respect to Class D airports, not later than 90 days after the initiation date of the Class C airport reviews.

(3) REQUIREMENTS.—In conducting the safety reviews required by paragraphs (1) and (2), the Office shall do the following:

(A) Analyze air traffic and airspace management.

(B) Evaluate the level of coordination the Administrator exercises with the Secretary of Defense and the heads of any other Federal agencies, and emergency response providers as appropriate, to inform the designation and approval of airspace use and flight routes for non-transport airplane operations.

(C) Assess any risks posed to transport airplanes from military aircraft and rotorcraft, civil rotorcraft, powered lift aircraft, and unmanned aircraft systems operating in Class B, Class C, or Class D airspace in proximity to Class B, Class C, or Class D airports.

(D) Review relevant incidents submitted to the Administrator through Air Traffic Mandatory Occurrence reports (as documented via FAA Form 7210-13), Aviation Safety Reporting System reports, and Aviation Safety Action Program reports, and relevant reports submitted to the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration through the Aviation Safety Reporting System, to identify any safety trends regarding the operation of military aircraft and rotorcraft, civil rotorcraft, powered lift aircraft, and unmanned aircraft systems in Class B, Class C, or Class D airspace near Class B, Class C, or Class D airports.

(4) DEADLINES FOR COMPLETION OF SAFETY REVIEWS.—

(A) RONALD REAGAN WASHINGTON NATIONAL AIRPORT.—The Administrator shall complete the safety review required by paragraph (1) not later than 120 days after the date on which such review is initiated.

(B) OTHER AIRPORTS.—The Administrator shall complete a safety review required by paragraph (2) not later than 180 days after such review is initiated.

(5) REPORTS.—

(A) REVIEW OF RONALD REAGAN WASHINGTON NATIONAL AIRPORT.—Not later than 60 days after completing the safety review required by paragraph (1), the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report detailing the analyses and results of such review, together with relevant findings and recommendations, including any corrective action

plans to address any risks identified, and recommendations for legislative or administrative action determined appropriate by the Administrator.

(B) **OTHER AIRPORT REVIEWS.**—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this section, and every 6 months thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report detailing the analyses and results of the safety reviews completed pursuant to paragraph (2) since the preceding report under this subparagraph (or, in the case of the first such report, since such date of enactment), together with relevant findings and recommendations, including any corrective action plans to address any risks identified, and recommendations for legislative or administrative actions determined appropriate by the Administrator.

(6) **DESIGNATION.**—The Administrator shall designate a person within the Senior Executive Service of the FAA to be directly responsible for the completion of the requirements of this subsection.

(7) **STAFFING.**—The Administrator shall ensure adequate staffing to conduct the safety reviews within the deadlines specified in this section.

SEC. 7. FAA-DOD SAFETY INFORMATION SHARING.

(a) **MOU WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Secretary of the Army to permit, as appropriate, the sharing of information from the Army's Safety Management Information System with the FAA to facilitate communications and analysis of any applicable impacts to the safety and efficiency of civil aviation operations and to mitigate risk in the national airspace system.

(b) **OTHER DOD MOUS.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the following military departments to permit, as appropriate, the sharing of information from applicable aviation safety information systems to facilitate communications and analysis of any applicable impacts to the safety and efficiency of civil aviation operations and to mitigate risk in the national airspace system:

- (1) The Department of the Navy.
- (2) The Department of the Air Force.
- (3) The Coast Guard.

(c) **CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.**—Not later than 7 days after the date on which the Administrator enters into any Memorandum of Understanding under subsection (a) or (b), the Administrator shall notify the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 8. REPEAL OF PROVISION REGARDING ADS-B EQUIPMENT ON CERTAIN AIRCRAFT OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

Section 1046 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (49 U.S.C. 40101 note) is repealed.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be withdrawn; the Cruz-Cantwell substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment, in the nature of a substitute, was withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 4070), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

The bill (S. 2503), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, congratulations, again, to my colleagues. Thank you to the U.S. Senate and its leadership for seeing that a version of the ROTOR Act was passed by unanimous consent.

NOMINATION OF JARED ISAACMAN

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, today we consider the nomination of Mr. Jared Isaacman to serve as NASA Administrator, a critical position whose leadership will help determine the success of America's ambitious scientific and exploratory goals in space science.

The next NASA Administrator will be tasked with leading the United States and all of humanity to places humans have never ventured, but they will face equally great challenges here on Earth, leading a workforce that has faced a year of upheaval and navigating an administration that has grounded progress rather than fostered it.

Last Spring, President Trump requested a \$6 billion cut to NASA, the largest cut in the Agency's history, with cancellation of more than 40 missions and cuts to others, including some already in the final pre-launch stages, such as the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope. Then, only a few months later, the administration worked to push out as many scientists and engineers as possible through their resignation program, resulting in thousands of experienced and dedicated workers leaving the government, often as a result of fear and uncertainty around the future of their jobs. Some of these top scientists were recruited to research labs and universities in other nations, further eroding America's competitive edge. Now, 11 months since the inauguration, the workers remaining at NASA are simply looking for the stability and opportunity to do their world-leading work. The next administrator must bring a greater respect for and commitment to the NASA workforce.

In addition to their attacks on the workforce, vital earth science missions have faced cancellation because the Trump administration dislikes that they provide us with information about our changing climate. There has been bipartisan pushback to this direction for the Agency coupled with bipartisan support for providing NASA the resources they need to conduct their operations. Despite this resistance, the tension between the branches of government remains, and the next admin-

istrator will have a vital role to play in standing up for the Agency.

Maryland is the cornerstone of innovation in space science, centered around the crown jewel of American space science, the Goddard Space Flight Center, the Space Science Telescope Institute, AURA, and the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory, alongside contractors and small businesses who support their essential work. Wallops Space Flight Center is just over the border in Virginia, but many of its employees and contractors call Maryland home. Space research and technology are a critical and productive part of Maryland's economy, and in turn, these entities are critical to the United States' broader space goals.

When President Trump attempted to cut NASA's fiscal year 2026 budget by an unprecedented amount, he did not target all parts of NASA equally. NASA Science was singled out for a 46-percent reduction in overall budget, which would disproportionately impact Goddard. The next Administrator will need to be ready to fight not just for individual parts of the Agency or flashy programs, but for the entire mission. If NASA seeks to take us back to the Moon and eventually to Mars, it will be cutting-edge science that takes us there and that path runs through Maryland.

I have had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Isaacman twice and watch both of his confirmation hearings, and I appreciate his willingness to engage on Maryland and national priorities for NASA's mission. During both my meetings with Mr. Isaacman, he relayed his belief in the importance of the NASA Science mission and the work done at the Goddard Space Flight Center. At the same time, however, I was alarmed to read Mr. Isaacman's Project Athena, his proposed plan for the Agency that suggested that NASA science should be a service to the commercial industry, rather than continuing to serve the public. I was further discouraged by his proposed plan to move certain mission control operations away from Goddard and to mark other Goddard facilities for possible "deletion." The next NASA Administrator will need to approach the highly technical work and the people who perform it with respect and understanding for how their contribution fits into our larger goals.

I expect Mr. Isaacman's nomination to be confirmed, and it is my sincere hope that he means it when he says that he intends to prioritize and foster the cutting-edge research and science done by NASA, rather than cut it. I intend to work with him and the entire Agency through my role as Ranking Member of the Senate Commerce, Justice, Science—CJS—Appropriations Subcommittee to support and provide critical oversight over the important work of NASA in Maryland, across the country, and around the world.

Mr. Isaacman's actions on the job, not his words during the confirmation

process, will be the true test of his commitment to the workforce and the future of the Agency. I look forward to working with him to achieve those goals.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I rise further today in support of the nomination Jared Isaacman to lead the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. That is the vote that is now ensuing, just a few minutes later than scheduled.

Last week, for a second time, the Commerce Committee favorably reported Mr. Isaacman's nomination with bipartisan support.

Now, as NASA takes on some of the most significant tests in its nearly 70-year history, including the beating of China and other adversaries back to the Moon and positioning America for historic deep-space exploration, the Agency needs a permanent, Senate-confirmed leader.

As chairman of the Commerce Subcommittee on Space and the chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and Science, I serve in both roles, as an authorizer of legislation and the appropriator for NASA.

I have worked with my colleagues and with previous administrations to provide the Agency with clear direction and the resources needed to achieve NASA's noble goals.

I trust that if he is confirmed, Mr. Isaacman will be a reliable partner in continuing that legacy.

Over the course of his nomination, I have had several opportunities to speak at length with Mr. Isaacman about his qualifications for this role, his assessment of NASA's current circumstances, and his vision to lead the Agency into the future. I am confident that he will provide the leadership that NASA needs to sustain and advance America's leadership in space.

NASA's mission is not solely the domain of space. Just a couple of weeks ago, at Mr. Isaacman's confirmation, I had the chance to discuss with him the critical importance to many Kansans, including those in agriculture, of NASA's Earth Science Division for supporting Kansas agriculture producers. I was pleased that Mr. Isaacman shares my view that NASA must remain steadfast in its commitment to science.

I want to thank Secretary of Transportation Sean Duffy for his leadership of the Agency as Acting Administrator over the past several months.

Confirming, now, Mr. Isaacman as the next permanent Administrator for NASA will equip our space Agency for success. I will be voting yes on Mr. Isaacman's nomination, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

I yield the floor.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the nomination.

VOTE ON ISAACMAN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Isaacman nomination?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 67, nays 30, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 650 Ex.]

YEAS—67

Baldwin	Graham	Moreno
Banks	Hagerty	Mullin
Barrasso	Hassan	Murkowski
Blackburn	Hawley	Paul
Boozman	Heinrich	Ricketts
Britt	Hoeven	Risch
Budd	Husted	Rounds
Cantwell	Hyde-Smith	Schiff
Capito	Johnson	Schmitt
Cassidy	Justice	Scott (FL)
Collins	Kaine	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kelly	Shaheen
Cotton	Kennedy	Sheehy
Cramer	Kim	Slotkin
Crapo	King	Sullivan
Cruz	Lankford	Thune
Curtis	Lee	Tillis
Daines	Lummis	Tuberville
Durbin	Marshall	Warner
Fetterman	McConnell	Wicker
Fischer	McCormick	Young
Gallego	Moody	
Gillibrand	Moran	

NAYS—30

Alsobrooks	Lujan	Sanders
Bennet	Markey	Schatz
Blumenthal	Merkley	Schumer
Blunt Rochester	Murphy	Smith
Booker	Murray	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Ossoff	Warnock
Duckworth	Padilla	Warren
Hickenlooper	Peters	Welch
Hirono	Reed	Whitehouse
Klobuchar	Rosen	Wyden

NOT VOTING—3

Coons	Ernst	Grassley
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The nomination was confirmed.

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

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action for the Isaacman nomination and any nominations confirmed during Wednesday's session of the Senate.

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

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. LEE. I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Weaver nomination.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 594, Douglas Weaver, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 30, 2026.

John Thune, Markwayne Mullin, John Barrasso, Mike Rounds, Lindsey Graham, Tim Sheehy, Bernie Moreno, John Cornyn, Pete Ricketts, Roger F. Wicker, Tommy Tuberville, Josh Hawley, Rick Scott of Florida, Ted Budd, Jim Banks, Bill Cassidy, Shelley Moore Capito.

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 Douglas Weaver, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 30, 2026, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 69, nays 27, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 651 Ex.]

YEAS—69

Banks	Hawley	Murkowski
Barrasso	Heinrich	Ossoff
Blackburn	Hoeven	Padilla
Boozman	Husted	Paul
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Reed
Budd	Johnson	Ricketts
Capito	Justice	Risch
Cassidy	Kelly	Rounds
Collins	Kennedy	Schiff
Cornyn	Kim	Schmitt
Cotton	King	Scott (FL)
Cramer	Klobuchar	Scott (SC)
Crapo	Lankford	Shaheen
Cruz	Lee	Sheehy
Curtis	Lummis	Slotkin
Daines	Marshall	Sullivan
Duckworth	McConnell	Thune
Fetterman	McCormick	Tillis
Fischer	Merkley	Tuberville
Gallego	Moody	Welch
Graham	Moran	Whitehouse
Hagerty	Moreno	Wicker
Hassan	Mullin	Young

NAYS—27

Alsobrooks	Gillibrand	Sanders
Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Schatz
Bennet	Hirono	Schumer
Blumenthal	Kaine	Smith
Blunt Rochester	Markey	Van Hollen
Booker	Murphy	Warner
Cantwell	Murray	Warnock
Cortez Masto	Peters	Warren
Durbin	Rosen	Wyden

NOT VOTING—4

Coons	Grassley	Lujan
Ernst		

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHMITT). On this vote, the yeas are 69, the nays are 27. The motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Douglas Weaver, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 30, 2026.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mrs. MOODY. As if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of S. 3082 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; further, that the bill be considered read a third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table. And prior to any further ruling by the chair, if I might make a comment—I withdraw so I might be able to make a comment, and then I will resubmit it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. It has been withdrawn.

The Senator from Florida.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST

Mrs. MOODY. Mr. President, I rise today to move for unanimous consent on the American Shores Protection Act, and this would codify President Trump's 2020 moratorium on drilling off Florida's Gulf of America and Atlantic coasts.

Florida has worked with President Trump for years to keep these operations off our pristine coast and not just for a sunny day to enjoy the gulf but because our coasts are a vital component of our State's economic success. In fact, Florida's beaches alone generate more than \$127.7 billion a year in tourism spending and support more than 2.1 million related jobs.

However, these great resources are vulnerable to risks posed by new offshore drilling.

We all saw the devastating harm caused by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010. That disaster wiped billions of dollars from Florida's industries and caused horrific damage to our environment and coastal communities. Places like Panama City Beach, Pensacola, and Destin all saw dramatic drops in tourist revenues that summer, following the catastrophe. Even places like Clearwater, St. Petersburg, and Miami Beach suffered a decline in visitors after the oil spill.

Our coasts also play an important role in securing our Nation. The Gulf Test Range, a big part of the Department of War's training to ensure mission readiness, is supported by multiple military bases in Florida's Panhandle. More than 50,000 jobs in the Panhandle depend directly on operations at military facilities in this area. Eglin Air Force Base, in Okaloosa County, alone employs 20,000 people and provides the country with \$11 billion in economic impact every year.

If there were new offshore drilling in the Gulf Test Range, these activities that support national security would have to be reduced, meaning job cuts in an area that depends heavily on military activities.

As a fifth generation Floridian, preserving our State's natural beauty is deeply important to me and all Floridians and the millions that call the Sunshine State home, as well as those who come to visit and vacation. It is my mission to protect our State's coastline, from Pensacola Beach, where the Blue Angels fly, to Duval Street in Key West; from the iconic South Beach in Miami to Fernandina in the very tip of Northeast Florida, all for our next generation.

I appreciate my colleague's support as we work together to ensure oil drilling stays off our beaches and we pass the American Shores Protection Act.

And if I may defer to my fellow Senator from Florida, Senator RICK SCOTT. Mr. SCHMITT. The senior Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I want to first thank my colleague from Florida, Senator MOODY. I am proud to work together with her to protect Florida's shores, which is very, very, very important to Floridians.

As Floridians, we know that our beaches and coastal waters are vital to the State's economy, environment, tourism, and military community. I have worked for years, both as Florida's Governor and U.S. Senator, to keep oil drilling off our coast. We do not want oil drilling on our coast.

In 2018, I was proud to work with President Trump, during his first term, to extend the moratorium on oil drilling off Florida's coasts through 2032, and I have fought to codify this action since I got to the Senate.

Florida's shorelines are not only an iconic and pristine part of the State's environment; they also generate jobs in the area and support billions in tourism revenue.

Florida's beaches alone contribute more than \$127 billion per year to the State's economy, just in tourism spending. People come from all over the world to enjoy our beaches. And 2.1 million jobs held by Floridians are tourism-related jobs.

Our coasts are also a critical national security point for military training with the Gulf Test Range. Anybody that has done testing, if you have served along the Panhandle, you know how important the military training is on the testing there for the Gulf Test Range. This range is an essential part of the Department of War's military training and is supported by several military communities along Florida's Panhandle.

It is the largest multidomain military training complex in the country, where our Armed Forces can conduct advanced military testing, training, and evaluation of air and weapons systems. There is no place in the world like being able to test and train off the coast of Florida.

The administration is right. We need to unleash America's energy, including American oil, but we can do that without sacrificing America's most important military training ground or hurting Florida's economy or shoreline.

I recently wrote a letter that was signed by the entire bipartisan Florida delegation—it is led by Senator MOODY and me—urging President Trump to continue his commitment to keeping Florida's coast off the table for oil drilling and uphold his moratorium.

Along with Senator MOODY, I will always fight to keep oil drilling off of Florida's coast to support our economy, our environment, and our Nation's military readiness.

I look forward to continuing to work closely with the President, Senator MOODY, and all our colleagues on this important issue.

I yield back to my colleague from Florida, Senator MOODY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from Florida.

Mrs. MOODY. Mr. President, as if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of S. 3082 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; further, that the bill be considered read a third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Reserving the right to object, this legislation has not been through regular order. It has not received a legislative hearing, and it hasn't been marked up. And it hasn't been reported by the committee of jurisdiction. As a result, there has been no opportunity, with all of those stops along the legislative pathway having been skipped—there has been no opportunity—for Members of this body, for members of the Trump administration, for the two principal involved Agencies within the U.S. Department of the Interior, known as BOEM and BSEE, to provide their feedback or offer testimony on the implications of this legislation.

Now, look, the Senate's committee process exists, and it exists for a reason. It exists for exactly these sets of reasons. While it might have slightly different implications depending on the committee involved and depending on the type of legislation, there are reasons why these things are there, and almost regardless of which committee is affected, you can normally benefit from this. And, in fact, it is normally quite hazardous to just bypass all of this, because that is how we legislate, without making sure that we have gone through all the necessary steps.

This process that has evolved over the last, roughly, two and a half centuries allows legislation to be examined in a transparent and a deliberative

way, with input from affected Agencies, from industries, from the President of the United States and members of his administration, and Senators on both sides of the aisle, including but not limited to the Senators of the States who might be behind the legislation in question.

Before legislation is advanced to the floor, it should be vetted through that process so that the Senate can fully understand and appreciate its scope, its effect, its legal posture, and whatever unintended or intended consequences the legislation might have.

I have made it clear, from the beginning, that I am willing to work with the Senator from Florida. In fact, I have offered to place it on the agenda for the next subcommittee hearing within the Energy Subcommittee of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. That would provide the Trump administration with the opportunity to weigh in with its views and allow us to hear analysis from BOEM and BSEE and any other Agencies that are affected—consistent with how the committee has considered other legislation within its jurisdiction this year, and consistent with the way it has always done it in the 15 years I have been a U.S. Senator.

As chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, I have consistently stated that bills within the committee's jurisdiction should proceed through regular order. That process positions bills for successful consideration on the floor, consideration by the House, and, ultimately, enactment into law.

Skipping that process allows a bill to jump ahead of others that have followed the rules and respected the committee system.

So my objection today is not based on the merits of the underlying policy. It is based on the process. But the process is important to getting the policy right. That is why we don't skip it. That is why, in the absence of a compelling, overwhelming, urgent reason, we don't just ignore it, and I can't and won't ignore it here.

The Senate should not abandon its regular order by advancing legislation that has not been considered by the committee of jurisdiction.

I look forward to working with my friend and colleague the distinguished Senator from Florida to consider her bill in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee in a transparent matter.

Until that occurs, I must object and object now.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Florida.

Mrs. MOODY. Mr. President, I thank my colleague for taking the time to come down here today. I will note that he spent a lot of time talking about the long bureaucratic process; that this must go through every single step; and that we must get the policy right and going through the things that might

take years, as we have seen happen in the Senate. It is what the American people are tired of, and I did not come here as the newest U.S. Senator to do business as usual. In fact, do you see where my desk is? It is on the very last row, almost to the edge of the Senate, because I am one of the newest Senators. We need to do things different. We need to get things done.

In respect to the pristine beaches of Florida, we have to act with a sense of urgency. As far as getting policy right, this simply codifies President Trump's 2020 moratorium on drilling off Florida's Gulf of America and Atlantic coasts. This policy has been negotiated and talked about, and it is already in a moratorium. This would simply codify that.

I so appreciate my colleague offering to set this on the agenda, and I appreciate that. I hope my other Senate colleagues recognize the urgency to get this done. I can't think of anything more top of mind for Floridians right now.

I am proud to be here, along with my colleague Senator SCOTT, to fight for Floridians and fight for Florida's livelihood, our pristine natural resources.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I respect and deeply appreciate my friend and colleague the distinguished Senator from Florida. And I respect and admire her great devotion to protecting her State, its pristine beaches, and the many qualities that it enjoys. People from all over the United States of America and all over the world love going to Florida. No one wants to take that away.

I, nonetheless, take umbrage—great umbrage in fact—to a couple of characterizations to which I must now respond. First, as to what she characterizes as the “long bureaucratic process,” this process is itself quite short, especially in comparison to an actual bureaucratic process, which it is not. Make no mistake, this is not a bureau; this is not bureaucratic process; this is a legislative process. It is a legislative process that has endured for hundreds of years in this country, and it may not be perfect, but it is the best one we have got. It existed for many hundreds of years before that in our mother country, before we became our own country. There are reasons why these things develop. To call it a long bureaucratic process is neither fair nor accurate, and it misapprehends the nature of the legislative task, including the legislative task before us at this very moment.

Now, with regard to the suggestion that by not passing this today—not passing it after leapfrogging over about 10 legislative steps that are essential to that process—we are somehow threatening Florida's pristine beaches and waters, this is simply not true. That couldn't be more untrue.

Let's remember what happened in 2020. President Trump issued a moratorium. That moratorium stays in place

until 2032. Absent some other action taken pursuant to that, the status quo is to protect them.

What she is trying to do is to protect against President Trump doing anything consistent with his authority, consistent with that 2020 order. She is trying to tie his hands to prevent him from even figuring out what is there, to figure out whether there is a cost-benefit analysis on any of that.

Now, sure, the Senate can consider that from time to time. And perhaps after the legislative process—not the bureaucratic process. That is something different. That doesn't exist here. Nor is this simply a delay for the sake of delay. I pride myself in running the Energy and Natural Resources Committee and bringing forth these hearings as expeditiously as possible, and I have offered to put it on the next appropriate subcommittee hearing.

Now, if a mere delay of a few weeks or a few months, where it takes that time, isn't acceptable, I would like to know why. We have yet to hear a single reason, a single argument as to the parade of horrors of what could happen if we don't, as she would do here, tie President Trump's hands and bind further legislatively beyond what he has already bound himself to through his own 2020 Executive order.

So this is in place. It will remain in place. And there has yet to be a single reason articulated as to why we should treat this as an emergency. There is nobody going down there to drill right now. We still have got the Agencies that are looking at it. The least we can do in consideration of President Trump, his administration, and the affected Agencies, including those that I have mentioned earlier today—most particularly BOEM—is to hear them out first. In the absence of a compelling reason to leapfrog all of that, I must and will continue to object.

Mrs. MOODY. Thank you. I appreciate my colleague's willingness to work in the next week or few months. Thank you so much.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORENO). The Senator from Oklahoma.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 1262

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. President, I am here today to ask the Senate to pass a bill that helps kids with cancer—the Mikaela Naylor Give Kids a Chance Act.

Now, very seldom do I actually read remarks. I typically like to just simply speak about it. But I think this is so important that I am actually going to read the remarks that are in front of me because I think it is important for people to know what we are doing, why we are doing it, and who she was—the advocate—and to understand why we are here today.

Mikaela, whom the bill is named after, was a 16-year-old girl from Colorado. As a father of six, this is kind of personal to me, so this is why it is so passionate to me, too, because my son currently—while he doesn't have a cancer like this, we have been going to

Rochester for over a year, and we are doing some experimentative stuff with him too. We got an opportunity—because it is not a death sentence. What he has isn't a death sentence. But we have had to go through this and continue to go through this. So it is even more personal to me now.

In July of 2020, Mikaela was diagnosed with a rare pediatric cancer. She spent nearly 6 years traveling across the country for treatments while also coming to Capitol Hill to advocate for children with cancer. But unfortunately, she tragically passed away October 29 of this year—advocating literally almost every day of her life.

Mikaela was a fighter. She fought so other children could have an opportunity, that one day, the devastating diagnosis that she received would someday be curable for other kids.

Some things that come across your desk in Congress just make sense, and this is one of them. This bill has 33 cosponsors in the Senate, and they are bipartisan, from liberal Democrats to conservative Republicans.

We worked hard to get this bill passed for over a year, and it passed the House by voice. Not one single person objected to this. Why? Because why wouldn't you want to allow kids, our kids, an opportunity to simply have the same opportunity as adults do with cancer? It is called pediatric cancer. Give kids a chance. Why wouldn't we want to do that?

It is hard to explain why we wouldn't want to do that, but yet I understand the Senator from Vermont intends to object to the Senate doing this. I think it is wrong. I think it is dead wrong.

To think that someone is willing to hold hostage a child who is fighting for their life, who simply wants to have an opportunity to try an experimental drug that may extend their life 1 week, 1 day, or may even cure it, and you are willing to take that away from the family because you have other priorities, because you want to hold it hostage so you can try to do something with community healthcare centers?

I support community healthcare centers. I want them. They are important to rural Oklahoma. But there is a time and place for everything, and to hold this bill hostage because of it is not right. You are stealing from a family an opportunity to spend maybe an extra minute or an extra day or maybe a lifetime with a loved one.

I don't know how you argue this. I don't know how you can possibly stand up here with a straight face and say that it is OK; it is just politics. This isn't just politics. We are playing with people's lives. This isn't politics. This is more than just politics.

But I will tell you, if this is objected to and we can't find a path forward here today, I can promise you I will not stop fighting on this. It won't happen. We are going to rinse and repeat and continue to go down this path until we give the families with these rare diseases an opportunity to live because that is what this is about.

I recognize my friend from New Hampshire who may have some comments about this too.

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I thank Senator MULLIN for yielding.

I support the motion to send this bipartisan package that you are speaking about to the President.

Obviously, the provisions that Senator MULLIN, my friend from Oklahoma, is discussing are incredibly important. There are other provisions in this bill, too, that have bipartisan support.

This bill would cut costs for prescription drugs through a bipartisan provision that I worked on with Senator PAUL to speed up getting generic drugs to market.

Now, I understand Senator SANDERS' perspective about wanting to attach to this package increased funding for our country's community health centers. They are incredibly important, life-saving resources to millions of Americans. So as we are talking about saving lives here, we have to recognize the role that community health centers play in that.

They provide vital services in our communities, and I fully support passing this funding increase for them through the House and the Senate as soon as possible. But as I understand it, the House will not act to do so at this time.

So as disappointed as I am that the House isn't ready to support increased funding for community health centers, I also believe that it is important to take action on this package now to help address pediatric cancer and lower prescription drug costs, so I am disappointed that this bill will not move forward today.

Having said that, I hope we can come together and find a way to continue to work with my colleagues on a bipartisan basis to get this package over the finish line next month.

Thank you for yielding.

I yield the floor.

Mr. MULLIN. I yield to the chairman from Louisiana, Mr. CASSIDY.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I rise to support Senator MULLIN's legislation, the Mikaela Naylor Give Kids a Chance Act.

Mr. President, I am a doctor, and people become desperate because of their illness, and they want just one more chance for themselves, their child, whomever.

The folks who are most desperate are the parents for their child, and we all know that, because if someone dies when they are 70, it can be tragic, but they have lived 70 good years, and when someone dies when she is 6, she is denied 76 more years. It is the desperation of these families that kind of cries out for this piece of legislation. They want this passed.

The goal of this legislation is to get cures for pediatric cancer to the patient more quickly.

Now, we have been working on this for several years—Democrats and Re-

publicans—trying to make it so that those families, their desperate pleas are actually heard. And just as the Senator from Oklahoma noted, the legislation was recently renamed to the honorable legacy of Mikaela Naylor, who spent her final days advocating for better pediatric drug research.

The irony here is that the objection is going to come out of a genuine concern that people achieve healthcare, a concern I share for increased funding, for funding to be extended for community health centers. I share that concern.

But there is no one way to treat the ills, literally the ills of the United States of America. And to think that we can do it all at once, it is just not true.

But also to say that you are not going to give a chance for children to have a cure for cancer if you don't get what you want, is just not true. It is selfish. It is tragic. These parents are desperate for this act.

Now, this will expand the research and drug development for these pediatric illnesses, and I commit as chairman of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee that I will work to pass community health center legislation. I will work to have it well funded. I will not let it sit on the back burner never getting done. There is a commitment from the chairman to work with my Democratic colleague to get it passed this year. If that is the only barrier between offering these children hope, I ask that that not be a barrier.

I yield the floor.

Mr. MULLIN. I, too, want to say I support community health centers. As I said, they are very important in rural communities, very important in my hometown of Westville. In fact, it is the only healthcare that is available. I don't want them to be harmed; I want them to be well funded, but that is a separate conversation we can have.

The chairman just said he will work to get it passed next year. Now, there is no reason to hold our kids hostage anymore.

So, as if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 1262, which was received from the House; further, that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. SANDERS. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, let me be very clear: In the midst of a broken and dysfunctional healthcare system, we must do everything that we can to find new cures and treatments for pediatric cancer, and I strongly support that effort, period.

I think we can all imagine the kind of heartbreak that parents go through

when they learn that their babies or their young children have been diagnosed with cancer. And I should say that as the former chair of the HELP Committee, I was actively involved in the bipartisan agreement that we reached over a year ago, which included the Give Kids a Chance Act, bipartisan support, ready to go.

Sadly, that enormously important legislation was torpedoed, as some of you will recall, by a series of tweets by Elon Musk. And Republicans became frightened, and they gave up on that bipartisan legislation.

As the current ranking member of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, I believe that we must revive that bipartisan agreement that was worked on month after month after month by Democrats and Republicans.

Therefore, in a minute, I will be making a unanimous consent request to include this bipartisan healthcare package, again, an agreement that was supported by the leadership of the House and the Senate as an amendment to the Give Kids a Chance Act, and I hope very much that my Republican colleague will support that amendment, and we can go forward together.

And let me very briefly describe what my amendment would do, which I hope my Republican friends will support. And I say this at a time, as all people know, not only that our healthcare system is broken but our primary healthcare system is especially broken. Tens of millions of Americans today cannot get to a doctor when they need to. And there are estimates—you talk about people dying, there are estimates that tens of thousands of people die in the United States of America because they are sick, and they can't afford to get to a doctor when they should. And that is why community health centers are so very important and provide healthcare today, dental care, low-cost prescription drugs, mental health counseling to over 30 million Americans.

All we are doing here is asking my Republican colleagues to support the bipartisan agreement we had last year, which would increase funding for community health centers by \$340 million.

In fact, according to the Commonwealth Fund, health centers today are facing a disastrous situation. In fact, they face losses of nearly \$42 billion in revenue over the next 5 years. So community health centers are a lifeline. They are the way the low-income, working-class people in rural America, urban America, get the healthcare they need, and we are seeing them under enormous financial strain.

Just this past year, we had a health center site in Vermont and I understand two in New Hampshire that were forced to shut down because of lack of funding.

What do you think happens when people can't get to a doctor? You know what happens when they are sick? They die. This is happening all over

America. We all know that primary care is critical for children. In fact, in detecting cancer early, saving lives, how do you think children with cancer, how do we learn about it? They go to a doctor. They don't go to a doctor, we don't find out about it.

Researchers at the Emory University School of Medicine and the University of Chicago found that having access to primary care in childhood has been shown to lower the rate of death in blood cancer by over 10 percent.

It is vital that we begin to increase funding for community health centers. If Republicans agree with it, if Democrats agree with it, let us do it, let us do it right now.

Further, the amendment would extend mandatory funding for the National Health Service Corps for 2026. Guess what. In the richest country in the history of the world, we don't have enough doctors; we don't have enough nurses; we don't have enough dentists.

And what that actual health service corps does is forgive medical debt to those professionals who practice in underserved areas where they are desperately needed. Let's do it.

Further, this amendment would extend mandatory funding for the Teaching Health Center Program through September 29, 2029, on an annualized rate that reaches \$300 million. Teaching health centers are extraordinarily important because they allow medical school graduates to do their residencies in community health centers, not just in large urban hospitals.

Finally, this amendment would provide \$200 million a year for the Special Diabetes Programs, which are so very important. Again, this is not a radical amendment. I am not coming here saying let's do something we have not talked about. I am not talking about passing Medicare For All here. I am talking about doing what the Republicans and Democrats agreed to a year ago but was torpedoed by some tweets from Elon Musk.

Therefore, I ask that the request be modified, that my amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the modification?

Mr. MULLIN. I reserve the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. President, you know everything that the Senator from Vermont has railed about is why I think he supported the Affordable Care Act a.k.a. ObamaCare. I thought it was supposed to fix all this stuff that he wrote about, and we figured out it hasn't. It has wrecked the system. It is unaffordable for the American people. Yet it was the Democrats that sold us or sold the American people on it—not us, not Republicans, sold the American people on it.

It has been disastrous. And so now he wants to hold kids that are dying of rare diseases and pediatric cancer, wants to hold them hostage, to now try to push his agenda further and not go through the committee of jurisdiction but hold the kids hostage—the kids.

Everything the Senator from Vermont just talked about was political. I am talking about lives. I am talking about giving kids a chance to live an extra day or a lifetime. That is what I am talking about.

This has nothing to do with politics. Nothing. Nothing I am talking about has to do with politics. This has to do with kids. Yet the Senator from Vermont wants to make it about politics. You know, this time of the year at Christmas we talk about grinch, all the time, right? They go in, and they steal the kids' gifts. By the end of the show, their hearts grow bigger and they give the gifts back and they allow kids to be excited about Christmas morning.

What has happened right here in front of us, the grinch is stealing kids' lives, and they are stealing hope from the families, hope from the families that might have an opportunity just to try for a political agenda.

And I hope to God that every single family that is going through this will hold the Senator from Vermont accountable, and the State of Vermont will hold him accountable, too, because he is playing with kids' lives. He is literally killing kids in front of us because of his political movement, and it is ridiculous.

Therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard. And I remind Senators that in the course of debate not to disparage other Senators' motives or character.

Mr. MULLIN. Just speaking the truth.

Mr. SANDERS. Well, let's speak the truth.

Mr. MULLIN. I am, sir.

Mr. SANDERS. Don't interrupt me.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the modification? Is there objection to the original request?

Mr. SANDERS. Yes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. SANDERS. The Senator from Oklahoma says that I am talking about politics. Well, if talking about politics means that millions of children have the right to see a doctor, I guess I am talking about politics.

If talking about politics means that kids can get dental care when their teeth are rotting in their mouth or get mental health counseling, I guess I am talking about politics.

So, once again, this important piece of legislation, I support, but I also support passing the bipartisan piece of legislation that was worked on last year.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

VOTE ON WEAVER NOMINATION

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Weaver nomination?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 71, nays 29, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 652 Ex.]

YEAS—71

Banks	Hassan	Murkowski
Barrasso	Hawley	Ossoff
Blackburn	Heinrich	Padilla
Boozman	Hoeben	Paul
Britt	Husted	Reed
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Ricketts
Capito	Johnson	Risch
Cassidy	Justice	Rounds
Collins	Kelly	Schiff
Cornyn	Kennedy	Schmitt
Cotton	Kim	Scott (FL)
Cramer	King	Scott (SC)
Crapo	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cruz	Lankford	Sheehy
Curtis	Lee	Slotkin
Daines	Lummis	Sullivan
Duckworth	Marshall	Thune
Ernst	McConnell	Tillis
Fetterman	McCormick	Tuberville
Fischer	Merkley	Welch
Gallego	Moody	Whitehouse
Graham	Moran	Wicker
Grassley	Moreno	Young
Hagerty	Mullin	

NAYS—29

Alsobrooks	Gillibrand	Sanders
Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Schatz
Bennet	Hirono	Schumer
Blumenthal	Kaine	Smith
Blunt Rochester	Lujan	Van Hollen
Booker	Markey	Warner
Cantwell	Murphy	Warnock
Coons	Murray	Warren
Cortez Masto	Peters	Wyden
Durbin	Rosen	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. JUSTICE). The majority leader.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the nominations en bloc pursuant to S. Res. 532.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The 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, and the provisions of S. Res. 532 (119th Congress), do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Executive Calendar Nos.: 166, 267, 354, 429, 430, 431, 432, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 461, 462, 463, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 486, 488, 489, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 516, 517, 518, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528,

529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, en bloc.

John Thune, Mike Crapo, Jon A. Husted, Lindsey Graham, James E. Risch, Lisa Murkowski, Bill Hagerty, Todd Young, Markwayne Mullin, Mike Rounds, Chuck Grassley, David McCormick, John Boozman, John Barrasso, Bill Cassidy, John Cornyn, Josh Hawley.

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 en bloc nominations, provided under the provisions of S. Res. 532, 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.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 653 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Banks	Graham	Moreno
Barrasso	Grassley	Mullin
Blackburn	Hagerty	Murkowski
Boozman	Hawley	Paul
Britt	Hoeben	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—47

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 47.

The motion is agreed to.

Closure having been invoked pursuant to the provisions of S. Res. 532, the nominations listed therein are pending en bloc.

With respect to the Weaver nomination, under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The Senator from Louisiana.

U.S. SAVINGS BONDS

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I want to talk for a few minutes about money—money, money, money—people's money.

Like the Presiding Officer, I have learned a few things in life. I want to

mention two. No. 1, money does not buy happiness. No. 2, poverty does not buy a damned thing, and that is the theme of my few minutes as I talk today.

This is about people's money, and it has to do with unredeemed, uncashed savings bonds.

Now, the Presiding Officer knows what I mean when I talk about a bond. Usually, when we are talking on the Senate floor, we are talking about Treasury bonds or Treasury bills or Treasury notes. I want to talk about a different kind of bond today. It is the same principle but a different animal. It is called a savings bond.

Savings bonds used to be very, very popular in America, particularly in the last century, particularly during World War II. They are less popular today because there are so many other ways to earn interest on your money, although many people still believe in savings bonds. I do. It is a great way to invest your money.

What am I talking about when I say a savings bond as opposed to a Treasury bond? Well, let's take the example of one particular savings bond. It is called an EE U.S. savings bond.

A savings bond is just a loan to the Federal Government. Suppose I have \$1,000, and I want to loan it to the Federal Government because the Federal Government will pay me interest. I could go to the Federal Government and say: I am going to loan you \$1,000.

The Federal Government would say: Thank you very much. Here is your EE U.S. savings bond.

This is how it would work: The Federal Government would guarantee me that after 20 years, my \$1,000 would double. So I would hand them—"them" meaning the government—\$1,000, and 20 years from now, I would get back \$2,000.

If I didn't really need my money after 20 years, I could let the government keep it—loan it to the government, if you will—for another 10 years, and they would continue paying me interest.

Now, there are two things you need to note about what I just talked about, this EE savings bond.

No. 1, unlike a regular corporate bond, when I loan that \$1,000 to the Federal Government and get back an EE U.S. savings bond, I don't get periodic interest payments. The interest accrues and it compounds. When I give the government \$1,000, I don't get quarterly interest payments, but at the end of the 20 years, I get back \$2,000. Roughly, in today's market, I am making about 2.7 percent a year, but it is very, very safe. If you believe in the sovereignty of the Federal Government—our Federal Government being part of the wealthiest country in all of human history—then it is a pretty safe investment.

The other thing you need to note about the savings bond, in addition to the fact that they don't pay me periodic interest—I get all my interest

when I get my principal back at the end of 20 years—is that at some point, as in the example I just gave, after 30 years, the Federal Government stops paying me interest; interest stops accruing. So if I loan the Federal Government \$1,000, and after 20 years, interest is accrued, if I want to, I can redeem my savings bond, and they will give me \$2,000. Maybe I say “OK, I will re-up another 10 years and continue to earn interest,” but 30 years is the limit. After 30 years, if I don’t redeem my bond, I am loaning money to the Federal Government interest-free, and that would be a dumb thing to do.

But not everybody redeems their bonds. A lot of people don’t—more people than you would imagine. Life comes at us pretty fast. You know, you buy a savings bond or maybe your grandparents or your parents buy you a bond when you are young. You grow up, you get married, you have kids, and you get a job and then you change jobs. You move around the country. A lot of people forget those savings bonds. They still own the savings bonds, but they just forget to redeem them, so the government just has an interest-free loan.

Here is what I am driving at: Right now, over in the U.S. Department of the Treasury, there are 100 million unredeemed savings bonds. It is money that belongs to the American people. It is no longer earning interest. There are 100 million savings bonds. There are only 340 million people in America, so it is a little less than a third of the people in America—although I realize some may be deceased—who have one of these savings bonds, where the Federal Government owes them money, but the money is just sitting there, and the Federal Government is using it, and they are not paying people interest.

The total amount of these unredeemed savings bonds is \$36.27 billion.

And that \$36 billion has been there a long, long time because people have either died or they have forgotten that they have these unredeemed savings bonds.

Now, this is very uncool.

A few years ago, back in 2023, I introduced a bill which actually passed; I got it passed. It said to the Federal Government, specifically, the U.S. Department of the Treasury: You have got to give this money back. You have got the names of people on these bonds. In many cases, you have the addresses. In a lot of cases, you have the serial numbers.

Why are you just sitting on this \$36 billion, these 100 million bonds? Why don’t you contact people and give them their money?

And they said: KENNEDY, you don’t understand. First of all, they said, our records are a mess. Some of these bonds go back—I don’t know—75 years before there were computers. The Treasury Department said to me: The records are not digitized. We would have to comb through boxes and boxes

and boxes to get names and addresses, and it is just—it is just a lot of trouble.

I said: Well, I feel your pain, but you still ought to return the money to people.

So here is what I am going to do: I am going to introduce a bill—and I did, and I passed it—that says the Federal Government has got to return this money to the people to whom it is owed. In that bill, I provided money for the U.S. Department of the Treasury to digitize those records, to go out and hire a consultant to go through all the records and put them in the database so they can be easily searched.

The U.S. Department of the Treasury has done that. I want to thank them. Hasn’t been the easiest thing I have ever done. I worked with Secretary Mnuchin first and then Secretary Yellen and now Secretary Bessent and all of the good women and men who work for them. But we finally have gotten it done.

Here is what we are ready to do. We are ready to turn the names and addresses and serial numbers over to the treasurer of every State—in Louisiana, in West Virginia, and every other State. We are going to give them the names and addresses and serial numbers so they can contact people in their State and say: The Federal Government has your money, and we want to get it back to you.

Why are we doing it that way through the States instead of just telling the U.S. Department of the Treasury to start calling people up? Well, because the States are very experienced.

Every State has what is called an Unclaimed Property Program. What is an Unclaimed Property Program? Well, every State has a law that says if a business—usually, it is a business, not always—but if a business has your money and it can’t find you, that business can’t keep it.

At the end of a certain period of time—usually 3 to 4 years—that business has got to turn that money over to the State—it is called unclaimed property—and the State has got to help give it back to people.

What am I talking about? Let’s say a utility deposit—happens all the time. People move into an apartment. They post a utility deposit with the electricity company. They move. They forget to get their deposit back.

Apartment deposit works the same way. Tax refunds. Stocks. Maybe you own a stock, and it is being held by your brokerage company and you move and you don’t leave a forwarding address or the forwarding address expires. That security company can’t—that brokerage can’t just keep that stock. That brokerage turns that stock over to the State treasurer of every State, and it is their job to return it to people.

Let me tell you something, the States do a marvelous job. You can go to every single State right now—just Google it—and find the State’s unclaimed property program, and you can

go spend a few minutes. You put in your name. You can put in your parent’s name. You can put in your friend’s name. You can put in the name of the town in which you were raised and find people who are owed unclaimed property. The treasurers do a great job of getting it back.

They not only have websites, but they advertise—and toll free numbers. They just do a wonderful job of getting money back to people. When I was State treasurer of Louisiana, I was in charge of Louisiana’s Unclaimed Property Program, and I was there for 17 years. I think I returned \$400, \$500 million to the people of Louisiana. I had a whole unclaimed property section, men and women who would contact people all day long, and we had a very sophisticated database.

So that is why the U.S. Department of the Treasury, under my legislation, is not going to give this money back itself. It is going to return—or give the information to the treasurer of every State, and the treasurer of every State is going to be in charge of contacting people.

We have gone through this. We have been working on it. I passed the bill in 2023, I think, but we worked on it for 2 years prior to that. But we are almost home. What now we have to do is get the State treasurers to sign an agreement with the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

All the State treasurers have to do is sign an agreement with the U.S. Department of the Treasury to cooperate. The Treasury will send them the names, and we can start returning this money to people.

I am going to be sending another letter out in short order to all the State treasurers asking them to go ahead and sign that user agreement with the Treasury Department so we can start getting this money back to people.

It is free money. And remember, there are 100 million bonds, 340 million people in America, \$36 billion that is owed to the American people that the Federal Government has just been sitting on that hasn’t been returned. And now we are going to start doing it, if I can just get our State treasurers to turn in these user agreements. Some of them have but others have not yet. You may not get a check for Christmas, but if you hurry up, you can get a check in January or February so you can pay some bills.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIS DELONY

Mr. President, the second thing I want to talk about, I just want to give an attaboy to a young man—he is not young anymore—that I grew up with. His name is Professor Willis Delony.

I grew up with him in Zachary, LA. Professor Delony is a remarkable talent. God has blessed him with so much talent. He is the Boyd Professor of Piano and Jazz Studies in the School of Music at LSU. He has been there since 2000, 24 years.

Before that, he taught at Southeastern Louisiana University and Delta State University.

Professor Delony has earned worldwide acclaim. He is one of America's leading—if not America's leading—classical jazz crossover artists. Willis has also appeared—in addition to his teaching, Willis has appeared as a soloist, a guest pianist, an arranger, a conductor with orchestras throughout the United States, Canada, China, the former Soviet Union, all over the world, an immensely talented man.

Professor Delony, my friend of many years—as I said, I grew up with him—he was just named to the Steinway and Sons Music Teacher Hall of Fame. That is a big deal. It is a big, big deal, and I wanted to spend a few minutes calling out one of Louisiana's best and brightest: Professor Willis Delony, who grew up in little old Zachary, LA, for his remarkable—remarkable—achievement.

With that, I conclude my remarks, and I hope everyone has a merry Christmas and a happy Hanukkah, and I thank you for your time and attention. My work here is done.

Mr. President, I was going to suggest the absence of a quorum, but I see the Parliamentarian over there wants me to call on my good friend, the Senator from Vermont.

So I yield my time to the esteemed, legendary Senator from Vermont who is what cool looks like, Senator PETER WELCH.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

VENEZUELA

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, I thank my esteemed colleague from Louisiana.

The United States is on the brink of a war, a war of regime change in Venezuela. President Trump has amassed an armada of U.S. warships, fighter planes, and Special Forces off the coast of Venezuela.

Around 15,000 military personnel are in the region, and that includes Special Forces, marines, and specialized units. Reports indicate that 13 warships are operating in the Caribbean right now, and that includes the USS *Gerald Ford* carrier group and several amphibious assault ships. And more than 100 advanced aircraft have been deployed and are being deployed. That includes F-35s from the Vermont Air National Guard.

The President has also deployed combat rescue units, the types of specialists that can rescue pilots who are down in hostile territory. And the President himself has said that the attack could come very soon.

So the question is, Why are our warships, a carrier group, and support assets in the Caribbean? They are not there for drug interdiction. The reason they are there is obvious, and it is even acknowledged.

President Trump wants Maduro gone. He wants regime change. The President has said himself that Maduro's days "are numbered."

His Chief of Staff, Susie Wiles, said that the President "wants to keep on blowing boats up until Maduro cries uncle, and people way smarter than me on that say that he will."

When Secretary Rubio was asked a few weeks ago if the Venezuelan Government should be concerned about the massive military buildup in the Caribbean he said that "they don't have a government. There's an illegitimate regime that's basically a narcotrafficking organization that's empowered itself."

All of us revile Maduro. He is a tyrant. He has tortured and jailed political opponents. His policies have bankrupted his very wealthy country, driving millions of Venezuelans to flee their homes.

Yet we face two questions: First, should the United States go to war for the purpose of changing a regime we despise?

Second, can the President—any President—through his unilateral actions, plunge our country into a war for the purpose of changing regimes and do that without coming to this Congress for approval under the War Powers Act?

We have had experience with wars to change regimes we despise. The Iraq war was sold confidently by its promoters as a simple operation. Our troops would be welcomed as liberators. We remember that, and we know how that ended. True, it only took weeks for America's superior firepower to topple Saddam Hussein's regime.

But that was only the beginning. The war in Iraq unleashed decades of instability, ushering in revolutionary, violent, Islamic insurgencies across the region. And, of course, the war in Afghanistan took only a handful of Special Forces troops and targeted airstrikes to lead to the quick fall of the Taliban regime. But it also dragged our country and many of our allies into our longest war, fighting a 20-year insurgency.

In each case, it was easy to topple the regime, but what followed was tremendously terrible for our soldiers and our taxpayers. Those wars cost the United States and our allies the lives of 10,000 of our brave soldiers. It cost us trillions of dollars, and we are still paying for that.

The Executive has two obligations, and the Congress must demand compliance. First, the administration owes us transparency.

In the buildup of our military presence, the administration has ordered the extrajudicial killings of nearly 100 civilians in international waters. That they were alleged drug dealers or drug couriers does not give the President the authority to direct the military to attack.

The administration has provided absolutely no information to Congress about these attacks, who was killed, or the basis of the attacks; nor has it released the video of the recent attack in which survivors were killed in a second strike; nor has the administration made public the classified legal opinion upon which it relies to justify its actions.

Members of Congress, including me, have had an opportunity to read that opinion, which I found woefully unconvincing. But since it was classified, I can't discuss it. My view, release that opinion to the American people. My view, release that video to the American people.

Second, as the President masses our forces for a war, as he and his associates have explicitly stated, it is one in which their goal would be the elimination of the Maduro regime. The President refuses to come to Congress and seek congressional approval for a military action, as is required under the War Powers Act.

All of us—all of us as elected Members of the U.S. Senate—have vested in us under the Constitution, article I, the responsibility and exclusive authority to declare war. Let us all accept our duty and demand that the Executive be transparent, be accountable, and comply with the provisions of the War Powers Act and come to Congress for our approval of the military action that is clearly underway.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. 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.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, had I been present for the rollcall vote No. 648, on the motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 1071, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026, my vote would have been in the affirmative.

My absence is due to my attendance at the dignified transfer ceremony at Dover Air Force Base to receive the remains of the two Iowa National Guard servicemembers who were killed in Syria this past week. I appreciate the opportunity to record my position.

Had I been present for the rollcall vote No. 651, on the motion to invoke Cloture on the Nomination of Douglas Weaver, of Maryland, to be a member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, my vote would have been in the affirmative.

My absence is due to my attendance at the dignified transfer ceremony at Dover Air Force Base to receive the remains of the two Iowa National Guard servicemembers who were killed in Syria this past week. I appreciate the opportunity to record my position.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT FOR THE INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, this explanation reflects the status of negotiations and disposition of issues

reached between the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence for the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026.

The explanation shall have the same effect with respect to the implementation of this act as if it were a joint explanatory statement of a conference committee.

I ask unanimous consent that the Explanatory Statement for the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026 be printed into the record.

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

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT ON THE INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026

The following is the Explanatory Statement to accompany the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026 ("the Act"), which has been included as Division F of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026. The Explanatory Statement reflects the result of negotiations between the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (together, "the Committees"). The Explanatory Statement shall have the same effect with respect to the implementation of the Act as if it were a joint explanatory statement of a conference committee.

The classified nature of U.S. intelligence activities prevents the Committees from publicly disclosing many details concerning their final decisions regarding funding levels and policy direction. Therefore, the Committees have prepared a classified annex—referred to here and within the annex itself as "the Agreement"—that contains a classified Schedule of Authorizations and describes in detail the scope and intent of the Committees' actions.

The Agreement authorizes the Intelligence Community to obligate and expend funds as requested in the President's budget and as modified by the classified Schedule of Authorizations, subject to applicable reprogramming procedures.

The classified Schedule of Authorizations is incorporated into the Act pursuant to Section 6102 of the Act. It has the status of law. The Agreement supplements and adds detail to clarify the authorization levels found in the Act and in the classified Schedule of Authorizations.

This Explanatory Statement incorporates by reference, and the Executive Branch shall comply with, all direction contained in the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Report to accompany the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026 (S. Rept. 119-51) and in the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence Report to accompany the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026 (H. Rept. 119-389). The Agreement supersedes all classified direction in the classified annexes to accompany S. Rept. 119-51 and H. Rept. 119-389 related to programs and activities authorized by the Schedule of Authorizations.

The Executive Branch is further directed as follows:

COUNTERINTELLIGENCE SUPPORT FOR DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY NETWORKS AND SYSTEMS

The Committees direct that the head of the Office of Counterintelligence of the Department of Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of the Treasury shall implement policies and procedures that ensure counterintelligence support to all entities of the De-

partment of the Treasury responsible for safeguarding networks and systems and for coordinating between counterintelligence threat mitigation activities and cyber network and system defense efforts. The Committees further direct that, not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of the Act, the head of the Office of Counterintelligence shall submit a report to the Committees on the status of the implementation of such policies.

REPORT ON DIRECTOR'S INITIATIVES GROUP

The Committees direct that, not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of the Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall provide to the Committees a briefing on personnel matters of the Director's Initiatives Group, which shall include: (1) a list of personnel of such group from the date of the creation of the group; and (2) funding sources for personnel of such group.

REPORT ON SECURE MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS USED TO TRANSMIT CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

The Committees direct that, not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the Act, each Intelligence Community program head shall submit to the Committees a report on the secure mobile communications systems used for transmission of classified information (excluding systems used for purposes of clandestine or covert communications) and available to employees and officers of the Intelligence Community. The report should include the following information: (1) the name, description, and date of purchase or development of each system; (2) the number of employees using each system; (3) the cost of development and operations of each system; (4) a list of the capabilities and the level of classification of each system; (5) identification of any existing service agreements with other elements of the Intelligence Community for use of a system; and (6) identification, description, and deployment timeline of any secure mobile communications systems that are in development. For purposes of this report, the term "mobile communications systems" means any portable wireless telecommunications equipment utilized for the transmission or reception of classified information.

UKRAINE LESSONS LEARNED WORKING GROUP

Section 6413 of the Fiscal Year 2025 Intelligence Authorization Act (P.L. 118-159) required the Director of National Intelligence and the Secretary of Defense to jointly establish a working group to identify and share lessons learned from the Ukraine conflict in order to strengthen United States national security. Despite the critical importance of this mandate, the Committees note with concern that the working group has not been established and that the Intelligence Community has been unresponsive to repeated congressional inquiries on this matter.

The Committees recognize that various efforts are underway across the Executive Branch that may support the objectives envisioned for the working group. However, the Committees underscore the importance of adhering to statutory requirements and ensuring that lessons from Russia's invasion of Ukraine are systematically identified, coordinated, and applied.

Accordingly, the Committees direct the Director of National Intelligence and the Secretary of Defense to stand up the Ukraine Lessons Learned Working Group, in compliance with the law, not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of the Act, and to provide a joint briefing to the Committees on the status, scope, and initial findings of the working group not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of the Act.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT

The Committees continue to be concerned with the management of the Department of State's information technology networks and believe the existing management structure for the networks may no longer meet the requirements to support a global diplomatic presence. The Committees therefore direct the Assistant Secretary of State for Intelligence and Research, in coordination with any other bureau or office the Assistant Secretary determines appropriate, to explore optimized reorganization of management of the entirety of the Department's information technology networks and to provide a briefing to the Committees, not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Act, on potential concepts of realignment.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE DEVELOPMENT AND USAGE BY INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY

Section 6602 of the Act requires the Chief Information Officer of the Intelligence Community to identify commonly used artificial intelligence systems or functions that have the greatest potential for re-use without significant modification by Intelligence Community elements. The Committees direct that, in identifying such systems, the Chief Information Officer of the Intelligence Community shall, in addition to coordinating with the Chief Artificial Intelligence Officer of the Intelligence Community, coordinate with such officials of the Department of Defense, as identified by the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security, for any systems used by an Intelligence Community element of the Department of Defense.

Section 6602 also requires the head of each Intelligence Community element to track and evaluate the performance of procured and element-developed artificial intelligence. The Committees are of the view that tracking and evaluating should at a minimum include—

1. Documenting, to the extent information is readily available, the provenance of data used to train, fine-tune, or operate the artificial intelligence system, such as included in industry-standard Model Cards to the extent practicable.

2. Conducting ongoing testing and evaluation on artificial intelligence system performance, the effectiveness of vendor artificial intelligence offerings, and associated risk management measures, including by testing in real-world conditions.

3. The stipulation of conditions for retraining or decommissioning artificial intelligence capabilities.

4. Requiring sufficient post-award monitoring and evaluation for effectiveness of the artificial intelligence system in achieving documented mission outcomes, where appropriate in the context of the product or service acquired.

STUDY ON THREATS POSED BY UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS AT OR NEAR THE LAND AND MARITIME BORDERS OF THE UNITED STATES

The Committees are concerned that hundreds of encounters with unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) are annually recorded at or near the land and maritime borders of the United States, which present a vulnerability in national security. With the proliferation of affordable drones, a wide range of groups, including malign actors, have sought to make use of this capability. It is critical that the U.S. Government has full situational awareness of the threats these systems pose to U.S. military personnel, other Federal personnel, and civilians.

The Committees therefore direct that, not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Act, the Director of National Intelligence, in coordination with the Undersecretary for Intelligence and Analysis of the

Department of Homeland Security and the heads of any other elements of the Intelligence Community the Director considers appropriate, shall submit to the Committees a study on the threat posed by UAS at or near the land and maritime borders of the United States.

The study shall include the following:

1. An identification of the malign actors operating UAS at or near the borders, including malign actors who cross such borders.

2. The information collected by operators of UAS at or near the borders, and a description of how such data is used by malign actors.

3. The tactics, techniques, and procedures used by malign actors operating UAS at or near the borders, including how such actors acquire, modify, and utilize UAS to conduct malicious activities, including attacks, surveillance, conveyance of contraband, and other forms of threats.

4. A description of how a threat is identified and assessed at or near the borders, including a description of the capabilities of the United States Government to detect and identify UAS operated by, or on behalf of, malign actors.

5. The adequacy of United States technology used to detect, identify, track, monitor, and mitigate threats posed by UAS operated by malign actors at or near the borders.

6. The guidance, policies, and procedures that address the privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties of persons who lawfully operate UAS at or near the borders.

7. Current authorities of the United States Government to counter the use of UAS by malign actors at or near the borders, including an accounting of the delineated responsibilities of Federal agencies to counter, contain, trace, or defeat unmanned aircraft systems at or near the borders.

COUNTERINTELLIGENCE THREATS TO UNITED STATES CIVIL AND COMMERCIAL SPACE INTERESTS

The Committees are concerned with counterintelligence threats to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and commercial spaceports. Therefore, the Committees direct that, not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the Act, the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), shall submit to the Committees an assessment of the counterintelligence vulnerabilities of NASA, if any.

The assessment shall include the following:

1. An assessment of the vulnerability of the security practices and facilities of NASA to efforts by nation-state and non-nation-state actors to acquire United States space technology.

2. An assessment of the counterintelligence threat posed to NASA centers by nationals of the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China.

3. Recommendations for how NASA can mitigate any counterintelligence gaps identified under paragraphs (1) and (2).

4. A description of efforts by NASA to respond to the efforts of nation-state and non-nation-state actors to illicitly acquire United States satellites and related items as described in reports submitted by the Director of National Intelligence pursuant to section 1261(e) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (P.L. 112-239), along with an evaluation of the effectiveness of these efforts.

Further, the Committees direct that, not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of the Act, the head of the Counterintelligence Division of the FBI, in coordina-

tion with the head of the Office of Private Sector of the FBI, and in coordination with the Office of Commercial Space Transportation within the Department of Transportation, shall develop an assessment of the counterintelligence risks, if any, to commercial spaceports and distribute the assessment to each FBI field office in an area of responsibility which includes a federally-licensed commercial spaceport and the leadership of each federally-licensed commercial spaceport, in coordination with the Office of Commercial Space Transportation.

PROTECTION OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION RELATED TO BUDGET FUNCTIONS

The Committees remain concerned with protecting classified information used in the Intelligence Community's budget-related activities. Therefore, the Committees direct that, not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Act, the Director of National Intelligence, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, shall submit to the Committees a study, with a classified annex, outlining the feasibility of and cost associated with the department or agency of (1) the Secretary of Treasury; (2) the Director of the Office of Management and Budget; (3) each head of an element of the Intelligence Community; or (4) any other head of a department or agency of the Federal Government carrying out a function specified below, using secure systems that meet the requirements to protect classified information, including with respect to the location at which the system is located or accessed, to carry out any of the following activities:

1. Formulating, developing, and submitting the budget of the department or agency (including the budget justification materials submitted to Congress) under the National Intelligence Program;

2. Apportioning, allotting, and issuing warrants for the disbursement of, and obligating and expending funds under the National Intelligence Program; and

3. Carrying out Federal financial management service functions or related activities of the Intelligence Community.

EVALUATION OF TRAINING DATA PERTAINING TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SYSTEMS

It is the sense of the Committees that the Intelligence Community should seek to evaluate training data, methods of labeling data, and model weights pertaining to artificial intelligence systems being considered for use, procurement, or adoption by an element of the Intelligence Community to enable such element to make informed decisions regarding the fitness and reliability of the system and that each element of the Intelligence Community should, to the greatest extent practicable, avoid use of any publicly available artificial intelligence model found to contain information on United States persons that has been obtained unlawfully by the vendor of the model.

ANNUAL SURVEY OF ANALYTIC OBJECTIVITY AMONG OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF ELEMENTS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY

Section 6305 requires the head of certain elements of the Intelligence Community to conduct a survey of analytic objectivity among officers and employees of such element who are involved in the production of intelligence products. The Committees direct the head of each element to submit to the Committees a report on the findings of the most recently completed survey.

PLAN TO ENHANCE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY COUNTERNARCOTICS COLLABORATION WITH MEXICO

Section 6717 requires each element of the Intelligence Community, not later than 60

days after the date of enactment of the Act, to submit to the Director of National Intelligence a report on that element's relationship with the Government of Mexico, if any, as it relates to counternarcotics collaboration, coordination, and cooperation, including a strategy to enhance such cooperation and recommendations regarding the resources required to effectively implement that strategy. The Committees direct each element head to simultaneously submit to the Committees the same report submitted to the Director, along with any recommendations or requests for changes in authorities or resources to effectuate the element's strategy.

EFFORTS BY DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF INTELLIGENCE AND COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AT DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY TO MITIGATE COUNTERINTELLIGENCE RISKS

The Committees are concerned by the counterintelligence risks posed by Department of Energy employees' travel to certain countries. Therefore, the Committees direct the Director of the Office of Intelligence and Counterintelligence at the Department of Energy to develop and implement mechanisms for all personnel of the Department to (1) report to the Office any personal or official travel to a "country of risk," as defined by section 6432 of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 (P.L. 118-159), or to any other country the Director considers appropriate prior to beginning such travel; (2) at the request of personnel of the Office, receive briefings with respect to travel to such country prior to beginning such travel; and (3) at the request of personnel of the Office, participate in debriefings after travel to such country.

NOTIFICATION OF MATERIAL CHANGES TO POLICIES OR PROCEDURES GOVERNING TERRORIST WATCHLIST AND TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME WATCHLIST

Section 6522 requires the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to submit to the appropriate congressional committees notice of any material change to a policy or procedure relating to the terrorist watchlist or the transnational organized crime watchlist within 30 days of the date on which the material change takes effect. This section separately requires the Director, within 30 days of a request by an appropriate congressional committee, to submit to that committee all watchlisting guidance in effect as of the date of the request that applies to or governs the use of the terrorist watchlist or the transnational organized crime watchlist. The Committees emphasize that the term "material change to a policy or procedure relating to the terrorist watchlist or the transnational organized crime watchlist" includes any change to the watchlisting guidance itself.

NATIONAL SECURITY HARM PREVENTED BY PREPUBLICATION REVIEW

The Committees direct the Director of National Intelligence, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, and the Assistant Secretary of State for Intelligence and Research to each submit to the Committees, not later than April 30, 2026, a report that describes the five items most harmful to United States national security identified within the last five years by such element during prepublication review, as determined by the head of such element or their designee.

REFORMS TO INACTIVE SECURITY CLEARANCES

Section 6310 of the Act directs the Director of National Intelligence to review and evaluate whether former Intelligence Community personnel who departed federal service within the past five years and previously held a

security clearance could retain access to classified information if they continue to meet applicable standards. The section also requires the Director to assess the feasibility and advisability of applying continuous vetting to inactive clearances and to report the findings to the appropriate congressional committees within 120 days of the date of enactment of the Act. Section 1626 of the Fiscal Year 2026 National Defense Authorization Act contains a similar requirement for the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security, in coordination with the Director of National Intelligence, to review the feasibility and advisability of extending the period during which former Department of Defense personnel may maintain an inactive security clearance. The Committees strongly support these complementary efforts and direct the Director of National Intelligence and the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security to closely coordinate their reviews to ensure consistency, share findings as appropriate, and avoid duplication.

U.S. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE OPINION LETTER

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the GAO opinion letter dated December 16, 2025.

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

DECISION

Matter of: U.S. Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration—Applicability of the Congressional Review Act to Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program Restructuring Policy Notice

File: B-337604

Date: December 16, 2025

DIGEST

On June 6, 2025, the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration published a notice entitled, Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program: BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice (Policy Notice). The Policy Notice modifies and replaces certain requirements outlined in the May 12, 2022, Notice of Funding Opportunity for the BEAD Program—a grant program to provide high-speed broadband access throughout the United States and several territories.

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

DECISION

On June 6, 2025, the U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce), National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) published a notice entitled, Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program: BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice (Policy Notice). The Policy Notice modifies and replaces certain requirements outlined in the May 12, 2022, Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the BEAD Pro-

gram—a grant program to provide high-speed broadband access throughout the United States and several territories. We received a request for a decision as to whether the Policy Notice is a rule for purposes of the Congressional Review Act (CRA). As discussed below, we conclude that the Policy Notice is a rule subject to CRA’s submission requirements.

Our practice when rendering decisions is to contact the relevant agencies to obtain factual information and their legal views on the subject of the request. Accordingly, we reached out to Commerce on June 30, 2025. Although Commerce did not provide a substantive response with its legal views, we determined we have sufficient information to issue a decision on this matter.

BACKGROUND

Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program

The Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act (IIJA) established the BEAD Program, and appropriated \$42.45 billion for it. The BEAD Program is a grant program administered by NTIA that funds high-speed broadband access initiatives, with particular focus on unserved and underserved locations. Funds for the BEAD Program are allocated by formulas in IIJA to Eligible Entities, which include all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands. In advance of funds being distributed to Eligible Entities, the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information (Assistant Secretary) must approve each Eligible Entity’s letter of intent, initial proposal, or final proposal.

IIJA required the Assistant Secretary to issue a NOFO for the BEAD Program within 180 days of IIJA’s enactment. NTIA published the BEAD NOFO on May 12, 2022. The BEAD NOFO explains the BEAD Program structure; provides information on amounts made available to Eligible Entities under the program; describes the grant application and review process; and outlines the eligibility requirements for the program. The BEAD NOFO also imposes several obligations on Eligible Entities and subgrantees, such as coordinating with political subdivisions and Tribal governments; targeting engagement efforts at underrepresented communities; giving priority to projects based in part on a demonstrated record of and plans to be in compliance with federal labor and employment laws; and demonstrating that the Eligible Entities have sufficiently accounted for current and future weather- and climate-related risks to new infrastructure projects. Finally, the BEAD NOFO clarifies some technical aspects of the BEAD Program. For example, IIJA instructs that when awarding subgrants using BEAD Program funds, Eligible Entities shall prioritize funding for deployment of infrastructure for “priority broadband projects,” which the BEAD NOFO subsequently defines as “those that use end-to-end fiber-optic architecture,” rather than other technologies.

BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice

On June 6, 2025, NTIA published a Policy Notice that “modifies and replaces certain requirements outlined in the BEAD [NOFO].” The Policy Notice states that it “eliminates burdensome and non-statutory requirements contained in the NOFO published on May 12, 2022” and prohibits Eligible Entities “from imposing any of the obligations removed by this Policy Notice on subgrantees as part of the BEAD Program.” According to the Policy Notice, “Each Eligible Entity must comply with this Policy Notice to gain approval of its Final Proposal from

the Assistant Secretary.” The Policy Notice also rescinded two previously issued Policy Notices for the BEAD Program.

The Policy Notice removed several requirements imposed on Eligible Entities and subgrantees in the BEAD NOFO, such as requirements related to labor, employment, and workforce development; climate change; open access and net neutrality; local coordination and stakeholder engagement; and low-cost service options. The Policy Notice also amended some of the technological requirements of the BEAD Program. For example, the Policy Notice “eliminates the ‘Fiber Preference’ section of the BEAD NOFO and permits Eligible Entities to select from all qualifying technologies,” rather than limiting priority broadband projects to those using end-to-end fiber.

Furthermore, the Policy Notice requires Eligible Entities to conduct an additional subgrantee selection round, which requires Eligible Entities to rescind all provisional subaward selections. The Policy Notice also revises the scoring rubric that Eligible Entities are to use to evaluate subgrantee applications, placing particular emphasis “on minimizing the cost of deployment under the BEAD Program.” Finally, the Policy Notice identifies other changes to the administration of the BEAD Program, including changes related to optimizing program locations, funding for allowable non-deployment purposes, and expedited permitting under the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321–4347.

The Congressional Review Act

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

CRA adopts the definition of rule under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), 5 U.S.C. § 551(4), which states that a rule is “the whole or a part of an agency statement of general or particular applicability and future effect designed to implement, interpret, or prescribe law or policy or describing the organization, procedure, or practice requirements of an agency.” However, CRA excludes three categories of rules from coverage: (1) rules of particular applicability; (2) rules relating to agency management or personnel; and (3) rules of agency organization, procedure, or practice that do not substantially affect the rights or obligations of non-agency parties.

NTIA did not submit a CRA report to Congress or the Comptroller General on the BEAD Policy Notice.

DISCUSSION

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

The Policy Notice is a Rule Under APA

Applying APA’s definition of “rule,” the Policy Notice meets all of the required elements. First, the Policy Notice is an agency statement because it was issued by NTIA, a federal agency.

Second, the Policy Notice is of future effect. An agency action of future effect is one “concerned with policy considerations for the future rather than the evaluation of past or present conduct.” The Policy Notice concerns the administration of the BEAD Program going forward and outlines changes that Eligible Entities and subgrantees will be required to make to their applications for the program. Therefore, the Policy Notice has future effect.

Third, the Policy Notice implements, interprets, and prescribes law or policy. An agency action implements, interprets, or prescribes law or policy when the action creates new regulations, changes regulatory requirements or official policy, or when it alters how the agency will exercise its discretion, among other things. The Policy Notice here implements the requirements of the BEAD Program outlined in IIJA by describing how NTIA will administer the program going forward and outlining the criteria Eligible Entities and subgrantees seeking funding under the program must meet. Furthermore, the Policy Notice prescribes policy by imposing new requirements on Eligible Entities. For example, it states that Eligible Entities “shall eliminate the following non-statutory requirements from BEAD application scoring, subgrantee agreements, and subgrantee reporting requirements[.]” and that “Eligible Entities are hereby prohibited from imposing any of the obligations removed by this Policy Notice on subgrantees as part of the BEAD Program.” In addition, the Policy Notice alters the requirements for the prioritization of projects under the program by providing a new definition of a “priority broadband project” to include technologies other than end-to-end fiber, which similarly implements and prescribes law or policy.

Our conclusion here is consistent with our previous decisions finding that agency actions implement, interpret, or prescribe law or policy when they define procedures by which potential recipients may apply for grant programs, and describe the process by which the agency will evaluate those applications. For example, in B-335488, Oct. 18, 2023, we considered whether a U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) NOFO, which “outlined the precise eligibility and selection criteria for each program, as well as the types of projects eligible to receive DOT funding under each one” and changed the criteria used to evaluate applicants and make award decisions from a previous NOFO—including how certain criteria were rated—was a rule subject to CRA. We concluded that the DOT NOFO for three IIJA grant programs implemented or prescribed law or policy and described agency procedures, as it described the process by which eligible entities may apply for three grant programs and defined how DOT would evaluate these applications, among other things. Similarly here, the Policy Notice alters the criteria used to evaluate applications under the program and changes program requirements, as established by the BEAD NOFO. As a result, the Policy Notice also satisfies this element of the APA definition.

CRA Exceptions

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

(1) Rule of Particular Applicability

The Policy Notice is a rule of general applicability, rather than particular applica-

bility. Rules of particular applicability are rules addressed to specific, identified persons or entities and determine actions that person or entity may or may not take, considering facts and circumstances specific to those persons or entities. Here, the Policy Notice does not apply to a particular entity. Instead, the Policy Notice applies to all Eligible Entities under the BEAD Program—all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and several territories—and notes that “[e]ach Eligible Entity must comply with this Policy Notice to gain approval of its Final Proposal from the Assistant Secretary.” Therefore, the Policy Notice is a rule of general applicability, rather than particular applicability.

(2) Rule of Agency Management or Personnel

The Policy Notice is not a rule of agency management or personnel. We have previously held that rules that fall into this category relate to purely internal matters. Because the Policy Notice is concerned with the administration of the BEAD Program, rather than management of NTIA or its personnel, it does not meet the second exception.

(3) Rule of Agency Organization, Procedure, or Practice with No Substantial Effect on Non-Agency Parties

Lastly, the Policy Notice is not a rule of agency organization, procedure, or practice that does not substantially affect the rights or obligations of non-agency parties. We have previously explained that this exception was modeled on the APA exception to notice-and-comment rulemaking requirements for “rules of agency organization, procedure, or practice.” The purpose of the APA exception is to ensure “that agencies retain latitude in organizing their internal operations,” so long as such rules do not have a substantial impact on non-agency parties. Following this interpretation in the CRA context, we have only applied CRA’s third exception to rules that primarily focus on the internal operations of an agency. For instance, in B-329926, Sept. 10, 2018, we found that updates to a Social Security Administration (SSA) hearings manual governing SSA adjudicators’ use of information from the internet qualified as a rule of agency organization, procedure, or practice. There, the manual outlined procedures for SSA employees to follow in processing and adjudicating benefits claims. Because the manual was directed to and binding only on SSA officials without imposing new burdens on claimants, we concluded that the manual met the third exception.

However, rules that are directed at and primarily concerned with the behavior of non-agency parties are not rules of agency organization, procedure, or practice. Here, the Policy Statement is primarily concerned with the behavior of Eligible Entities and subgrantees, rather than with the internal operations of NTIA itself. The Policy Notice prescribes actions program participants should and should not take in carrying out the BEAD Program. Therefore, it is not a rule of agency organization, procedure, or practice.

Moreover, the Policy Notice cannot fall under this exception because it also substantially affects the rights or obligations of non-agency parties. In the federal funding context, we have previously determined that rules amending or clarifying the requirements of existing financial assistance programs for non-agency parties substantially affect those parties’ rights or obligations. Where a rule modifies an existing financial assistance program through actions such as defining eligibility requirements and selection criteria, it has a substantial effect on non-agency parties who participate in the

program. Here, the Policy Notice modifies and clarifies how NTIA will administer the BEAD Program. Among other things, the Policy Notice eliminates certain requirements previously imposed on Eligible Entities and subgrantees through the BEAD NOFO; alters the criteria by which NTIA will evaluate applications; requires Eligible Entities to conduct an additional round of subgrantee selection after rescinding all preliminary and provisional subaward selections; and modifies the agency’s interpretation of statutory terms, such as “priority broadband project.” By changing the manner in which the BEAD Program is administered, these actions substantially affect the rights or obligations of non-agency parties participating in the BEAD Program. Therefore, the Policy Notice cannot fall into CRA’s third exception.

CONCLUSION

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

EDDA EMMANUELLI PEREZ,
General Counsel.

H.R. 5100

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I was prepared to come to the floor today to seek unanimous consent to pass H.R. 5100, a bill to temporarily extend the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Programs until September 30, 2026.

However, because Senator ERNST is unavailable to state her objection to the bill, I have decided not to call for unanimous consent at this time.

I want to express my condolences to Senator ERNST, a combat veteran who served in the Iowa National Guard, for the tragedy in Syria that killed two and injured three Iowa National Guard members.

The bill I would have brought to the floor today would have re-opened the SBIR and STTR programs, which have been shut down now for more than 70 days. The bill was unanimously passed by the House, led by the Republican chairs of the House Small Business Committee and House Science Committee.

Since the SBIR and STTR programs closed their doors, I have heard from hundreds of small businesses across the country that are being forced to lay off employees, cease critical research, and may soon have to close their doors for good. Passing H.R. 5100 is not just a matter of policy; it is about whether small innovative companies can survive. This is the only real path that will immediately reopen this program while we continue to negotiate. Each day the program is shut down, the further behind our innovation economy falls.

The fate of this program lies in the hands of six negotiators: the chair and ranking member of the Senate Small Business Committee, the chair and ranking member of the House Small Business Committee, and the chair and ranking member of the House Science

Committee. Five of these six negotiators agree that the best path forward is to temporarily extend the SBIR and STTR programs, to keep them running while we continue to negotiate reforms and a longer reauthorization. We have been working to try and find a path forward for a long-term reauthorization and will continue to do so, but we have yet to find a solution that does not irreparably harm innovative small businesses, nor have we found a solution that meaningfully addresses foreign due diligence concerns. The SBIR and STTR programs have produced technologies that have changed Americans' lives: the world's smallest heart pump, new cancer therapies, Alzheimer Disease treatments, GPS, and Qualcomm wireless communications systems.

I am disappointed that these programs have been forced to shut down, ending funding for the most cutting-edge technologies being developed by our most nimble allies, small businesses. I am disappointed that a company in Pennsylvania may have to cease scaling their patented brake technology due to the lapse in the programs. I am disappointed that a company in Virginia producing the next generation of energy technologies is being forced to put their research on hold until these programs are reopened. And I am disappointed that a company in Texas must put its progress towards unlocking unprecedented spacecraft maneuvering for our Agencies on hold.

Just because we are unable to come to a long-term solution today does not mean we should decimate a critical part of our innovation ecosystem by keeping these programs closed. In May, I introduced a 52-page bill with my long-term vision for the programs. I want to provide small businesses with the certainty they deserve by making the programs permanent, ensuring we do not watch the clock hit zero like this again.

I want to increase how much Agencies are required to allocate for these programs to maximize our innovation potential. I want to strengthen our commercialization efforts through allowing direct to phase II authority for all Agencies, as well as better data collection, better training, and specifically designated commercialization officers. I want to increase the number of new entrants by reauthorizing and codifying new programs that aim to reach underserved populations. And, like all of my colleagues, I want to make sure that our technology never falls into the hands of our adversaries.

That is why I want to continue the bipartisan foreign due diligence program enacted in 2022, which has already successfully identified and mitigated foreign risk in its short period of implementation. If it were just up to me, I would want my bill to pass tomorrow. However, I understand that is not possible. That is why I have joined the four House negotiators in sup-

porting a temporary extension while we figure out the long-term path forward that not only preserves our innovation ecosystem but supercharges it.

As a long-time champion of the SBIR and STTR programs, I will continue to fight to protect the innovation ecosystem and the small businesses that support it.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO KEVIN SEMPRINI

• Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am honored to recognize Kevin Semprini of Portsmouth as December's Granite Stater of the Month for his work to bolster public safety in his community.

Growing up in Portsmouth, Kevin looked up to the police officers in his neighborhood, admiring the way they worked to foster a strong community. Kevin knew from an early age that he wanted to be a part of that mission, and when he was old enough, he joined the police force.

Soon after joining the force, Officer Semprini saw that there was a need to improve child safety in New Hampshire and worked with the Portsmouth police chief to create a new school safety program. His work took him to local schools where he helped elementary school students learn about safety. Because students had some trouble pronouncing his last name, they quickly landed on a nickname for him, a new name that reflected the warmth and comfort he conveyed: Officer Friendly. It is a nickname that has stayed with him for the rest of his career.

In the years that followed and as the police department continued to evolve, a new chief of police from California introduced Officer Semprini to the DARE program. Officer Semprini worked with the State to pilot the program, which eventually expanded statewide. Officer Semprini also pioneered the school resource officer program at Portsmouth High School and organized local toy drives for the holidays.

As he retires, Officer Semprini carries with him the thanks of the people of Portsmouth and all Granite Staters for his 46 years of service and his steadfast protection of the children of New Hampshire. Officer Semprini's commitment to improving children's safety is a true example of the Granite State spirit of going the extra mile to protect your community. His lifelong work to support Portsmouth students makes me proud to name him December's Granite Stater of the Month. •

REMEMBERING CAPTAIN WILLIAM "BILL" CROW

• Mr. Kaine. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and my colleague Senator MARK WARNER, I rise today to honor the life and service of Retired U.S. Navy CAPT William "Bill" Crow, a man whose contributions to our Na-

tion's defense and to the shipbuilding industry were matched only by the warmth, generosity, and joy he brought to everyone who knew him.

Bill was born on December 20, 1957, in Morganfield, KY, a place he loved dearly and held closed to his heart despite his wide-ranging travels.

After graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1980, Bill embarked on a distinguished 30-year career as a naval officer, serving in various assignments including as chief engineer on USS *Pharris* (FF-1094), assistant operations officer of Commander Destroyer Squadron Twenty-Six, chief engineer on USS *Briscoe* (DD-977), material officer for Commander Destroyer Squadrons Ten and Two, executive officer of USS *Peterson* (DD-969), commanding officer of USS *Austin* (LPD-4), and training and readiness assistant chief of staff for Commander of Amphibious Group Two. He held shore commands at Naval Station Norfolk, Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, and became the first Commanding Officer of Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story. Throughout his naval career, Bill was a dedicated public servant and a great leader, mentor, and friend.

Following his retirement from the Navy, Bill continued his service as president of the Virginia Ship Repair Association for 13 years. In that role, he represented hundreds of member companies across Hampton Roads, strengthening a vital industry that supports both Virginia's economy and our national security. His leadership left a lasting impact on the ship repair community, congressional leaders, and the defense industrial base.

Bill lived a life of faith and loved his family and friends deeply. He was incredibly proud of his children John, Karen, Sara, and Kevin and shared a beautiful marriage with his beloved wife of 40 years, Jeanne. Bill made friends with everyone he met and shared his joy widely especially with his booming laugh. Bill spent the last nights of his life surrounded by the family who brought him joy through his entire life.

Bill's passing is a loss to all who loved him but also to the Commonwealth of Virginia. His dedication to public service, community involvement and joyful life lived on principle were a blessing.

We remember Bill today not only for his distinguished service to the Navy and the ship repair industry, but for his faith, his family, his friendships, and the joy he brought to all who knew him. We will miss him dearly. •

TRIBUTE TO ADRIENNE A. JONES

• Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Adrienne A. Jones, who concluded her historic tenure as speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates on December 4, 2025.

A native of Baltimore County, Speaker Jones has dedicated her life to

serving both the county and our entire State. Her passion for public service was evident early on. After graduating from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, she performed a variety of public roles and quickly became a well-known, dynamic advocate. Notably, she served as director of the Baltimore County Office of Minority Affairs, opened the Baltimore County Office of Fair Practices and Community Affairs as its inaugural executive director, and founded the Baltimore County African American Cultural Festival.

In 1997, Speaker Jones was appointed to fill a vacancy in the House of Delegates, and she won election to her first full term the following year. She has served on numerous committees, including appropriations, rules, and executive nominations, spending affordability, and ways and means. Never one for ideological grandstanding, Speaker Jones maintained a rapt focus on the issues affecting the day-to-day lives of her constituents. She worked tirelessly to direct State dollars to county and community projects, including much-needed school modernizations.

In 2003, after just 5 years as a delegate, Speaker Jones' colleagues recognized her integrity, leadership ability, and inexhaustible work ethic by electing her speaker pro tempore. She served faithfully in this role for 16 years before becoming acting speaker following the death of her predecessor. On May 1, 2019, after a brief and lively campaign, she shattered barriers and made history by being unanimously elected as the first woman and first African-American speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates.

Speaker Jones' tenure was defined by her courage, vision, and steadfast commitment to those she was elected to serve. During the chaos of the COVID-19 pandemic early in her speakership, she met the moment and ensured Marylanders received the State support they needed to stay safe and informed. Speaker Jones presided over the passage of consequential legislation, including the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, the largest education investment in Maryland's history, steered resources to historically underfunded Black colleges and universities, staunchly pursued commonsense police and education reform, and spearheaded the successful campaign to enshrine a woman's right to choose in the Maryland Constitution.

In recognition of her many achievements, Speaker Jones was named Outstanding Alumna of the Year by her alma mater in 2003, was given the Casper R. Taylor, Jr. Founder's Award—the highest honor the speaker may grant to a sitting member of the House of Delegates—by her predecessor in 2019, and was inducted into the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame in 2024. She has also received honorary doctoral degrees from Goucher College and Morgan State University.

Throughout her time in public service, even in moments of intense per-

sonal tragedy, Speaker Jones has remained unshakably dedicated to improving the lives of all Marylanders. I am very glad that she will continue to serve as a delegate and that our State will retain the benefit of her great wisdom and experience. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Speaker Jones for her many years of transformative service to the State of Maryland, the impact of which will be felt for generations to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 10:03 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 216. An act to amend the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act to improve the administration of the Marine Debris Foundation, to amend the Marine Debris Act to improve the administration of the Marine Debris Program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 222. An act to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to allow schools that participate in the school lunch program to serve whole milk, and for other purposes.

S. 284. An act to reauthorize the Congressional Award Act.

S. 2878. An act to reauthorize funding to monitor, assess, and research the Great Lakes Basin, and for other purposes.

H.R. 165. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to complete all actions necessary for certain land to be held in restricted fee status by the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, and for other purposes.

H.R. 504. An act to amend the Miccosukee Reserved Area Act to authorize the expansion of the Miccosukee Reserved Area and to carry out activities to protect structures within the Osceola Camp from flooding, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1491. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make the postponement of certain deadlines by reason of disasters applicable to the limitation on credit or refund, and to take postponements into account for purposes of sending collection notices.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

At 1:19 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 bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3632. An act to amend the Federal Power Act to adjust the requirements for orders, rules, and regulations relating to furnishing adequate service, to require owners or operators of generating facilities to provide notice of planned retirements of certain electric generating units, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4371. An act to amend the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 and the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enhance efforts to combat the trafficking of children.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 3632. An act to amend the Federal Power Act to adjust the requirements for orders, rules, and regulations relating to furnishing adequate service, to require owners or operators of generating facilities to provide notice of planned retirements of certain electric generating units, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. MCCONNELL, from the Committee on Rules and Administration, without amendment:

S. Res. 526. A resolution withholding the pay of Senators if a Government shutdown occurs.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 3516. A bill to prohibit the circumvention of control measures used by internet retailers to ensure equitable consumer access to products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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

S. 3517. A bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to reform copyright laws relating to visual artists; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. KING):

S. 3518. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to address certain alterations in, and the maintenance and repair of, project works, to provide for the licensing of micro hydrokinetic energy projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MCCORMICK (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. COONS):

S. 3519. A bill to amend the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 to provide for control of remote access to items, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. LUMMIS (for herself, Mr. BARASSO, Mr. CURTIS, and Mr. LEE):

S. 3520. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Agriculture from implementing a Forest Service rule relating to criminal prohibitions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 3521. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to include peer support services at certain facilities under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 3522. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to require that State Medicaid programs provide at least one formulation of each type of medication for the treatment of opioid use disorder without prior authorization or limitations on dosage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 3523. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to create a carbon border adjustment based on carbon intensity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 3524. A bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to modify certain cost-sharing requirements for grant programs under the American Battlefield Protection Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. KING, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. SHEEHY, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 3525. A bill to preserve the franchise business model; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 3526. A bill to provide for the protection of and investment in certain Federal land in the State of California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

S. 3527. A bill to release from wilderness study area designation certain land in the State of Montana, to improve the management of that land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

S. 3528. A bill to amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish research centers of excellence for alternative protein innovation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER (for herself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 3529. A bill to protect clean air and public health by expanding fenceline and ambient air monitoring and access to air quality information for communities affected by air pollution, to require hazardous air pollutant monitoring at the fenceline of facilities whose emissions are linked to local health threats, to ensure the Environmental Protection Agency promulgates rules that require hazardous air pollutant data measurement and electronic submission at fencelines and stacks of industrial source categories, to expand and strengthen the national ambient air quality monitoring network, to deploy air quality systems in communities affected by air pollution, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CRAMER:

S. 3530. A bill to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 to prohibit discrimination based on energy source in the use of certain authorities under title I and title III of such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

S. 3531. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a tax credit for qualified combined heat and power system property, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. KING, Mr. RISCH, Mr. LEE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. JUSTICE, and Mr. SHEEHY):

S. 3532. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to streamline the certification process for State Veterans Homes by allowing certain facilities certified by the Department of Veterans Affairs to be deemed in compliance with specified Medi-

care and Medicaid requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. REED, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 3533. A bill to improve the administration of justice by requiring written explanations by the Supreme Court of its decisions and the disclosure of votes by justices in cases within the appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court that involve preliminary injunctive relief, and other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 3534. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit for increasing wages paid to child care providers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WELCH, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. KIM, and Mr. SCHIFF):

S. 3535. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to require the President to set a minimum annual goal for the number of refugees to be admitted, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 3536. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, with respect to the safety of driving automation systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. HICKENLOOPER):

S. 3537. A bill to provide that an individual who uses marijuana in compliance with State law may not be denied occupancy of federally assisted housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BANKS (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 3538. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to eliminate origination fees on Federal Direct loans; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCHIFF:

S. 3539. A bill to require the release of video of strikes conducted on September 2, 2025, against designated terrorist organizations in the area of responsibility of the United States Southern Command; to the Committee on Armed Services.

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

S. 3540. A bill to ensure that large online platforms are addressing the needs of non-English users; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. PETERS:

S. 3541. A bill to increase competition in Defense contracting, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. KIM):

S. 3542. A bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate the Upper Raritan River Watershed in the State of New Jersey for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. PETERS, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 3543. A bill to amend the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 to modify the description of interest for purposes of certain distributions of antidumping duties and countervailing duties and to authorize a special distribution of those amounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. KIM, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. PADILLA, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 3544. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to require licenses to acquire or receive firearms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 3545. A bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to ban the export of natural gas produced in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. HAWLEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. MOODY, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 3546. A bill to repeal section 230 of the Communications Act of 1934; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. MURRAY, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 3547. A bill to extend protections to part-time workers in the areas of family and medical leave and to ensure equitable treatment in the workplace; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 3548. A bill to amend the Clayton Act to permit a State attorney general to bring a civil action for damages as parens patriae for injuries sustained by reason of price discrimination in violation of the Robinson-Patman Act amendments to the Clayton Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Ms. HANSEN):

S. 3549. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to ensure that pharmacy benefit managers are considered fiduciaries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. REED, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. FETTERMAN):

S. 3550. A bill to permit employees to request changes to their work schedules without fear of retaliation and to ensure that employers consider these requests, and to require employers to provide more predictable and stable schedules for employees in certain occupations with evidence of unpredictable and unstable scheduling practices that negatively affect employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 3551. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act and title

XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to provide for coverage of certain drugs used in the treatment or management of a rare disease or condition, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FISCHER:

S. 3552. A bill to amend the Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Act of 1999 to modify certain agricultural exemptions for hours of service requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. ERNST:

S. 3553. A bill to require the Director of the Office of Personnel Management to establish a searchable, publicly available website that contains information regarding the Federal civilian workforce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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

S. 3554. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to terminate the tax-exempt status of terrorist supporting organizations; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 3555. A bill to protect the national security of the United States by imposing sanctions with respect to certain persons of the People's Republic of China and prohibiting and requiring notifications with respect to certain investments by United States persons in countries of concern; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. ALSOBROOKS (for herself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. CURTIS):

S. 3556. A bill to reauthorize and improve the wildlife crossings program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 3557. A bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds to implement the Executive order entitled "Ensuring a National Policy Framework for Artificial Intelligence"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. GALLEGO:

S.J. Res. 100. A joint resolution to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against vessels operating in the Caribbean Sea or the Eastern Pacific Ocean that have not been authorized by Congress; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. RICKETTS (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. HAGERTY, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. Res. 547. A resolution expressing unwavering support for the United States-Japan alliance in response to political, economic and military pressure by the People's Republic of China; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 548. A resolution denouncing the horrors of authoritarianism; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. Res. 549. A resolution urging the Trump Administration to seize shadow fleet vessels transporting sanctioned oil from the Russian Federation; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. SMITH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

S. Res. 550. A resolution recognizing that climate change is not a hoax, but sound science; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

S. Res. 551. A resolution recognizing that sea levels are rising at accelerated rates due to human-caused climate change; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

S. Res. 552. A resolution recognizing that oceans are warming due to human-caused climate change; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

S. Res. 553. A resolution recognizing that climate change is real; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. SMITH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

S. Res. 554. A resolution recognizing the strong link between climate change and skyrocketing insurance premiums; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. SMITH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

S. Res. 555. A resolution recognizing that climate change poses a threat to the mortgage market and to home values; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

S. Res. 556. A resolution recognizing that Florida's insurance market is gravely stressed by climate risks; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

S. Res. 557. A resolution recognizing that climate change portends a cascade of financial market collapses that would destabilize the national and global economies; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. SMITH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

S. Res. 558. A resolution recognizing that climate change-driven extreme weather events are increasing at the same time that the government is dismantling weather monitoring and alert systems; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. SMITH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

S. Res. 559. A resolution recognizing that climate change is making wildfires more frequent, more intense, and more destructive; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

S. Res. 560. A resolution recognizing that mercury pollution can cause severe health problems, including permanent brain damage, kidney damage, and birth defects; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

S. Res. 561. A resolution recognizing that particulate matter pollution can cause heart attacks, asthma, strokes, and premature death; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

S. Res. 562. A resolution recognizing that ozone pollution can cause lung disease, asthma attacks, cardiovascular problems, and reproductive issues; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

S. Res. 563. A resolution affirming that the Federal Government should support school district investment in clean school buses; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. SMITH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

S. Res. 564. A resolution recognizing the ability of solar, storage, and wind to quickly and cheaply meet United States power demand growth; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

S. Res. 565. A resolution recognizing that facilities that produce renewable electricity are the cheapest power-generating facilities to operate and reliance on fossil fuel-generating facilities to meet growing power demand drives up wholesale electricity prices; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. Res. 566. A resolution recognizing that care provided by employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs is essential for meeting the health care needs of veterans of the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. LEE:

S. Res. 567. A resolution expressing that any attempt by foreign entities to censor or penalize constitutionally protected speech of United States persons shall be opposed; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 371

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 371, a bill to require certain reports on small business disaster assistance to be published on the website of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 421

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 421, a bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to establish country of origin labeling requirements for beef, and for other purposes.

S. 494

At the request of Mr. SCHMITT, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) 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. 592

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 592, a bill to amend the Small Business Act to require that plain writing statements regarding the solicitation of subcontractors be included in certain subcontracting plans, and for other purposes.

S. 623

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 623, a bill to prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from using assessments generated by the Integrated Risk Information System as a tier 1 data source in rulemakings and other regulatory, enforcement, or permitting actions, and for other purposes.

S. 704

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 704, a bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to reauthorize the voluntary public access and habitat incentive program.

S. 745

At the request of Mr. SCHMITT, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 745, a bill to amend the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to require notification with respect to individualized education program teams, and for other purposes.

S. 872

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a co-

sponsor of S. 872, a bill to amend the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 to ensure that other transaction agreements are reported to USAspending.gov, and for other purposes.

S. 921

At the request of Mr. BANKS, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 921, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue guidance on whether hospital emergency departments should implement fentanyl testing as a routine procedure for patients experiencing an overdose, and for other purposes.

S. 970

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 970, a bill to establish a pilot program to improve the family self-sufficiency program, and for other purposes.

S. 1101

At the request of Mr. WELCH, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1101, a bill to authorize the use of Federal Bureau of Investigation criminal history record information for administration of certain licenses.

S. 1145

At the request of Mr. TUBERVILLE, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1145, a bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to include the provision of tree nuts under the seniors farmers' market nutrition program, and for other purposes.

S. 1298

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1298, a bill to authorize the continuation of lawful non-immigrant status for certain religious workers affected by the backlog for religious worker immigrant visas.

S. 1410

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1410, a bill to provide for health coverage with no cost-sharing for additional breast screenings for certain individuals at greater risk for breast cancer.

S. 1538

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1538, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to expand and improve the enforcement capabilities of the Attorney General, and for other purposes.

S. 1572

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1572, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to improve the Federal carjacking statute.

S. 1695

At the request of Mr. MCCORMICK, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr.

WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1695, a bill to require the Secretaries of Housing and Urban Development, Agriculture, and Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on improving collaboration in housing programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1705

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1705, a bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to issue standards with respect to chip security mechanisms for integrated circuit products, and for other purposes.

S. 1716

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1716, a bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to improve health care coverage under vision plans, and for other purposes.

S. 1720

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1720, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to remove the Medicaid coverage exclusion for inmates in custody pending disposition of charges, and for other purposes.

S. 1756

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1756, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to prohibit discrimination against health care entities that do not participate in abortion, and to strengthen implementation and enforcement of Federal conscience laws.

S. 1779

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1779, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to prohibit State standards relating to the control of emissions from existing locomotives and engines used in locomotives, and for other purposes.

S. 1816

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

S. 1847

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1847, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to clarify the treatment of certain association health plans as employers, and for other purposes.

S. 2019

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2019, a bill to establish a Task Force for Recognizing and Averting Payment Scams, and for other purposes.

S. 2120

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) were added as cosponsors of S. 2120, a bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2026 through 2030, and for other purposes.

S. 2315

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2315, a bill to establish grant programs to sustain populations of species of migratory waterfowl through the deployment of tools and practices that complement habitat conservation, and for other purposes.

S. 2355

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2355, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for hospital and insurer price transparency.

S. 2378

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2378, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to establish funds for investments in aviation security checkpoint technology, and for other purposes.

S. 2511

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2511, a bill to establish a postsecondary student data system.

S. 2702

At the request of Mr. BANKS, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2702, a bill to require local educational agencies, State educational agencies, and other governmental education entities to respect the rights of parents regarding gender transition, and for other purposes.

S. 2709

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2709, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend certain telehealth flexibilities under the Medicare program.

S. 2715

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2715, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require hospitals with approved medical residency training programs to submit to the Secretary of Health and Human Services certain information regarding osteopathic and allopathic candidates for such programs.

S. 2746

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Rhode Is-

land (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) 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. 3013

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. HUSTED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3013, a bill to require all testing relating to the issuance or renewal of a commercial driver's license to be conducted only in English, and for other purposes.

S. 3238

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3238, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to prohibit approved medical residency training programs under the Medicare program from requiring opt-out abortion training.

S. 3279

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor 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. 3296

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 3302

At the request of Mr. MULLIN, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. CURTIS), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) were added as cosponsors of 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.

S. 3394

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3394, a bill to direct the United States Sentencing Commission to amend the sentencing guideline relating to child sexual abuse material.

S. 3397

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3397, a bill to make coercion of children to commit harm a

criminal offense, and for other purposes.

S. 3398

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3398, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to criminalize intentional threats to distribute child sexual abuse material, and to provide appropriate penalties for the use of child sexual abuse material to extort or coerce victims.

S. 3466

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3466, a bill to improve health care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 58

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 58, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing the Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

AMENDMENT NO. 3996

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the names of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3996 intended to be proposed to H. R. 4016, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 4007

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4007 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4016, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 4012

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4012 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4016, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 4013

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4013 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4016, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 4014

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of

amendment No. 4014 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4016, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 4015

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4015 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4016, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 4037

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4037 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4016, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 4056

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN), and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4056 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4016, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

S. 3526. A bill to provide for the protection of and investment in certain Federal land in the State of California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise today to reintroduce the Protecting Unique and Beautiful Landscapes by Investing in California, PUBLIC Lands Act. This comprehensive bill would permanently protect over 900,000 acres of public lands and promote restoration on another 871,000 acres throughout northwest California, the central coast, and Los Angeles County. This bill includes protections for nearly 600,000 acres of new and proposed wilderness and nearly 700 miles of new wild and scenic rivers.

This legislation would preserve our public lands for the benefit of current and future generations and help protect California communities from impacts of the climate crisis. The PUBLIC Lands Act is grounded in the best conservation principles: it expands ac-

cess to the outdoors for all, addresses disparities in access to nature, supports locally led efforts, and is based in science.

In northwest California, this bill would designate new wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, special management areas, and forest and watershed restoration areas. Importantly, it would increase wildfire resiliency in northwest California, where the impacts of the climate crisis have resulted in more frequent and severe wildfires.

Along the central coast, the bill would designate nearly 250,000 acres of public land in the Los Padres National Forest and Carrizo Plain National Monument as wilderness and study the feasibility of creating a 400-mile long condor national recreation trail, stretching from Los Angeles to Monterey County. The designations in the bill would protect the abundant biodiversity that make the central coast so special.

In Los Angeles County, this bill would designate nearly 30,000 acres of new wilderness, helping provide permanent protections so that future generations can enjoy the limited wild and untouched spaces in Southern California.

The bill would also provide outdoor recreation opportunities for park-poor communities. This bill enjoys the support of hundreds of local municipalities and elected officials, community groups, businesses, and local outfitters. It is the product of significant public engagement in the legislative process spanning decades.

I want to highlight that this legislation protects existing water rights, property rights, and land-use authorities. The bill also does not create any new public lands, rather, it protects existing public lands through wilderness designations in order to keep these lands as pristine as possible.

The science is increasingly clear that we must conserve 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030 as part of ongoing efforts to solve the climate crisis, protect nature, and save America's wildlife. I am proud that the State of California has made significant strides to achieve this goal, and I am determined to do my part to protect our public lands and waters at the Federal level.

I would like to thank my colleagues and conservation champions, Representatives JARED HUFFMAN, SALUD CARBAJAL, and JUDY CHU, for championing these bills in the House. I also want to thank Senator SCHIFF for cosponsoring this bill and working toward our shared goal of promoting restoration, recreation, and conservation throughout California. I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass the PUBLIC Lands Act as quickly as possible.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. PETERS, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 3543. A bill to amend the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 to modify the description of interest for purposes of certain distributions of antidumping duties and countervailing duties and to authorize a special distribution of those amounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 3543

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 "Trade Cheating Restitution Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF DESCRIPTION OF INTEREST FOR PURPOSES OF CERTAIN DISTRIBUTIONS OF ANTIDUMPING DUTIES AND COUNTERVAILING DUTIES AND SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION OF AMOUNTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 605(c)(1) of the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 (19 U.S.C. 4401(c)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B); and

(2) by striking "October 1, 2014, by U.S. Customs and Border Protection under, or in connection with—" and inserting "October 1, 2000, by U.S. Customs and Border Protection."

(b) FUNDING.—In carrying out the amendments made by subsection (a), the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall use amounts available for such purpose in the "Refund of Moneys Erroneously Received and Covered" account of the Department of the Treasury.

(c) SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION OF AMOUNTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the amendments made by subsection (a), all interest realized under section 605(c)(1) of the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 (19 U.S.C. 4401(c)(1)), as amended by that subsection, for a fiscal year ending before the date of the enactment of this Act shall be subject to a special distribution carried out in accordance with this subsection.

(2) GENERAL NOTICE.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall publish a general notice in the Federal Register announcing the timing of the special distribution required under paragraph (1).

(3) ELIGIBILITY.—Each person seeking a special distribution under paragraph (1) must—

(A) have received at least one distribution under the Continued Dumping and Subsidy Offset Act of 2000 (section 754 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1675c; repealed by subtitle F of title VII of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-171; 120 Stat. 154))) during a prior fiscal year;

(B) timely file a certification for the special distribution, as determined by the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection; and

(C) meet the eligibility criteria contained in the Continued Dumping and Subsidy Offset Act of 2000 at the time of filing that certification.

(4) DISTRIBUTION.—Interest specified under paragraph (1) shall be aggregated by antidumping duty or countervailing duty order or finding and distributed on a pro rata basis to persons eligible under paragraph (3) as follows:

(A) For interest realized on or after October 1, 2010, as soon as possible following the date of the enactment of this Act but not later than the date that is 210 days after such date of enactment.

(B) For interest realized on or after October 1, 2000, and on or before September 30, 2010, as soon as possible following the date of

the enactment of this Act but not later than the date that is 210 days after the distribution under subparagraph (A).

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 547—EXPRESSING UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR THE UNITED STATES-JAPAN ALLIANCE IN RESPONSE TO POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND MILITARY PRESSURE BY THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Mr. RICKETTS (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. HAGERTY, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 547

Whereas, since 1951, the United States-Japan alliance has served as the cornerstone of peace, security, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific;

Whereas, on October 4, 2025, Japan elected its first female prime minister, Sanae Takaichi;

Whereas, on November 2, 2025, the People's Republic of China's Foreign Ministry harshly criticized a meeting between Prime Minister Takaichi and a senior Taiwan official at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting in Gyeongju, South Korea, despite the fact that such meetings regularly occur at APEC, where Taiwan has been an active member since 1991;

Whereas, on November 7, 2025, in response to a question from a member of the Japanese parliament about a hypothetical Chinese blockade of the Taiwan Strait involving United States forces, Prime Minister Takaichi responded that "[i]f battleships are used and a naval blockade involves the use of force, I believe that would, by any measure, constitute a 'survival-threatening situation' for Japan," a legal term under Japanese law allowing Tokyo to exercise its right to collective self-defense with the United States;

Whereas Prime Minister Takaichi further clarified that "the Japanese government would make its judgment by synthesizing all information based on the specific circumstances of the actual situation";

Whereas Prime Minister Takaichi's remarks are in line with previous remarks from senior Japanese leaders, including then-Defense Minister Nobuo Kishi's statement in 2021 that "[t]he peace and stability of Taiwan are directly connected to Japan," and then-Deputy Prime Minister Taro Aso's remarks that "[i]f a major problem took place in Taiwan, it would not be too much to say that it could relate to a survival-threatening situation (for Japan)";

Whereas, on November 7, 2025, the People's Republic of China's Consul General in Osaka criticized Prime Minister Takaichi's remarks to parliament in a post on X, saying, "We have no choice but to cut off that dirty neck that has been lunged at us without hesitation. Are you ready?";

Whereas, since November 7, 2025, the People's Republic of China has effectively suspended or blocked many Japanese cultural performances inside China, including films and concerts, with venues reportedly told that concerts featuring Japanese musicians would be cancelled for the rest of 2025;

Whereas, on November 14, 2025, the People's Republic of China announced travel advisories urging its citizens to avoid travel to or study in Japan, leading airlines to offer refunds to Chinese travelers and cancel flights;

Whereas, on November 16, 2025, Chinese coast guard vessels sailed through waters around the Senkaku Islands, which are administered by Japan, prompting Japan to deploy its own coast guard vessels in response;

Whereas, on November 18, 2025, and December 1, 2025, the People's Republic of China sent letters to the United Nations criticizing Prime Minister Takaichi's remarks;

Whereas, on November 19, 2025, the People's Republic of China announced it would reimpose a 2023 ban on seafood imports from Japan and suspended consultations to resume Japanese beef exports to China;

Whereas, on November 20, 2025, the Department of State Deputy Spokesperson stated, "Our commitment to the U.S.-Japan Alliance and to Japan's defense, including the Japan-administered Senkakus, is unwavering. The U.S.-Japan Alliance remains the cornerstone of peace and security in the Indo-Pacific.... We firmly oppose any unilateral attempts to change the status quo, including through force or coercion, in the Taiwan Strait, East China Sea, or South China Sea.";

Whereas, on December 2, 2025, the Japanese Coast Guard intercepted and drove away two Chinese coast guard vessels that approached a Japanese fishing boat near the Senkaku Islands;

Whereas, on December 6, 2025, People's Liberation Army Navy's Liaoning aircraft carrier conducted exercises near the Japanese island of Okinawa and two Chinese J-15 warplanes locked radar on two Japanese F-15 military aircraft on separate occasions in international waters;

Whereas, on December 9, 2025, two Russian Tu-95 nuclear-capable strategic bombers joined two Chinese H-6 bombers and four J-16 fighters on a joint patrol in international waters between Japan's Okinawa and Miyako Islands;

Whereas, on December 9, 2025, a spokesperson for the Department of State stated, "China's actions are not conducive to regional peace and stability. The U.S.-Japan Alliance is stronger and more united than ever. Our commitment to our ally Japan is unwavering, and we are in close contact on this and other issues";

Whereas, on December 11, 2025, United States strategic bombers joined Japanese fighters in a joint military exercise near Japan's western airspace, with the Japanese Joint Staff saying that the exercises "reaffirmed the strong resolve to prevent unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force and the readiness between the [Self-Defense Force] and the U.S. forces"; and

Whereas, on December 14, 2025, the People's Republic of China imposed sanctions on Shigeru Iwasaki, a former chief of staff of Japan's Self-Defense Forces Joint Staff and adviser to Taiwan's cabinet, for alleged collusion with "Taiwan independence" separatist forces: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the Government of the People's Republic of China's use of economic, military, and diplomatic coercion and aggression against Japan, a United States defense treaty ally;

(2) commends the Government of Japan's opposition to the efforts of the Government of the People's Republic of China to—

(A) undermine regional stability; and

(B) unilaterally change the status quo in the Taiwan Strait by force or coercion;

(3) recognizes Japan's commitments to peace and security and its continuing role as a key ally in maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific;

(4) applauds the Government of Japan's efforts to increase its own defense spending to invest in capabilities to enhance deterrence across the region;

(5) applauds the Government of Japan's efforts to diffuse tensions with the Government of the People's Republic of China despite continuous unilateral provocations;

(6) reaffirms the United States' unwavering commitment to Article V of the United States-Japan Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security, and that the Senkaku Islands fall within Article V's scope; and

(7) stands with the Government of Japan and the Japanese people against the Government of the People's Republic of China's attempts to harass and escalate tensions with Japan.

SENATE RESOLUTION 548—DENOUNCING THE HORRORS OF AUTHORITARIANISM

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

S. RES. 548

Whereas authoritarian ideology necessitates a concentration of power that has, time and time again, collapsed democracies into totalitarian rule, kleptocracies, and brutal dictatorships;

Whereas most modern democracies do not die at the hands of armed militias, but instead at the hands of elected officials who erode the separation of powers to tighten their authoritarian grip;

Whereas researchers find that authoritarianism has repeatedly led to lower health outcomes, decreased life expectancy, higher infant mortality, and harmful economic impacts;

Whereas, in Venezuela, Hugo Chávez and Nicolás Maduro dismantled independent institutions, stripped powers from the elected legislature, repressed opposition parties and civil society, detained political rivals, and presided over a humanitarian and economic collapse under a repressive and authoritarian state;

Whereas, in Turkey, Recep Erdoğan has undermined judicial independence, imprisoned journalists, political opponents, and civil servants on politically motivated charges, closed independent media outlets, and concentrated sweeping authority into the presidency;

Whereas, in Russia, Vladimir Putin eliminated genuine political competition, outlawed major opposition movements, criminalized dissent, oversaw the imprisonment and deaths of prominent political opponents, entrenched a corrupt and repressive authoritarian regime, and launched the illegal, unprovoked invasion of Ukraine in violation of international law;

Whereas researchers find, "Free countries across all measures do better than authoritarian regimes in delivering prosperity for their people.";

Whereas the Constitution of the United States guarantees the separation of powers in the Government and has checks on power that ensure a Government by and for the people rather than authoritarian rule, as such separation of powers is essential;

Whereas the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States guarantees that Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech or of the press;

Whereas kleptocracies are organized and controlled by top political elites, who raid state resources with immunity and impunity;

Whereas Founding Father and President James Madison wrote, "The accumulation of all powers, legislative, executive, and judiciary, in the same hands, whether of one, a few, or many, and whether hereditary, self-

appointed, or elective, may justly be pronounced the very definition of tyranny.”; and

Whereas the United States was founded on the belief in the sanctity of our democracy, undeniable freedoms, independence of each branch of government, and checks and balances on each branch, a belief to which the system of authoritarianism in all of its forms is fundamentally opposed: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate denounces authoritarianism in all its forms and opposes the implementation of authoritarian policies in the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 549—URGING THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION TO SEIZE SHADOW FLEET VESSELS TRANSPORTING SANCTIONED OIL FROM THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 549

Whereas the Russian Federation is the world's third-largest oil producer, and income from the sale of oil has generated revenue to allow the Russian Federation to fund its war in Ukraine;

Whereas, despite Western sanctions, European Union sanctions, and price caps imposed by the G7, seaborne crude and product exports from the Russian Federation have averaged 5,700,000 barrels per day in 2025, a barely marginal decrease from the 5,800,000 barrels per day in 2022 when the Russian Federation began its illegal invasion of Ukraine;

Whereas, on October 22, 2025, the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) of the Department of the Treasury imposed sanctions on the Russian Federation's two largest oil companies, Open Joint Stock Company Rosneft Oil Company (Rosneft) and Public Joint-Stock Company Oil Company Lukoil (Lukoil), “as a result of Russia's lack of serious commitment to a peace process to end the war in Ukraine”;

Whereas the shadow fleet of the Russian Federation comprises at least 561 ships, which have carried between 60 percent and 80 percent of Russian crude exports in recent quarters;

Whereas, in recent years, the United States Government has seized several shadow fleet vessels carrying sanctioned oil from other countries, including from the Islamic Republic of Iran;

Whereas, on December 10, 2025, the United States Government seized the shadow fleet vessel the M/T Skipper, which was previously subject to sanctions for serving as part of “an international oil smuggling network that facilitated oil trades and generated revenue” to support Hezbollah and the Quds Force of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, for transporting—

(1) sanctioned oil from the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Syrian Arab Republic in 2024; and

(2) nearly 2,000,000 barrels of crude oil from the Islamic Republic of Iran to the People's Republic of China between February and July of 2025; and

Whereas the United States Government, using all authorities, including those inherent under article II of the Constitution of the United States, should seize shadow fleet vessels carrying sanctioned oil from the Russian Federation, whose proceeds in part will benefit designated foreign terrorist organizations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the use of shadow fleet vessels to transport sanctioned oil from the Russian Federation and views the transport of such oil as conduct that undermines United States national security interests and sanctions regimes;

(2) urges the Trump Administration to seize shadow fleet vessels transporting sanctioned oil from the Russian Federation;

(3) recognizes that seizing shadow fleet vessels engaged in such transport is a lawful and appropriate measure to take against the Russian Federation's evasion of sanctions and illicit financing of its war in Ukraine; and

(4) calls on allies and partners to also seize shadow fleet vessels transporting sanctioned oil from the Russian Federation.

SENATE RESOLUTION 550—RECOGNIZING THAT CLIMATE CHANGE IS NOT A HOAX, BUT SOUND SCIENCE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. SMITH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

S. RES. 550

Whereas, 129 years ago, in 1896, Swedish scientist Svante Arrhenius concluded that greenhouse gas emissions from human activities contribute to a global “greenhouse effect” driving global warming;

Whereas, in 1959, at a celebration of the 100-year anniversary of the fossil-fuel industry, physicist Edward Teller warned attending representatives of major oil companies that greenhouse gas emissions from burning fossil fuels cause a greenhouse gas effect and that increased use of fossil fuels would cause global warming and severe sea level rise;

Whereas, in 1968, Stanford researchers produced a report for the American Petroleum Institute, finding that atmospheric carbon dioxide levels were rising, that no explanation for this rise “seem[ed] to fit the presently observed situation as well as the fossil fuel emanation theory”, and that “potential damage to our environment” from this rise “could be severe”;

Whereas, from 1970 through 2003, Exxon scientists produced a series of reports and projections on greenhouse gas-driven climate change, predicting warming of 0.20 degrees Celsius per decade, which according to recent analysis by Harvard researchers, reflected “shocking skill and accuracy”;

Whereas, in 1988, a Shell working group produced a confidential report entitled “The Greenhouse Effect”, which quantified Shell's own contribution to global carbon dioxide emissions, predicted that global carbon dioxide levels could double by 2030, and described a series of climate change impacts, including rising sea levels, ocean acidification, and forced migration;

Whereas 99.99 percent of peer-reviewed scientific papers agree that climate change is happening and that human activity, and specifically the burning of fossil fuels, is the main cause of climate change;

Whereas, as reported by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), data from ice cores, rocks, tree rings, and satellites and other instruments “all show the signs of a changing climate”;

Whereas, as of August 5, 2025, NASA maintains that “there is unequivocal evidence that Earth is warming at an unprecedented

rate” and that “[h]uman activity is the principal cause” of this warming;

Whereas, in its Sixth Climate Assessment in 2021, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change found that the “evidence is unequivocal: climate change is a grave and mounting threat to human wellbeing and the health of the planet;

Whereas the most comprehensive source of data on climate impacts in the United States can be found in the National Climate Assessments mandated by Congress under the Global Change Research Act of 1990 (15 U.S.C. 2921 et seq.) and coordinated under the United States Global Change Research Program (established under section 103 of the Global Change Research Act of 1990 (15 U.S.C. 2933)), comprising 15 Federal agencies and subject to “multiple rounds of expert and governmental review, including evaluation by Federal agencies, external experts, the public, and a National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine review committee” and published in 2000, 2009, 2014, 2017, 2018, and 2023;

Whereas a sixth National Climate Assessment was planned for 2028, but in 2025 the administration of President Donald Trump fired all the scientists and researchers working on the project, pulled the most recent National Climate Assessment offline, and shut down the United States Global Change Research Program website; and

Whereas greenhouse-gas driven climate change is driving extreme weather, sea-level rise, heat waves, catastrophic wildfires, and other disasters, which in turn are beginning to disrupt insurance, mortgage, and real estate markets: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) climate change caused by fossil fuel combustion is not a hoax;

(2) the reality of human-caused greenhouse gas-driven climate change is sound science; and

(3) Congress should protect legislatively mandated climate research programs.

SENATE RESOLUTION 551—RECOGNIZING THAT SEA LEVELS ARE RISING AT ACCELERATED RATES DUE TO HUMAN-CAUSED CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 551

Whereas tide gauges along the coasts of the United States measure accelerating rates of sea-level rise;

Whereas the rate of sea-level rise per year has more than doubled in the past century;

Whereas thermal expansion, or the volume of the ocean that is expanding as seawater warms, is contributing to rising sea levels;

Whereas the thermal expansion of ocean water has caused approximately 56 percent of global sea-level rise since 2014;

Whereas the thermal expansion of seawater can cause greater sea-level variability and unpredictability, increasing the risks for coastal communities;

Whereas thermal expansion of our oceans will affect century-scale acceleration of sea-level rise on the global, regional, and local scales, increasing coastal risks for all people of the United States;

Whereas, depending on greenhouse gas emissions, average sea-level rise could range between 2 and 7.2 feet by 2100;

Whereas, if the Earth warms beyond tipping points or warming thresholds, the Greenland and West Antarctic ice sheets will be at risk of destabilization;

Whereas researchers believe that those tipping points could be triggered with as little as 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming;

Whereas the Earth has already warmed by at least 1.2 degrees Celsius, with Greenland warming 4 times faster than the average rate of warming across the globe;

Whereas sea levels are expected to raise by 20 to 25 feet with the melting of the Greenland ice sheet and by 10 to 17 feet with the melting of the West Antarctic ice sheet, and both could happen concurrently;

Whereas 30 percent of people in the United States live in coastal areas and are threatened by rising seas;

Whereas \$10,000,000,000,000 of goods and services are produced in coastal counties across the United States every year;

Whereas \$8,100,000,000 of the \$62,500,000,000 in damage from Hurricane Sandy was caused by increased sea levels;

Whereas 3,700,000 individuals in the contiguous United States live on land less than 3.3 feet above high tide, with most of those individuals residing in Florida, Louisiana, California, New York, and New Jersey;

Whereas high water levels that were once rare 1-in-100-year events are becoming 1-in-10-year events due to accelerated sea-level rise;

Whereas sea-level rise will shrink fresh drinking water sources in coastal areas;

Whereas sea-level rise will intensify the flooding effects of hurricanes and strong storms in the United States, costing lives and money, and such effects are already disrupting insurance, mortgage, and real estate markets;

Whereas up to 13,000,000 individuals in the United States could face displacement from rising seas by 2100; and

Whereas sea levels are rising due to fossil fuel emissions: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes the reality of anthropogenic climate change and the role it plays in dangerously raising sea levels.

SENATE RESOLUTION 552—RECOGNIZING THAT OCEANS ARE WARMING DUE TO HUMAN-CAUSED CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 552

Whereas climate change is causing the oceans to absorb roughly 14 zettajoules of excess heat every year;

Whereas the top 2,000 meters of the global ocean have been significantly warming, gaining approximately 372 zettajoules of excess heat since 1955;

Whereas, by 2100, it is projected that the rate of ocean warming in the top 2,000 meters will be 2 to 6 times greater than the rate of warming at the time of the introduction of this resolution;

Whereas ocean warming can have deleterious effects on biodiversity and sea life, including the health of coral reefs, which contribute \$3,400,000,000 annually to the United States economy;

Whereas ocean warming will cause United States fish populations to move across inter-

national boundaries or into the high seas, causing economic uncertainty for fishermen;

Whereas climate change is acidifying the oceans, threatening the environmental health and biodiversity of the United States;

Whereas ocean warming and acidification can cause numerous harms to ocean life, including to species with calcium carbonate shells, which are key components of the ocean's food webs;

Whereas warming sea surface temperatures will shrink populations of the world's most abundant phytoplankton, significantly damaging the ocean food web;

Whereas warmer oceans will increase the risk and severity of harmful algal blooms, especially in the spring and summer months, which at the time of the introduction of this resolution cost between \$10,000,000 and \$100,000,000 annually on average and harm ecosystems, fisheries, drinking water, public health, recreation, and tourism;

Whereas increased ocean temperatures have expanded *Vibrio* concentrations in the United States, a bacterial pathogen that can cause severe illness, infection, and death in humans;

Whereas warmer oceans increase evaporation rates, increasing atmospheric humidity, which fuels stronger hurricanes and extreme precipitation events;

Whereas ocean warming caused North Atlantic hurricanes at the time of the introduction of this resolution to be, on average, a category more intense, with wind speeds averaging 18.6 miles per hour faster, wreaking more damage; and

Whereas our oceans are warming rapidly each year: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes that climate change is imposing serious harms on our oceans and on coastal communities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 553—RECOGNIZING THAT CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

S. RES. 553

Whereas changes in the climate caused by fossil fuel emissions are proven by decades of sound science and are not a hoax: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes that climate change is real.

SENATE RESOLUTION 554—RECOGNIZING THE STRONG LINK BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE AND SKYROCKETING INSURANCE PREMIUMS

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. SMITH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

S. RES. 554

Whereas, at the time of the introduction of this resolution, insured losses from natural disasters in the United States exceed \$100,000,000,000 annually, up from \$8,400,000,000 in 2000, an increase of 1000 percent;

Whereas, from 2013 to 2022, insurance costs more than doubled, and by 2022, these costs accounted for more than 20 percent of mortgage payments;

Whereas insurance premiums have increased 40 percent faster than inflation;

Whereas premiums are projected to increase another 8 percent in 2025, reaching a national average of more than \$3,500 annually;

Whereas annual premiums in 2024 averaged more than \$14,000 in Florida, almost \$11,000 in Louisiana, almost \$8,000 in Oklahoma, \$6,000 in Texas and Colorado, and around \$5,000 in Alabama, Mississippi, and Nebraska; and

Whereas most lenders will not approve a mortgage unless the borrower also purchases insurance: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes that climate change and the increased risk in frequency and intensity of natural disasters are driving up insurance costs for home owners in the United States, and that a failure to address climate change will make housing even more unaffordable.

SENATE RESOLUTION 555—RECOGNIZING THAT CLIMATE CHANGE POSES A THREAT TO THE MORTGAGE MARKET AND TO HOME VALUES

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. SMITH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

S. RES. 555

Whereas a home is the largest asset of most individuals in the United States;

Whereas analysts have found that sea-level rise is directly to blame for a loss in coastal home value, and that between 2005 and 2017, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, and Georgia together lost \$7,400,000,000 in home value due to sea-level rise related flooding;

Whereas economists have found that housing loses substantial value following a weather disaster, in part because of the market's expectation of future disasters in the same ZIP Code;

Whereas researchers have found that sea-level rise puts more than 300,000 homes and commercial properties in the United States at risk of chronic, disruptive flooding in the next 30 years, with a cumulative value of properties at risk of \$136,000,000,000 by 2045;

Whereas, by the end of the 21st century, researchers predict that nearly 2,500,000 homes and commercial properties collectively valued at \$1,070,000,000,000 today, will be at risk of chronic flooding;

Whereas The Economist predicts that, over the next 25 years, climate change will cause a \$25,000,000,000,000 loss to the value of housing stocks worldwide;

Whereas researchers have found that United States residential property will likely lose nearly \$1,500,000,000,000 in value over the next 30 years due to increasingly expensive and unavailable insurance;

Whereas, in April of 2024, the Federal Housing Finance Agency "recognize[d] the emerging and increasing threat to all stakeholders in the housing system due to climate risk and the increased frequency and intensity of major natural disasters";

Whereas the Financial Stability Board has warned of cascading risks from climate

change, including increased insurance premiums and reduced coverages, mortgage crises, and bank insolvencies; and

Whereas the last time there were widespread declines in property values, the economy spiraled into the Great Recession, costing millions of people in the United States their jobs, homes, and savings: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes that climate change portends significant declines in home values in climate-exposed regions of the United States and a broader economic recession.

SENATE RESOLUTION 556—RECOGNIZING THAT FLORIDA'S INSURANCE MARKET IS GRAVELY STRESSED BY CLIMATE RISKS

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

S. RES. 556

Whereas, as reported by Columbia Business School, because climate change is a "major risk" in Florida, many home insurers are at a high risk of insolvency;

Whereas, following catastrophic hurricane losses, major insurers left the Florida market entirely, leaving small, local, and less stable insurers behind, many of which have already gone insolvent;

Whereas only mortgages protected by home insurance from insurers with a high financial strength rating are eligible for the government mortgage-backed security program, which maintains liquidity in the mortgage market, and as a result of this, the United States housing market increasingly depends on the credibility of these ratings;

Whereas an insurance rating agency called Demotech has become increasingly utilized by smaller home insurers in Florida;

Whereas Demotech rates 98 percent of insurers "A" or above;

Whereas insurers rated by Demotech are 30 times as likely to become insolvent as those graded by rival rating companies;

Whereas, even when Florida homeowners are able to find a stable insurer, they are still forced to pay increasingly high home insurance premiums, now averaging \$14,000 annually;

Whereas the Florida Office of Insurance Regulation reports that home insurance rates in Florida have risen 34 percent since late 2022;

Whereas Florida State law allows Citizens Property Insurance, the state-backed insurer of last resort, to levy a surcharge on all policyholders to recoup losses if its reserves fall short, levies that may be uncollectable in real life; and

Whereas there are credible scenarios in which the losses of Citizens Property Insurance exceed its ability to pay claims: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate calls on Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to scrutinize Demotech's rating practices and calls on the Treasury Department's insurance office to examine the probability that state-backed insurers of last resort, including Florida's, ask for a Federal bailout.

SENATE RESOLUTION 557—RECOGNIZING THAT CLIMATE CHANGE PORTENDS A CASCADE OF FINANCIAL MARKET COLLAPSES THAT WOULD DESTABILIZE THE NATIONAL AND GLOBAL ECONOMIES

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

S. RES. 557

Whereas climate change drives and exacerbates extreme weather and disaster events;

Whereas United States losses from extreme weather events totaled \$165,000,000,000 in 2022 alone;

Whereas more frequent extreme weather events and wildfires are making insurance increasingly unaffordable and unavailable;

Whereas unavailable or unaffordable insurance will destabilize mortgage and property markets, potentially resulting in a \$25,000,000,000 decline in global residential property values;

Whereas modelers project that unchecked climate change could cost the global economy \$178,000,000,000,000 in net present value from 2021 to 2070;

Whereas global financial experts warn that if climate change is not addressed, worldwide per capita gross domestic product could decline by 10 to 20 percent within 3 decades;

Whereas national banks and the international Financial Stability Board predict that climate change is causing and will continue to cause structural risk to the global financial system; and

Whereas financial experts and banks agree that adjusting to the climate reality by organizing an early and orderly transition to a low carbon economy will avoid costly shocks to the system caused by a sudden and disorderly transition: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes that unchecked climate change poses severe risks to national and global economies.

SENATE RESOLUTION 558—RECOGNIZING THAT CLIMATE CHANGE-DRIVEN EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS ARE INCREASING AT THE SAME TIME THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS DISMANTLING WEATHER MONITORING AND ALERT SYSTEMS

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. SMITH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 558

Whereas climate change drives and exacerbates extreme weather and disaster events;

Whereas peer-reviewed science has established that climate change intensifies hurricanes and drives increased coastal flooding, erosion, and damage;

Whereas climate change drives dangerously heavy rainfall, which can cause life-threatening flooding both in coastal and inland communities; and

Whereas the National Weather Service has lost more than 550 employees since President

Trump took office in January 2025, due primarily to layoffs and buyouts, and the administration has sought \$2,200,000,000 in budget cuts to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which houses the National Weather Service: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) acknowledges that climate change drives and exacerbates life-threatening extreme weather events;

(2) mourns the loss of innocent lives to these events; and

(3) acknowledges the need to fund and maintain weather monitoring and alert systems, and ensure adequate staffing at the National Weather Service.

SENATE RESOLUTION 559—RECOGNIZING THAT CLIMATE CHANGE IS MAKING WILDFIRES MORE FREQUENT, MORE INTENSE, AND MORE DESTRUCTIVE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. SMITH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

S. RES. 559

Whereas climate change increases global temperatures and drought conditions, making "fire weather" more common and longer-lasting;

Whereas, according to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (in this preamble referred to as "NASA"), "human-caused climate change has been found to be the main cause for increasing fire weather in the American West";

Whereas the United States Forest Service reports that "[w]hat was once a four-month fire season now lasts six to eight months";

Whereas data from NASA satellites shows that over the past 2 decades, wildfires have become more frequent, more intense, and larger, and that worldwide extreme wildfire activity has more than doubled;

Whereas the United States Geological Survey calculates that even without considering human health impacts, wildfires cost the United States \$424,000,000,000 annually;

Whereas, on January 7, 2025, a collection of wildfires in the Los Angeles metro area destroyed more than 15,000 homes and business, killed more than 2 dozen people, and poisoned the air and soil; and

Whereas a subsequent study confirmed that climate change meaningfully increased the likelihood of the Los Angeles fires: Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate acknowledges the reality of climate change-driven wildfire risk and acknowledges the need to fully fund and staff Federal wildfire prevention and response activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 560—RECOGNIZING THAT MERCURY POLLUTION CAN CAUSE SEVERE HEALTH PROBLEMS, INCLUDING PERMANENT BRAIN DAMAGE, KIDNEY DAMAGE, AND BIRTH DEFECTS

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT

ROCHESTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

S. RES. 560

Whereas mercury is a powerful neurotoxin; Whereas mercury occurs naturally in coal, petroleum, and natural gas, and burning those fossil fuels releases mercury into the atmosphere;

Whereas mercury emitted into the atmosphere enters the ground, water, and food system;

Whereas consuming fish from mercury-contaminated waterbodies is the most common way people are exposed to dangerous levels of mercury;

Whereas all 50 States maintain webpages to issue fish advisories for mercury-contaminated waterbodies and the Department of Public Health and Environment of the State of Colorado reports that, as of 2025, there were more than 3,700 mercury advisories in effect across the United States;

Whereas fossil fuel-fired power plants are the largest source of mercury emissions in the United States;

Whereas an estimated 80,000,000 individuals in the United States live within 3 miles of a fossil fuel-fired power plant, approximately 17,000,000 of whom are children;

Whereas exposure to mercury can cause severe health problems, including permanent brain damage, kidney damage, birth defects, and heart disease;

Whereas gestational mercury exposure is particularly dangerous and babies born after mercury exposure in the womb can exhibit severe intellectual impairment, as well as ataxia and cerebral palsy, seizures, vision and hearing loss, delayed developmental milestones, language disorders, and problems with motor function, visual spatial abilities, and memory; and

Whereas there is no known safe level of exposure to mercury: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate recognizes that mercury pollution can cause severe health problems, including permanent brain damage, kidney damage, and birth defects; and

(2) it is the sense of the Senate that the Environmental Protection Agency should not loosen controls on mercury pollution from power plants.

SENATE RESOLUTION 561—RECOGNIZING THAT PARTICULATE MATTER POLLUTION CAN CAUSE HEART ATTACKS, ASTHMA, STROKES, AND PREMATURE DEATH

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

S. RES. 561

Whereas particulate matter pollution consists of tiny airborne particles made of a mix of sometimes hundreds of different chemicals and elements;

Whereas particulate matter particles are so small that when inhaled they can penetrate deep into the lungs and bloodstream;

Whereas particulate matter exposure can cause heart attacks, asthma, bronchitis, decreased lung function, and premature death for people with heart or lung disease;

Whereas people who experience long-term exposure to particulate matter pollution are

twice as likely to experience hemorrhagic stroke;

Whereas evidence suggests that particulate matter exposure contributes to lung cancer incidence and mortality, even for non-smokers;

Whereas a study by the California Air Resources Board found that children growing up in communities with high levels of particulate matter pollution had smaller lungs at age 18 than children living in communities with low levels of particulate matter pollution;

Whereas health scientists agree that particulate matter is a leading health risk factor in the United States and around the world;

Whereas combustion of fossil fuels is the largest source of particulate matter pollution in the United States; and

Whereas an estimated 80,000,000 individuals in the United States live within 3 miles of a fossil fuel-fired power plant, approximately 17,000,000 of whom are children: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate recognizes that particulate matter pollution can cause heart attacks, asthma, strokes, and premature death; and

(2) it is the sense of the Senate that the Environmental Protection Agency should maintain and enforce safe nationwide standards for particulate matter.

SENATE RESOLUTION 562—RECOGNIZING THAT OZONE POLLUTION CAN CAUSE LUNG DISEASE, ASTHMA ATTACKS, CARDIOVASCULAR PROBLEMS, AND REPRODUCTIVE ISSUES

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

S. RES. 562

Whereas ozone in the stratosphere, “the ozone layer”, forms naturally and protects the Earth from dangerous solar radiation;

Whereas ground-level ozone, better known as “smog”, forms when air pollution reacts with sunlight;

Whereas smog, in contrast to stratospheric ozone, is dangerous to human health;

Whereas exposure to smog causes asthma attacks, lung disease, nervous system issues, cardiovascular problems, and reproductive issues;

Whereas children are particularly vulnerable to smog pollution;

Whereas, in 2021, analysts found that long-term exposure to smog contributed to 489,000 deaths globally and 14,000 deaths in the United States, with the United States death rate being higher than that of other high-income countries;

Whereas smog pollution lowers crop yields and crop losses due to smog pollution total between 79,000,000 and 121,000,000 metric tons per year;

Whereas methane pollution (the primary constituent of natural gas) reacts with other pollutants to create smog pollution;

Whereas researchers have found that methane emissions significantly affect the air quality across most of the United States, with especially pronounced effects in central States, and methane emissions can have a determining influence on the ability of a region to meet National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone that are set by the Environmental Protection Agency;

Whereas, in 2024, the Environmental Protection Agency set methane standards that were projected to eliminate 58,000,000 tons of methane pollution over 15 years, a 79 percent reduction from business as usual; and

Whereas the Trump Administration is reconsidering the 2024 methane standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate recognizes that ozone pollution can cause lung disease, asthma attacks, cardiovascular problems, and reproductive issues; and

(2) it is the sense of the Senate that the Environmental Protection Agency should act to reduce smog pollution, including by supporting robust implementation of the 2024 methane standards.

SENATE RESOLUTION 563—AFFIRMING THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD SUPPORT SCHOOL DISTRICT INVESTMENT IN CLEAN SCHOOL BUSES

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 563

Whereas diesel exhaust from school buses is a major source of local air pollution, including fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), and volatile organic compounds (VOCs);

Whereas children face higher health risk from air pollution because of their smaller, still developing lungs, leading to increased rates of asthma, heart disease, and lung disease;

Whereas approximately 3 out of 10 children in the United States take a school bus to get to school;

Whereas the air pollution from diesel school buses can enter school buildings and degrade classroom air quality;

Whereas air pollution-related diseases lead to missed days of school and hamper the education of children;

Whereas the replacement of diesel school buses with clean school buses, including electric school buses, would dramatically reduce local air pollution, and improve the health and educational attainment of children; and

Whereas Congress, on a bipartisan basis, has historically supported funding for replacing diesel school buses with cleaner alternatives, including through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58; 135 Stat. 429): Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate affirms that the Federal Government should support school district investment in clean school buses.

SENATE RESOLUTION 564—RECOGNIZING THE ABILITY OF SOLAR, STORAGE, AND WIND TO QUICKLY AND CHEAPLY MEET UNITED STATES POWER DEMAND GROWTH

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. SMITH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) submitted the

following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

S. RES. 564

Whereas, as of 2025, United States power demand growth is higher than at any point in the previous 2 decades;

Whereas, over the next 10 years after the date of enactment of this resolution, nearly every region of the United States faces potential power capacity shortfalls;

Whereas, as of 2025, solar and wind are the most cost-effective forms of new power generation on an unsubsidized basis and electricity storage (battery) costs are sharply declining;

Whereas, in 2024, solar, storage, and wind made up 93 percent of new power capacity installations in the United States;

Whereas, as of 2025, solar, storage, and wind make up 95 percent of power capacity awaiting grid interconnection in the United States;

Whereas, in 2024, solar and wind produced more electricity than coal;

Whereas, in 2025, costs of new natural gas construction reached 10-year highs;

Whereas, as of 2025, wait times for turbines for new natural gas-fired power plants are as long as 7 years; and

Whereas forcing large fossil fuel plants that are scheduled to retire in 2026, 2027, and 2028 to keep running could increase costs to ratepayers by over \$3,000,000,000 per year: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes that accelerating solar, storage, and wind deployment is essential to meet rising power demand, and that the United States should increase production of renewable energy.

SENATE RESOLUTION 565—RECOGNIZING THAT FACILITIES THAT PRODUCE RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY ARE THE CHEAPEST POWER-GENERATING FACILITIES TO OPERATE AND RELIANCE ON FOSSIL FUEL-GENERATING FACILITIES TO MEET GROWING POWER DEMAND DRIVES UP WHOLESALE ELECTRICITY PRICES

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHSTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

S. RES. 565

Whereas electricity prices are generally determined by the level of demand for power and the cost of generating such power used to meet the demand;

Whereas the demand for power in the United States is growing faster than at any point in the past 2 decades;

Whereas power generators with the lowest operating costs are typically dispatched first, thereby meeting the demand for power at the lowest cost;

Whereas, as the demand for power increases, power generators with higher operating costs are dispatched, thereby driving up wholesale electricity prices;

Whereas fossil-power generation from coal, fossil gas, and oil has high operating costs due to the cost of fuel and maintenance; and

Whereas the generation of wind, solar, and other renewable resources has near-zero operating costs: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes that—

(1) facilities that produce renewable electricity are the cheapest electricity-generating facilities to operate to meet the demand for power; and

(2) reliance on fossil fuel-generating facilities to meet the growing demand for power drives up wholesale electricity prices.

SENATE RESOLUTION 566—RECOGNIZING THAT CARE PROVIDED BY EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS IS ESSENTIAL FOR MEETING THE HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 566

Whereas, as of 2025, the Department of Veterans Affairs serves more than 7,000,000 patients;

Whereas, in 2024, veteran trust in Department outpatient health care was nearly 92 percent;

Whereas Department hospitals have outperformed non-Department hospitals in quality and patient satisfaction in the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' annual star ratings since 2023 when Department facilities began being included in the annual star ratings;

Whereas recent studies have concluded that Department health care is consistently as good as, or better than, commercial health care in areas of quality and safety;

Whereas veterans who are engaged in Department health care in Department medical facilities or through the Department's community care providers should receive high-quality continuity of care and positive outcomes regardless of where they receive their care;

Whereas the Department's 2024 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report found that in 2022 there were, on average, 17.6 veteran suicides per day, of which 7.0 per day were among veterans who received care from the Veterans Health Administration in 2021 or 2022, and 10.5 were among other veterans.

Whereas the Department is the largest educator of health care professionals in the United States, with more than 70 percent of practicing physicians having completed at least some of their training at a Department medical facility;

Whereas, for more than a century, Department researchers have made countless medical breakthroughs, which have benefitted not only veterans, but all people of the United States; and

Whereas the Department has a statutory "fourth mission" to support national, State, and local emergency efforts in times of war, terrorism, natural disasters, and public health emergencies, while continuing service to veterans: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the Department of Veterans Affairs is essential in meeting the health care needs of veterans, training the medical workforce, conducting critical research, working to end veteran suicide, and improving public health and the preparedness of the United States for emergencies;

(2) urges the Department to support all its employees, respect their expertise and experience, and empower them with appropriate resources to serve veterans; and

(3) reaffirms the commitment of the Senate to ensuring that every veteran has time-

ly access to high-quality, affordable, and veteran-centered care, whether provided in Department medical facilities or through Department community care providers when direct care is not available or in the best medical interest of the veteran.

SENATE RESOLUTION 567—EXPRESSING THAT ANY ATTEMPT BY FOREIGN ENTITIES TO CENSOR OR PENALIZE CONSTITUTIONALLY PROTECTED SPEECH OF UNITED STATES PERSONS SHALL BE OPPOSED

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

S. RES. 567

Whereas freedom of speech is a fundamental, constitutional right of every United States person;

Whereas freedom of speech is a hallmark of American exceptionalism;

Whereas freedom of speech is necessary to ensure that truth can always be spoken, lies can always be exposed, and important questions can always be asked, and that the strong can always be challenged and the vulnerable can always be heard;

Whereas no person is fit to govern the thoughts or beliefs of another;

Whereas public forums, including social media platforms, give people the opportunity to exercise their right to free speech;

Whereas undue foreign influence threatens the constitutionally protected right to freedom of speech;

Whereas the Digital Services Act of the European Union requires large platforms to remove certain speech based on the incorrect assertion that politicians are entitled to govern the thoughts and beliefs of other persons;

Whereas the European Union is attempting to force United States entities to use products and technology to censor and undermine free speech occurring in the United States;

Whereas the European Union is threatening steep penalties under the Digital Services Act if United States entities do not implement the censorship regime required under the Act;

Whereas, on August 12, 2024, the European Union threatened Elon Musk with penalties under the Digital Services Act for conducting an interview with President Trump on X, insinuating that the conversation between United States citizens on United States soil would produce "harmful content" that would "spillover" from the United States;

Whereas, on December 5, 2025, the European Union announced a \$140,000,000 fine against X under the Digital Services Act;

Whereas the European Union is actively investigating and discouraging the use of Community Notes-style policies employed by social media companies to avoid censorship and institutional bias, instead pushing for aggressive content censorship models;

Whereas the Digital Services Act authorizes fines of up to 6 percent of a company's global revenue for not complying with efforts to target speech by United States persons;

Whereas the actions of the European Union under the Digital Services Act conflict with the sovereign duty of the United States Government to protect the constitutional rights of United States persons; and

Whereas such actions by the European Union, if left unchecked, may cause a chilling effect on free speech in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms its commitment to protecting the commercial interests and free speech rights of United States persons;

(2) recognizes that the Digital Services Act is incompatible with the free speech tradition of the United States and the commitments that technology companies have made to hosting a diversity of opinions;

(3) disapproves of any attempt by a foreign entity to export censorship or limit the exercise of free speech by United States persons;

(4) disapproves of any attempt by a foreign entity to levy fines or other penalties against United States persons participating in constitutionally protected activities;

(5) disapproves of the attempts by the European Union to force United States entities to develop or use products and technology in ways that undermine free speech or foster censorship;

(6) commits to oppose any implementation of disapproved activities; and

(7) urges the Trump administration to ensure swift and firm rejoinders to any implementation of disapproved activities.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4058. Mr. LUJÁN (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4059. Ms. ROSEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4060. Ms. ROSEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4061. Mr. WARNOCK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4062. Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. SLOTKIN, and Mr. PETERS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4063. Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. KAINE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4064. Mr. WARNOCK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4065. Mr. WARNOCK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4066. Mr. HICKENLOOPER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4067. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and in-

tended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4068. Mr. WARNOCK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4069. Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. KAINE, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, and Mr. PADILLA) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4070. Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Ms. CANTWELL) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2503, to require all aircraft to be equipped with Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast In, to improve aviation safety, and for other purposes.

SA 4071. Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. HICKENLOOPER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4072. Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. BALDWIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4073. Ms. ALSOBROOKS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4074. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4075. Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4076. Mr. LUJÁN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4077. Mr. WARNOCK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4078. Mr. WARNOCK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4079. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4080. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4081. Mr. MARKEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4082. Mr. KING submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4083. Mr. KING (for himself, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. KAINE) submitted an amend-

ment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4084. Mr. LUJÁN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4085. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4086. Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4087. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4088. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4089. Mr. WYDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4090. Mr. WYDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4091. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4092. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4093. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4094. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4095. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4096. Mr. LUJÁN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4097. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4098. Mr. HICKENLOOPER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4099. Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. SANDERS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4100. Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4101. Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4102. Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4103. Mr. LUJÁN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4104. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4105. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4106. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4107. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4108. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4109. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4110. Mr. MARKEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4111. Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4112. Mr. VAN HOLLEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4113. Ms. KLOBUCHAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2465, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4058. Mr. LUJÁN (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 426 of division C, strike “, prior to the completion of the cultural resources investigation identified in the explanatory statement described in section 4 in the matter preceding division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260)”.

SA 4059. Ms. ROSEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to

the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. CLASSIFICATION OF NEVADA TEST AND TRAINING RANGE AS LOCATION WHERE CONTAMINATION OCCURRED AND MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WERE EXPOSED TO TOXIC SUBSTANCES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall classify the Nevada Test and Training Range as a location where contamination occurred.

(b) IDENTIFICATION PROCESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Air Force shall establish a process to identify members of the Armed Forces and former members of the Armed Forces that were stationed at the Nevada Test and Training Range since January 27, 1951.

(2) DOCUMENTATION.—The Secretary of the Air Force shall establish a process to permit members of the Armed Forces and former members of the Armed Forces to provide documentation or evidence of their assignment within the Nevada Test and Training Range to assist the Secretary in identifying those members and former members under paragraph (1).

(3) EFFORTS.—The Secretary of the Air Force shall make all efforts to identify individuals described in paragraph (1) and shall not require members of the Armed Forces or former members of the Armed Forces to submit evidence of their stationing.

(c) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall establish a process to identify members and former members of the Armed Forces who are or have been stationed at a covered location.

(d) COVERED LOCATION DEFINED.—In this section, the term “covered location” means—

(1) any facility on the most recent list of facilities covered under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 7384 et seq.) published in the Federal Register by the Department of Energy; or

(2) any location that is data masked or classified by the Department of Defense and where there is or was potential exposure to toxic substances, including from the use of burn pits to dispose of waste.

SA 4060. Ms. ROSEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. IDENTIFICATION OF CURRENT AND FORMER MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES POTENTIALLY EXPOSED TO CERTAIN TOXIC SUBSTANCES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall establish a process to identify members and former members of the Armed Forces who are or have been stationed at a covered location.

(b) COVERED LOCATION DEFINED.—In this section, the term “covered location” means—

(1) any facility on the most recent list of facilities covered under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 7384 et seq.) pub-

lished in the Federal Register by the Department of Energy; or

(2) any location that is data masked or classified by the Department of Defense and where there is or was potential exposure to toxic substances, including from the use of burn pits to dispose of waste.

SA 4061. Mr. WARNOCK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. ____. No amounts may be obligated for the purpose of changing the name of an asset of the Department of Defense in the State of Georgia that was adopted by the commission established under section 370(b) of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283; 10 U.S.C. 113 note) to any name other than the name that was adopted.

SA 4062. Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. SLOTKIN, and Mr. PETERS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CLEARINGHOUSE.—The term “Clearinghouse” means the Federal Clearinghouse on Safety and Security Best Practices for Non-profit Organizations, Faith-based Organizations, and Houses of Worship established under subsection (b).

(2) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department” means the Department of Homeland Security.

(3) FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATION.—The term “faith-based organization” means a group, center, or nongovernmental organization with a religious, ideological, or spiritual motivation, character, affiliation, or purpose that meets the definition of nonprofit organization.

(4) HOUSE OF WORSHIP.—The term “house of worship” means a place or building, including a synagogue, mosque, temple, and church, in which congregants practice their religious or spiritual beliefs.

(5) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term “nonprofit organization” means an organization—

(A) of the type described in subsection (c)(3) of section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under subsection (a) of such section; and

(B) determined to be at risk of a terrorist attack or other threat by the Secretary.

(6) SAFETY AND SECURITY.—The term “safety and security” means prevention of, protection against, or recovery from threats and incidents, including natural disasters, man-made disasters, or terrorist attacks.

(7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(b) FEDERAL CLEARINGHOUSE.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Attorney General, the Executive Director of the White

House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, and the head of any other agency the Secretary determines appropriate, shall establish within the Department a Federal Clearinghouse on Safety and Security Best Practices for Nonprofit Organizations, Faith-based Organizations, and Houses of Worship.

(B) PURPOSE.—The Clearinghouse shall be the primary resource of the Federal Government to—

(i) educate and publish online best practices and recommendations for safety and security for nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations, and houses of worship; and

(ii) provide information relating to Federal grant programs available to nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations, and houses of worship.

(C) PERSONNEL.—

(i) ASSIGNMENTS.—The Clearinghouse shall be assigned such personnel and resources as the Secretary considers appropriate to carry out this subsection.

(ii) DETAILEES.—The Secretary may coordinate detailees on a reimbursable or a nonreimbursable basis as required for the Clearinghouse.

(iii) DESIGNATED POINT OF CONTACT.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—There shall be not fewer than 1 employee assigned or detailed to the Clearinghouse who shall be the designated point of contact to provide information and assistance to nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations, and houses of worship, including assistance relating to the grant program established under subsection (d).

(II) CONTACT INFORMATION.—The contact information of the designated point of contact under subclause (I) shall be made available on the website of the Clearinghouse.

(iv) QUALIFICATION.—To the maximum extent possible, any personnel assigned or detailed to the Clearinghouse under this subparagraph should be familiar with nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations, and houses of worship and with physical and online security measures to identify and prevent safety and security risks.

(2) CLEARINGHOUSE CONTENTS.—

(A) EVIDENCE-BASED TIERS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Attorney General, the Executive Director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, and the head of any other agency the Secretary determines appropriate, shall develop tiers for determining evidence-based best practices and recommendations that demonstrate a significant effect on improving safety and security of nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations, and houses of worship.

(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—The tiers required to be developed under clause (i) shall—

(I) prioritize—

(aa) strong evidence from not fewer than 1 well-designed and well-implemented experimental study; and

(bb) moderate evidence from not fewer than 1 well-designed and well-implemented quasi-experimental study; and

(II) consider promising evidence that demonstrates a rationale based on high-quality research findings or positive evaluations that the activity, strategy, or intervention is likely to improve and promote safety and security of nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations, and houses of worship.

(B) CRITERIA FOR BEST PRACTICES AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—The best practices and recommendations referred to in paragraph (1)(B)(i) of the Clearinghouse shall, at a minimum—

(i) identify areas of concern for nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations, and houses of worship, including event planning recommendations, checklists, facility hardening, tabletop exercise resources, and other resilience measures;

(ii) involve comprehensive safety and security measures, including threat prevention, preparedness, protection, mitigation, incident response, and recovery to improve the safety and security posture of nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations, and houses of worship upon implementation;

(iii) involve comprehensive safety and security measures, including preparedness, protection, mitigation, incident response, and recovery to improve the resiliency of nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations, and houses of worship from threats and incidents, including natural disasters, manmade disasters, or terrorist attacks or other threats;

(iv) include any evidence or research rationale supporting the determination of the Clearinghouse that the comprehensive safety and security measures under clauses (ii) and (iii) have been shown to have a significant effect on improving the safety and security of individuals who, at the time of any such threat or incident, are physically located in the place or building of a nonprofit organization, including a faith-based organization, or a house of worship, including—

(I) findings and data from previous Federal, State, local, Tribal, territorial, private sector, and nongovernmental organization research centers relating to the safety and security of nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations, and houses of worship, including from targeted violence; and

(II) other supportive evidence or findings relied upon by the Clearinghouse in determining best practices and recommendations to improve the safety and security posture of nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations, and houses of worship upon implementation; and

(v) include an overview of the available resources the Clearinghouse can provide to nonprofit organizations and houses of worship.

(C) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—The Clearinghouse shall maintain and make available a comprehensive index of all Federal grant programs for which nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations, and houses of worship are eligible, which shall include the performance metrics the recipient will be required to provide for each grant.

(D) PAST RECOMMENDATIONS.—To the greatest extent practicable, the Clearinghouse shall identify and present, as appropriate, best practices and recommendations issued by Federal, State, local, Tribal, territorial, private sector, and nongovernmental organizations relevant to the safety and security of nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations, and houses of worship.

(E) EXISTING PLATFORM.—The Secretary may establish and maintain the Clearinghouse on an online platform or a website that is in existence as of the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING.—The Secretary may produce and publish materials on the Clearinghouse to assist and train nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations, and houses of worship regarding the implementation of the best practices and recommendations under this subsection.

(4) CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(i) collect for the purpose of continuous improvement of the Clearinghouse—

(I) Clearinghouse data analytics;

(II) user feedback on the implementation of resources, best practices, and recommendations identified by the Clearinghouse; and

(III) any evaluations conducted regarding implementation of such best practices and recommendations;

(ii) in coordination with the Faith-Based Security Advisory Council of the Department, the Department of Justice, the Executive Director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, and any other agency the Secretary determines appropriate—

(I) assess and identify Clearinghouse best practices and recommendations for which there are no resources available through Federal Government programs for implementation;

(II) provide feedback on the implementation of such best practices and recommendations; and

(III) propose additional best practices and recommendations for inclusion in the Clearinghouse; and

(iii) not less frequently than annually, examine and update the Clearinghouse in accordance with—

(I) the information collected under clause (i); and

(II) the best practices and recommendations proposed under clause (ii)(III).

(B) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 3 years thereafter during the period in which the Clearinghouse is in existence, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the updates under subparagraph (A)(iii) made to the Clearinghouse during the preceding 3-year period, which shall include a description of any changes made pursuant thereto to the Clearinghouse.

(c) NOTIFICATION OF THE CLEARINGHOUSE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide to the individuals, Federal agencies, and committees specified in paragraph (2) written notification of the establishment of the Clearinghouse, including updates pertaining to grant programs identified under subsection (b)(2)(C).

(2) INDIVIDUALS, FEDERAL AGENCIES, AND COMMITTEES SPECIFIED.—The individuals, Federal entities, and committees specified in this paragraph are the following:

(A) Every State homeland security advisor.

(B) Every State department of homeland security.

(C) Other Federal agencies with grant programs or initiatives that aid in the safety and security of nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations, and houses of worship, as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(D) Every Cyber Security Advisor.

(E) Every Protective Security Advisor.

(F) Every Federal Bureau of Investigation Joint Terrorism Task Force.

(G) Every Homeland Security Fusion Center.

(H) Every State or territorial Governor or other chief executive.

(I) The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate.

(J) The Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

(d) FEDERAL GRANTS AND RESOURCES OVERVIEW.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To the extent practicable, the Secretary, when carrying out subsection (b)(2)(C), shall include a grants program overview on the website of the Clearinghouse that shall—

(A) be a location for all information regarding Federal grant programs that are open to nonprofit organizations, including

faith-based organizations, and houses of worship for the purposes of safety and security;

(B) directly link to each grant application and any applicable user guides;

(C) identify all safety and security homeland security assistance programs managed by the Department that may be used to implement best practices and recommendations of the Clearinghouse;

(D) concurrent with the application period for any grant identified under subsection (b)(2)(C), provide information related to the required elements of grant applications to aid nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations, and houses of worship in meeting the eligibility criteria for Federal grants; and

(E) provide answers to frequently asked questions regarding the implementation of best practices and recommendations of the Clearinghouse and best practices for applying for a grant identified under subsection (b)(2)(C).

(2) **PROVISION OF INFORMATION RELATING TO FEDERAL GRANTS AND RESOURCES.**—Each Federal agency notified under subsection (c) shall provide to the Secretary or other appropriate point of contact for the Clearinghouse for inclusion in the Clearinghouse necessary information regarding any Federal grant programs or resources of the Federal agency that are available for nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations, and houses of worship.

(3) **STATE GRANTS AND RESOURCES.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Any State notified under subsection (c) may provide to the Secretary or other appropriate point of contact for the Clearinghouse necessary information regarding any grant programs or resources of the State available for nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations, and houses of worship for the purposes of safety and security.

(B) **IDENTIFICATION OF RESOURCES.**—The Clearinghouse shall, to the extent practicable, identify for each State the following:

(i) Each State agency responsible for safety and security of nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations, and houses of worship in the State, or any State that does not have such an agency designated.

(ii) Any grant program that may be used for the purposes of implementing best practices and recommendations of the Clearinghouse.

(iii) Any resources or programs, including community prevention or intervention efforts, that may be used to assist in targeted violence and terrorism prevention.

(e) **OTHER RESOURCES.**—The Secretary shall, on the website of the Clearinghouse, include a separate section for other resources that shall provide a centralized list of all available points of contact from which a nonprofit organization, including a faith-based organization, or a house of worship may seek assistance in grant applications and in carrying out the best practices and recommendations of the Clearinghouse, including the following:

(1) A list of contact information to reach Department personnel to assist with grant-related questions.

(2) The applicable Agency contact information to connect houses of worship with Protective Security Advisors.

(3) Contact information for all Department Fusion Centers, listed by State.

(4) Information on the “If you See Something Say Something Campaign” of the Department.

(5) Any other appropriate contacts.

(f) **REPORT.**—The Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on the state of Federal grants devoted

to safety and security for nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations, and houses of worship, and an evaluation of the relevant programs and resources devoted to the safety and security of nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations, and houses of worship as of the date of the report.

(g) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section may be construed to create, satisfy, or waive any requirement under Federal civil rights laws, including—

(1) title II of the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12131 et seq.); or

(2) title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.).

(h) **SUNSET.**—This section shall cease to be effective on the date that is 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 4063. Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. KAINE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title III of division B, insert the following:

SEC. _____. (a) The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, with the concurrence of the Secretary of the Smithsonian, shall enter into an agreement with an independent third party for the completion of a report that details, with respect to each space vehicle described in section 20306(b)(2) of title 51, United States Code—

(1) the ownership of the space vehicle;

(2) the authority to acquire the space vehicle;

(3) the full projected costs, funding sources, and logistical considerations associated with the proposed transfer under section 20306(b) of title 51, United States Code, of the space vehicle to a new location; and

(4) an educational cost-benefit analysis associated with such proposed transfer that takes into consideration—

(A) public accessibility to the space vehicle at alternate locations;

(B) the cost to the public of visiting the space vehicle;

(C) any risk to the space vehicle before, during, or after such a transfer;

(D) the adequacy of display space for the space vehicle; and

(E) the preservation capabilities of the donor and receiver institutions.

(b) Not later than August 1, 2026, and before any action is taken with respect to the transfer of a space vehicle under section 20306(b) of title 51, United States Code, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives the report described in subsection (a).

SA 4064. Mr. WARNOCK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. _____. There is appropriated an additional \$100,000,000 under the heading “Department of Health and Human Services—Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—Buildings and Facilities”, for purposes of maintaining and improving security on the Roybal campus of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia, and making repairs to buildings on such campus.

SA 4065. Mr. WARNOCK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. With respect to an individual on the Reemployment Priority List for the Department of Health and Human Services, any time during which a hiring freeze is in effect for such agency shall not be considered in calculating the registration period described in section 330.208(a) of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations), for such individual.

SA 4066. Mr. HICKENLOOPER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title IV of division C, add the following:

PROHIBITION OF USE OF FUNDS TO IMPLEMENT THE RESCISSION OF THE CONSERVATION AND LANDSCAPE HEALTH RULE

SEC. 4 _____. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, none of the funds made available under any division of this Act may be used to finalize, issue, or implement the proposed rule of the Bureau of Land Management entitled “Rescission of Conservation and Landscape Health Rule” (90 Fed. Reg. 43990 (September 11, 2025)) or a substantially similar rule.

SA 4067. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. _____. There is appropriated an additional \$100,000,000 under the heading “Department of Health and Human Services—Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—Immunization and Respiratory Diseases”, for purposes of making grants under section 317 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247b) for immunization programs.

SA 4068. Mr. WARNOCK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to

the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. BRIEFING ON FAA MANDATORY REDUCTION IN SERVICE DURING A LAPSE IN APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress on the mandatory reduction in service at high impact airports during the lapse in appropriations that began on October 1, 2025. Such briefing shall include the following information:

(1) The justification used for the flight reductions at each high impact airport that resulted from the mandatory reduction in service, including—

(A) NAS-wide and airport-specific air traffic control staffing levels during the 14 days preceding the date on which the mandatory reduction in service began, compared to the air traffic control staffing levels during the same time frame in each of the previous 2 years;

(B) NAS-wide and airport-specific delay and cancellation rates during the 14 days preceding the date on which the mandatory reduction in service began, compared to the delay and cancellation rates during the same time frame in each of the previous 2 years;

(C) NAS-wide and airport-specific near miss rates during the 14 days preceding the date on which the mandatory reduction in service began, compared to the near miss rates during the same time frame in each of the previous 2 years;

(D) any safety concerns reported by airline or airport employees at high impact airports, or their union representatives, that factored into the decision making of the Administrator;

(E) any safety data collected or concerns reported by air traffic controllers at high impact airports, or their union representatives, that factored into the decision making of the Administrator; and

(F) any other safety, efficiency, staffing, or other data or information used to inform the decision making of the Administrator.

(2) The total cost of the flight reductions that resulted from such mandatory reduction in service, including any lost salaries of airline and airport employees.

(b) SUBSEQUENT BRIEFINGS.—In the event that any Federal agency issues an order establishing operation limitations on the use of navigable airspace during a lapse in appropriations, not later than 3 days after such issuance, the Administrator shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress on such order, including with respect to the information required under paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a).

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration.

(2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

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

(B) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(C) the Members of Congress representing any State in which a high impact airport is located.

(3) HIGH IMPACT AIRPORT.—For purposes of this section, the term “high impact airport”

means an airport described in appendix A of the order issued by the Federal Aviation Administration on November 7, 2025, titled “Emergency Order Establishing Operating Limitations on the Use of Navigable Airspace”.

(4) NAS.—The term “NAS” means the national airspace system.

SA 4069. Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. KAINE, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, and Mr. PADILLA) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. (a) Executive Order 14251 (90 Fed. Reg. 14553; relating to exclusions from Federal labor-management relations programs) and Executive Order 14343 (90 Fed. Reg. 42683; relating to further exclusions from the Federal labor-management relations program) shall have no force or effect, and no Federal funds may be obligated or expended to carry out either such Executive order.

(b) Any collective bargaining agreement in effect as of March 26, 2025, between any agency in the executive branch of the Federal Government and any labor organization that is an exclusive representative of Federal employees shall have full force and effect through the stated term of the applicable agreement.

SA 4070. Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Ms. CANTWELL) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2503, to require all aircraft to be equipped with Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast In, to improve aviation safety, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Rotorcraft Operations Transparency and Oversight Reform Act” or the “ROTOR Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration.

(2) ADS-B IN.—The term “ADS-B In” means onboard avionics equipment that receives and processes Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast transmissions that are broadcast in accordance with sections 91.225 and 91.227 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations), and other aviation advisory information from ground stations, that provides the aircraft with awareness to the location of other aircraft and traffic advisories.

(3) ADS-B OUT.—The term “ADS-B Out”—

(A) has the meaning given such term in section 91.227 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations; and

(B) broadcasts information from the aircraft in accordance with sections 91.225 and 91.227 of such title 14 (or any successor regulations).

(4) AFFECTED AIRCRAFT.—The term “affected aircraft” means any aircraft that is required to operate in accordance with section 91.225 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

(5) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means the Committee on Com-

merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

(6) CABINET MEMBER.—The term “Cabinet Member” means an individual who is the head (including an acting head) of the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Defense, the Department of Education, the Department of Energy, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Justice, the Department of Labor, the Department of State, the Department of Transportation, the Department of the Treasury, or the Department of Veterans Affairs, or any other individual who occupies a position designated by the President as a Cabinet-level position.

(7) FAA.—The term “FAA” means the Federal Aviation Administration.

(8) NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION; NCR.—The terms “National Capital Region” and “NCR” mean the geographic area located within the boundaries of—

(A) the District of Columbia;

(B) Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties in the State of Maryland;

(C) Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria in the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

(D) all cities and other units of government within the geographic areas described in subparagraphs (A) through (C).

(9) POWERED-LIFT.—The term “powered-lift”—

(A) has the meaning given such term in section 1.1 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation); and

(B) includes vertical-lift flight mode and wing-borne flight mode, as such terms are defined in section 194.103 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

(10) ROTORCRAFT.—The term “rotorcraft” has the meaning given such term in section 1.1 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

(11) TRANSPORT AIRPLANE.—The term “transport airplane” has the meaning given such term in section 44741(i) of title 49, United States Code.

(12) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM.—The term “unmanned aircraft system” has the meaning given such term in section 44801 of title 49, United States Code.

SEC. 3. REVISION TO EXCEPTION FOR ADS-B OUT TRANSMISSION.

(a) ADS-B OUT REFORMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) SENSITIVE GOVERNMENT MISSION.—Beginning on the date of enactment of this section, in applying section 91.225(f)(1) of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, the term “sensitive government mission” shall be narrowly construed and shall not include routine flights, non-classified flights, proficiency flights, or flights of Federal officials below the rank of Cabinet Member or the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

(B) NOTIFICATION.—For the purposes of interpreting section 91.225(f)(1) of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, the operating agency shall—

(i) when operating a sensitive government mission during which the aircraft will not be transmitting ADS-B Out, notify Air Traffic Control; and

(ii) notify the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on the Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on the

Armed Services of the House of Representatives on a monthly basis regarding each sensitive government mission within Class B airspace operated during such month.

(2) RULEMAKING AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall—

(i) issue or revise regulations to update section 91.225(f) of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, to comply with the requirements of this section; and

(ii) revise any memorandum of agreement between the FAA and any other Federal, State, local, or Tribal agency to conform with the revised regulations described in clause (i), including any agreement pursuant to section 1046 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (49 U.S.C. 40101 note).

(B) REPORT.—If the Administrator fails to issue or revise regulations pursuant to subparagraph (A) or revise any memorandum of agreement between the FAA and any other agency pursuant to such subparagraph, the Administrator shall, within 30 days, submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the status of such regulations, including the reasons that the Administrator has failed to issue or revise such regulations within the period required under such subparagraph.

(b) GAO REVIEW AND REPORT.—Not later than the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(1) review the utilization of exceptions under section 91.225(f) of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation), as revised under subsection (a), to determine—

(A) whether the Department of Defense and other relevant Federal agencies or other applicable operators have utilized such exceptions in accordance with relevant laws and regulations; and

(B) the extent of such utilization;

(2) compare the utilization of exceptions specified in such section 91.225(f) before and after the issuance of revised regulations under subsection (a); and

(3) submit to the Administrator and the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the findings of the review conducted under paragraph (1) and the comparison conducted under paragraph (2).

(c) FAA REVIEW OF NON-COMPLIANT OPERATORS.—Upon submission of the report under subsection (b)(3), the Administrator shall—

(1) determine whether any Federal agency or other applicable operator that has been found to have not utilized the exceptions under section 91.225(f) of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation), as revised under subsection (a), in accordance with relevant laws and regulations shall be permitted to continue to utilize such exceptions; and

(2) not later than 30 days after the date on which the Comptroller General submits the report under subsection (b)(3), brief the appropriate committees of Congress on such determination.

(d) REPORTS.—

(1) TO THE ADMINISTRATOR.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, and on a quarterly basis thereafter, each Federal, State, local, and Tribal agency that performs sensitive government missions as described in section 91.225(f)(1) of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation), as revised under subsection (a), shall submit to the Administrator a report that includes—

(A) an attestation that such operations are regularly transmitting ADS-B Out and are

conducted with proper consideration to aviation safety;

(B) a list of operations delineated by flight in which the ADS-B Out equipment is not in transmit mode because the aircraft was performing a sensitive government mission, including the airport, airspace location, date, time, duration, and mission type of each such operation; and

(C) with respect to any classified operation, a classified annex.

(2) TO CONGRESS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, and biannually thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the frequency and nature of the ADS-B Out exceptions granted to Federal, State, local, and Tribal agencies under section 91.225(f)(1) of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation), as revised under subsection (a). Such report—

(i) shall include—

(I) aggregated data on the operations in which ADS-B Out equipment is not in transmit mode by each agency described in paragraph (1); and

(II) a determination from the Administrator as to whether each operation described in paragraph (1)(B) jeopardizes aviation safety; and

(ii) may include a classified annex.

(B) SPECIAL NOTIFICATION.—If an agency described in paragraph (1) operates a flight using an exception granted under section 91.225(f)(1) of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation), as revised under subsection (a), 5 or more times in a calendar month, or fails to provide to the Administrator the attestation required under paragraph (1)(A), the Administrator shall notify the appropriate committees of Congress of such use within 14 days of being notified of such use. For the purposes of this subparagraph, a flight shall be interpreted as the period beginning when an aircraft moves under its own power for the purpose of flight and ending when the aircraft lands.

(e) ANNUAL INSPECTOR GENERAL AUDITS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date that is 3 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation (in this section referred to as the “Inspector General”) shall conduct an annual audit of FAA oversight of all operations that utilize an exception under section 91.225(f) of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation), as revised under subsection (a), including Federal agency operations.

(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In conducting an audit under paragraph (1), the Inspector General shall assess the efficacy of FAA oversight related to the following:

(A) Ensuring exceptions under such section 91.225(f)(1) (or any successor regulation) are strictly utilized by operators in accordance with relevant laws and regulations.

(B) Ensuring exceptions under such section 91.225(f)(1) (or any successor regulation) are not routinely used by operators.

(C) Identifying and engaging with any operator not in compliance with relevant laws and regulations relating to exceptions under such section 91.225(f)(1) (or any successor regulation).

(D) Any other factor determined appropriate by the Inspector General.

(3) BRIEFINGS TO CONGRESS.—The Inspector General shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress on an annual basis after the completion of each annual audit.

SEC. 4. ADS-B IN REQUIREMENTS.

(a) REQUIREMENT FOR ADS-B IN OPERATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section,

the Administrator shall issue a final rule in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code, to require any person operating an aircraft (other than an unmanned aircraft, as defined in section 44801 of title 49, United States Code) required to be equipped with ADS-B Out in accordance with section 91.225 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation), to be equipped with and operating with ADS-B In equipment that provides the aircraft with awareness to the location of other aircraft and traffic advisories, unless otherwise authorized by air traffic control.

(2) COMPLIANCE DEADLINES.—In issuing a final rule under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall—

(A) include an effective date of not later than 60 days after the date on which such final rule is published in the Federal Register; and

(B) require aircraft described in paragraph (1) to be equipped with ADS-B In not later than December 31, 2031.

(3) FINAL REGULATION REQUIREMENTS.—In issuing a final rule under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall, at a minimum, do the following:

(A) PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.—The Administrator shall establish appropriate performance requirements for ADS-B In equipment to provide integrated safety-enhancing capabilities for a pilot or other flight crew, including by increasing situational awareness to the location of other aircraft and providing traffic advisories with alerting sufficient to provide traffic advisory indications while airborne and on the airport surface, such as visual and aural advisories.

(B) ALTERNATIVE EQUIPMENT OR TECHNOLOGY.—With respect to aircraft with a maximum certificated takeoff weight of less than 12,500 pounds when operating under part 91 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, and qualifying military aircraft as specified by the Administrator in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Administrator shall establish performance requirements for alternative equipment or technology that the Administrator determines acceptable in satisfying the ADS-B In requirement. The performance requirements shall, at a minimum—

(i) provide similar or improved situational awareness to the location of other airborne traffic, as well as traffic advisory information; and

(ii) leverage the use of portable ADS-B In receivers or equipment that allow display on an existing or future electronic flight bag or panel mounted display, provided that the installation or use of such equipment does not adversely affect other required avionics or the airworthiness of the aircraft.

(C) REQUIRED BRIEFING.—The Administrator shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress, the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives, on at least a monthly basis, regarding the alternative equipment or technology for qualifying military aircraft prior to determining that such equipment or technology is acceptable to satisfy the ADS-B In requirement.

(D) GUIDANCE.—The Administrator shall issue relevant guidance for aircraft operators and other appropriate stakeholders regarding the types of equipment that satisfy the performance requirements described in this paragraph.

(4) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—In issuing a final rule under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall include—

(A) requirements for ADS-B In equipment and the use of such equipment;

(B) technical assistance to facilitating ADS-B In equipage across the entire fleet of

affected aircraft, including, as appropriate, guidance under part 26 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, to provide support for affected transport airplane operators in complying with the requirements of this section;

(C) any other associated guidance necessary to assist operators and other stakeholders in identifying equipment that satisfies the ADS-B In performance standards described in paragraph (3) prior to the compliance deadline described in paragraph (2)(B);

(D) a determination of alternative equipment or technology described in subsection (e); and

(E) a presumption, absent clear and compelling evidence to the contrary, that ADS-B In equipment is cost beneficial and improves aviation safety.

(5) CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFINGS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, and every 90 days thereafter, the Administrator shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress, as well as publish a publicly available report, on the status of—

(A) the ADS-B In rulemaking required under paragraph (1); and

(B) after the compliance deadline described in paragraph (2)(A), the implementation and oversight of such ADS-B In requirement.

(b) NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING COMMITTEE.—

(1) COMMITTEE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator may establish a negotiated rulemaking committee (in this section referred to as the “committee”) pursuant to section 565 of title 5, United States Code, to negotiate proposed regulations to implement the requirements described in subsection (a).

(B) MEMBERSHIP.—If the Administrator elects to establish a committee under this subsection, the committee shall be composed of—

(i) representatives of—

(I) the FAA;

(II) air carriers;

(III) avionics manufacturers;

(IV) aircraft manufacturers; and

(V) general aviation organizations;

(ii) the exclusive bargaining representative of air traffic controllers of the FAA certified under section 7511 of title 5, United States Code;

(iii) organizations representing certified collective bargaining representatives of airline pilots, including the principal organization representing the largest certified collective bargaining representative of airline pilots;

(iv) aviation safety experts outside of the FAA; and

(v) any other representatives determined appropriate by the Administrator.

(C) REQUIRED CONSULTATION.—In establishing a committee under this subsection, the Administrator—

(i) shall consult with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security; and

(ii) may consult with other Federal agencies as appropriate.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—If the Administrator elects to establish a committee under this subsection, the Administrator shall do the following:

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall direct the committee to make recommendations relating to—

(i) ADS-B In equipment and its use;

(ii) ADS-B In equipment performance standards pursuant to subsection (a)(3);

(iii) the consideration of effective approaches to facilitating ADS-B In equipage across the entire fleet of affected aircraft, including requirements under part 26 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, to provide support for affected transport category air-

plane operators in complying with the requirements of this section; and

(iv) with respect to aircraft with a maximum certificated takeoff weight of less than 12,500 pounds when operating under part 91 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, a recommendation for low cost alternative equipment or technology in accordance with subsection (e).

(B) LACK OF COMMITTEE CONSENSUS.—In the event the committee does not reach a consensus regarding a recommendation for low cost alternative equipment or technology under subparagraph (A)(iv), the Administrator shall, after the submission of the committee under paragraph (3), consider prescribing a low cost alternative that includes the criteria described in subsection (e).

(3) SUBMISSION TO THE ADMINISTRATOR.—If the Administrator elects to establish a committee under this subsection, not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the committee shall submit to the Administrator—

(A) a consensus proposal of regulations to implement the requirement described in subsection (a)(1); or

(B) in the event the committee does not reach a consensus, a report identifying any points of agreement and disagreement with respect to such proposed regulations.

(4) PROPOSED RULE.—If the Administrator elects to establish a committee under this subsection, not later than 180 days after receiving the submission of the committee under paragraph (3), the Administrator shall issue a proposed rule, in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code, that either—

(A) to the maximum extent possible consistent with the legal obligations of the FAA, uses the consensus proposal of the committee under paragraph (3)(A) as the basis for the proposed rule for notice and comment, including with respect to any standards or requirements described in subsection (a)(3); or

(B) in the event the committee does not reach a consensus, considers the points of agreement and disagreement submitted by the committee under paragraph (3)(B).

(c) CONSULTATION REQUIRED WITHOUT NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING COMMITTEE.—If the Administrator does not establish a committee under subsection (b), prior to issuing a final rule, the Administrator shall consult with appropriate stakeholders in conducting the rulemaking required under subsection (a)(1), including at a minimum the representatives described in subsection (b)(1)(B).

(d) PHASED-IN RETROFIT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In issuing a final rule under subsection (a)(1), the Administrator shall—

(A) establish a process by which the operator of an affected aircraft, in service as of the date on which the final rule under subsection (a)(1) is published in the Federal Register in accordance with subsection (a)(2)(A), may apply to the Administrator to request additional time, not to exceed a period of 1 year after the deadline described in subsection (a)(2)(B), to finalize equipage of its fleet and make ADS-B In operational, provided that—

(i) an aircraft operator, owner, or their agent submits an application deemed acceptable to the Administrator for additional time for compliance, including a justification for such request and an attestation of actions to date demonstrating progress toward achieving compliance;

(ii) the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, determines additional time is required to mitigate a significant disruption to air transportation; and

(iii) the Administrator determines the aircraft operator or owner does not have any uncorrected violations of subchapters F and G of chapter I of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations; and

(B) notify the appropriate committees of Congress not later than 14 days after making a determination under clause (ii) or (iii) of subparagraph (A).

(2) SPECIAL RULE FOR AGENTS.—With the exception of an agent representing an owner or operator of transport airplanes, for the purposes of this subsection, an agent may represent more than 1 aircraft operator or owner of the same type, model, or manufacturer and may submit 1 or more applications under paragraph (1)(A)(i), each of which may contain multiple aircraft operators or owners.

(e) LOW COST ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF COMPLIANCE.—In issuing a final rule under subsection (a)(1), the Administrator shall determine low cost equipment or technologies that provide similar or improved situational awareness to the location of other airborne traffic, as well as traffic advisory information, that satisfy the ADS-B In equipage requirement for aircraft with a maximum certificated takeoff weight of less than 12,500 pounds when operated under part 91 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations. In making such a determination, the Administrator shall consider the use of—

(1) portable ADS-B In receivers; and

(2) equipment that allows display on an existing or future electronic flight bag or panel mounted display, provided the installation or use does not adversely affect other required avionics or the airworthiness of the aircraft.

(f) PROACTIVE EQUIPAGE.—With respect to any aircraft for which ADS-B In equipment is available and complies with the requirements of the final rule issued under subsection (a)(1), the operator of any such aircraft shall take all appropriate actions necessary to equip such aircraft with ADS-B In prior to the compliance deadline described in subsection (a)(2).

(g) SEPARATION STANDARDS; RELEVANT CONTROLLER TRAINING.—

(1) RULEMAKING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the effective date of the final rule described in subsection (a), the Administrator shall issue a notice of proposed rulemaking to establish separation standards, as appropriate, that leverage ADS-B Out or ADS-B In equipment, and all other available technological capabilities in the air traffic control system, to achieve safety and efficiency benefits throughout the national airspace system, including on an airport surface and within Class E airspace (as defined in section 71.71 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation).

(B) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the rulemaking under this subsection, the Administrator shall consult with appropriate stakeholders, including, at a minimum—

(i) representatives of—

(I) air carriers;

(II) original equipment manufacturers; and

(III) general aviation organizations;

(ii) organizations representing certified collective bargaining representatives of airline pilots, including the principal organization representing the largest certified collective bargaining representative of airline pilots;

(iii) the exclusive bargaining representative of air traffic controllers of the FAA certified under section 7111 of title 5, United States Code;

(iv) aviation safety experts from outside the FAA; and

(v) any other stakeholder deemed appropriate by the Administrator.

(2) **REQUIRED UPDATES TO FAA ORDERS.**—Not later than 18 months after the issuance of the notice of proposed rulemaking under paragraph (1)(A), the Administrator shall complete revisions, as appropriate, to FAA Order 7110.65 and other relevant FAA Orders, to increase safety and efficiency benefits in the national airspace system.

(3) **RELEVANT CONTROLLER TRAINING.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the compliance deadline described in subsection (a)(2), the Administrator shall revise initial and recurrent air traffic controller training, as appropriate, in accordance with FAA Orders 3000.22 and 3120.4 and revise associated orders and directives, as appropriate, to ensure such controllers are trained to apply any new separation standards and procedures.

(B) **REQUIREMENTS.**—In revising training under subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall—

(i) consider human factors impacts, appropriate phraseology adjustments, and surface movement applications; and

(ii) consult with the exclusive bargaining representative of air traffic controllers of the FAA certified under section 7111 of title 5, United States Code.

(h) **ACAS-X ACTION PLAN.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress an action plan for advancing the deployment of the Airborne Collision Avoidance System-X (in this section referred to as “ACAS-X”), or any variant or successor technology, in the national airspace system. The Administrator shall publish the action plan in a publicly available format not later than 10 days after submitting such action plan to Congress.

(2) **CONTENTS.**—In developing the action plan under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall include—

(A) a strategic roadmap for the deployment of ACAS-X technology, including steps required for widespread adoption among aircraft operators (including rotorcraft operators);

(B) actions and funding necessary to complete any applicable research, development, testing, evaluation, and standards development needed to support the certification of such technology;

(C) plans for engagement with appropriate stakeholders, including—

(i) aircraft operators, including those in the Department of Defense;

(ii) aviation safety experts outside the FAA;

(iii) avionics manufacturers;

(iv) aircraft manufacturers;

(v) general aviation organizations;

(vi) the exclusive bargaining representative of air traffic controllers of the FAA certified under section 7511 of title 5, United States Code;

(vii) organizations representing certified collective bargaining representatives of airline pilots, including the principal organization representing the largest certified collective bargaining representative of airline pilots; and

(viii) any other stakeholders determined appropriate by the Administrator;

(D) engagement with foreign civil aviation authorities to harmonize international standards for certification of such technology;

(E) ACAS-X interoperability considerations for aircraft operators (including rotorcraft operators) equipped with ADS-B Out and ADS-B In equipment;

(F) an assessment of safety benefits for aircraft operators equipping with such technology, including civil and military operators; and

(G) any recommendations for administrative or legislative action, as determined appropriate by the Administrator, to advance such technology deployment.

(3) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—The Administrator may take actions, as appropriate, to implement the action plan developed under paragraph (1).

(4) **BRIEFING.**—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Administrator submits the action plan under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress on the contents of such action plan and any prospective actions to implement such plan.

(i) **ARAC TASKING.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator shall task the Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee (in this section referred to as the “ARAC”) with reviewing and assessing the need for aircraft operating in Class D airspace to be equipped with ADS-B Out and ADS-B In equipment.

(2) **REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS.**—Not later than 1 year after initiating the review and assessment under this section, the ARAC shall submit to the Administrator—

(A) a report on the findings of the review and assessment under paragraph (1); and

(B) any recommendations for legislative or regulatory action the ARAC determines appropriate.

(3) **BRIEFING.**—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the ARAC submits the report under paragraph (2), the Administrator shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress on—

(A) the findings and recommendations included in such report; and

(B) any plan to implement such recommendations, including a justification for any recommendations the Administrator determines should not be implemented.

SEC. 5. REPEAL OF MANNED ROTARY WING AIRCRAFT SAFETY PROVISIONS.

Section 373(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026 is repealed, and Chapter 157 of title 10, United States Code, shall be applied as if the amendments made by such section had not been enacted.

SEC. 6. INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE ARMY AUDIT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Inspector General of the Army shall initiate an audit to evaluate the Army’s coordination with the FAA, pilot training, and qualification standards, and the Army’s use of ADS-B Out and whether it adheres to Army policy, regulation, and law.

(b) **ASSESSMENT.**—In conducting the audit required by subsection (a), the Inspector General of the Army shall assess practices and recommendations for the Army, including—

(1) whether Army policy and United States law was adhered to, and the Army’s coordination with the FAA, during National Capital Region (“NCR”) operations of pilot training and qualifications standards in the NCR;

(2) the Army’s policy on ADS-B Out equipment, usage, and activation;

(3) maintenance protocols for UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters operated by the 12th Army Aviation Brigade including, but not limited to, the calibration of any system that transmits altitude and position information outside the aircraft and the calibration of systems that send altitude and position information to the pilots inside the aircraft, and the frequency with which such maintenance protocols occur;

(4) compliance with the September 29, 2021, Letter of Agreement executed between the Pentagon Heliport Air Traffic Control Tower

and the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport Air Traffic Control Tower regarding flight operations in the NCR; and

(5) the Army’s review of loss of separation incidents involving its rotorcraft in the NCR along with possible mitigations to prevent future mishaps.

(c) **PUBLIC DISCLOSURE.**—Not later than 14 days after the audit required by subsection (a) is concluded, the Secretary of the Army shall—

(1) transmit a report on the results of the audit, without redactions, to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives; and

(2) publicly release the report without redactions, except to the extent required for national security reasons.

(d) **INTERIM REPORTING.**—Not later than 180 days after initiating the audit required by subsection (a), and every 180 days thereafter until such audit is concluded, the Inspector General of the Army shall brief the committees of Congress described in subsection (c)(1) regarding the progress of such audit.

SEC. 7. SAFETY REVIEWS OF AIRSPACE.

(a) **FAA-DOD COORDINATION.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall establish or designate an office within the FAA as the “Office of FAA-DOD Coordination” (in this section referred to as the “Office”), which shall—

(1) coordinate airspace usage of military aircraft and rotorcraft with relevant FAA lines of business, including the Air Traffic Organization;

(2) coordinate with the Office of Audit and Evaluation of the FAA to ensure employee complaints and whistleblower protections are considered;

(3) consider opportunities to improve management and consolidation of aviation safety information system databases to enhance civil and military aviation incident reporting; and

(4) carry out the safety review required by subsection (b).

(b) **SAFETY REVIEWS.**—

(1) **REVIEW OF RONALD REAGAN WASHINGTON NATIONAL AIRPORT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Office is established or designated, the Administrator shall initiate a safety review of all military, law enforcement, and civilian rotary wing, powered lift, fixed wing, and unmanned aircraft system flight operations and flight routes in the Washington D.C. Metropolitan Area Special Flight Rules Area, including but not limited to flight operations conducted by the Department of Defense, emergency response providers, and air medical transport operators, to evaluate any associated safety risk to commercial transport airplane operations at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport.

(B) **CONSULTATION.**—In conducting a safety review under subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall consult with—

(i) the Secretary of Defense;

(ii) Federal, State, and local agencies;

(iii) law enforcement agencies;

(iv) emergency response providers, including air medical transport operators;

(v) air carriers;

(vi) aviation labor organizations, including, at a minimum—

(I) the exclusive bargaining representative of air traffic controllers of the FAA certified under section 7511 of title 5, United States Code; and

(II) organizations representing certified collective bargaining representatives of airline pilots, including the principal organization representing the largest certified collective bargaining representative of airline pilots; and

(vii) other stakeholders determined appropriate by the Administrator.

(2) OTHER AIRPORT REVIEWS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall conduct safety reviews of all military, law enforcement and civilian rotary wing, powered lift, fixed wing, and unmanned aircraft system flight operations and flight routes at other Class B airports (as listed in section 1 of Appendix D to part 91 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation)) and within the lateral boundary of Class B airspace, at commercial service Class C airports (as listed in FAA Order JO 7400.11J (or any successor order)) and within the lateral boundary of Class C airspace in the national airspace system, and at Class D airports that provide passenger service under part 121 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, determined to meet the risk criteria set forth in subparagraph (C), including flight operations conducted by the Department of Defense, emergency response providers, and air medical transport operators, to evaluate any associated safety risk to commercial transport airplane operations.

(B) CONSULTATION.—In conducting a safety review under subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall consult with—

- (i) the Secretary of Defense;
- (ii) Federal, State, local, and Tribal agencies;
- (iii) law enforcement agencies;
- (iv) emergency response providers;
- (v) air carriers;
- (vi) aviation labor organizations, including, at a minimum—

(I) the exclusive bargaining representative of air traffic controllers of the FAA certified under section 7511 of title 5, United States Code; and

(II) organizations representing certified collective bargaining representatives of airline pilots, including the principal organization representing the largest certified collective bargaining representative of airline pilots; and

(vii) other stakeholders determined appropriate by the Administrator.

(C) PRIORITIZATION AND RISK CRITERIA.—In prioritizing the safety reviews of Class B, Class C, and Class D airports described in subparagraph (A) and conducting the safety reviews pursuant to subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall, at a minimum, consider the following risk criteria:

- (i) The type of airspace the airport is located in and the type of tower at the airport.
- (ii) Whether the airport has radar on the field.
- (iii) The total number of air traffic operations at the airport per calendar year, as reported in the Operations Network (OPSNET) data of the FAA, and the rate of growth measured over a 20-year period prior to the initiation of a safety review under this section.
- (iv) The Traffic Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) resolution advisory rates at the airport compared to the number of arrivals at the airport.
- (v) The presence of parallel runways.
- (vi) The presence of visual flights (in this subparagraph referred to as “VFR”) corridors in proximity to the airport.
- (vii) The presence of a helicopter corridor in proximity to the airport or nearby helicopter operations.
- (viii) The presence of dense VFR operations at the airport.

(ix) The presence of complex VFR procedures at the airport or in the adjacent airspace.

(D) DEADLINE OF INITIATION OF REVIEWS.—The Administrator shall initiate the reviews under this paragraph by the following deadlines:

(i) CLASS B AIRPORTS.—With respect to Class B airports, not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section.

(ii) CLASS C AIRPORTS.—With respect to Class C airports, not later than 90 days after the initiation date of the Class B airport reviews.

(iii) CLASS D AIRPORTS.—With respect to Class D airports, not later than 90 days after the initiation date of the Class C airport reviews.

(3) REQUIREMENTS.—In conducting the safety reviews required by paragraphs (1) and (2), the Office shall do the following:

(A) Analyze air traffic and airspace management.

(B) Evaluate the level of coordination the Administrator exercises with the Secretary of Defense and the heads of any other Federal agencies, and emergency response providers as appropriate, to inform the designation and approval of airspace use and flight routes for non-transport airplane operations.

(C) Assess any risks posed to transport airplanes from military aircraft and rotorcraft, civil rotorcraft, powered lift aircraft, and unmanned aircraft systems operating in Class B, Class C, or Class D airspace in proximity to Class B, Class C, or Class D airports.

(D) Review relevant incidents submitted to the Administrator through Air Traffic Mandatory Occurrence reports (as documented via FAA Form 7210-13), Aviation Safety Reporting System reports, and Aviation Safety Action Program reports, and relevant reports submitted to the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration through the Aviation Safety Reporting System, to identify any safety trends regarding the operation of military aircraft and rotorcraft, civil rotorcraft, powered lift aircraft, and unmanned aircraft systems in Class B, Class C, or Class D airspace near Class B, Class C, or Class D airports.

(4) DEADLINES FOR COMPLETION OF SAFETY REVIEWS.—

(A) RONALD REAGAN WASHINGTON NATIONAL AIRPORT.—The Administrator shall complete the safety review required by paragraph (1) not later than 120 days after the date on which such review is initiated.

(B) OTHER AIRPORTS.—The Administrator shall complete a safety review required by paragraph (2) not later than 180 days after such review is initiated.

(5) REPORTS.—

(A) REVIEW OF RONALD REAGAN WASHINGTON NATIONAL AIRPORT.—Not later than 60 days after completing the safety review required by paragraph (1), the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report detailing the analyses and results of such review, together with relevant findings and recommendations, including any corrective action plans to address any risks identified, and recommendations for legislative or administrative action determined appropriate by the Administrator.

(B) OTHER AIRPORT REVIEWS.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this section, and every 6 months thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report detailing the analyses and results of the safety reviews completed pursuant to paragraph (2) since the preceding report under this subparagraph (or, in the case of the first such report, since such date of enactment), together with relevant findings and recommendations, including any corrective action plans to address any risks identified,

and recommendations for legislative or administrative actions determined appropriate by the Administrator.

(6) DESIGNATION.—The Administrator shall designate a person within the Senior Executive Service of the FAA to be directly responsible for the completion of the requirements of this subsection.

(7) STAFFING.—The Administrator shall ensure adequate staffing to conduct the safety reviews within the deadlines specified in this section.

SEC. 8. FAA-DOD SAFETY INFORMATION SHARING.

(a) MOU WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Secretary of the Army to permit, as appropriate, the sharing of information from the Army's Safety Management Information System with the FAA, as well as the sharing of information from the FAA's Aviation Safety Information Analysis and Sharing System, Operational Analysis Reporting System, Safety Trend Analytics Dashboard, Aviation Risk Identification and Assessment Program, Comprehensive Electronic Data Analysis and Reporting Tool, and Falcon tool with the Army, to facilitate communications and analysis of any applicable impacts to the safety and efficiency of civil aviation operations and to mitigate risk in the national airspace system.

(b) OTHER DOD MOUS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the following military departments to permit, as appropriate, the sharing of information from applicable aviation safety information systems to facilitate communications and analysis of any applicable impacts to the safety and efficiency of civil aviation operations and to mitigate risk in the national airspace system:

- (1) The Department of the Navy.
- (2) The Department of the Air Force.
- (3) The Coast Guard.

(c) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 7 days after the date on which the Administrator enters into any Memorandum of Understanding under subsection (a) or (b), the Administrator shall notify the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 9. TREATMENT OF MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of subsection (b) of section 1046 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law 115-232; 49 U.S.C. 40101 note), the Memorandum of Agreement Between the Department of Defense and the FAA entered into on May 10, 2024, is deemed to be notice jointly submitted to the appropriate congressional committees for purposes of such subsection and subsection (a) of such section shall cease to be effective as of such date.

(b) UPDATE AND EFFECT OF MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT.—

(1) UPDATE.—The Secretary of Transportation and the Secretary of Defense shall update the memorandum of understanding described in subsection (a) consistent with regulations issued by the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration pursuant to section 3(a)(2).

(2) EFFECT OF MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT.—The memorandum of agreement described in subsection (a) shall remain in force subject to—

(A) any modifications made jointly by the Secretary of Transportation and the Secretary of Defense;

(B) termination by either such Secretary; or

(C) modification or termination by law.

SA 4071. Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. HICKENLOOPER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Transportation shall reinstate the following discretionary grants that were withdrawn, terminated, or canceled:

(1) \$66,400,000 for the Colorado Department of Transportation for the modernization of the Front Range Rail Corridor, including Positive Train Control installation, siding installation, grade crossing safety, and operational improvement projects, under the consolidated rail infrastructure and safety improvements program under section 22907 of title 49, United States Code.

(2) \$11,700,284 for the City of Fort Collins for stage 2 implementation grants for the SPARC-FLEET 2030 Smart Power and Resilient Charging for Fleet Electrification and Emissions Targets project under the Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grant Program established under section 25005 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (23 U.S.C. 502 note; Public Law 117–58).

(3) \$11,671,781 for Colorado State University Pueblo for the Safety Assessment, Testing and Workforce Development for Hydrogen/Natural Gas Motive Power under the consolidated rail infrastructure and safety improvements program under section 22907 of title 49, United States Code.

(4) \$8,340,000 for the Colorado Department of Transportation for electric vehicle charging infrastructure under the program under paragraph (2) in the matter under the heading “HIGHWAY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMS” under the heading “FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION” under the heading “DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION” in title VIII of division J of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58; 135 Stat. 1421) (commonly known as the “National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Formula Program”).

(5) \$10,700,000 for the City of Fort Collins to build a transit station and roundabout at the intersection of West Elizabeth Street and South Overland Trail as part of a bus-rapid-transit initiative under the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program under section 6702 of title 49, United States Code.

SA 4072. Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. BALDWIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In division D, strike section 314 and insert the following:

SEC. 314. Notwithstanding section 430 of the General Education Provisions Act (20

U.S.C. 1231), section 415 or section 419 of the Department of Education Organization Act (20 U.S.C. 3475, 3479), or section 1501 or 1535 of title 31, United States Code, none of the funds appropriated in this Act or any other appropriations Act may be used by the Secretary of Education to enter into or implement any agreement with another Federal agency, or procure services from another Federal agency, to carry out significant responsibilities (including administering or operating programs, making grant awards, carrying out technical assistance, enforcing rights and requirements (including data collection and data sharing requirements), conducting core administrative and oversight functions, and monitoring grantees) related to any program, project, or activity for which funds are appropriated to the Department of Education: *Provided*, That the Department of Education shall support career staffing levels at the Department of Education necessary to fulfill its statutory responsibilities, including carrying out programs, projects, and activities funded in this title of this Act in a timely manner.

SA 4073. Ms. ALSOBROOKS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 874, line 22, strike “program;” and insert “program: *Provided further*, That in accordance with section 429 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11386c), the Secretary shall renew all expiring contracts for leasing, rental assistance, or operating costs for permanent housing if the collaborative applicant for the geographic area certifies that there is a demonstrated need for the project, the project complies with the appropriate standards of housing quality and habitability, and the projects meets the criteria explicitly required under subtitle C of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11381 et seq.) or its implementing regulations.”.

SA 4074. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. _____. From amounts appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act, the Director of the National Science Foundation shall reinstate each grant or other award of the National Science Foundation that was cancelled on or after January 20, 2025, except in the case of a grant or award that was cancelled due to financial mismanagement, research fraud, or malfeasance.

SA 4075. Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes;

which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 691, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

SEC. 5 _____. The Commissioner of Social Security shall—

(1) conduct a review of the prevalence of benefit cliffs in the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) programs and identify—

(A) authorized administrative flexibilities to address such benefit cliffs, and

(B) any further authority needed from Congress to address such benefit cliffs, and

(2) identify strategies to provide earlier notification to beneficiaries at risk of subjection to such benefit cliffs.

SA 4076. Mr. LUJÁN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title III of division B, insert the following:

SEC. _____. (a) None of the funds made available by this Act under the heading “SCIENCE” under the heading “NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION” may be—

(1) used for any purpose other than the programs, projects, and activities specified for such account in this Act, the accompanying explanatory statement, and the Senate report; or

(2) transferred, reprogrammed, deferred, or otherwise withheld from obligation, except pursuant to the reprogramming procedures required by the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

(b) The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget—

(1) shall obligate and expend funds appropriated under the heading “SCIENCE” under the heading “NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION” in a manner consistent with the amounts and purposes specified in this Act; and

(2) shall not take, nor permit to be taken, any action that would impede the timely obligation of such funds without prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations.

(c) Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations a certification that funds appropriated under the heading “SCIENCE” under the heading “NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION” are being apportioned and made available in a manner consistent with congressional intent and without delay.

SA 4077. Mr. WARNOCK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 8 _____. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to enable any law enforcement official of the United States Marshals Service,

the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, or the Federal Bureau of Prisons or any other employee of the Department of Justice designated pursuant to the January 22, 2025 Memorandum by Acting Attorney General Bejamine C. Huffman to perform the functions of an immigration officer granted to the Department of Homeland Security under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

SA 4078. Mr. WARNOCK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 8 _____. Beginning not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall submit to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a monthly report that describes the ongoing reassignments of Department of Justice law enforcement officers to immigration enforcement activities, including—

(1) the number of such personnel who have either been permanently reassigned or placed on temporary duty assignment for purposes of immigration enforcement, disaggregated by bureau or agency;

(2) a description of the activities conducted by such personnel in such new assignments; and

(3) the costs associated with such activities, disaggregated by bureau or agency.

SA 4079. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. _____. In addition to amounts appropriated for primary health care under title II, out of unobligated amounts in the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund (as established in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (Public Law 116-136)), there is transferred to the Community Health Center Fund established under section 10503 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 254b-2), \$340,000,000.

SA 4080. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 660, between lines 6 and 7, insert the following:

CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

For payment to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (referred to in this Act as the “CPB”), as authorized by the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.), an

amount which shall be available within limitations specified by that Act, \$371,000,000, of which \$18,550,000 shall be for the administrative expenses of the CPB, \$22,260,000 shall be for purposes described in section 396(k)(3)(A)(i)(II) of such Act, \$220,732,000 shall be for distribution among the licensees and permittees of public television stations through fiscal stabilization grants, to maintain programming and services and preserve small and rural stations threatened by declines in revenues pursuant to section 396(k)(6)(B) of such Act as if such funds were distributed pursuant to section 396(k)(3)(A)(ii)(I) of such Act, \$69,458,000 shall be for distribution among the licensees and permittees of public radio stations through fiscal stabilization grants, to maintain programming and services and preserve small and rural stations threatened by declines in revenues pursuant to section 396(k)(6)(B) of such Act as if such funds were distributed pursuant to section 396(k)(3)(A)(iii)(I) of such Act, and \$40,000,000 shall be for the costs associated with replacing and upgrading the public broadcasting interconnection system and other technologies and services that create infrastructure and efficiencies within the public media system: *Provided*, That none of the funds made available to the CPB by this Act shall be available for national public television programming, for public radio programming, or for acquiring or producing programming that is to be distributed nationally and is designed to serve the needs of a national audience, as described in clauses (ii)(II), (iii)(II), and (iii)(III), respectively, of section 396(k)(3)(A) of such Act: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available to the CPB by this Act shall be used to pay for receptions, parties, or similar forms of entertainment for Government officials or employees: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available to the CPB by this Act shall be available or used to aid or support any program or activity from which any person is excluded, or is denied benefits, or is discriminated against, on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, or sex: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available to the CPB by this Act shall be used to apply any political test or qualification in selecting, appointing, promoting, or taking any other personnel action with respect to officers, agents, and employees of the CPB.

SA 4081. Mr. MARKEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 874, line 22, strike “program;” and insert “program: *Provided further*, That in awarding funds to recipients, the Secretary shall limit the selection criteria to the criteria described in subparagraphs (A) through (E) of section 427(b)(1) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11386a(b)(1));”.

SA 4082. Mr. KING submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 241, line 18, insert before the period the following: “: *Provided*, That not less

than \$1,000,000 shall be for the collection, compilation, analysis, and publication of data and statistics on the costs to importers of a change in the duty owed for an item that occurs while such item is in transit to the United States”.

SA 4083. Mr. KING (for himself, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. KAINE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 689, strike lines 1 through 4.

SA 4084. Mr. LUJÁN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title III of division B, insert the following:

SEC. _____. (a) None of the funds made available by this Act under the heading “SCIENCE” under the heading “NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION” may be—

(1) used for any purpose other than the programs, projects, and activities specified for such account in this Act and the report accompanying this Act; or

(2) transferred, reprogrammed, deferred, or otherwise withheld from obligation, except pursuant to the reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act.

(b) The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration—

(1) shall obligate and expend funds made available under the heading “SCIENCE” under the heading “NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION” in a manner consistent with the amounts and purposes specified in this Act; and

(2) shall neither take, nor permit to be taken, any action that would impede the timely obligation of such funds without prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations pursuant to section 505 of this Act.

(c) Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations a certification that funds appropriated under the heading “SCIENCE” under the heading “NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION” have been received and were made available in a manner consistent with congressional intent and without delay.

SA 4085. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 178, line 25, strike “Labor.” and insert the following: “Labor: *Provided further*, That the Bureau of Prisons shall use amounts made available under this heading for the deployment in prison mail-receiving facilities of advanced, portable screening

technology, equipped with terahertz scanning capabilities to detect dangerous powders, liquids, drug-laced papers, and other contraband, including fentanyl, that pose a threat to the safety of facility personnel and inmates and shall ensure that such equipment is used in a manner that preserves the confidentiality of legal and attorney-client privileged mail.”

SA 4086. Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. ____ (a) Notwithstanding section 430 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1231), section 415 or section 419 of the Department of Education Organization Act (20 U.S.C. 3475, 3479), section 1501 or 1535 of title 31, United States Code, or any other provision of law, none of the funds appropriated in this Act or any other appropriations Act may be used to transfer or delegate significant responsibilities, including administering programs, making grant awards, carrying out technical assistance, enforcing rights and requirements (including data collection and sharing requirements), and monitoring grantees, related to implementation of programs under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.), the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.), the Education of the Deaf Act of 1986 (20 U.S.C. 4301 et seq.), the Helen Keller National Center Act (29 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.), the Act entitled “An Act to promote the education of the blind”, approved March 3, 1879 (20 U.S.C. 101 et seq.), and the Act entitled “An Act to authorize the operation of stands in Federal buildings by blind persons, to enlarge the economic opportunities of the blind, and for other purposes”, approved June 20, 1936 (commonly known as the “Randolph-Sheppard Act”) (20 U.S.C. 107 et seq.) that are administered by the Department of Education as of the date of enactment of this Act, from the Department of Education to another department or agency.

(b) Notwithstanding the second proviso of section 314, the Department of Education shall support staffing levels at the Department of Education necessary to fulfill its statutory responsibilities including carrying out programs, projects, and activities funded under this Act in a timely and effective manner.

SA 4087. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ Notwithstanding any other provision of law (including any provision of the Code of the District of Columbia), none of the funds made available under any division of this Act or any other Act may be used by the United States Park Police to carry out an activity or initiative that does not involve (in whole or in part), or does not have a clear nexus to, public land under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior.

SA 4088. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ WILDFIRE FUNDING ADJUSTMENT.

(a) STATUTORY CAPS.—Section 251(b)(2)(F)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(F)(i)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking “2027” and inserting “2037”;

(2) in subclause (VII), by striking “and” at the end;

(3) in subclause (VIII), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(IX) for fiscal year 2028, \$4,610,000,000;

“(X) for fiscal year 2029, \$4,840,000,000;

“(XI) for fiscal year 2030, \$5,080,000,000;

“(XII) for fiscal year 2031, \$5,335,000,000;

“(XIII) for fiscal year 2032, \$5,600,000,000;

“(XIV) for fiscal year 2033, \$5,880,000,000;

“(XV) for fiscal year 2034, \$6,180,000,000;

“(XVI) for fiscal year 2035, \$6,485,000,000;

“(XVII) for fiscal year 2036, \$6,810,000,000;

“(XVIII) for fiscal year 2037, \$7,150,000,000.”.

(b) CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT OF 1974.—Section 314 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 645) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(h) ADJUSTMENTS FOR WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION.—

“(1) ADJUSTMENTS.—If the Committee on Appropriations of either House reports an appropriation measure for any of fiscal years 2028 through 2037 that provides an amount for wildfire suppression operations in the Wildland Fire Management accounts at the Department of Agriculture or the Department of the Interior, or if a conference committee submits a conference report thereon, the chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives or the Senate shall make the adjustments referred to in paragraph (2) to reflect the additional new budget authority provided for wildfire suppression operations for that fiscal year in that measure or conference report and the outlays resulting therefrom, consistent with paragraph (4).

“(2) TYPES OF ADJUSTMENTS.—The adjustments referred to in this paragraph consist of adjustments to—

“(A) the discretionary spending limits for that fiscal year as set forth in the most recently adopted concurrent resolution on the budget;

“(B) the allocations to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives for that fiscal year under section 302(a); and

“(C) the appropriate budget aggregates for that fiscal year in the most recently adopted concurrent resolution on the budget.

“(3) ENFORCEMENT.—The adjusted discretionary spending limits, allocations, and aggregates under this subsection shall be considered the appropriate limits, allocations, and aggregates for purposes of congressional enforcement of this Act and concurrent budget resolutions under this Act.

“(4) LIMITATION.—No adjustment may be made under this subsection in excess of—

“(A) for fiscal year 2028, \$4,610,000,000;

“(B) for fiscal year 2029, \$4,840,000,000;

“(C) for fiscal year 2030, \$5,080,000,000;

“(D) for fiscal year 2031, \$5,335,000,000;

“(E) for fiscal year 2032, \$5,600,000,000;

“(F) for fiscal year 2033, \$5,880,000,000;

“(G) for fiscal year 2034, \$6,180,000,000;

“(H) for fiscal year 2035, \$6,485,000,000;

“(I) for fiscal year 2036, \$6,810,000,000; and

“(J) for fiscal year 2037, \$7,150,000,000.

“(5) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this subsection, the terms ‘additional new budget authority’ and ‘wildfire suppression operations’ have the meanings given such terms in section 251(b)(2)(F)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(F)(ii)).”.

SA 4089. Mr. WYDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 151, line 6, insert before the period the following: “: *Provided further*, That \$300,000 shall be made available to procure additional tsunami warning data”.

SA 4090. Mr. WYDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation shall provide to the Senate an unclassified report and briefing to related to criminal investigations into individuals employed by Jeffrey Epstein that controlled the movement of funds in and out of the bank accounts of Epstein. The report and briefing shall contain the following information:

(1) A list of all criminal investigations conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation into any individual that was employed by Epstein, had signatory authority over the bank accounts of Epstein, or has been an executor or beneficiary of the estate of Epstein at any time. Each investigation identified shall include the subject or target of the investigation, the conduct that was investigated, and the result of the investigation.

(2) A copy of all declination memoranda prepared by the Department of Justice related to any individual that—

(A) was employed by Epstein;

(B) had signatory authority over the bank accounts of Epstein;

(C) had been an executor or beneficiary of the estate of Epstein at any time.

(3) A detailed analysis regarding whether the Federal Bureau of Investigation has ever questioned Darren Indyke, Richard Kahn, or Harry Beller in connection with any criminal investigation into Epstein or Ghislane Maxwell, and, if so, the date on which the individual was questioned.

(4) A list of all cash withdrawals and wire transfers made by Darren Indyke, Richard Kahn, or Harry Beller from the bank accounts of Epstein at JPMorgan Chase & Co., Deutsche Bank, BNY Mellon, or any other financial institution that have been identified by the Federal Bureau of Investigation as related to or in furtherance of the sex trafficking conspiracy of Epstein. Each withdrawal or wire transfer identified shall include the date, amount, and financial institution involved for each withdrawal or wire transfer.

SA 4091. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 8 _____. It is the sense of Congress that as a matter of law and policy, the United States Government may not engage in extrajudicial killings, murder, or war crimes.

SA 4092. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. PROHIBITION ON FUNDING FOR ACTIVITIES THAT WOULD VIOLATE THE POSSE COMITATUS ACT OR INFRINGE ON POWERS RESERVED TO THE STATES.

None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used by the Department of Defense for, or in support of, any activities that would violate the Posse Comitatus Act or infringe on powers reserved to the States under the Constitution of the United States.

SA 4093. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. POSSE COMITATUS LIMITATIONS ON NATIONAL GUARD DEPLOYMENTS.

Section 502(f)(2)(A) of title 32, United States Code, is amended by inserting “, subject to the limitations of section 1385 of title 18, commonly referred to as the ‘Posse Comitatus Act’” after “Secretary of Defense”.

SA 4094. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 8 _____. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or any prior Act may be made available for the use of a United States military base or other area under military control for the immigration enforcement purpose of detaining non-citizens who—

(1) are physically present in the United States; or

(2) have been transferred from the United States.

SA 4095. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making ap-

propriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 8 _____. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or any prior Act may be made available for the direct costs of—

(1) deporting or otherwise repatriating (whether on a voluntary or involuntary basis) any individual from the United States to another country; or

(2) transferring any individual from the United States to United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, for the purpose of detention, imprisonment, or removal from the United States.

SA 4096. Mr. LUJÁN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

COST-SHARE WAIVER FOR REMEDIATION OF WILDLAND FIRES

SEC. _____. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Agriculture may waive any cost-share requirement for awards to Indian Tribes, States, units of local government, and individuals under Federal programs authorized for wildland fire recovery for the implementation of projects, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture, in response to a wildland fire described in subsection (b) in an area affected by the wildland fire.

(b) A wildland fire referred to in subsection (a) is a wildland fire, including any direct or indirect damage resulting in watershed impairment, that the Secretary of Agriculture determines to be a result of management activities conducted by the Secretary of Agriculture on National Forest System land.

SA 4097. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. (a) Of the amounts made available by this Act for “Management and Administration—Program Offices” for the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (in this section referred to as the “Secretary”) shall ensure that each region has on-board Federal personnel assigned to carry out enforcement and compliance functions under the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.), including intake, investigation, conciliation, compliance reviews, and enforcement support.

(b) The Secretary shall designate, for each region, an on-board Federal employee of the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity who is responsible for coordinating regional fair housing enforcement activities and serving as the point of contact for complainants, grantees, and the public.

(c) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used in a manner that re-

sults in any region having no on-board Federal personnel assigned to the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity for fair housing enforcement and compliance activities.

(d) The Secretary shall ensure that the number of on-board Federal personnel assigned to carry out enforcement and compliance functions under the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.) in each region is not fewer than the number of such personnel assigned to that region as of the date of enactment of this Act.

(e) In this section, the term “region” means each of the 10 geographic regions of the Department of Housing and Urban Development and each corresponding regional office through which the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity carries out its functions.

SA 4098. Mr. HICKENLOOPER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. PROHIBITION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF RULE.

None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to finalize, issue, or implement the proposed rule of the Environmental Protection Agency entitled “Reconsideration of 2009 Endangerment Finding and Greenhouse Gas Vehicle Standards” (90 Fed. Reg. 36288 (August 1, 2025)).

SA 4099. Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. SANDERS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 294, line 23, strike “\$168,246,000” and insert “\$178,246,000”.

On page 295, line 13, strike “and (3)” and insert “(3) \$10,000,000 is for competitive grants for the restoration of historic properties of nation historic properties of national, State, and local significance listed on or eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places; and (4)”.

SA 4100. Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 453(a) of division C, strike “\$764,514,000” and all that follows through “\$515,060,000 from the unobligated balances” and insert “\$514,514,000 shall be derived by transfer from the unobligated balances of amounts previously appropriated in division J of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58)”.

SA 4101. Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER submitted an amendment intended to

be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to change the child and adolescent immunization schedule of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention without scientific evidence.

SA 4102. Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement or enforce the final rule entitled “Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Marketplace Integrity and Affordability” (90 Fed. Reg. 27074 (June 25, 2025)).

SA 4103. Mr. LUJÁN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. AAMODT LITIGATION SETTLEMENT PROTECTION.

Section 623(g) of the Aamodt Litigation Settlement Act (Public Law 111-291; 124 Stat. 3153) is amended—

(1) by striking “The dates” and inserting the following:

“(1) CONDITIONS PRECEDENT; EXPIRATION DATE.—The dates”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) DETERMINATION OF SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION.—The dates in subsection (e) may be extended if the Pueblos, the United States (acting through the Secretary), the State, the City, and the County agree that an extension is reasonably necessary.”.

SA 4104. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used for the construction of a new United States Space Command headquarters anywhere other than the current location in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

SA 4105. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making ap-

propriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used for merging, moving, or disestablishing a United States military combatant command.

SA 4106. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. (a) In addition to the amounts appropriated or otherwise made available elsewhere in this Act, \$1,200,000,000 is appropriated to the Department of Defense for the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative.

(b) This section is designated as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4001(a)(1) of S. Con. Res. 14 (117th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2022, and to legislation establishing fiscal year 2026 budget enforcement in the House of Representatives.

SA 4107. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or any other Act may be obligated or expended by the Central Intelligence Agency, the Department of Defense, or any other agency or entity of the United States involved in intelligence or paramilitary activities, to furnish any type of materiel support to any group of individuals, including those who both are and are not part of Venezuela’s armed forces, for the purpose of overthrowing the regime of Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro or for purposes which would have the effect of supporting, directly or indirectly, military, paramilitary, or intelligence operations in Venezuela by any nation, group, organization, movement, or individual, that could result in the overthrow of Maduro’s regime, without authorization from Congress.

(b) The prohibition under subsection (a) shall remain in effect until—

(1) Congress enacts a joint resolution repealing the prohibition; or

(2)(A) the President submits a report to the Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives that inter alia justifies the amount and type of proposed materiel support; and

(B) Congress subsequently enacts a joint resolution approving such materiel support for military, paramilitary, or intelligence operations in Venezuela.

(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the United States from—

(1) activities solely for the purposes of collecting, analyzing, and sharing intelligence information to facilitate the defense against an armed attack by the National Armed Forces of Venezuela on the United States or its personnel or facilities located outside the United States;

(2) activities solely for the purposes of collecting, analyzing, or sharing intelligence and counterintelligence information of interest to the United States, including with other nations or international organizations, related to threats emanating from Venezuela;

(3) collecting, analyzing, or sharing intelligence to support diplomatic activities aimed at securing the safe return of any United States citizens wrongfully detained by the Maduro regime;

(4) activities for the purposes of collecting, analyzing, and sharing intelligence solely for the purposes of interdicting and disrupting the production and distribution of illicit narcotics which United States intelligence confirms are emanating from or transiting Venezuela and are bound for the United States; and

(5) activities solely for the purposes of countering the activities of Russia, China, Iran, or North Korea in Venezuela or neighboring states.

(d) In this section, the term “materiel support” includes—

(1) any actions that would inflict serious bodily harm on or result in the death of Venezuela’s leadership;

(2) military equipment;

(3) military, paramilitary, and intelligence training;

(4) military advice;

(5) intelligence and counterintelligence advice and information;

(6) guidance for military, paramilitary, or intelligence activities in Venezuela;

(7) communications equipment, and training for the use of such communications equipment;

(8) the planning or execution of military, paramilitary, or intelligence operations; and

(9) the participation in logistics activities connected or related in any way to such operations, including general logistics advice.

SA 4108. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 178, line 25, strike “Labor.” and insert the following: “Labor: *Provided further*, That the Bureau of Prisons shall use amounts made available under this heading to reinstate retention incentives through the remainder of Fiscal Year 2026, at levels not less than those in place on December 31, 2024.”

SA 4109. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ DISCLOSURES AND REPORTS REGARDING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE-RELATED JOB IMPACTS.

(a) COVERED ENTITY DISCLOSURES.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not more than 30 days after the last day of each quarter, a covered entity shall, with respect to such quarter, disclose to the Secretary any artificial intelligence-related job impact experienced by the entity in the United States (including any territory or possession of the United States), including—

(A) the number of individuals laid off by the covered entity in the United States (including any territory or possession of the United States) during the quarter that are substantially due to the replacement or automation by artificial intelligence of the functions performed by such individuals;

(B) the number of individuals hired by the covered entity in the United States (including any territory or possession of the United States) during the quarter that are substantially due to the incorporation of artificial intelligence;

(C) the number of positions of the covered entity in the United States (including any territory or possession of the United States) that were occupied at any point during the prior quarter for which the covered entity has decided not to fill based on a reason that is substantially due to the replacement or automation by artificial intelligence of the functions of such positions;

(D) the number of individuals in the United States (including any territory or possession of the United States) whom the covered entity is retraining, or assisting in retraining, based on a reason that is substantially due to artificial intelligence; and

(E) any other information related to artificial intelligence-related job impacts, as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(2) **NAICS CODES.**—With respect to each artificial intelligence-related job impact disclosure under paragraph (1), the covered entity shall provide in such disclosure the corresponding North American Industry Classification System codes.

(3) SURVEYS.—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—As determined appropriate by the Secretary, the Secretary may—

(i) (I) revise an existing survey conducted by the Secretary as of the date of enactment of this Act to incorporate the disclosures required under this subsection into such a survey; or

(II) collaborate with the Bureau of the Census to revise an existing survey conducted by the Bureau of the Census as of the date of enactment of this Act, or an existing survey conducted as of such date of enactment by the Secretary in partnership with the Bureau of the Census, to incorporate the disclosures required under this subsection into such a survey; and

(ii) allow covered entities to comply with the requirements of this subsection by making such disclosures through such survey.

(B) **BUREAU OF THE CENSUS SURVEYS.**—In the case the disclosures required under this subsection are incorporated pursuant to subparagraph (A) into a survey conducted by the Bureau of the Census that is not a survey conducted in partnership with the Secretary, the Bureau of the Census shall, for each quarter, share the data from such disclosures with the Secretary in order for the Secretary to prepare the reports required under subsection (b).

(b) **DEPARTMENT OF LABOR REPORTS.**—The Secretary, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and the Director of the Office of Professional Management, shall—

(1) for each quarter, prepare a report—

(A) summarizing the data from disclosures submitted under subsection (a) during the quarter; and

(B) for the quarter ending on December 31, summarizing such data for the calendar year;

(2) for every other quarter, prepare a report analyzing the net impact of the data contained in the report under paragraph (1) for such quarter and for the preceding quarter, and any other relevant data available to the Secretary with respect to artificial intelligence-related job impacts; and

(3) not more than 60 days after the last day of each quarter—

(A) publish each report prepared for the quarter under paragraph (1) and, as applicable, paragraph (2), and the data underlying such reports on the website of the Bureau of Labor Statistics; and

(B) submit each such report to Congress.

(c) APPLICATION TO NON-PUBLICLY-TRADED COMPANIES.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Secretary of the Treasury, shall issue regulations to determine the extent to which non-publicly-traded companies shall be included as subject to the reporting requirements under subsection (a).

(2) **SCOPE OF RULEMAKING.**—The regulations issued under this subsection shall—

(A) identify for such inclusion categories of non-publicly-traded companies that have a significant workforce, estimated enterprise value, or employment impact on a regional or national basis;

(B) consider for such inclusion thresholds with respect to non-publicly-traded companies, such as—

(i) the number of employees employed by such companies;

(ii) the annual revenue of such companies; or

(iii) the industry classification under the North American Industry Classification System for such companies;

(C) ensure that any reporting requirements under subsection (a) applicable to a non-publicly-traded company are proportionate to the size and capacity of such company; and

(D) establish procedures for the confidential submission and publication of data of non-publicly-traded companies in order to protect the proprietary or personally identifiable information of such companies.

(3) **PUBLIC COMMENT.**—In issuing the regulations under this subsection, the Secretary shall provide for notice and comment in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.**—The term “artificial intelligence” has the meaning given the term in section 5002 of the National Artificial Intelligence Initiative Act of 2020 (15 U.S.C. 9401).

(2) **COVERED ENTITY.**—The term “covered entity” means—

(A) an entity that is—

(i) a publicly-traded company; or

(ii) an agency, as defined in section 551 of title 5, United States Code; and

(B) an entity that—

(i) is a non-publicly-traded company; and

(ii) is identified by the Secretary through regulations issued under subsection (c) for inclusion as subject to the requirements under subsection (a).

(3) NON-PUBLICLY-TRADED COMPANY.—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “non-publicly-traded company” means a business entity engaged in interstate commerce that—

(i) is not an issuer, the securities of which are listed on a national securities exchange; and

(ii) is not otherwise required to file reports with the Securities and Exchange Commission under section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m; 78o(d)).

(B) **SECURITIES DEFINITIONS.**—In this paragraph—

(i) the terms “exchange”, “issuer”, and “security” have the meanings given those terms in section 3(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)); and

(ii) the term “national securities exchange” means an exchange registered pursuant to section 6 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78f).

(4) **PUBLICLY-TRADED COMPANY.**—The term “publicly-traded company” has the meaning given the term in section 5003(a) of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (15 U.S.C. 9009c(a)).

(5) **QUARTER.**—The term “quarter” has the meaning given the term “calendar quarter” in section 5061(d)(4)(C) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(6) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Labor, acting through the Commissioner of Labor Statistics.

SA 4110. Mr. MARKEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

For payment to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (referred to in this Act as the “CPB”), as authorized by the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.), an amount which shall be available within limitations specified by that Act, for fiscal year 2026, \$535,000,000: *Provided*, That none of the funds made available to the CPB by this Act shall be used to pay for receptions, parties, or similar forms of entertainment for Government officials or employees: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available to the CPB by this Act shall be available or used to aid or support any program or activity from which any person is excluded, or is denied benefits, or is discriminated against, on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, or sex: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available to the CPB by this Act shall be used to apply any political test or qualification in selecting, appointing, promoting, or taking any other personnel action with respect to officers, agents, and employees of the CPB.

In addition, for the costs associated with replacing and upgrading the public broadcasting interconnection system and other technologies and services that create infrastructure and efficiencies within the public media system, \$60,000,000.

SA 4111. Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 221, between lines 5 and 6, insert the following:

SEC. 225. Notwithstanding any other provision of this title—

(1) the amount made available under this title for “Justice Operations, Management, and Accountability—Salaries and Expenses” shall be \$137,000,000; and

(2) the amount made available under this title for “Office of Justice Programs—State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance” shall be \$1,883,146,000, of which \$5,000,000 shall be for emergency Federal law enforcement assistance for events occurring during or after fiscal year 2026, as authorized by section 609M of the Justice Assistance Act of 1984 (34 U.S.C. 50101), to support any of the purposes specified in section 501 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10152).

SA 4112. Mr. VAN HOLLEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. ____ . TRUE SHUTDOWN FAIRNESS.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section—

(1) the term “agency”—

(A) means each authority of the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of the Government of the United States; and

(B) includes each element of the District of Columbia public employer, as defined in section 1341(c) of title 31, United States Code;

(2) the term “contract employee” means an employee of a contractor for whom a lapse in regular appropriations could suspend, delay, or interrupt (or, if there is an ongoing lapse in regular appropriations on the date of enactment of this Act, for whom the lapse in regular appropriations suspended, delayed, or interrupted) all or part of the work of the applicable contract, or could stop (or stopped) all or part of the work called for in that contract, including—

(A) a service employee, as defined in section 6701(3) of title 41, United States Code, except that an individual covered under this subparagraph includes an individual described in subparagraph (C) of such section 6701(3);

(B) a laborer or mechanic with respect to whom section 3142 of title 40, United States Code, applies; and

(C) an employee of a business concern that holds a contract, subcontract, or other agreement with an agency that provides for services or supplies, including a service contract under chapter 67 of title 41, United States Code;

(3) the term “covered employee”—

(A) means each employee of an agency, without regard to whether, for any portion of the period beginning on October 1, 2025, and ending on September 30, 2026—

(i) the head of that agency determined that the individual was an excepted employee or an employee performing emergency work; or

(ii) the individual was subject to furlough;

(B) includes—

(i) a member of the Armed Forces on active duty; and

(ii) a member of a reserve component who, during a lapse in regular appropriations with respect to the applicable agency, performs active service or inactive duty training; and

(C) only includes an individual described in subparagraph (A) or (B) who was an employee or member on, or had accepted an offer of employment with the agency or had enlisted in or accepted an appointment to the Armed Forces (including a reserve com-

ponent) on or before, the day before the date on which the applicable lapse in regular appropriations began;

(4) the term “lapse in regular appropriations”, with respect to an agency, means any period during which interim or full-year appropriations for fiscal year 2026 are not in effect for the agency; and

(5) the term “standard employee compensation” means, with respect to a covered employee or a contract employee, the standard rate of basic pay, allowances, pay differentials, benefits, and other payments otherwise payable on a regular basis to the covered employee or contract employee.

(b) **APPROPRIATIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—For fiscal year 2026, for any lapse in regular appropriations with respect to an agency, there are appropriated to the head of the agency, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, such sums as are necessary to provide, with respect to the period of the lapse in regular appropriations—

(A) standard employee compensation to covered employees of the agency; and

(B) payments to contractors of the agency to provide standard employee compensation to contract employees with respect to the agency, which shall only be used by those contractors to provide standard employee compensation to those contract employees.

(2) **AGENCY REQUIREMENT.**—The head of each agency to whom amounts are made available under paragraph (1) shall provide standard employee compensation to covered employees of the agency—

(A) if there is a lapse in regular appropriations ongoing on the date of enactment of this Act, as soon as is practicable, but not later than 7 days after the date of enactment of this Act, without regard to—

(i) scheduled pay dates; or

(ii) whether the covered employee was subject to furlough during such lapse in regular appropriations; and

(B) with respect to any period of a lapse in regular appropriations beginning on or after the date of enactment of this Act, on the regularly scheduled pay dates of the covered employees.

(c) **PRICE ADJUSTMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the head of each agency shall adjust the price of any contract described in paragraph (2) to compensate the applicable contractor for reasonable costs incurred, as described in paragraph (3), regardless of whether the contract provides for, or otherwise prohibits, the contractor to incur those reasonable costs or receive such an adjustment for incurring those reasonable costs.

(2) **CONTRACT DESCRIBED.**—A contract is described in this paragraph if the contract is a contract of an agency for which, as a result of a lapse in regular appropriations occurring before the date of enactment of this Act, the contractor—

(A) suspended, delayed, or interrupted all or part of the work under that contract;

(B) stopped all or any part of the work called for in the contract; or

(C) with respect to a lapse in regular appropriations beginning after the date of enactment of this Act, could take an action described in subparagraph (A) or (B).

(3) **REASONABLE COSTS DESCRIBED.**—Reasonable costs described in this paragraph are costs actually incurred by the applicable contractor—

(A) to provide standard employee compensation for the period of the applicable lapse in regular appropriations, at the standard rate of compensation, to any contract employee employed by the contractor who, as a result of that lapse in regular appropri-

(i) was furloughed or laid off;

(ii) was otherwise not working;

(iii) experienced a reduction of hours; or

(iv) experienced a reduction in compensation; or

(B) to restore paid leave taken by any contract employee described in subparagraph (A) during the applicable lapse in regular appropriations, if the contractor required or permitted employees of the contractor to use paid leave as a result of that lapse in regular appropriations.

(4) **EVIDENCE.**—A contractor seeking an adjustment under paragraph (1) shall provide the head of the applicable agency any evidence of the reasonable costs incurred by the contractor described in paragraph (3) as the head of the agency, in consultation with the Administrator of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy, considers appropriate.

(d) **TERMINATION.**—Appropriations and funds made available and authority granted under subsection (b) shall be available to the head of an agency until whichever of the following first occurs:

(1) The enactment into law of appropriations for the agency until the end of fiscal year 2026 (including a continuing appropriation) that provide amounts for the purposes for which amounts are made available under subsection (b).

(2) The enactment into law of appropriations for the agency until the end of fiscal year 2026 (including a continuing appropriation) without any appropriation for such purposes.

(e) **LIMITATION TO INDIVIDUALS AFFECTED BY A SHUTDOWN.**—Amounts provided under subsection (b) may not be used for a purpose described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of subsection (b)(1) for any portion of a lapse in regular appropriations for which a covered employee is provided with standard employee compensation or a contractor is provided payment to provide a contract employee with standard employee compensation, respectively, using amounts other than amounts provided under subsection (b).

(f) **INTERIM CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS.**—Appropriations made available under subsection (b) may not be obligated by the head of an agency during any period during which continuing appropriations for the purposes for which amounts are made available under subsection (b) are in effect for the agency.

(g) **CHARGING TO FUTURE APPROPRIATIONS.**—Expenditures made pursuant to subsection (b) shall be charged to the applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization whenever an Act in which such applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization is included is enacted into law.

(h) **LIMITATION ON TRANSFER AUTHORITY.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law (including any appropriation Act), the amounts provided under subsection (b)—

(1) shall be available solely for a purpose described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of subsection (b)(1); and

(2) may not be transferred, reprogrammed, obligated, or expended for any other purpose.

(i) **TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**—For fiscal year 2026, standard employee compensation provided to covered employees, and payments to contractors to provide standard employee compensation to contract employees, provided by an agency using amounts provided under subsection (b) shall be subject to—

(1) the requirements, authorities, conditions, and limitations applicable with respect to the provision of standard employee compensation, or payment to contractors, respectively, by the agency under the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2026 (division A of Public Law 119-37); or

(2) if an Act is enacted after the date of enactment of the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2026 (division A of Public Law 119-37)

that provides continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for the agency to provide standard employee compensation, or payment to contractors, respectively, the requirements, authorities, conditions, and limitations applicable with respect to the provision of standard employee compensation, or payment to covered contractors, respectively, by the agency under that subsequently enacted Act.

(j) **AUTHORIZATION TO OBLIGATE AND EXPEND FUNDS.**—Funds appropriated by this section may be obligated and expended notwithstanding section 15 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2680) and section 504(a)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3094(a)(1)).

(k) **RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.**—

(1) **STANDARD EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION.**—This section shall be construed to provide each covered employee and contract employee with standard employee compensation for the period of the lapse in regular appropriations as if the covered employee or contract employee was performing the duties of the covered employee or contract employee during the lapse in regular appropriations.

(2) **NO CHANGE IN AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES.**—Nothing in this section may be construed to require an agency to take any action that the agency is not required to take under the terms of a contract during any period during which there is not a lapse in regular appropriations.

(l) **AGENCY ACTIVITIES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Covered employees and contract employees shall perform their typical duties to the maximum extent practicable during a lapse in regular appropriations.

(2) **OTHER OBLIGATIONS OR EXPENDITURES.**—This section does not authorize or necessarily imply that an agency or employee may incur any obligations or expenditures that are not explicitly authorized by this section.

SEC. ____ . LIMITATION ON REDUCTIONS IN FORCE.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section—

(1) the term “agency”—

(A) means each authority of the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of the Government of the United States; and

(B) includes each element of the District of Columbia public employer, as defined in section 1341(c) of title 31, United States Code; and

(2) the term “lapse in regular appropriations”, with respect to an agency, means any period during which interim or full-year appropriations for fiscal year 2026 are not in effect for the agency.

(b) **PROHIBITION.**—During a lapse in regular appropriations, none of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to—

(1) propose or implement a reduction in force, or any similar effort, to permanently reduce the number of employees employed by an agency; or

(2) place any employee of an agency in administrative leave for more than 10 work days in any calendar year.

(c) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section may be construed to affect a voluntary separation payment offered to an employee under section 3523 of title 5, United States Code.

SA 4113. Ms. KLOBUCHAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2465, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In the matter under the heading “MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY GRANTS” under the heading “FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ADMINISTRATION” in title I, strike “program.” at the end of paragraph (5) of the second proviso and insert the following: “program: *Provided further*, That of the unobligated amounts provided for Motor Carrier Safety Grants in the FAST Act (Public Law 114-94) or in section 23001 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58) prior to fiscal year 2026, \$5,000,000 in additional obligation limitation, shall be transferred and made available for the commercial motor vehicle enforcement training and support grant program: *Provided further*, That \$5,000,000 for payment of obligations incurred in carrying out the preceding proviso shall be derived from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account), to be available until September 30, 2027: *Provided further*, That amounts made available in the preceding two provisos, shall be available to complete the fiscal year 2024 commercial motor vehicle enforcement training and support grant program notice of funding opportunity and shall be available to all applicants otherwise eligible under such notice of funding opportunity.”

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I have seven 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 au-

thorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 10 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 Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 2:30 p.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 Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Indian Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 3 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Cristina Sandstedt, a Coast Guard fellow in my office, be granted floor privileges until December 19, 2025.

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

FOREIGN TRAVEL FINANCIAL REPORTS

In accordance with the appropriate provisions of law, the Secretary of the Senate herewith submits the following reports for standing committees of the Senate, certain joint committees of the Congress, delegations and groups, and select and special committees of the Senate, relating to expenses incurred in the performance of authorized foreign travel:

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Katie Britt:					
Croatia	US Dollar	415.66			415.66
Italy	US Dollar	2,204.03			2,204.03

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2025—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Delegation Expenses: *					
Croatia	Kuna			2,857.99	2,857.99
Italy	Euro			5,839.36	5,839.36
Dylan Byrd:					
South Korea	Won	1,403.00			1,403.00
United States	US Dollar		1,517.69		1,517.69
Brigid Kolish:					
South Korea	Won	1,052.00			1,052.00
United States	US Dollar		1,645.69		1,645.69
Delegation Expenses: *					
South Korea	Won			810.00	810.00
Senator Christopher Coons:					
Australia	Australian Dollar	1,038.00			1,038.00
Fiji	Fiji Dollar	1,025.00			1,025.00
Papua New Guinea	Kina	962.74			962.74
Senator Gary Peters:					
Australia	Australian Dollar	1,038.00			1,038.00
Fiji	Fiji Dollar	1,025.00			1,025.00
Papua New Guinea	Kina	962.74			962.74
Benjamin Donovan:					
Australia	Australian Dollar	1,038.00			1,038.00
Fiji	Fiji Dollar	1,025.00			1,025.00
Papua New Guinea	Kina	962.74			962.74
Robert Leonard:					
Australia	Australian Dollar	1,038.00			1,038.00
Fiji	Fiji Dollar	1,025.00			1,025.00
Papua New Guinea	Kina	962.74			962.74
Chelsea Moser:					
Australia	Australian Dollar	1,038.00			1,038.00
Fiji	Fiji Dollar	1,025.00			1,025.00
Papua New Guinea	Kina	962.74			962.74
Delegation Expenses: *					
Australia	Australian Dollar			7,902.00	7,902.00
Fiji	Fiji Dollar			3,278.33	3,278.33
Papua New Guinea	Kina			2,487.56	2,487.56
Rachel Da Pieve:					
South Korea	US Dollar	1,052.00			1,052.00
United States	US Dollar		1,610.69		1,610.69
Megan Handal:					
South Korea	US Dollar	1,052.00			1,052.00
United States	US Dollar		1,607.39		1,607.39
Delegation Expenses: *					
South Korea	Won			810.00	810.00
Paul Denaro:					
Colombia	US Dollar	1,391.52	367.02		1,758.54
Mexico	US Dollar	752.00			752.00
United States	US Dollar		3,149.91		3,149.91
Delegation Expenses: *					
Colombia	Colombian Peso			730.00	730.00
Mexico	Mexican Peso			2,747.23	2,747.23
Kali Farahmand:					
Mexico	Mexican Peso	752.00			752.00
United States	US Dollar		1,857.30		1,857.30
Delegation Expenses: *					
Mexico	Mexican Peso			730.00	730.00
Paul Grove:					
Congo—Brazzaville	US Dollar	392.00			392.00
Congo—Kinshasa	US Dollar	1,506.00			1,506.00
Rwanda	US Dollar	282.00			282.00
United States	US Dollar		4,912.06		4,912.06
Delegation Expenses: *					
Congo—Brazzaville	CFA Franc BEAC			2,956.00	2,956.00
Rwanda	Rwanda Franc			355.60	355.60
Alexa Lorrick:					
Germany	US Dollar	1,130.11			1,130.11
Norway	US Dollar	1,334.00			1,334.00
United Kingdom	US Dollar	1,573.72			1,573.72
United States	US Dollar		5,596.21		5,596.21
Kimberly Segura:					
Germany	US Dollar	1,130.11			1,130.11
Norway	US Dollar	1,334.00			1,334.00
United Kingdom	US Dollar	1,573.72			1,573.72
United States	US Dollar		5,576.21		5,576.21
Delegation Expenses: *					
Germany	Euro			3,156.03	3,156.03
Norway	Norwegian Krone			1,528.00	1,528.00
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling			502.26	502.26
Senator Lisa Murkowski:					
Finland	US Dollar	1,226.83			1,226.83
Greenland	US Dollar	792.00			792.00
United States	US Dollar		12,028.51		12,028.51
Dana Herndon:					
Finland	US Dollar	1,471.86			1,471.86
Greenland	US Dollar	792.00			792.00
United States	US Dollar		12,089.01		12,089.01
Delegation Expenses: *					
Denmark	Danish Krone			4,078.00	4,078.00
Finland	Euro			4,368.31	4,368.31
Greenland	Danish Krone			5,854.00	5,854.00
Gabriella Armonda:					
Australia	Australian Dollar	1,226.00			1,226.00
New Zealand	New Zealand Dollar	742.00			742.00
United States	US Dollar		5,221.61		5,221.61
Ryan Pettit:					
Australia	Australian Dollar	1,226.00			1,226.00
New Zealand	New Zealand Dollar	742.00			742.00
United States	US Dollar		5,488.21		5,488.21
Delegation Expenses: *					
Australia	Australian Dollar			5,954.00	5,954.00
New Zealand	New Zealand Dollar			5,040.00	5,040.00
Andrew Platt:					
Ivory Coast	CFA Franc BCEAO	340.67			340.67
Senegal	CFA Franc BCEAO	672.90			672.90
United States	US Dollar		11,049.86		11,049.86
Zambia	Zambian Kwacha	1,089.98			1,089.98

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2025—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Delegation Expenses: *					
Ivory Coast	CFA Franc BCEAO			2,864.23	2,864.23
Senegal	CFA Franc BCEAO			513.81	513.81
Zambia	Zambian Kwacha			184.90	184.90
Rishi Sahgal:					
Switzerland	Swiss Franc	3,781.42			3,781.42
United States	US Dollar		1,676.21		1,676.21
Delegation Expenses: *					
Switzerland	Swiss Franc			106.17	106.17
Senator Jeff Merkley:					
Egypt	Egyptian Pound	1,017.00			1,017.00
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel	1,670.00			1,670.00
Jordan	Jordanian Dinar	612.05			612.05
United States	US Dollar		17,315.29		17,315.29
Senator Chris Van Hollen:					
Egypt	Egyptian Pound	1,017.00			1,017.00
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel	1,670.00			1,670.00
Jordan	Jordanian Dinar	612.05			612.05
United States	US Dollar		17,385.29		17,385.29
Francesca Amodio:					
Egypt	Egyptian Pound	1,017.00			1,017.00
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel	1,600.00			1,600.00
Jordan	Jordanian Dinar	612.05			612.05
United States	US Dollar		17,585.29		17,585.29
Margaret Sunstrum:					
Egypt	Egyptian Pound	1,017.00			1,017.00
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel	1,620.00			1,620.00
Jordan	Jordanian Dinar	612.05			612.05
United States	US Dollar		17,585.29		17,585.29
Delegation Expenses: *					
Egypt	Egyptian Pound			17,491.22	17,491.22
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel			928.99	928.99
Jordan	Jordanian Dinar			4,258.50	4,258.50
Total		62,638.43	145,264.74	88,332.49	296,235.66

* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR SUSAN COLLINS,
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, Dec. 3, 2025.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Richard Blumenthal:					
Italy	US Dollar	116.36			116.36
United States	US Dollar		9,065.71		9,065.71
Maria McElwain:					
Italy	US Dollar	984.36			984.36
United States	US Dollar		8,586.81		8,586.81
Delegation Expenses: *					
Italy	Euro			1,384.74	1,384.74
Senator Richard Blumenthal:					
Italy	US Dollar	848.00			848.00
United States	US Dollar		4,093.01		4,093.01
Nate Guajardo:					
Italy	US Dollar	848.00			848.00
United States	US Dollar		6,716.90		6,716.90
Delegation Expenses: *					
Italy	Euro			8,373.63	8,373.63
Senator Tammy Duckworth:					
Japan	US Dollar	2,584.67			2,584.67
South Korea	US Dollar	731.26			731.26
United States	US Dollar		9,677.51		9,677.51
Brooke Meadowcroft:					
Japan	US Dollar	2,170.96			2,170.96
South Korea	US Dollar	952.17			952.17
United States	US Dollar		9,642.51		9,642.51
Kathryn Sudhoff:					
Japan	US Dollar	2,168.54			2,168.54
South Korea	US Dollar	857.55			857.55
United States	US Dollar		9,677.51		9,677.51
Delegation Expenses: *					
Japan	Yen			5,170.12	5,170.12
South Korea	Won			3,919.29	3,919.29
Senator Joni Ernst:					
Iraq	Iraqi Dinar	115.00			115.00
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel	690.00			690.00
Qatar	Qatari Rial	380.00			380.00
Saudi Arabia	Saudi Riyal	228.00			228.00
United States	US Dollar		7,382.41		7,382.41
Kendall Dehnell:					
Iraq	US Dollar	115.00			115.00
Israel	US Dollar	690.00			690.00
Qatar	US Dollar	380.00			380.00
Saudi Arabia	US Dollar	228.00			228.00
United States	US Dollar		7,382.41		7,382.41
Eric Trager:					
Iraq	US Dollar	68.00			68.00
Israel	US Dollar	1,306.00			1,306.00
Qatar	US Dollar	580.00			580.00
Saudi Arabia	US Dollar	403.10			403.10
United States	US Dollar		11,536.84		11,536.84
Caden Waterstradt:					
Iraq	US Dollar	115.00			115.00
Israel	US Dollar	690.00			690.00
Qatar	US Dollar	380.00			380.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2025—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Saudi Arabia	US Dollar	228.00			228.00
United States	US Dollar		11,536.84		11,536.84
Delegation Expenses: *					
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel			4,749.00	4,749.00
Qatar	Qatari Rial			564.68	564.68
Senator Mark Kelly:					
Romania	US Dollar	1,040.90			1,040.90
United States	US Dollar		15,912.00		15,912.00
Jooeun Kim:					
Romania	US Dollar	1,040.90			1,040.90
United States	US Dollar		15,912.00		15,912.00
Delegation Expenses: *					
Germany	Euro			1,326.12	1,326.12
Romania	Romanian Leu			1,992.26	1,992.26
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling			1,798.00	1,798.00
Senator Joni Ernst:					
Jordan	Jordanian Dinar	304.00			304.00
United States	US Dollar		5,173.46		5,173.46
Senator Markwayne Mullin:					
Jordan	US Dollar	375.24			375.24
Lebanon	US Dollar	52.76			52.76
United States	US Dollar		15,227.02		15,227.02
Joseph Defer:					
Jordan	Jordanian Dinar	477.99			477.99
Lebanon	Lebanese Pound	54.01			54.01
United States	US Dollar		4,826.27		4,826.27
Kendall Dehnell:					
Jordan	US Dollar	304.00			304.00
Lebanon	US Dollar	44.97			44.97
United States	US Dollar		4,826.27		4,826.27
Delegation Expenses: *					
Jordan	Jordanian Dinar			945.14	945.14
Lebanon	Lebanese Pound			5,176.86	5,176.86
Turkey	Turkish Lira			687.65	687.65
Senator Jack Reed:					
Liberia	US Dollar	845.00			845.00
United States	US Dollar		8,099.71		8,099.71
Maggie Cooper:					
Liberia	US Dollar	845.00			845.00
United States	US Dollar		8,099.71		8,099.71
Elizabeth King:					
Liberia	US Dollar	915.00			915.00
United States	US Dollar		8,099.71		8,099.71
Delegation Expenses: *					
Ghana	Ghana Cedi			2,022.97	2,022.97
Liberia	Liberian Dollar			1,421.85	1,421.85
Senator Rick Scott:					
Japan	US Dollar	1,443.90			1,443.90
Philippines	US Dollar	772.94			772.94
United States	US Dollar		9,333.51		9,333.51
Paul Bonicelli:					
Japan	US Dollar	1,462.68			1,462.68
Philippines	US Dollar	764.52			764.52
United States	US Dollar		8,245.29		8,245.29
Matthew Harmon:					
Japan	US Dollar	1,469.92			1,469.92
Philippines	US Dollar	764.52			764.52
United States	US Dollar		9,613.51		9,613.51
Delegation Expenses: *					
Japan	Yen			3,484.89	3,484.89
Philippines	Philippine Peso			1,622.38	1,622.38
Senator Deb Fischer:					
Palau	US Dollar	390.00			390.00
Philippines	US Dollar	290.00			290.00
Taiwan	US Dollar	164.00			164.00
Senator Roger Wicker:					
Palau	US Dollar	880.00			880.00
Philippines	US Dollar	702.00			702.00
Taiwan	US Dollar	360.19			360.19
Cody Emerson:					
Palau	US Dollar	323.62			323.62
Philippines	US Dollar	351.23			351.23
Taiwan	US Dollar	230.77			230.77
Brendan Gavin:					
Palau	US Dollar	402.33			402.33
Philippines	US Dollar	416.99			416.99
Taiwan	US Dollar	230.77			230.77
Emily Levine:					
Palau	US Dollar	390.00			390.00
Philippines	US Dollar	290.00			290.00
Taiwan	US Dollar	164.00			164.00
Sarah Steinberg:					
Palau	US Dollar	880.00			880.00
Philippines	US Dollar	702.00			702.00
Taiwan	US Dollar	360.19			360.19
Michael Urena:					
Palau	US Dollar	390.00			390.00
Philippines	US Dollar	290.00			290.00
Taiwan	US Dollar	164.00			164.00
David Vasquez:					
Palau	US Dollar	415.64			415.64
Philippines	US Dollar	442.81			442.81
Taiwan	US Dollar	230.77			230.77
Delegation Expenses: *					
Palau	US Dollar			13,954.89	13,954.89
Philippines	Philippine Peso			1,763.60	1,763.60
Taiwan	New Taiwan Dollar			11,083.07	11,083.07
Senator Roger Wicker:					
Iceland	US Dollar	402.00			402.00
Italy	US Dollar	2,510.90			2,510.90
Portugal	US Dollar	2,645.97			2,645.97
Slovenia	US Dollar	1,038.99			1,038.99
Sarah Drake:					
Iceland	US Dollar	402.00			402.00
Italy	US Dollar	2,510.90			2,510.90

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2025—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Portugal	US Dollar	2,022.57			2,022.57
Slovenia	US Dollar	461.77			461.77
Adam Barker:					
Singapore	US Dollar	1,242.62			1,242.62
Thailand	US Dollar	1,165.32			1,165.32
United States	US Dollar		15,064.91		15,064.91
Michael Noblet:					
Singapore	US Dollar	1,102.00			1,102.00
Thailand	US Dollar	943.00			943.00
United States	US Dollar		15,158.00		15,158.00
Delegation Expenses: *					
Singapore	Singapore Dollar			1,487.00	1,487.00
Thailand	Baht			459.70	459.70
Kristina Belcourt:					
Cambodia	US Dollar	197.25			197.25
Philippines	US Dollar	548.00			548.00
Thailand	US Dollar	406.38			406.38
United States	US Dollar		8,212.50		8,212.50
Jonathan Epstein:					
Cambodia	US Dollar	162.13			162.13
Philippines	US Dollar	540.10			540.10
Thailand	US Dollar	174.11			174.11
United States	US Dollar		8,212.50		8,212.50
Delegation Expenses: *					
Cambodia	Riel			170.33	170.33
Philippines	Philippine Peso			1,134.78	1,134.78
Thailand	Baht			879.14	879.14
Kristina Belcourt:					
Italy	US Dollar	1,567.07	131.22		1,698.29
United States	US Dollar		11,656.01		11,656.01
Jonathan Epstein:					
Belgium	US Dollar	136.03			136.03
Italy	US Dollar	108.25			108.25
United States	US Dollar		15,582.21		15,582.21
Michael Tokar:					
Italy	US Dollar	1,612.07			1,612.07
United States	US Dollar		11,787.23		11,787.23
Delegation Expenses: *					
Germany	Euro			1,955.15	1,955.15
Italy	Euro			5,683.54	5,683.54
Kevin Gates:					
Singapore	US Dollar	1,623.95			1,623.95
Thailand	Baht	766.22			766.22
United States	US Dollar		4,454.10		4,454.10
Chad Johnson:					
Singapore	US Dollar	1,623.95			1,623.95
Thailand	Baht	766.22			766.22
United States	US Dollar		4,454.10		4,454.10
Katelyn Magnus:					
Singapore	US Dollar	1,623.95			1,623.95
Thailand	Baht	766.22			766.22
United States	US Dollar		4,454.10		4,454.10
Delegation Expenses: *					
Singapore	Singapore Dollar			3,574.00	3,574.00
Katelyn Magnus:					
Turkey	US Dollar	1,390.83			1,390.83
United States	US Dollar		13,465.21		13,465.21
Andy Scott:					
Turkey	US Dollar	758.83			758.83
United States	US Dollar		13,730.21		13,730.21
Delegation Expenses: *					
Turkey	Turkish Lira			1,052.91	1,052.91
Levi Brunt:					
Germany	US Dollar	773.62			773.62
United States	US Dollar		9,001.11		9,001.11
Katelyn Magnus:					
Germany	US Dollar	796.23			796.23
United States	US Dollar		9,001.11		9,001.11
Andrew Scott:					
Germany	US Dollar	796.23			796.23
United States	US Dollar		9,001.11		9,001.11
Sean O'Keefe:					
Germany	US Dollar	803.00			803.00
United States	US Dollar		9,000.11		9,000.11
Delegation Expenses: *					
Germany	Euro			4,360.95	4,360.95
Jenny Davis:					
Japan	US Dollar	1,215.08			1,215.08
United States	US Dollar		9,752.85		9,752.85
Cody Emerson:					
Japan	US Dollar	1,215.08			1,215.08
United States	US Dollar		9,752.85		9,752.85
Noah Sisk:					
Japan	US Dollar	2,083.63			2,083.63
United States	US Dollar		9,752.85		9,752.85
Mike Tokar:					
Japan	US Dollar	2,083.63			2,083.63
United States	US Dollar		9,752.85		9,752.85
Delegation Expenses: *					
Japan	Yen			1,248.12	1,248.12
Jonathan Epstein:					
Japan	US Dollar	431.55			431.55
United States	US Dollar		6,773.01		6,773.01
Katie Karam:					
Japan	US Dollar	598.87			598.87
United States	US Dollar		6,411.51		6,411.51
Adam Trull:					
Japan	US Dollar	439.25			439.25
United States	US Dollar		6,721.61		6,721.61
Delegation Expenses: *					
Japan	Yen			813.50	813.50
Meredith Werner:					
Canada	US Dollar	348.00			348.00
Guyana	US Dollar	347.00			347.00
Mexico	US Dollar	528.00			528.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2025—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Peru	US Dollar	298.00			298.00
United States	US Dollar		7,455.69		7,455.69
Delegation Expenses: *					
Canada	Canadian Dollar			3,586.25	3,586.25
Guyana	Guyana Dollar			60.08	60.08
Mexico	Mexican Peso			782.67	782.67
Peru	Sol			470.08	470.08
Total		85,274.30	437,405.88	99,159.34	621,839.52

* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR ROGER WICKER,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, Dec. 3, 2025.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING & URBAN AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1, 2025 TO SEPT. 30, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Andy Kim					
Japan	US Dollar	2,063.84			2,063.84
South Korea	US Dollar	1,202.00			1,202.00
Laura Rosenberger					
Japan	US Dollar	2,063.56			2,063.56
South Korea	US Dollar	1,202.00			1,202.00
Delegation Expenses: *					
Japan	Yen			3,446.75	3,446.75
Delegation Expenses: *					
South Korea	Won			2,612.86	2,612.86
Senator Ruben Gallego					
Finland	US Dollar	1,018.99			1,018.99
United States	US Dollar		6,858.00		6,858.00
Jaques Petit					
Finland	US Dollar	1,617.30			1,617.30
United States	US Dollar		17,123.91		17,123.91
Eliza Ramirez					
Finland	US Dollar	1,617.30			1,617.30
United States	US Dollar		6,613.31		6,613.31
Delegation Expenses: *					
Finland	Euro			2,592.62	2,592.62
Senator Ruben Gallego					
Colombia	US Dollar	1,432.30			1,432.30
United States	US Dollar		3,701.01		3,701.01
Raphael Chavez-Fernandez					
Colombia	US Dollar	1,347.66			1,347.66
United States	US Dollar		3,701.01		3,701.01
Delegation Expenses: *					
Colombia	Columbian Peso			3,661.18	3,661.18
Total		13,564.95	37,997.24	12,313.41	63,875.60

* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR TIM SCOTT,
Chairman, Committee on Banking, Housing & Urban Affairs, Dec. 4, 2025.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON BUDGET FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Lindsey Graham:					
Italy	Euro	1,156.56			1,156.56
United States	US Dollar		9,088.91		9,088.91
Ryan Geary:					
Italy	Euro	1,176.53			1,176.53
United States	US Dollar		9,135.71		9,135.71
Taylor Reidy:					
Italy	Euro	1,161.54			1,161.54
United States	US Dollar		9,135.71		9,135.71
Delegation Expenses: *					
Italy	Euro			2,045.95	2,045.95
Senator Lindsey Graham:					
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel	1,205.00			1,205.00
Lebanon	Lebanese Pound	256.00			256.00
United States	US Dollar		9,319.44		9,319.44
Ryan Geary:					
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel	1,205.00			1,205.00
Lebanon	Lebanese Pound	546.00			546.00
United States	US Dollar		10,492.56		10,492.56
Delegation Expenses *					
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel			7,793.14	7,793.14
Lebanon	Lebanese Pound			6,143.93	6,143.93
Senator Lindsey Graham:					
Croatia	Kuna	615.63			615.63
Italy	Euro	2,265.18			2,265.18
Taylor Stephens:					
Croatia	Kuna	612.14			612.14
Italy	Euro	2,177.40			2,177.40
Aaron Strickland:					
Croatia	Kuna	634.66			634.66

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON BUDGET FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2025—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Italy	Euro	2,285.03			2,285.03
Delegation Expenses *					
Croatia	Kuna			9,820.94	9,820.94
Italy	Euro			21,897.60	21,897.60
Total		15,296.67	47,172.33	47,701.56	110,170.56

* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR LINSEY GRAHAM,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget, Dec. 3, 2025.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE & TRANSPORTATION FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1, TO SEPT. 30, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Todd Young:					
Philippines	US Dollar	1,864.77			1,864.77
United States	US Dollar		20,549.12		20,549.12
Douglas Gates:					
Philippines	US Dollar	1,864.76			1,864.76
United States	US Dollar		8,041.11		8,041.11
Delegation Expenses: *					
Philippines	Philippine Peso			256.36	256.36
Omnri Ceren:					
El Salvador	US Dollar	217.00			217.00
Mexico	US Dollar	751.00			751.00
Panama	US Dollar	445.00			445.00
United States	US Dollar		3,210.00		3,210.00
Matthew Murray:					
El Salvador	US Dollar	217.00			217.00
Mexico	US Dollar	752.00			752.00
Panama	US Dollar	445.00			445.00
United States	US Dollar		2,579.89		2,579.89
Megan Noriega:					
Panama	US Dollar	544.00			544.00
Delegation Expenses: *					
El Salvador	El Salvador Colon, US Dollar			620.61	620.61
Delegation Expenses: *					
Mexico	Mexican Peso			74.20	74.20
Delegation Expenses: *					
Panama	Balboa, US Dollar			404.33	404.33
Macarena Martinez:					
El Salvador	US Dollar	217.00			217.00
Mexico	US Dollar	752.00			752.00
Panama	US Dollar	445.00			445.00
United States	US Dollar		3,210.00		3,210.00
Senator Ted Cruz:					
El Salvador	US Dollar	217.00			217.00
Mexico	US Dollar	751.00			751.00
Panama	US Dollar	445.00			445.00
United States	US Dollar		2,579.89		2,579.89
Senator John Fetterman:					
Croatia	US Dollar	415.66			415.66
Italy	US Dollar	648.00			648.00
Delegation Expenses: *					
Croatia	Kuna			3,273.64	3,273.64
Italy	Euro			5,839.36	5,839.36
Total		10,991.19	40,170.01	10,468.50	61,629.70

* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR TED CRUZ,
Chairman, Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation, Dec. 3, 2025.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), U.S. COMMISSION ON SECURITIY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse:					
United States	U.S. Dollar	165.00			165.00
Portugal	Euro				
Kyle Parker:					
United States	U.S. Dollar	206.30			206.30
Slovenia	Euro				
Portugal	Euro				
Italy	Euro				
Iceland	Icelandic Krona				
Patrick Hanish:					
United States	U.S. Dollar	35.00			35.00
Slovenia	Euro				
Portugal	Euro				
Italy	Euro				
Iceland	Icelandic Krona				
Jordan Warlick:					
United States	U.S. Dollar	50.00			50.00
Slovenia	Euro				
Portugal	Euro				
Italy	Euro				

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), U.S. COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2025—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Iceland	Icelandic Krona				
Everett Price:					
United States	U.S. Dollar		7,647.51		7,647.51
Slovenia	Euro				
Portugal	Euro	3,637.73			3,637.73
Italy	Euro				
Iceland	Icelandic Krona				
Alanna Margulies:					
United States	U.S. Dollar		8,826.21		8,826.21
Portugal	Euro	2,372.69			2,372.69
Italy	Euro	446.00			446.00
Shannon Simrell:					
United States	U.S. Dollar		9,437.91		9,437.91
Portugal	Euro	3,637.73			3,637.73
Bakhti Nishanov:					
United States	U.S. Dollar		8,844.01		8,844.01
Portugal	Euro	4,012.73			4,012.73
Rachel Bauman:					
United States	U.S. Dollar		8,578.61		8,578.61
Portugal	Euro	3,840.28			3,840.28
Shannon Simrell:					
United States	U.S. Dollar		9,745.41		9,745.41
Finland	Euro	1,259.43			1,259.43
Janice Helwig:					
Finland	Euro	1,259.43	1,404.80		2,664.23
Jennifer McCuiston:					
United States	U.S. Dollar		5,657.11		5,657.11
Finland	Euro	1,259.43			1,259.43
Shannon Simrell:					
United States	U.S. Dollar		10,128.11		10,128.11
Czech Republic	Czech Koruna	1,201.80			1,201.80
Everett Price:					
United States	U.S. Dollar		6,193.61		6,193.61
Poland	Polish Zloty	183.56			183.56
Ukraine	Ukrainian Hryvnia	630.00			630.00
Fleur Cowan:					
United States	U.S. Dollar		9,012.21		9,012.21
Poland	Polish Zloty	183.56			183.56
Ukraine	Ukrainian Hryvnia	630.00			630.00
Alanna Novetsky:					
United States	U.S. Dollar		6,193.61		6,193.61
Poland	Polish Zloty	183.56			183.56
Ukraine	Ukrainian Hryvnia	630.00			630.00
Jordan Warlick:					
United States	U.S. Dollar		9,041.81		9,041.81
Slovakia	Euro	713.81			713.81
Rachel Bauman:					
United States	U.S. Dollar		14,389.51		14,389.51
Moldova	Moldovan Leu	1,139.53			1,139.53
Fleur Cowan:					
United States	U.S. Dollar	1	14,389.5		14,389.51
Moldova	Moldovan Leu	1,139.52			1,139.52
Janice Helwig:					
United States	U.S. Dollar		6,881.51		6,881.51
Austria	Euro	34,070.00			34,070.00
Delegation Expenses:					
Slovenia	Euro			2,926.36	2,926.36
Portugal	Euro			41,548.51	41,548.51
Italy	Euro			19,638.39	19,638.39
Iceland	Icelandic Krona			2,504.00	2,504.00
Finland	Euro			881.03	881.03
Czech Republic	Czech Koruna			77.92	77.92
Poland	Polish Zloty			40.36	40.36
Ukraine	Ukrainian Hryvnia				
Slovakia	Euro			80.92	80.92
Moldova	Moldovan Leu				
Austria	Euro				
Total:		62,430.79	136,827.75	67,697.49	266,956.03

* Majority of CODEL Wicker to Slovenia, Portugal, Italy, and Iceland was cancelled.
* Cancellation fees go towards delegation expenses.
* Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR ROGER WICKER,
Chairman, U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, Dec. 5,
2025.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT & PUBLIC WORKS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
John Kennedy:					
Switzerland	Swiss Franc	2,809.48			2,809.48
United States	US Dollar		2,327.11		2,327.11
Mary-Eileen Manning:					
Switzerland	US Dollar	2,484.48			2,484.48
United States	US Dollar		2,327.01		2,327.01
Mariah Pfleger:					
Switzerland	US Dollar	2,302.73			2,302.73
United States	US Dollar		3,714.41		3,714.41
Delegation Expenses: *					
Switzerland	Swiss Franc			212.33	212.33
Total		7,596.69	8,368.53	212.33	16,177.55

* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO,
Chairman, Committee on Environment & Public Works, Dec. 2, 2025.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FINANCE TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Ben Ray Luján:					
Spain	Euro	1,762.02			1,762.02
United States	US Dollar		6,443.70		6,443.70
Rebekah Kirkwood:					
Spain	Euro	2,304.36			2,304.36
United States	US Dollar		7,800.50		7,800.50
Carlos Sanchez:					
Spain	Euro	2,344.36			2,344.36
United States	US Dollar		7,800.50		7,800.50
Brooke Stuedell:					
Spain	Euro	1,759.02			1,759.02
United States	US Dollar		7,044.01		7,044.01
Delegation Expenses: *					
Spain	Euro			12,909.72	12,909.72
Senator Ron Wyden:					
Canada	Canadian Dollar	308.00			308.00
United States	US Dollar		3,244.95		3,244.95
Senator Catherine Cortez Masto:					
Canada	Canadian Dollar	188.00			188.00
United States	US Dollar		3,486.83		3,486.83
Senator Maggie Hassan:					
Canada	Canadian Dollar	308.00			308.00
United States	US Dollar		1,095.97		1,095.97
Rachel Lang:					
Canada	Canadian Dollar	189.00			189.00
United States	US Dollar		1,682.96		1,682.96
Virginia Lenahan:					
Canada	US Dollar	190.81			190.81
United States	US Dollar		1,682.96		1,682.96
Joshua Sheinkman:					
Canada	Canadian Dollar	236.67			236.67
United States	US Dollar		1,682.96		1,682.96
Delegation Expenses: *					
Canada	Canadian Dollar			3,628.00	3,628.00
Senator Peter Welch:					
Croatia	Kuna	559.66			559.66
Italy	Euro	2,060.03			2,060.03
Delegation Expenses: *					
Croatia	Kuna			2,857.98	2,857.98
Delegation Expenses: *					
Italy	Euro			4,083.55	4,083.55
Senator Steve Daines:					
Israel	US Dollar	912.62			912.62
United States	US Dollar		11,763.09		11,763.09
Darin Thacker:					
Israel	US Dollar	965.61			965.61
United States	US Dollar		12,663.09		12,663.09
Delegation Expenses: *					
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel			5,046.60	5,046.60
Rachel Lang:					
Ireland	Euro	3,167.42			3,167.42
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling	2,217.57			2,217.57
United States	US Dollar		13,082.31		13,082.31
Virginia Lenahan:					
Ireland	US Dollar	3,007.42			3,007.42
United Kingdom	US Dollar	2,217.57			2,217.57
United States	US Dollar		13,082.31		13,082.31
Delegation Expenses: *					
Ireland	Euro			6,464.50	6,464.50
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling			6,814.74	6,814.74
Gavin Laffoon:					
Philippines	US Dollar	1,592.76			1,592.76
United States	US Dollar		14,172.82		14,172.82
Delegation Expenses: *					
Philippines	Philippine Peso			256.36	256.36
Keith Jarrett:					
Canada	Canadian Dollar	886.48		886.48	
Guyana	Guyana Dollar	1,096.99			1,096.99
Mexico	Mexican Peso	1,029.51			1,029.51
Peru	Sol	944.98			944.98
United States	US Dollar		7,209.31		7,209.31
Delegation Expenses: *					
Canada	Canadian Dollar			3,586.25	3,586.25
Guyana	Guyana Dollar			60.07	60.07
Mexico	Mexican Peso			587.00	587.00
Peru	Sol			273.12	273.12
Joseph Johnson:					
France	Euro	1,401.00			1,401.00
Switzerland	Swiss Franc	1,847.43			1,847.43
United States	US Dollar		16,360.40		16,360.40
Rachel Lang:					
France	Euro	1,390.00			1,390.00
Switzerland	Swiss Franc	1,845.43			1,845.43
United States	US Dollar		9,675.40		9,675.40
Molly Newell:					
France	Euro	1,403.00			1,403.00
Switzerland	Swiss Franc	1,845.43			1,845.43
United States	US Dollar		13,713.00		13,713.00
Brian Bombassaro:					
France	Euro	1,421.00			1,421.00
Switzerland	Swiss Franc	1,857.43			1,857.43
United States	US Dollar		16,360.40		16,360.40
Delegation Expenses: *					
France	Euro			1,596.00	1,596.00
Switzerland	Swiss Franc			2,151.82	2,151.82
Total		43,259.58	170,047.47	50,315.71	263,622.76

* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR MICHAEL CRAPO,
Chairman, Committee on Finance, Dec. 2, 2025.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Roy Awabdeh:					
Jordan	US Dollar	327.21			327.21
Lebanon	US Dollar	156.00			156.00
Turkey	US Dollar	3,081.95			3,081.95
United States	US Dollar		3,585.28		3,585.28
Delegation Expenses: *					
Jordan	Jordanian Dinar			151.77	151.77
Turkey	Turkish Lira			398.75	398.75
Kathryn Chaudoin:					
Japan	US Dollar	1,503.33			1,503.33
Malaysia	US Dollar	455.17			455.17
Singapore	US Dollar	1,435.00			1,435.00
South Korea	US Dollar	1,127.00			1,127.00
United States	US Dollar		8,360.41		8,360.41
Matthew Sullivan:					
Japan	US Dollar	1,503.33			1,503.33
Malaysia	US Dollar	455.17			455.17
Singapore	US Dollar	1,435.00			1,435.00
South Korea	US Dollar	1,127.00			1,127.00
United States	US Dollar		8,360.41		8,360.41
Delegation Expenses: *					
Japan	Yen			1,637.33	1,637.33
Malaysia	Malaysian Ringgit			10.98	10.98
Singapore	Singapore Dollar			331.00	331.00
South Korea	Won			2,254.00	2,254.00
Joan Condon:					
Malawi	US Dollar	481.75			481.75
United States	US Dollar		11,240.81		11,240.81
Zambia	US Dollar	556.75			556.75
Elizabeth Lewis:					
Malawi	US Dollar	481.75			481.75
United States	US Dollar		11,240.81		11,240.81
Zambia	US Dollar	558.60			558.60
Delegation Expenses: *					
Malawi	Malawi Kwacha			863.95	863.95
Zambia	Zambian Kwacha			1,494.28	1,494.28
Vidya Neelakantan:					
Australia	US Dollar	1,002.00			1,002.00
Fiji	US Dollar	1,025.00			1,025.00
Papua New Guinea	US Dollar	962.74			962.74
Delegation Expenses: *					
Australia	Australian Dollar			2,737.33	2,737.33
Fiji	Fiji Dollar			655.66	655.66
Papua New Guinea	Kina			414.56	414.56
Brandon Gindt:					
El Salvador	US Dollar	217.00			217.00
Mexico	US Dollar	752.00			752.00
Panama	US Dollar	445.00			445.00
United States	US Dollar		3,470.16		3,470.16
Delegation Expenses: *					
El Salvador	El Salvador Colon, US Dollar			620.61	620.61
Mexico	Mexican Peso			74.20	74.20
Panama	Balboa,US Dollar			663.20	663.20
William Shih:					
Japan	US Dollar	2,149.69			2,149.69
South Korea	US Dollar	472.43			472.43
United States	US Dollar		9,383.01		9,383.01
Delegation Expenses: *					
Japan	Yen			1,723.37	1,723.37
South Korea	Won			1,306.42	1,306.42
Amy English:					
Argentina	US Dollar	686.40			686.40
Brazil	Brazilian Real	1,440.00			1,440.00
United States	US Dollar		8,093.29		8,093.29
Andrew Pantlino:					
Argentina	US Dollar	686.40			686.40
Brazil	US Dollar	1,440.00			1,440.00
United States	US Dollar		6,150.09		6,150.09
Delegation Expenses: *					
Argentina	Argentine Peso			1,173.96	1,173.96
Brazil	Brazilian Real			1,031.00	1,031.00
Daniel Cottfried:					
Armenia	US Dollar	289.47			289.47
Azerbaijan	US Dollar	283.65			283.65
Moldova	US Dollar	770.85			770.85
United States	US Dollar		11,360.61		11,360.61
Delegation Expenses: *					
Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan Manat			298.55	298.55
Molly Barlow:					
Ethiopia	US Dollar	895.82			895.82
Kenya	Kenyan Shilling	834.00			834.00
South Sudan	US Dollar	58.00			58.00
United States	US Dollar		4,257.23		4,257.23
Jodi Herman:					
Ethiopia	US Dollar	871.00			871.00
Kenya	US Dollar	834.00			834.00
South Sudan	US Dollar	53.00			53.00
United States	US Dollar		4,548.33		4,548.33
Delegation Expenses: *					
Ethiopia	Ethiopian Birr			445.30	445.30
Kenya	Kenyan Shilling			710.92	710.92
Senator Tim Kaine:					
Canada	US Dollar	913.00			913.00
United States	US Dollar		3,255.86		3,255.86
Paul Lapointe:					
Canada	US Dollar	590.02			590.02
United States	US Dollar		3,255.86		3,255.86
Delegation Expenses: *					
Canada	Canadian Dollar			1,558.00	1,558.00
Kelsey Kelleher:					
Switzerland	US Dollar	2,302.73			2,302.73
United States	US Dollar		3,749.41		3,749.41
Delegation Expenses: *					
Switzerland	Swiss Franc			106.16	106.16
Elodie Offord:					
Switzerland	US Dollar	2,809.48			2,809.48

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2025—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
United States	US Dollar		3,749.81		3,749.81
Delegation Expenses: *					
Switzerland	Swiss Franc			106.16	106.16
Elizabeth Chen:					
Australia	US Dollar	2,044.00			2,044.00
United States	US Dollar		7,135.77		7,135.77
Troy Dougall:					
Australia	US Dollar	2,465.00			2,465.00
United States	US Dollar		7,197.71		7,197.71
Scott Lacy:					
Australia	US Dollar	2,080.00			2,080.00
United States	US Dollar		9,513.71		9,513.71
Delegation Expenses: *					
Australia	Australian Dollar			3,698.00	3,698.00
Elizabeth Leibowitz:					
Lebanon	US Dollar	516.00			516.00
Turkey	US Dollar	744.99			744.99
United States	US Dollar		6,537.88		6,537.88
Delegation Expenses: *					
Lebanon	Lebanese Pound			2,265.66	2,265.66
Turkey	Turkish Lira			226.27	226.27
Senator Dave McCormick:					
Italy	US Dollar	762.00			762.00
United States	US Dollar		6,232.21		6,232.21
James Cunningham:					
Italy	US Dollar	2,354.72			2,354.72
United States	US Dollar		8,209.21		8,209.21
Delegation Expenses: *					
Italy	Euro			8,152.68	8,152.68
Guy Mentel:					
Canada	US Dollar	728.51			728.51
Guyana	US Dollar	818.99			818.99
Mexico	US Dollar	802.00			802.00
Peru	US Dollar	743.00			743.00
United States	US Dollar		7,853.89		7,853.89
Charles Orta:					
Canada	US Dollar	639.00			639.00
Guyana	US Dollar	820.02			820.02
Peru	US Dollar	619.00			619.00
United States	US Dollar		6,972.25		6,972.25
Delegation Expenses: *					
Canada	Canadian Dollar			1,127.00	1,127.00
Guyana	Guyana Dollar			179.83	179.83
Peru	Sol			317.76	317.76
Victor Cervino:					
Colombia	US Dollar	1,718.39			1,718.39
Mexico	US Dollar	708.23			708.23
United States	US Dollar		3,335.91		3,335.91
Delegation Expenses: *					
Colombia	Colombian Peso			5,958.66	5,958.66
Mexico	Mexican Peso			118.33	118.33
Philip Oke-Thomas:					
Ethiopia	US Dollar	636.00			636.00
Tanzania	US Dollar	2,212.67			2,212.67
United States	US Dollar		4,491.43		4,491.43
Delegation Expenses: *					
Ethiopia	Ethiopian Birr			478.85	478.85
Tanzania	Tanzanian Shilling			3,698.95	3,698.95
Elise Bouchard:					
Japan	US Dollar	1,469.92			1,469.92
Philippines	US Dollar	760.45			760.45
United States	US Dollar		9,721.11		9,721.11
Delegation Expenses: *					
Japan	Yen			871.22	871.22
Philippines	Philippine Peso			405.59	405.59
Senator Jeanne Shaheen:					
Jordan	US Dollar	462.56			462.56
Lebanon	US Dollar	118.56			118.56
United States	US Dollar		10,785.98		10,785.98
Roy Awabdeh:					
Jordan	US Dollar	661.70			661.70
Lebanon	US Dollar	454.65			454.65
United States	US Dollar		10,944.98		10,944.98
Naz Durakoglu:					
Jordan	Jordanian Dinar	462.00			462.00
Lebanon	US Dollar	669.00			669.00
United States	US Dollar		5,852.75		5,852.75
Delegation Expenses: *					
Jordan	Jordanian Dinar			2,933.76	2,933.76
Lebanon	Lebanese Pound			44,843.71	44,843.71
Scott Lacy:					
Japan	US Dollar	1,373.53			1,373.53
South Korea	US Dollar	1,127.00			1,127.00
United States	US Dollar		15,406.11		15,406.11
Christopher Socha:					
Japan	Yen	1,273.53			1,273.53
South Korea	Won	1,127.00			1,127.00
United States	US Dollar		13,542.61		13,542.61
Delegation Expenses: *					
Japan	Yen			2,698.48	2,698.48
South Korea	Won			1,173.00	1,173.00
John Tomaszewski:					
Benin	US Dollar	921.00			921.00
Mali	US Dollar	583.00			583.00
Mauritania	US Dollar	502.99			502.99
United States	US Dollar		10,357.01		10,357.01
Delegation Expenses: *					
Benin	CFA Franc BCEAO			1,202.09	1,202.09
Mali	CFA Franc BCEAO			762.13	762.13
Mauritania	Ouguiya			1,160.74	1,160.74
Ausan Al-Eryani:					
Egypt	US Dollar	786.78			786.78
Germany	US Dollar	804.63			804.63
Israel	US Dollar	1,002.12			1,002.12
Jordan	US Dollar	612.05			612.05

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2025—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
United States	US Dollar	311.67	20,281.59	.....	20,593.26
Shervin Ghaffari:					
Egypt	US Dollar	1,017.00	.....	.....	1,017.00
Israel	US Dollar	1,445.92	.....	.....	1,445.92
Jordan	US Dollar	612.05	.....	.....	612.05
United States	US Dollar .....	.....	9,570.00	.....	9,570.00
Delegation Expenses:*					
Egypt	Egyptian Pound .....	.....	.....	8,745.61	8,745.61
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel .....	.....	.....	2,129.25	2,129.25
Jordan	Jordanian Dinar .....	.....	.....	464.49	464.49
Paul Burdette:					
Japan	US Dollar	1,165.84	.....	.....	1,165.84
South Korea	US Dollar	1,118.33	.....	.....	1,118.33
United States	US Dollar .....	.....	9,182.11	.....	9,182.11
Thomas West:					
Japan	US Dollar	1,261.09	.....	.....	1,261.09
Qatar	US Dollar	1,074.11	.....	.....	1,074.11
South Korea	US Dollar	1,503.00	.....	.....	1,503.00
United States	US Dollar .....	.....	13,227.00	.....	13,227.00
Delegation Expenses:*					
Japan	Yen .....	.....	.....	1,633.54	1,633.54
Qatar	Qatari Rial .....	.....	.....	478.00	478.00
South Korea	Won .....	.....	.....	1,147.00	1,147.00
Total		83,562.69	300,412.60	117,638.06	501,613.35

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, Nov. 13, 2025.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY & GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Anthony Deangelo:					
Japan	US Dollar	1,624.45	.....	.....	1,624.45
South Korea	US Dollar	680.00	.....	.....	680.00
United States	US Dollar .....	.....	8,276.41	.....	8,276.41
Delegation Expenses:*					
Japan	Yen .....	.....	.....	1,723.37	1,723.37
South Korea	Won .....	.....	.....	1,306.43	1,306.43
Senator Bernie Moreno:					
Colombia	US Dollar	1,843.77	.....	.....	1,843.77
Mexico	US Dollar	835.50	.....	.....	835.50
Panama	US Dollar	346.00	.....	.....	346.00
United States	US Dollar .....	.....	2,302.19	.....	2,302.19
Philip Letsou:					
Colombia	US Dollar	1,843.76	.....	.....	1,843.76
Mexico	US Dollar	835.50	.....	.....	835.50
Panama	US Dollar	346.00	.....	.....	346.00
United States	US Dollar .....	.....	8,476.20	.....	8,476.20
Delegation Expenses:*					
Colombia	Colombian Peso .....	.....	.....	11,917.32	11,917.32
Mexico	Mexican Peso .....	.....	.....	236.67	236.67
Christina Salazar:					
Bahrain	US Dollar	2,187.53	.....	.....	2,187.53
Germany	US Dollar	225.56	.....	.....	225.56
United States	US Dollar .....	.....	12,111.61	.....	12,111.61
Delegation Expenses:*					
Bahrain	Bahraini Dinar .....	.....	.....	293.19	293.19
Laura Lynch:					
Canada	US Dollar	882.64	.....	.....	882.64
Guyana	US Dollar	1,016.34	.....	.....	1,016.34
Mexico	US Dollar	1,277.26	.....	.....	1,277.26
Peru	US Dollar	793.00	.....	.....	793.00
United States	US Dollar .....	.....	5,861.16	.....	5,861.16
Delegation Expenses:*					
Canada	Canadian Dollar .....	.....	.....	3,586.25	3,586.25
Guyana	Guyana Dollar .....	.....	.....	60.08	60.08
Mexico	Mexican Peso .....	.....	.....	782.67	782.67
Peru	Sol .....	.....	.....	470.08	470.08
Total		14,737.31	37,027.57	20,376.06	72,140.94

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR RAND PAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs,
Oct. 7, 2025.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1, TO SEPT. 30, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Arjun Ravindra:					
Country 2	659.00	.....	.....	659.00
Country 3	11,020.10	.....	11,020.10
Shannon Richter:					
Country 1	846.00	.....	.....	846.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1, TO SEPT. 30, 2025—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Country 2		754.00			754.00
Country 3			13,807.31		13,807.31
Steve Smith:					
Country 1		846.00			846.00
Country 2		576.10			576.10
Country 3			13,807.31		13,807.31
Delegation Expenses: *					
Country 1				188.57	188.57
Country 2				669.42	669.42
Elnigar Iltebir:					
Country 3		699.34			699.34
Country 4			5,703.50		5,703.50
Eric Losick:					
Country 1		232.75			232.75
Country 2		702.00			702.00
Country 3		699.34			699.34
Country 4			10,455.91		10,455.91
Maria Mahler-Haug:					
Country 1		510.33			510.33
Country 2		702.00			702.00
Country 3		699.34			699.34
Country 4			10,455.91		10,455.91
Caroline Wadhams:					
Country 1		647.75			647.75
Country 2		502.00			502.00
Country 3		499.34			499.34
Country 4			10,455.91		10,455.91
Russell Willig:					
Country 1		747.75			747.75
Country 2		702.00			702.00
Country 3		699.34			699.34
Country 4			10,455.91		10,455.91
Delegation Expenses: *					
Country 1				221.21	221.21
Country 2				660.82	660.82
Country 3				6,453.51	6,453.51
Heather Melancon:					
Country 1		3,192.42			3,192.42
Country 2		2,378.51			2,378.51
Country 3			13,191.21		13,191.21
Senator Ron Wyden:					
Country 1		3,192.42			3,192.42
Country 2		2,517.62			2,517.62
Country 3			19,293.51		19,293.51
Delegation Expenses: *					
Country 1				6,464.50	6,464.50
Country 2				6,814.75	6,814.75
Elnigar Iltebir:					
Country 1		445.56			445.56
Country 2		775.00			775.00
Country 4			9,620.41		9,620.41
Country 3		806.10			806.10
Sarah Istel:					
Country 1		131.00			131.00
Country 2		775.00			775.00
Country 4			11,590.81		11,590.81
Adam Martina:					
Country 1		445.55			445.55
Country 2		960.00			960.00
Country 4			9,826.21		9,826.21
Country 3		806.10			806.10
Arjun Ravindra:					
Country 1		445.55			445.55
Country 4			8,339.81		8,339.81
Country 3		579.05			579.05
Delegation Expenses: *					
Country 1				27.09	27.09
Country 3				208.03	208.03
John Pinegar:					
Country 1		545.36			545.36
Country 2			12,341.21		12,341.21
Delegation Expenses: *					
Country 1				256.36	256.36
Sarah Istel:					
Country 1		1,245.26			1,245.26
Country 2			20,537.40		20,537.40
John Pinegar:					
Country 1		1,245.26			1,245.26
Country 2			20,537.40		20,537.40
Delegation Expenses: *					
Country 1				87.00	87.00
Sarah Istel:					
Country 2		664.00			664.00
Country 3			9,169.31		9,169.31
Heather Melancon:					
Country 1		1,011.00			1,011.00
Country 2		664.00			664.00
Country 3			10,963.08		10,963.08
John Pinegar:					
Country 1		1,075.00			1,075.00
Country 2		892.00			892.00
Country 3			4,107.71		4,107.71
Caldwell Willig:					
Country 1		1,011.00			1,011.00
Country 2		664.00			664.00
Country 3			10,965.38		10,965.38
Delegation Expenses: *					
Country 2				936.00	936.00
Jennifer Barrett:					
Country 1		3,080.38			3,080.38
Country 2			10,976.81		10,976.81
Arjun Ravindra:					
Country 1		3,080.38			3,080.38
Country 2			10,976.81		10,976.81
Shannon Richter:					
Country 1		2,910.38			2,910.38

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1, TO SEPT. 30, 2025—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Country 2	13,354.41	.....	13,354.41
Allen Souza:					
Country 1	3,080.38	.....	.....	3,080.38
Country 2	10,976.81	.....	10,976.81
Dan Tomanelli:					
Country 1	3,080.38	.....	.....	3,080.38
Country 2	14,518.21	.....	14,518.21
Delegation Expenses: *					
Country 1	17,255.96	17,255.96
Mike Gancio:					
Country 1	1,635.30	.....	.....	1,635.30
Country 2	1,700.00	.....	.....	1,700.00
Country 3	6,707.26	.....	6,707.26
Nathan Heiman:					
Country 1	1,635.30	.....	.....	1,635.30
Country 2	1,700.00	.....	.....	1,700.00
Country 3	5,920.56	.....	5,920.56
Valli Sanmugalingam:					
Country 2	1,700.00	.....	.....	1,700.00
Country 3	5,090.06	.....	5,090.06
Steve Smith:					
Country 1	1,635.30	.....	.....	1,635.30
Country 2	1,444.40	.....	.....	1,444.40
Country 3	5,920.56	.....	5,920.56
Delegation Expenses: *					
Country 2	111.89	111.89
Tri Minh Nguyen:					
Country 1	176.00	.....	.....	176.00
Country 2	748.72	.....	.....	748.72
Country 3	14,071.61	.....	14,071.61
Caldwell Willig:					
Country 1	176.00	.....	.....	176.00
Country 2	748.72	.....	.....	748.72
Country 3	14,121.61	.....	14,121.61
Delegation Expenses: *					
Country 2	724.06	724.06
Total	66,722.78	359,280.02	41,079.17	467,081.97

* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR TOM COTTON,
Chairman, Committee on Intelligence, Dec. 2, 2025.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Ellen Reinhard:					
France	US Dollar	1,395.00	.....	.....	1,395.00
United Kingdom	US Dollar	1,226.52	.....	.....	1,226.52
United States	US Dollar .....	.....	3,933.01	.....	3,933.01
Samantha Scoca:					
United Kingdom	US Dollar	1,225.52	.....	.....	1,225.52
United States	US Dollar .....	.....	6,152.71	.....	6,152.71
Meredith West:					
France	US Dollar	1,395.00	.....	.....	1,395.00
United Kingdom	US Dollar	1,226.52	.....	.....	1,226.52
United States	US Dollar .....	.....	3,931.11	.....	3,931.11
Delegation Expenses: *					
France	Euro .....	.....	.....	597.00	597.00
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling .....	.....	.....	367.37	367.37
Total .....	.....	6,468.56	14,016.83	964.37	21,449.76

* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR JONI ERNST,
Chairman, Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship,
Dec. 3, 2025.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), DEMOCRATIC LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1, TO SEPT. 30, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Brian Monahan:					
Spain	Euro	1,800.41	.....	.....	1,800.41
Shir Attias:					
Ivory Coast	CFA Franc BCEAO	523.83	.....	.....	523.83
Senegal	CFA Franc BCEAO	622.90	.....	.....	622.90
United States	US Dollar .....	.....	15,781.16	.....	15,781.16
Zambia	Zambian Kwacha	579.23	.....	.....	579.23
Delegation Expenses: *					
Ivory Coast	CFA Franc BCEAO .....	.....	.....	2,863.93	2,863.93
Senegal	CFA Franc BCEAO .....	.....	.....	514.07	514.07
Zambia	Zambian Kwacha	198.40	198.40

Total	3,526.37	15,781.16	3,576.40	22,883.93
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* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR CHARLES SCHUMER,
Democratic Leader, Nov. 18, 2025.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), MAJORITY LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Jim Banks:					
Denmark	US Dollar	1,043.00			1,043.00
Finland	US Dollar	889.18			889.18
Norway	US Dollar	1,589.65			1,589.65
Senator John Curtis:					
Denmark	US Dollar	1,043.00			1,043.00
Finland	US Dollar	889.18			889.18
Norway	US Dollar	1,646.37			1,646.37
Senator Jon Husted:					
Denmark	US Dollar	1,043.00			1,043.00
Finland	US Dollar	889.18			889.18
Norway	US Dollar	1,733.47			1,733.47
Senator Dave McCormick:					
Denmark	US Dollar	1,043.00			1,043.00
Finland	US Dollar	889.18			889.18
Norway	US Dollar	1,646.37			1,646.37
Senator Bernie Moreno:					
Denmark	US Dollar	1,043.00			1,043.00
Finland	US Dollar	889.18			889.18
Norway	US Dollar	1,733.47			1,733.47
Senator John Thune					
Denmark	US Dollar	1,238.00			1,238.00
Finland	US Dollar	889.18			889.18
Norway	US Dollar	1,483.32			1,483.32
Jonathan Abdnor:					
Denmark	US Dollar	1,043.00			1,043.00
Finland	US Dollar	809.18			809.18
Norway	US Dollar	1,335.99			1,335.99
David Adkins:					
Denmark	US Dollar	1,043.00			1,043.00
Finland	US Dollar	809.18			809.18
Norway	US Dollar	1,335.99			1,335.99
Geoffrey Antell:					
Denmark	US Dollar	1,043.00			1,043.00
Finland	US Dollar	809.18			809.18
Norway	US Dollar	1,335.99			1,335.99
Ryan Kaldahl:					
Denmark	US Dollar	1,043.00			1,043.00
Finland	US Dollar	809.18			809.18
Norway	US Dollar	1,335.99			1,335.99
Jessica McBride:					
Denmark	US Dollar	1,043.00			1,043.00
Finland	US Dollar	809.18			809.18
Norway	US Dollar	1,335.99			1,335.99
Stefanie Muchow:					
Denmark	US Dollar	1,043.00			1,043.00
Finland	US Dollar	809.18			809.18
Norway	US Dollar	1,355.99			1,355.99
Daffnei Riedel:					
Denmark	US Dollar	1,043.00			1,043.00
Finland	US Dollar	809.18			809.18
Norway	US Dollar	1,335.99			1,335.99
Delegation Expenses: *					
Denmark	Danish Krone			20,975.75	20,975.75
Estonia	Euro			6,061.37	6,061.37
Finland	Euro			6,226.96	6,226.96
Norway	Norwegian Krone			8,519.33	8,519.33
Brian Monahan:					
Palau	US Dollar	643.00			643.00
Philippines	Philippine Peso	702.00			702.00
Taiwan	New Taiwan Dollar	361.04			361.04
Total		45,663.96		41,783.41	87,447.37

* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR JOHN THUNE,
Majority Leader, Dec. 9, 2025.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 9355(a), as amended by Public Law 118–159, appoints the following Senators to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Air Force Academy: The Honorable MARKWAYNE MULLIN of Oklahoma (Appropriations), The Honorable KEVIN CRAMER of North Dakota.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Chairman of the Committee on Armed Services, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 9355(a), as amended by Public Law 118–159, appoints the following Senator to the Board of Visitors

of the U.S. Air Force Academy: The Honorable TED BUDD of North Carolina.

FISCAL YEAR 2025 VETERANS AFFAIRS MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY AUTHORIZATION ACT

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 278, S. 2393.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2393) 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.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

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

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

The bill (S. 2393) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 2393

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 “Fiscal Year 2025 Veterans Affairs Major Medical Facility Authorization Act”.

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECT OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 IN ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out a major medical facility project in fiscal year 2026 in St. Louis, Missouri, that consists of the construction of a new bed tower, clinical building expansion, consolidated administrative building and warehouse, utility plant, and parking garages, in an amount not to exceed \$1,762,668,000.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2026 or the year in which funds are appropriated for the Construction, Major Projects account, \$1,762,668,000 for the project authorized in subsection (a).

CARING FOR VETERANS AND STRENGTHENING NATIONAL SECURITY ACT

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 3436 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3436) to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the provision of certain services to veterans in the Freely Associated States, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

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

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

The bill (S. 3436) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 3436

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 “Caring for Veterans and Strengthening National Security Act”.

SEC. 2. REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE CERTAIN SERVICES TO VETERANS IN THE FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.

(a) TELEHEALTH AND MAIL ORDER PHARMACY BENEFITS.—Section 1724(f)(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(C) Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of the Caring for Veterans and Strengthening National Security Act, the Secretary shall furnish to veterans described in subparagraph (A), subject to agreements described in such subparagraph, telehealth benefits and mail order pharmacy benefits.”.

(b) BENEFICIARY TRAVEL.—Section 111(h)(1) of such title is amended by striking “the Secretary may make payments” and inserting “beginning not later than one year after the date of the enactment of the Caring for

Veterans and Strengthening National Security Act, the Secretary shall make payments”.

(c) QUARTERLY REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than quarterly, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the status of implementation of the amendments made by this section and the cost of such implementation.

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

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

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

SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN LIMITS ON PAYMENTS OF PENSION.

Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “January 31, 2033” and inserting “March 31, 2033”.

RECOGNIZING COMMUNITY CARE AS AN ESSENTIAL TOOL FOR MEETING THE HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF THE VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration and the Senate immediately proceed to S. Res. 492.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 492) recognizing community care as an essential tool for meeting the health care needs of the veterans of the United States.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 492), was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of November 10, 2025, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

RECOGNIZING THAT CARE PROVIDED BY EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS IS ESSENTIAL FOR MEETING THE HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 566, which is at the desk.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 566) recognizing that care provided by employees of the Depart-

ment of Veterans Affairs is essential for meeting the health care needs of veterans of the United States.

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 566) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

DIRECTING THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE TO MAKE A CORRECTION IN THE ENROLLMENT OF THE BILL S. 1071

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 66, which was received from the House.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 66) directing the Secretary of the Senate to make a correction in the enrollment of the bill S. 1071.

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

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 66) was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION**EXECUTIVE CALENDAR**

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar No. 581, Calendar Nos. 602 through 607, and all nominations on the Secretary's desk, with the exception of PN89; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

NOMINATIONS
IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. George H. Sebren, Jr.

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Brad J. Collins

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. John L. Rafferty, Jr.

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be general

Lt. Gen. Dale R. White

IN THE ARMY

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be brigadier general

Col. Brad W. Pierson

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. Clinton Mead

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while serving as the Chief Defense Counsel for Military Commissions under article II, section 2, clause 2 of the United States Constitution and section 1037 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014:

To be brigadier general

Col. Jonathan H. Vaughn

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S
DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN659 AIR FORCE nomination of Jeremy P. Garlick, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2025.

PN660 AIR FORCE nomination of Robert D. Huhn, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2025.

PN661 AIR FORCE nomination of Dawn R. Hardwick, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2025.

IN THE ARMY

PN674 ARMY nomination of George A. Mesias, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 1, 2025.

PN678 ARMY nomination of Peter S. Salfeety, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 2, 2025.

PN679 ARMY nominations (5) beginning Sean M. Dixon, and ending Patrick D.

McGrail, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 2, 2025.

PN692 ARMY nominations (27) beginning Kathleen A. Agbayani, and ending Mikel J. Wier, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 10, 2025.

PN693 ARMY nomination of Myles T. Coleman, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 1, 2025.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN662 MARINE CORPS nomination Sarah B. Pezzat, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2025.

PN663 MARINE CORPS nomination of Robert J. Hillery, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2025.

IN THE NAVY

PN664 NAVY nomination of Sarah D. Rushnov, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2025.

PN665 NAVY nomination of William F. Murphy, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2025.

PN666 NAVY nomination of Kevin A. Witte-Hunt, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2025.

PN667 NAVY nomination of Michael J. Beer, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2025.

PN668 NAVY nomination of Michael K. Mosi, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2025.

PN669 NAVY nomination of Jeffrey T. Vanak, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2025.

PN694 NAVY nominations (3) beginning Brian W. Mendenhall, and ending Ashish C. Sinha, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 10, 2025.

PN695 NAVY nominations (3) beginning Thomas S. Giugliano, and ending Sehba Husain-Krautter, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 10, 2025.

IN THE SPACE FORCE

PN670 SPACE FORCE nomination of Marc B. Green, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2025.

PN671 SPACE FORCE nominations (3) beginning JACOB A. DAHLKE, and ending JASMINE C. TOYE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2025.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 18, 2025

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Thursday, December 18; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired,

morning business be closed, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the en bloc nominations provided for under the provisions of Executive Calendar No. 4, S. Res. 532, postcloture, and that all time during recess, adjournment, morning business, and leader remarks count postcloture; further, that at 12 noon, the Senate resume legislative session to execute the order of December 10 in relation to S.J. Res. 82, and the Senate vote on passage, and upon disposition of S.J. Res. 82, the Senate resume executive session; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Thursday's session of the Senate, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

Ms. MURKOWSKI. 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 8:05 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, December 18, 2025, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate December 17, 2025:

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. GEORGE H. SEBREN, JR.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE
ADMINISTRATION

JARED ISAACMAN, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION.

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

DOUGLAS WEAVER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2026.

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) BRAD J. COLLINS

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JOHN L. RAFFERTY, JR.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

LT. GEN. DALE R. WHITE

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. BRAD W. PIERSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. CLINTON MEAD

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE SERVING AS THE CHIEF DEFENSE COUNSEL FOR MILITARY COMMISSIONS UNDER ARTICLE II, SECTION 2, CLAUSE 2 OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AND SECTION 1037 OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014:

To be brigadier general

COL. JONATHAN H. VAUGHN

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF JEREMY P. GARLICK, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF ROBERT D. HUHN, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF DAWN R. HARDWICK, TO BE MAJOR.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATION OF GEORGE A. MESIAS, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF PETER S. SALFEETY, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SEAN M. DIXON AND ENDING WITH PATRICK D. MCGRAIL, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 2, 2025.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KATHLEEN A. AGBAYANI AND ENDING WITH MIKEL J. WIER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 10, 2025.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MYLES T. COLEMAN, TO BE COLONEL.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF SARAH B. PEZZAT, TO BE COLONEL.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF ROBERT J. HILLERY, TO BE COLONEL.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATION OF SARAH D. RUSHNOV, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF WILLIAM F. MURPHY, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF KEVIN A. WITTE-HUNT, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF MICHAEL J. BEER, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF MICHAEL K. MOSI, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF JEFFREY T. VANAK, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRIAN W. MENDENHALL AND ENDING WITH ASHISH C. SINHA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 10, 2025.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH THOMAS S. GIUGLIANO AND ENDING WITH SEHRA HUSAIN-KRAUTTER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 10, 2025.

IN THE SPACE FORCE

SPACE FORCE NOMINATION OF MARC B. GREEN, TO BE MAJOR.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JACOB A. DAHLKE AND ENDING WITH JASMINE C. TOYE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 18, 2025.