

This legislation has been in the works for well over a year, and I know that Members from both sides want to see us enter a conference as soon as we can.

As the week progresses, Republicans must come to the table and show they are willing to work with us to finalize a vote to enter the conference. Both parties in both Chambers have already announced their choices of who should serve as conferees, so the time has come to wrap up this process and begin a conference.

I hope both sides will reach an accord soon so we can finish the yearlong work of sending the competitiveness legislation to the President's desk for his signature. Our economy and American consumers will be far, far better off for it.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, the Senate is now, of course, back in session following a 2-week home work period, as we refer to it. That is when we get to go back home and see our friends and constituents and travel around our States. And in my case, representing 29 million Texans, that entails a fair amount of travel, but it is always good to get reconnected with your friends and your neighbors and your constituents.

I know we are eager to hit the ground running here this week, and certainly, we have a lot to do. For example, the conference committee process for the China competitiveness bill will begin soon, and I am eager to work with the fellow Members of the conference committee to reach a strong, bipartisan bill.

The long list of unrelated partisan provisions in the House bill, though, have no place, in my opinion, in the final agreement, but I am ready to get the ball rolling so we can pass a bill that serves the American people, our economy, and, most importantly, our national security.

CORONAVIRUS

Madam President, in the next couple of weeks, as we know, we could well see another pandemic relief bill come to the floor for a vote.

I hope this package includes a piece of legislation that Senator PADILLA, the Senator from California, and I authored, that would give State and local governments more flexibility to spend their excess COVID dollars, in this case, on infrastructure or disaster relief.

This bill passed the Senate unanimously and addresses a problem communities across our Nation are facing. And there is no reason for it to be ex-

cluded from the larger package, so I am optimistic.

In the coming days, I hope the Senate will also take action to preserve the use of title 42, the public health title, addressing COVID-19, following the President's reckless decision to eliminate it with no alternative plan in place, which would invite even more chaos at our southern border.

Months ago, during the height of COVID, the Border Patrol told me that title 42 was helpful in repelling migrants who were not claiming asylum and avoiding having to process them on this side of the border. But that was one of the few things, given the huge number of asylum claims that were being made, that permitted them to control the flow of people across the border, at least in some manner.

I am proud to cosponsor a bipartisan bill introduced by Senator LANKFORD and Senator SINEMA, which would delay the end of title 42 until there is a reasonable, workable alternative in place. There is bipartisan support for this legislation, and I hope it will receive a vote here on the Senate floor very soon.

These are just a few of the items on the Senate's lengthy to-do list, but of course the single biggest item looming in the news and on our minds and hearts is the war in Ukraine.

Over the last 2 months, Ukraine has endured unimaginable suffering, and its brave people and soldiers continue to fight to save their country. As Americans, we cannot lose sight of our role in the conflict. Our sons and daughters are not on the frontlines, nor are we obligated by a treaty, like the North Atlantic Treaty, to come to the aid of Ukraine.

But I believe we have a moral responsibility to aid a fellow democracy against this kind of unprovoked and outrageous aggression. We can't just send money and weapons halfway around the world and then pat ourselves on the back and say: Job well done.

As I said, we have a moral responsibility to help Ukraine not only fight but also to win this war. We can't just prop up its forces to continue to take more hits without providing them a plan for them to sustain their efforts in the long run.

Over the last couple of months, folks across the political spectrum have united in support of Ukraine. As a matter of fact, this has been one of the truly bipartisan responses that we have seen here in Congress—bipartisan support of Ukraine.

I have to say, amid so much pain and suffering, it has been encouraging to see people around the world—not just here in America but around the world—stand shoulder-to-shoulder in support of Ukraine.

As we know, since the war began, the United States has provided billions of dollars in military assistance as well as humanitarian relief. This has come in the form of everything from body

armor to helmets, to ammunition to Javelin antitank missiles.

But as we know, more is needed. That was the message President Zelenskyy delivered to Members of Congress. It was a message I heard from our partners in Europe when I traveled to Poland and Germany last month. And it is the same message we are hearing today: Send us the weapons we need to defend ourselves against this unprovoked and barbarous invasion by the Russian Federation.

Daily, Ukrainian soldiers and civilians are being bludgeoned. We need to get them the resources they need to hold the line, and we need to continue to act with dispatch.

Just before the State work period, the Senate passed legislation that would help make that more likely. It was called the bipartisan Ukraine Democracy Defense Lend-Lease Act, which I introduced with Senator CARDIN, that has broad bipartisan support in the Senate, and it passed unanimously here early last month.

This legislation is rooted in the same principle as the original Lend-Lease Act, which occurred during World War II, whereby the United States became what Franklin Delano Roosevelt called the "arsenal of democracy," and we provided, at the time, up to \$30 billion worth of materials—airplanes, ships, ammunition, all manner of weaponry—which allowed Great Britain to hang on against Nazi aggression.

Now, if you translate the amount of assistance that the United States gave our allies in World War II under the Lend-Lease Act that was passed then and signed into law by Franklin Delano Roosevelt, it would translate into more than \$400 billion today.

And I think it is important for us to send a strong bipartisan message that the U.S. Congress supports Ukraine not just for today, not just for tomorrow but for the long run.

Now that the Senate has unanimously passed this bipartisan legislation, it is up to the House. As I said, this legislation is important, one, because it cuts the redtape and expedites the shipment and delivery of weapons. As it stands today, there are a lot of time-consuming steps between the United States deciding to send more resources to the forces on the ground and between the time that the decision is made and the time that weapons are actually received.

As we can see by the devastating videos of this war, there is no time for delay or redtape. Our assistance cannot move at the speed of the bureaucracy.

And equally important is point No. 2. This bill ensures that we can send Ukraine the resources it actually needs, not just what current authorities allow.

President Zelenskyy himself said: Ukraine can't shoot down Russian missiles with shotguns and machineguns. We need to listen to what Ukraine needs and send those items with dispatch.

That is what this legislation provides for, nothing more and nothing less. It doesn't just help speed up the process of getting this equipment to Ukraine; it will ensure that we are actually sending them the items they actually need and can actually use.

Now, I know I don't have to convince my Senate colleagues that this is a good piece of legislation. We passed it unanimously 2 weeks ago. So we all understand what is at stake, and we are eager to remove the hurdles that prevent the United States from arming the Ukrainian forces with what they need to win this war as soon as we can get it in their hands.

I hope our Senate colleagues and the American people will contact our colleagues in the House and encourage them to pass the Ukraine Democracy Defense Lend-Lease Act this week.

Every day we are learning more about the horrors unfolding in Ukraine. We have seen Russian war crimes in Bucha, and there are well-founded fears that the same carnage is unfolding in Mariupol. These developments should light a fire under our colleagues in the House to pass this legislation as soon as possible.

Chris Alexander is a former Canadian diplomat, who spent time posted at the Canadian Embassy in Russia. He recently said: "Lend-Lease is a potential game-changer for the war in Ukraine."

A potential game-changer—there is no better way to describe this legislation or to underscore its urgency.

Last week, the Ukrainian Prime Minister himself said that our Lend-Lease Program is what Ukraine needs to win the war.

Over the last 2 months, Ukrainian forces have demonstrated unbelievable strength and bravery. So it is time, once again, for the United States to serve as that "arsenal of democracy," as Franklin Roosevelt called it, and ensure that Ukraine has the full range of resources it needs not just for today, not just for tomorrow but for the future as well.

After this bill passed the Senate, Ukraine's Minister for Foreign Affairs expressed his gratitude to all 100 Senators who voted to pass the bill, and he said he looks forward to its swift passage in the House.

So I would respectfully encourage Speaker PELOSI to bring this legislation to the floor for a vote this week so we can answer Ukraine's call to provide more weapons more quickly for the indefinite future.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 800.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Sherilyn Peace Garnett, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 800, Sherilyn Peace Garnett, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

Charles E. Schumer, Cory A. Booker, Tammy Baldwin, Patrick J. Leahy, Patty Murray, Tina Smith, Sheldon Whitehouse, John W. Hickenlooper, Gary C. Peters, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jeanne Shaheen, Jon Tester, Richard J. Durbin, Catherine Cortez Masto, Mazie Hirono, Amy Klobuchar, Maria Cantwell.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 865.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Julia Ruth Gordon, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 865, Julia Ruth Gordon, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Charles E. Schumer, Cory A. Booker, Tammy Baldwin, Patrick J. Leahy, Patty Murray, Tina Smith, Sheldon Whitehouse, John W. Hickenlooper, Gary C. Peters, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jeanne Shaheen, Jon Tester, Richard J. Durbin, Catherine Cortez Masto, Mazie K. Hirono, Amy Klobuchar, Maria Cantwell.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 670.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Lisa M. Gomez, of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 670, Lisa M. Gomez, of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

Charles E. Schumer, Ron Wyden, Sheldon Whitehouse, Sherrod Brown, Richard J. Durbin, Maria Cantwell, Debbie Stabenow, Jacky Rosen, Raphael G. Warnock, Chris Van Hollen, Christopher A. Coons, Richard Blumenthal, Robert Menendez, Jeff Merkley, Tina Smith, Martin Heinrich, Alex Padilla.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, finally, I ask unanimous consent that