care in this country. That is something we all need to be concerned about and do our best to make sure everyone has access to healthcare.

But they also contribute to what is known as cost-shifting, and it causes a dislocation of healthcare facilities in the proper locations in our community. It also makes our healthcare system less efficient. If an individual does not have coverage for preventive healthcare and diseases are discovered later, it makes it more expensive and less likely a successful result.

We all can celebrate the numbers but recognize we also are taking a big bite out of the uninsured medical population in this country. My numbers in Maryland are very impressive: 180,000 Marylanders enrolled in our State insurance exchange under the Affordable Care Act. That is, by the way, for minorities, a 9-percent increase in the Hispanic population and a 3-percent increase in the Black population. We are committed to eliminating health disparities in America.

There are many provisions in the Affordable Care Act. I want to mention one I am particularly proud of because I had something to do with its creation, and that is elevating the National Institutes of Health with the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities. We made it a full Institute under NIH. We set up an office for minority health within the Health and Human Services Agencies. We did this so there would be a focus on dealing with the systemic challenges we have to medical care in this country. And the research that is being done by the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities is cutting edge on reasons why we have disparities in this country, and it is leading to corrective action being taken.

I will just give you one example: NIH UNITE Program, which deals with incentives to create a more diversified workforce in healthcare, which is critically important to access, as well as to make sure that clinical trials include all of our population so that the results are meaningful for all communities in America.

The results that we have been able to move forward in bridging the disparities for access to healthcare in America, all this has been done under the Affordable Care Act.

But we didn't stop there. We recognized we had to improve the Affordable Care Act. I am very proud of the leadership of President Biden and the Democrats in our initiatives under the American Rescue Plan and the Inflation Reduction Act. We enhance the subsidies to make it affordable for all Americans to be able to purchase their insurance through the health exchanges. We made that a commitment so every American could have access to affordable, quality healthcare.

We need to make those enhancements permanent so we still have work to do. I want to thank our colleague

Senator Shaheen for her leadership in legislation, which I strongly support, that would make the enhancements in the subsidies under the Affordable Care Act permanent so that we can keep having these impressive numbers of Americans enrolling in health insurance.

Americans are benefiting from the Affordable Care Act, not just in having comprehensive, affordable insurance coverage but also the quality of that coverage. No longer do they have to worry about exclusions for preexisting conditions. It wasn't too long ago that just about everyone in this country was concerned as to whether their insurance coverage would cover their entire healthcare needs because they had a prior episode sometime in their life. Women were concerned whether childbirth was a preexisting condition. Well, we eliminated that fear with the Affordable Care Act in that insurance companies cannot exclude coverage or limit coverage based upon preexisting conditions.

And as you recall, the leading cause of bankruptcy in America was unpaid medical bills. But under the Affordable Care Act, we eliminated lifetime and yearly caps on the coverage that you have—again, helping American families deal with their healthcare needs.

There is still more to be done. I want to acknowledge that. We need to do some things.

I want to say, first, that I was pleased that under the Inflation Reduction Act, we were able to reduce the cost of prescription drugs. Insulin. starting last month—January—was limited to \$35 a month. That was a game changer for millions of Americans to know they have an affordable supply of insulin to deal with their needs. That has already taken effect. And included in the Inflation Reduction Act will be a cap on Part D out-ofpocket expenses of no more than \$2,000 a year. So we are also capping today the unlimited exposures seniors had on prescription medicines.

I must tell you, we passed legislation—as I think everybody here is aware of—under the Inflation Reduction Act, to start, by 2026, doing something that most Americans would be shocked that we are not doing today: negotiate prices with the pharmaceutical industry, using our market share to bring down the cost of medicines so American consumers are not gouged compared to the international marketplace. Starting in 2026, we will have negotiated the price, starting with the 10 most expensive drugs in this country.

I want to mention an area where I think we need to do more. I have been very much engaged in oral healthcare. Most people know that when I came to the Senate in 2006, a year later, Deamonte Driver, a youngster in Prince George's County, lost his life because he couldn't get access to oral healthcare. I made that a crusade with my former colleague, the late Elijah

Cummings, in trying to do something about that. I am pleased that both the Affordable Care Act and the Children's Health Insurance Program require coverage for pediatric dental care. That is a step in the right direction, but we haven't completed the needs that are out there.

If you neglect your oral healthcare, you are likely to be neglecting your general healthcare. It is an area where we can prevent a lot of illness and problems. Most dental problems are preventable if you have access to dental care.

I have introduced legislation that would remove any annual or lifetime limit on oral healthcare under the Children's Health Insurance Program, the CHIP program. I want to thank Senator STABENOW for joining me in this effort. To me, this is something that is very consistent with the Affordable Care Act, and I hope that we will be able to get that passed.

But we also have to expand coverage. Medicaid coverage for dental care is primarily determined by the States, and many States limit coverage to emergency dental care, which means people, many families, can't afford their normal checkups for the adults who are in the family. We must do better as a nation. We need to expand Medicaid to cover oral healthcare. And for the 37 million seniors who are on Medicare, many cannot afford their dental annual visits. We need to expand Medicare to cover dental care as well. I want to thank my friend Senator SANDERS for his leadership, also, on that particular issue. The bottom line: Let us all work together so that we can achieve the goal of the Affordable Care Act. We have achieved a great deal to date by the passage of that bill, but we still need to do more to make sure healthcare is a right and not a privilege and that every American has access to affordable, quality care. Working together, we can achieve that goal.

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

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

DEBT CEILING

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, let me begin with a simple statement which I hope every Senator in this body agrees with: that the United States of America pays its bills on time.

We have since our Nation was founded. We never default on our debts. We always pay what we owe. We honor our financial obligations to all Americans and all those who invest in the American economy. And because we pay our bills on time, the United States has earned a reputation as a reliable, credible, and trustworthy partner around

the world, and that helps every single American and our entire economy.

Now, as everybody in this Chamber knows, in order to maintain the full faith and credit of the United States, we have to raise the debt ceiling. And this is not about new spending. This is about paying the bills that are already due and already owing under the laws that we have already passed in this country and that have already been signed by Presidents of both parties.

When Donald Trump was President of the United States, Republicans voted with Democrats to raise the debt limit three times, and the U.S. Congress has raised the debt limit a total of 78 times since 1960, under both Democratic and Republican Presidents.

If the Government of the United States had failed to raise the debt ceiling in the past, we would have faced an economic catastrophe. Think about it this way: You wouldn't just wake up one day and decide not to make your mortgage payment or not to make your car payment. You pay what you owe. It is as simple as that.

And you know that, if you were to wake up one morning and say that you are not paying your mortgage or you are not paying your car payment, you will face consequences. If you don't pay your mortgage, you could have your home foreclosed on. If you don't pay your car payments, your car can be repossessed.

The same logic applies to the U.S. Government, but the consequences are not confined to just one individual or one homeowner or one car owner. If the United States fails to pay its bills on time, every American—everyone inside this room—will suffer the consequences. We are not talking about risking foreclosure on one house or losing one car. We are talking about the economy of our country grinding to a halt. If the United States stops paying our bills, our economy takes a nose dive. It is as simple as that.

When I talk to my colleagues here on the Senate floor, both Republicans and Democrats, they agree that it is a nobrainer. You pay what you owe. You raise the debt ceiling. You don't default. It is common sense.

In fact, I was listening just the other day to Republican leader Senator McConnell, who said:

America must never default on its debt.

He said that a few days ago. I agree. But across and on the other side of the Capitol, in the House of Representatives, Speaker McCarthy and the new majority, composed of some very rightwing and extreme Members, are taking their orders from former President Donald Trump, the same Donald Trump who as President signed three debt limit increases into law. Now he wants Republicans to use the debt limit as a club against President Biden.

House Republicans are stalling our efforts right now to pay our bills on time, even though they know—just as Senator McConnell knows, just as

every Senator here knows—that failing to do so would result in chaos and calamity for the country. It is a threat designed to force the rest of the U.S. Congress into enacting an extreme rightwing agenda.

So let's be very clear. Here is what House Republicans are saying. They are saying: You do what we want or else we will tank the American economy.

I think anybody hearing that proposition would recognize it for what it is—a form of economic terrorism. But MAGA Republicans are holding the full faith and credit of the United States hostage to impose their agenda on the American people. They have decided to politicize what should be a nonpartisan issue because Democrats and Republicans in the House and the Senate have voted for programs to require us to raise the debt ceiling in the past.

In fact, I think it would be important to know that we would not be here at this time, on the Senate floor, having hit the debt ceiling and trying to work to make sure we avoid actually going over the cliff—we would not be here—if it was not for the tax cuts that were passed during the Trump administration. We would not be here at this particular moment. And, in fact, 25 percent of the total national debt was accumulated during the Trump administration—25 percent of the total debt of the United States, during the Trump administration.

Now, I want to be clear, I am not saying this is all Republican debt, but it certainly is not all Democratic debt. This is the debt of the country. This is the debt owed by Uncle Sam.

And what does the Constitution of the United States tell us about how we treat America's debt?

Well, here is the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution right here, and what it says is this:

The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for the payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned

The Fourteenth Amendment passed shortly after the Civil War, and it is crystal clear that the obligation to pay America's debts is not a Democratic obligation; it is not a Republican obligation. It is an American obligation, and beyond being the right thing to do, it is in the Constitution of the United States. It is a national duty and a constitutional duty.

So, as I listen to Speaker McCarthy and his Republican House colleagues, they want us to ignore the Fourteenth Amendment. They want to impose their reckless policies on the rest of us under threat of our doing what they want us to do. So I do want to be clear about what the consequences of this would be.

I talked in general terms about economic catastrophe. Here is what it would mean. It would mean seniors going without Social Security benefits. It can mean troops going for weeks or even months without pay—the men and women in uniform who are out there protecting our country. Medicare may not be able to cover the costs of a doctor's visit. Those are just some of the governmental functions that could come to a grinding halt if we don't pay our debts on time, and we don't know the full extent of what would happen because, as I said, we have never been there before. This is uncharted territory.

Economists estimate a very dire toll: 3 million jobs lost; \$130,000 added to the cost of your average 30-year mortgage. I want everyone to hear that. The mortgage costs for homeowners would go up. And, of course, as the mortgage costs for homeowners go up, the value of everyone who has already got a House also goes down. Retirement accounts in free fall, skyrocketing borrowing costs on car loans, and we would be hit by this catastrophe just as we are recovering from the economic hit we took during the pandemic. And it would trigger an increase in costs just as we are beginning to turn the corner on inflation.

So why would anyone do this? Why would someone threaten to do this?

I have been listening very carefully to Speaker McCarthy and Republicans in the House, and they say that they want to reduce the deficit and the national debt. That is what they say, but this is one of those situations where you always say: Watch what they do, not what they say.

The reality is that Republicans, through their actions and their records, don't care about the deficit and the debt. That is not their priority because, if they really cared about the deficit and the debt, they would not have passed the 2017 Trump tax cuts without a plan to pay for them—a tax cut, by the way, which disproportionately benefited the very, very rich and big multinational corporations—because that tax cut, that giveaway to the very wealthy and big corporations, it increased the deficit by \$2 trillion over 10 years, added to our national debt.

As I said, we wouldn't even be here today, at this point in time, but for the fact that Republicans increased the deficit by \$2 trillion. By the way, that is not my estimate, that \$2 trillion. That is from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.

And if Republicans really cared about reducing the deficit and debt, they could have joined us, just last year, when we closed a number of loopholes for big corporations, a measure that reduces the deficit by \$238 billion over the next 10 years. That is something Democrats did. We didn't have a single Republican vote here in the Senate or in the House for that.

And if Republicans really cared about reducing the deficit and debt, the Republican-controlled House of Representatives would not, as one of their very first measures, have passed a law to slash the funding that the IRS desperately needs to enforce the law against wealthy tax cheats.

Let me say that again. They cut the moneys that the IRS needs to enforce current tax law against very wealthy Americans and big corporations that are not paying what they owe today. They are getting away with cheating on their taxes, and Republicans cut the money that the IRS needs to go after them. And this is very explicitly, as the Secretary of Treasury said, talking about Americans who earn more than \$400,000 every year, including lots of multimillionaires and billionaires in the country.

So when you say the IRS can no longer have the funds to go after wealthy tax cheats, what happens? You collect less revenue from very wealthy people. And what happens when you collect less revenue from very wealthy people? You increase the deficit. In fact, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office says that the action the House already took would increase the deficit by over \$114 billion. This is from the Republicans in the House who are now threatening the United States not pay its bills, claiming that they care about the deficit and debt, when one of the very first actions that they took was to increase it. So that is just not the case. Their actions indicate that they don't care about the deficit.

What is it really about? So what Republicans are really after is attacking critical investments that support the American people and that help strengthen our country. As one Republican strategist, Grover Norquist, once said, it is about shrinking the government down to the size where you can "drown it in the bathtub."

This House Republican majority is desperate to cut and decimate programs that Americans need and that our future requires. So, for example, they want to cut some of the new initiatives we undertook to supercharge American innovation. We passed legislation, the CHIPS and Science Act, designed to maintain our technological edge over China and others. They want to cut it. They want to roll back investments that we made that are already bringing more high-tech manufacturing jobs back to the United States. We want to ensure those manufacturing jobs. They want to continue to offshore those good jobs. They want to cut investments we are making in clean energy that will help us fight the climate crisis, strengthen the American workforce, and, yes, also help us better compete around the globe, where China has a huge headstart when it comes to things like electric batteries. They want to cut Pell grants, which help millions of Americans pursue a college degree. They want to cut investments we are finally making to modernize our national infrastructure-something that was very bipartisan here in the U.S. Senate. That is important for our roads, our bridges, our transit systems, our ports, our airports. They want to cut it. Some are talking about cutting Medicare and Social Security.

That is just a partial list of what the House Republicans are threatening to do, and they are saying that if we don't all agree to that, they are not going to allow the United States to pay its bills on time.

The bottom line here is, when you look at the Republican playbook, it is cutting investments that are important to the American people and important to the success of our country while pushing for more tax cuts for the superwealthy. This is not a new movie; this is a rerun; this is trickle-down economics. It is the same old playbook, and here they go again.

But here is the thing: We have been here before. Some of us were here when this threat was last made. I vividly remember the year 2011. It was another moment when the Republicans were fresh—fresh—after winning a majority in the House of Representatives. I was in the House at the time. Then, as now, the Republicans said they really cared about the deficit and the debt. Then, as now, they threatened that they wouldn't pay the bills on time. They wouldn't vote to pay the country's bills on time.

I remember back then that we sat down with them in good faith. President Obama tapped Vice President Biden to lead the budget negotiations, and a small bipartisan and bicameral group of us was selected to try to hammer out a plan. I was part of those discussions. They took place just off the floor here, down the hall, less than 15 yards away. We worked week after week after week, and we negotiated to try to hammer out an agreement.

But here is what became very clear: The Republican objective then, as now, was not to reduce the deficit and the debt. The Republican objective was simply to cut investments in important areas. They didn't want to raise one penny-not one dime-to reduce the deficit or debt by closing tax breaks for very wealthy people. That was then. This is the same story today.

If you look at the list of things they did back then—no cutting tax breaks for the wealthy, cutting important programs, including Medicare, were very much part of their agenda—we got very close to tripping over the final cliff of the debt ceiling. Like today, we had already hit the debt ceiling, and the Treasury Department was taking extraordinary measures to prevent us from actually defaulting on our debts. In fact, we got so close to actually not paying our bills on time that the S&P downgraded America's credit for the first time in our history. They said: You are getting very close to the place where creditors of the United States aren't going to anymore support the United States. They are not going to buy U.S. bonds. In fact, interest rates began to creep up just because of that when we got so close to the cliff. We came very close to going over that waterfall and crashing the economy.

So many of us learned a valuable lesson that day. I learned it, and I know that then-Vice President, now-President Biden learned it, and that is that you don't negotiate over whether or not the United States pays its bills on time, because all of us, Democrats and Republicans alike, have an obligation and a responsibility to do that.

We also learned something I want to be equally clear about. We are not against negotiating about the budget. We are happy to sit down anytime with Republican colleagues and the Speaker of the House to negotiate all aspects of the budget. We can talk about spending levels, and we can talk about revenue levels. In fact, we have a budget process here. If Speaker McCarthy and his colleagues want to do this under the regular process and do it in a bipartisan way, they have to pass a budget resolution. They outline where they want to make cuts. I don't expect them to outline any proposed increases in revenue, but that is the place they would do that. Then we will have a debate. I serve on the Senate Budget Committee. I would look forward to that. I do look forward to that. I serve on the Appropriations Committee where we decide on expenditures. That is the forum for negotiation.

The Democrats are for negotiating on the budget. We welcome that. Then the American people would see exactly what everyone's budget priorities are. They would see that the Republicans want to protect tax breaks for the very wealthy while they want to cut investments that are very important to middle America. They would see all of that during the budget process, but they want to short circuit that process. They, instead, want to say that they are not going to vote to pay our bills on time unless we all agree to their radical agenda. We are saying we are happy to negotiate—let's have a budget negotiation—but the negotiation isn't that you get everything you want in exchange for the Democrats' joining you to vote to pay our bills on time.

We didn't do that when President Trump was in office. As I said, we voted three times to raise the debt limit. We didn't say: You have got to accept all of our proposed efforts to get rid of tax breaks for the very wealthy. Yet what they are saying is that we have got to accept their approach to deep cuts to important investments in order for them to do what all of us have an obligation under the Constitution to do, which is to pay our bills on time.

So I hope all of us will do the simple thing—mandated in the Constitution as Americans, not as Democrats or Republicans. As Americans, let's pay our bills on time, and let's not crash our economy. Yes, as part of the normal budget process, let's have a conversation about spending and about revenue, but don't do it while, at the same time, you are saying you are not going to let the United States pay our bills on

As I said in my opening remarks, we have always paid our bills on time. If you don't do it, really bad things happen to all Americans. So let's get that done, and then let's have our conversation about budget priorities.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). The Senator from Texas.

CHINA

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, I rise today to speak about a gross miscarriage of justice—the imprisonment of Mark Swidan by the Government of China and the Chinese Communist Party.

Mark is from Luling, a small city in my home State of Texas. His mother, Ms. Katherine Swidan, still lives in Luling, while Mark eventually became a resident of Houston, my hometown. For over 10 years, Katherine has been waging a desperate battle to see her son again.

In 2012, Mark traveled to China on a business trip, which turned into a nightmare. On November 13, 2012, Mark was abducted by China's Public Security Bureau while he was taking his family back home. A witness to the abduction has said that Mark was detained because Chinese officials wanted to view the contents of his cell phone.

Mark was accused of being a part of a criminal conspiracy with 11 other individuals to manufacture and traffic drugs—charges that Mark has denied and which have been debunked over and over again.

Chinese authorities tried to coerce Mark into confessing. He refused, and he pleaded not guilty in a trial that occurred in November 2013. During the trial, the prosecution didn't produce any forensic evidence to back up their allegations, and no drugs were found on Mark or in his hotel room. Records in Mark's passport showed that he wasn't even in China during the time of the alleged offenses, and the 11 other individuals indicted in relation to this alleged drug conspiracy couldn't identify Mark. Nevertheless, outrageously, in 2019, a Chinese court sentenced Mark to death.

Mark remains unjustly detained today. He is suffering in a Chinese prison right now, as we speak. In prison, Mark has been kept in deplorable, abusive conditions. His jailers seek to break his will and break his faith. They have confiscated his Bible and his rosary. Mark's cell exposes him to extreme heat and extreme cold. He is deprived of sleep and subjected to physical abuse. He is in danger of high blood pressure, skin infections, and asthma. He has lost more than 100 pounds. His health is dire. Throughout all of this, Mark has been denied access to his family and access to American diplomats.

Mark has communicated with his mother, and his mother has told me and told the world that the Chinese communist government has failed to break Mark's faith, which remains strong.

I spoke with Mark's mother earlier this week. This is a mom whose heart is breaking. This is a mom who wants to see her son again. This is a mom who wants to hold and hug and care for the son she loves.

The treatment of Mark has been atrocious, so much so that even the United Nations has called on China to release him. The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention—a U.N. group of human rights experts who investigate cases of arbitrary detention around the world—found that Mark is being held in violation of customary international law and international norms, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The world can see that the Chinese Communist Party is trying to use hostages and hostage taking as a tool of statecraft. The Chinese Communist Party says they want to be taken seriously as a great power and a great nation, and they say they want to be respected on the global stage. But their treatment of Mark is not how great nations and great powers behave; their treatment of Mark is how third-world despots act.

I have drafted and this week introduced a resolution calling on the Chinese Government and the Chinese Communist Party to immediately release Mark. I am joined by my colleague from Texas, Senator Cornyn, and by Representative CLOUD from Texas in the House, who has introduced the same resolution in the House of Representatives. This resolution not only calls for Mark's immediate release, it also condemns China for withholding from Mark access to his family and to proper medical care.

Furthermore, it calls on the Biden administration to prioritize efforts to secure Mark's release, both in their conversations with Chinese diplomats and in international forums. In a few days, Secretary of State Blinken will be in Beijing, and he will have an opportunity to finish the final chapter of this tragedy. I am calling on the Biden administration to use all of the tools at our disposal to secure Mark's release, and I am calling on the Government of China to finally release Mark.

This ordeal has to end. It has to end for Mark. It has to end for his mother. It has to end for his family. We must and will do more so that Mark can come home.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). The Senator from Nevada.

AMENDING THE CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT TO FIX A TECHNICAL ERROR IN THE DEFINITIONS

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 223, introduced earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows: A bill (S. 223) to amend the Controlled Substances Act to fix a technical error in the definitions.

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

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. 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. 223) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 223

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

SECTION 1. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT.

Section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (58) as paragraph (59);

(2) by redesignating the second paragraph designated as paragraph (57) (relating to the definition of "serious drug felony") as paragraph (58); and

(3) by moving paragraphs (57), (58) (as so redesignated), and (59) (as so redesignated) 2 ems to the left.

NATIONAL SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 11.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows: A resolution (S. Res. 11) designating the week of January 22 through January 28, 2023, as "National School Choice Week".

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

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. 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.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 11) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of January 23, 2023, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

CONGRATULATING THE SOUTH DA-KOTA STATE UNIVERSITY JACK-RABBITS ON WINNING THE 2023 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATH-LETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION I FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP SUB-DIVISION TITLE

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 22, submitted earlier today.