

States Department of State, the United States Agency for International Development, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the United States International Development Finance Corporation, the United States Trade and Development Agency, the United States Department of Agriculture, and relevant multilateral development banks.

(2) **MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS.**—The term “multilateral development banks” has the meaning given that term in section 1701(c)(4) of the International Financial Institutions Act (22 U.S.C. 262r(c)(4)) and includes the African Development Foundation.

(3) **TRADE POLICY STAFF COMMITTEE.**—The term “Trade Policy Staff Committee” means the Trade Policy Staff Committee established pursuant to section 2002.2 of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations.

(4) **TRADE PROMOTION COORDINATING COMMITTEE.**—The term “Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee” means the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee established under section 2312 of the Export Enhancement Act of 1988 (15 U.S.C. 4727).

(5) **UNITED STATES AND FOREIGN COMMERCIAL SERVICE.**—The term “United States and Foreign Commercial Service” means the United States and Foreign Commercial Service established by section 2301 of the Export Enhancement Act of 1988 (15 U.S.C. 4721).

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I have two request for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 8, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 8, 2022, at 9 a.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

SOLID START ACT OF 2021

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 478, S. 1198.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1198) to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and expand the Solid Start program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, 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, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Solid Start Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) In 2021, veterans continue to die by suicide at higher rates than civilians. Many of those veterans have no ties to the Department of Veterans Affairs, limiting the ability of the Department to help in times of crisis.

(2) The first year after separating from the military is a critical time in the transition to civilian life for a member of the Armed Forces. Many changes occur during that transition, from career and location changes to shifts in financial circumstances and health care coverage.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that the United States must strive to better serve members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are transitioning to civilian life by—

(1) providing up-to-date information and access to resources that such members of the Armed Forces and veterans may not be aware of;

(2) supporting the critical time of transition by ensuring that mental health needs are met in a timely manner; and

(3) assisting members of the Armed Forces and veterans in accessing newly available services.

SEC. 4. SOLID START PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 63 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subchapter:

“Subchapter II—Other Outreach Programs and Activities

“§ 6320. Solid Start program

“(a) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of this section are—

“(1) to build the capacity of the Department to efficiently and effectively respond to the queries and needs of veterans who have recently separated from the Armed Forces; and

“(2) to systemically integrate and coordinate efforts to assist veterans, including efforts—

“(A) to proactively reach out to newly separated veterans to inform them of their eligibility for programs of and benefits provided by the Department; and

“(B) to connect veterans in crisis to resources that address their immediate needs.

“(b) **ACTIVITIES OF THE SOLID START PROGRAM.**—(1) The Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, shall carry out the Solid Start program of the Department by—

“(A) collecting up-to-date contact information during transition classes or separation counseling for all members of the Armed Forces who are separating from the Armed Forces, while explaining the existence and purpose of the Solid Start program;

“(B) calling each veteran, regardless of separation type or characterization of service, three times within the first year after separation of the veteran from the Armed Forces;

“(C) providing information about the Solid Start program on the website of the Department and in materials of the Department, especially transition booklets and other resources;

“(D) ensuring calls are truly tailored to the needs of each veteran's unique situation by conducting quality assurance tests;

“(E) prioritizing outreach to veterans who have accessed mental health resources prior to separation from the Armed Forces;

“(F) providing women veterans with information that is tailored to their specific health care and benefit needs;

“(G) as feasible, providing information on access to State and local resources, including Vet Centers and veterans service organizations; and

“(H) gathering and analyzing data assessing the effectiveness of the Solid Start program.

“(2) The Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, may carry out the Solid Start program by—

“(A) encouraging members of the Armed Forces who are transitioning to civilian life to authorize alternate points of contact who can be

reached should the member be unavailable during the first year following the separation of the member from the Armed Forces; and

“(B) following up missed phone calls with tailored mailings to ensure the veteran still receives similar information.

“(3) In this subsection:

“(A) The term ‘Vet Center’ has the meaning given that term in section 1712A(h) of this title.

“(B) The term ‘veterans service organization’ means an organization recognized by the Secretary for the representation of veterans under section 5902 of this title.

“(c) **OBLIGATIONS OF AMOUNTS.**—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary may not, in a fiscal year, obligate an amount to carry out the Solid Start program that is less than the total amount obligated in the previous fiscal year to carry out the program, unless the Secretary determines that increased efficiencies of the program warrant the obligation of a lesser amount.”.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—Chapter 63 of such title, as amended by subsection (a), is further amended—

(1) by inserting before section 6301 the following:

“Subchapter I—Outreach Services Program”;

and

(2) in sections 6301, 6303, 6304, 6305, 6306, and 6307, by striking “this chapter” each place it appears and inserting “this subchapter”.

(c) **CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.**—The table of contents at the beginning of chapter 63 of such title is amended—

(1) by inserting before the item relating to section 6301 the following new item:

“SUBCHAPTER I—OUTREACH SERVICES PROGRAM”;

and

(2) by adding at the end the following new items:

“SUBCHAPTER II—OTHER OUTREACH PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

“6320. Solid Start program.”.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute be agreed to.

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

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

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

The bill, as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. SCHUMER. I know of no further debate on the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass, as amended?

The bill (S. 1198), as amended, was passed.

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

PATIENT ADVOCATE TRACKER ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of

H.R. 5754 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5754) to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the ability of veterans to electronically submit complaints about the delivery of health care services by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. 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 (H.R. 5754) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

JACKIE WALORSKI VA CLINIC

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 8656, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 8656) to designate the clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Mishawaka, Indiana, as the "JACKIE WALORSKI VA Clinic".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read three times 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 (H.R. 8656) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2022

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 3 p.m. on Monday, September 12; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Montecalvo nomination; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Monday's session, 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.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator McCONNELL.

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

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

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

REMEMBERING QUEEN ELIZABETH II

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today, all Americans stand with our great friends across the Atlantic in mourning the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Our deepest sympathies are with the royal family and the many millions of people across the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth and the entire world who have drawn reassurance and inspiration from her historic reign, sterling character, and shining example.

For 70 long years—from the aftermath of World War II well into the 21st century, across 15 different Prime Ministers, through great triumphs and great challenges—the Queen's steady leadership safeguarded the land she loved. Despite spending nearly three-quarters of a century as one of the most famous and admired individuals on the entire planet, the Queen made sure her reign was never really about herself, not about her fame or her feelings or her personal wants or needs.

She guided venerable institutions through modern times using timeless virtues like duty, dignity, and sacrifice. She offered our contemporary world a living master class that it needed badly.

Of particular importance to all Americans, the decades of Her Majesty's reign saw an intense deepening of the special relationship and close bond between the United States and the United Kingdom. The Queen met sitting President Harry S. Truman when she was a 25-year-old princess. She went on to meet with a dozen more of our Presidents during her reign. She presided over a period of historic strengthening of the alliance between our nations that has changed the course of world history for the better.

So, Madam President, today, the Senate and the American people are joined with our dear friends across the ocean. We are joined in prayer, in grief, and in gratitude for such a remarkable leader and such a successful reign.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 12, 2022, AT 3 P.M.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 3 p.m., Monday, September 12, 2022.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 3:05 p.m., adjourned until Monday, September 12, 2022, at 3 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

UNITED NATIONS

PATRICK LEAHY, OF VERMONT, TO BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SEVENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

JAMES E. RISCH, OF IDAHO, TO BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SEVENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

CAROL LESLIE HAMILTON, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SEVENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

ANDREW J. WEINSTEIN, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SEVENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

S. DOUGLAS BUNCH, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SEVENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DONNA ANN WELTON, OF NEW YORK, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE.

GEORGE P. KENT, OF MASSACHUSETTS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

ALLEN SETH ABRAMS
JOEL RYAN ANDREASON
CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL BAILEY
JOHANNA K. BETTEN BERNSTEIN
KATHRYN MAE BOUCHER
ANDREW SCOTT BOWNE
THOMAS RICHARD BURKS
APRIL E. COBB
NICHOLAS CAMERON COOPER
TERRY LEE COULTER
CELINA E. DUVALL
JEREMY DAVID GEHMAN
RICHARD A. HANRAHAN
KELLY BROLAN HASLUP
JUSTIN DEAN HESS
JUSTINA OLIVERPERRY HOOPER
KENNARD JAMES KEETON II
JOHN F. KNOX
MARTA JANINA KOLCZRYAN
JENNIFER MARIE LAKE
TEAH LAMBRIGHT
JOHNATHAN DAVID LEGG
JENNY A. LIABENOW
JEREMY JOHN MALDONADO
JEREMY A. MARTIN
BRETT RICHARD MILLBURN
NICOLE RODRIGUEZ MODESITT
RYAN GRAYSON MOSHELL
ADAM GREGORY MUDGE
TYLER BLAIR MUSSELMAN
TRENTON ALLEN NORMAN
MEGAN ELIZABETH ORTNER
BRADLEY JAMES PALMER
CHRISTOPHER DALE PORTER
KATHLEEN MARIE POTTER
PETER BROOKS ROSE
MICAH LEE SMITH
AMANDA KAY SNIPES
STEVEN LUTHER SPENCER II
TAMERA RENEE STERLING
TROY G. TAYLOR
NICK T. TESMER
MEGAN E. TONNER ROBINSON
KATHRYN ANNE WATSON
SAMUEL THOMAS WELCH
THOMAS BENJAMIN WILLIAMS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

ROMI R. ABOUZEDAN