

The Senate should join me in saying “yes” to this bill, as did every single one of our colleagues in the House of Representatives. I second Senator Wyden’s request and ask the Senate to agree.

Mr. WYDEN. I am going to yield now to Chairman MENENDEZ, the chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, because he and I work very closely together on all of these kinds of issues, on the Foreign Relations Committee and the Finance Committee, and I have the good fortune of having Senator MENENDEZ, essentially, sit next to me in the Finance Committee.

So we are going to be working together. I am going to make the unanimous consent request in a minute. But I want to yield to Chairman MENENDEZ.

Thank you for the fact that we are working together today. We have got lots to do in the future and we are going to work together.

I yield to my colleague.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. I thank the Senator. Mr. President, I love your booming voice.

I just want to come to the floor very quickly. I look forward to working with Chairman WYDEN so we can forge even stronger economic ties between the United States and Taiwan. As Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee and the Democratic cochair of the Senate-Taiwan caucus, I can tell you that such efforts are deeply important to U.S. businesses and our economic and national security.

I reviewed the United States-Taiwan 21st Century Trade First Agreement Implementation Act. It reasserts important Congressional prerogatives with which I agree, and I appreciate Chairman WYDEN’s leadership in this regard.

I want to just add this point: If we truly want to help our businesses and if we are committed to taking our economic ties with Taiwan to the next level, we have to pass the Taiwan tax agreement.

Taiwan has made clear that they want a tax agreement with the United States, and U.S. businesses want a tax agreement with Taiwan, but there is a gap in the law that means there can be no agreement unless there is some new legislation. The Taiwan Tax Agreement Act eliminates this gap. It sets into motion an agreement with Taiwan that matches the substance of the commitments we have with our partners around the world, and it does so consistent with our Taiwan Relations Act.

I know that Chairman WYDEN has also another aspect of this, and I look forward to working together so we can come to a mutually agreeable conclusion to achieve it.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, before I make my unanimous consent request, I just want to reiterate that Senator MENENDEZ and I are going to be working together on these issues. He made this point with respect to taxes, and we are going to be able to find common ground, I believe, with Senator CRAPO,

who can’t be here today but who is very, very strongly in support of this effort.

Let me repeat that, colleagues. Senator CRAPO, the ranking member on the Finance Committee, is very strong for this effort.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 4004, which was received from the House and is at the desk. I further ask 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 with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, in reserving the right to object, I will object to this bill and to the process by which we have reached this point.

Several of my colleagues and I are studying this matter. This is a highly complicated, 70-page agreement. It only passed out of the House last night. It has only been on the Senate floor for barely a day. We were supposed to have 15 minutes ago gone to a joint meeting of Congress. The Senate should not be ramming through such agreements at the very last minute without our having had the time to review them. There is more than enough time for Senators and their aides, over the next 2 weeks of recess, to review this 70-page, complicated agreement and then address it in the month of July.

So I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I will be brief because I know my colleagues want to go to the other body.

I think this is very unfortunate. This is an extraordinary opportunity for our country, and this is a great opportunity for the world.

The fact is that there has been an extensive review of this particular agreement. The administration talked to a number of Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle. This legislation went through the House of Representatives unanimously, and that was after every member of the relevant committee—the House Ways and Means Committee—cosponsored the legislation. They didn’t just vote for it; they cosponsored it.

I think it is very unfortunate for my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to object. The chair of the Ways and Means Committee, Congressman SMITH, the ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee, Congressman NEAL, and the ranking Republican on the Finance Committee, Senator CRAPO—all of us—have been working for months now on this particular proposal, and I think it is very unfortunate that our colleague from Arkansas has decided to object. It is his right, but I think it is very unfortunate for our country because this could have been a very, very special day with the passage of this.

We are going to be back here, working together, as you have heard—Chairman MENENDEZ from the Foreign Relations Committee and I and Senator CRAPO. We are going to work together with every Member of this body to get this very important trade initiative enacted into law.

#### RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Mr. WYDEN. With that, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess subject to the call of the Chair.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 3:49 p.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair and reassembled at 5:17 p.m. when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. KAINE).

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and 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.

#### OSWALDO PAYÁ

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last week the Senate passed legislation I helped lead with Senators CRUZ, MENENDEZ, and others that renames the street in front of the Cuban Embassy for Oswaldo Payá.

Payá led a heroic and decades-long effort to bring basic democratic reforms to Cuba, which resulted in years of harassment that culminated in his death in 2012 when his car was run off the road by government thugs.

And also last week, after years of urging by me and several colleagues, the InterAmerican Commission on Human Rights released its verdict on this tragic event, confirming what we suspected all along, that the Cuban Government was responsible for his tragic death.

This important judgement is a reminder that Payá’s work and that of so many other brave Cubans fighting for basic freedoms remains a work in progress, one which I will continue to support.

#### REMEMBERING MARY ANN LAMM

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, earlier this month, my state of Illinois lost one of our most dedicated public servants. Her name was Mary Ann Lamm. She was a trailblazer and a change-maker in Illinois politics. Most importantly, she was a dear friend of mine.

During her many decades of service to our State, Mary Ann made history as the longest serving county recorder in Sangamon County. And really, it is no wonder why she was elected—and reelected to this position a record-breaking eight times. Every single day, Mary Ann lived up to the motto that she created, and affixed to the letterhead for the county recorder's office: "Public Service, Working for you."

And Mary Ann's tenacious spirit was only surpassed by her selflessness. Even though she was a giant in Sangamon County, there was no problem too small for her to solve. Whether you were starting a business or buying a home, her doors were always open—and she was always ready to help. From making sure your paperwork was filed on time, to protecting your personal financial information, Mary Ann mastered the complexities of local government to make it work for the people. Mary Ann also was a pioneer in building a bench of political talent in Central Illinois. And today, there is a generation of leaders throughout our State who look to her legacy as the model for public service.

Like me, before moving to Springfield, Mary Ann was born and raised in East St. Louis. And to really understand how she developed her tireless work ethic, look no further than her mother Dorothy, who worked past the age of 100. Dorothy was a warden for the Sangamon County jail—and would even prepare meals for her fellow employees and county prisoners. Like Dorothy, Mary Ann not only had incredible culinary talents, she used those talents to bring people together through delicious, home-cooked meals.

Mary Ann's career in public service began in 1963. At the age of 25, she was elected clerk for the village of Southern View, located smack dab in the heartland of Illinois. With fewer than 1,500 residents, Southern View was the perfect proving ground for Mary Ann's neighborly approach to public service. Whenever you needed her help, it was all hands on deck. Four years later, Mary Ann made her way to Springfield, where she was elected capital township trustee. And it was during this period that the two of us met for the first time. We were fast friends.

When I first ran for office, Mary Ann was one of my most loyal supporters—and was among the first of my friends to help dust me off after a tough loss. And she was also among the first to celebrate in 1982, when I won my race for Congress.

And Mary Ann always had a way of bringing people together. Whenever she hosted an event, just about everyone in town would show up—and not for the networking opportunities, but the food. She would prepare a seemingly endless supply of her homemade mostaccioli, a fan favorite. People would practically leap from their seats to get a taste. And everyone would leave with a full belly, along with a home-baked brownie, gently placed atop a napkin, for the road.

As I mentioned, the crown jewel of Mary Ann's career in public service was the 32 years she served as Sangamon County Recorder. As county recorder, she ushered the office into the digital age, leading the transition from microfiche and microfilm to modems and modern computing. Under Mary Ann's leadership, the county recorder's office emerged as a nimble, accessible public asset that all of our residents in Sangamon County rely on to this day.

Whenever I campaigned with Mary Ann, I was always surprised by not only how many people knew her, but how eager they were to shake her hand. She was humble, hard-working, and a hero to everyone she represented. Everything she touched, from every political campaign, to every elected office she held, turned to gold. She was one-of-a-kind and extended kindness to everyone who crossed her path.

Loretta and I join Mary Ann's children Robert, Therese, and Melissa; her grandchildren Laura, Alyssa, Nick, Libby, Eric, and Sophia; her siblings Bob, John, Ginny, Kepp, and Tom; and all of her nieces and nephews in mourning her loss. We miss you dearly, Mary Ann, and I speak for everyone in our State when I say: Thank you for your service.

#### TRIBUTE TO SCOTT LAUGHLIN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, for nearly 20 years, Scott Laughlin lit up the radio, welcoming WJBC listeners in the Bloomington, IL, area to a new day. It has been a few years since I have had the pleasure of being on the radio with Scott since he retired in 2019, but I would like to take a moment to wish him a happy birthday. We used to catch up monthly on his show, chatting about the big news of the day or the latest Cubs game. I like to think he had as much fun during those interviews as I did.

On the air, I could always count on Scott to ask me thoughtful questions about the on-goings in Washington. And he was never shy about letting me know where he stood. On more than one occasion, he let me know I voted against his opinion. But with each political discussion we broached on the radio, he did so with the utmost respect and willingness to understand the other side—and with a good sense of humor, too. He was a gracious host to both his guests and listeners.

Sadly, Scott cut his time at WJBC short, retiring a year ahead of his own schedule, when he discovered he had kidney cancer. In the 4 years since his diagnosis, Scott has fought hard, and his resolve continues to serve him today. His story, along with those of the nearly 82,000 Americans who receive this same diagnosis annually, reminds us why we faithfully advocate for medical research funding in hopes of finding a cure for cancer.

While he has many fans from his time as a radio host, Scott's favorite listeners have always been his wife

Lori; his two kids Casey and TJ; and his granddaughter Lucy. In his retirement, he has enjoyed extra time with them, sometimes spent on the golf course or relentlessly cheering on his teams: the Chicago Cubs and Bears, as well as the Illinois State University Redbirds.

I miss chatting with Scott over the radio, but I am sure he has found new joy in retirement. As his birthday approaches—July 5th—I am wishing Scott a very happy birthday, hopefully spent celebrating with friends and family, and maybe a round of golf or two.

#### U.S. SUPREME COURT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this month, the Supreme Court will issue some of the term's most consequential decisions. And if past is prologue, Washington Democrats will let the topline outcome of the cases determine their view of the Court's institutional legitimacy.

A year ago this week, the Court corrected a half-century of badly reasoned precedent under *Roe v. Wade* that cost our Nation millions of innocent lives. The Democratic leader responded by accusing an "extremist MAGA court" of bringing on "one of the darkest days our country has ever seen." But almost a year later, when the same exact Court issued a ruling he agreed with, the Democratic leader celebrated that "democracy held firm."

Democracy held firm—but only because the Court's opinion aligned with our colleague's political preferences. Unfortunately, this has been Washington Democrats' playbook for years. They have taught their base that, when they can't accomplish their political ends from within our institutions, it is the institutions that need to go.

Last year, intimidation at the Supreme Court took an especially vivid turn. Activists threatened members of the Court and their families. One individual even plotted to assassinate a Justice. Here in Congress, Democrats have responded by trying to take hostage funding for the Justices' security unless a coequal branch of government restructured itself.

The nine Justices of the Supreme Court are empowered by the Constitution to function above the political winds. And they should continue to do exactly that, no matter how many Washington Democrats demand otherwise.

#### ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

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