

to Congress for assistance, it was Republicans who demanded we use emergency funds to pay for the cost of deploying U.S. forces to Europe rather than forcing our military to take those costs out of hide.

And it was Republicans who demanded that our supplemental appropriations bills include funding to replenish and modernize the stockpiles we were drawing down to support Ukraine.

Perhaps, they expected the war to be over quickly, but the Biden administration requested neither of these things. In fact, when the Senate received the President's first supplemental request, I called the Democratic leader and said: "Double it." He agreed with my suggestion, and that is precisely what we did.

Republicans on the Armed Services, Foreign Relations, and Appropriations Committees have worked overtime to help equip Ukraine for victory. We have pushed relentlessly for investments that strengthen our Armed Forces, degrade our adversaries, and stand firmly with a sovereign democracy against authoritarian aggression—all while expanding our defense industrial capacity and creating American jobs at the very same time.

We have done it because we know that American leadership has ripple effects. Just look at how our European allies are now contributing more to Ukraine than we are, how allies across the world are investing in hard power and in our collective defense.

We know that the threats we face are intertwined; that Russia, Iran, China, and North Korea work together to undermine America and the West. We know that our border—just like Ukraine's borders and Israel's and Taiwan's—must be inviolable.

That is why, for months now, we have supported supplemental action on all four of the most pressing national security challenges we face. My support for Ukraine and Israel is rock solid. I am committed to preparing the U.S. military to deter and defend Chinese aggression. I am determined to get the national security crisis at the southern border under control. And I am going to work to get it done as long as it takes.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

Mr. President, now, on another matter, last week the Biden administration announced the latest front in its push for prescription drug socialism: march-in rights.

Here is what it means. Washington bureaucrats are claiming the authority to determine price ranges for drugs funded through public-private partnerships. And if these unelected regulators decide that a company has set its price too high, they will steal the company's intellectual property rights. In President Biden's own words, "the government reserves the right to 'march in' and license that drug to another manufacturer who can sell it for less."

To make matters worse, the Biden administration claims that the author-

ity for this power grab comes from a 1980 law designed to promote the exact opposite outcome. The purpose of the Bayh-Dole Act was to encourage private-public cooperation to drive new innovations in medicine, not the other way around.

The truth is, incentives matter. If Washington bureaucrats get the final say on how American producers market lifesaving cures, then America will cease to be the world's leading hub of medical innovation.

Why would any entrepreneur invest the time and resources to create a new treatment if the government can simply steal their intellectual property and redistribute it?

Unsurprisingly, the Biden administration is still working out the kinks of prescription drug socialism. But the medical innovation sector can't afford to wait before considering its investments. Neither, for that matter, can a whole host of other industries that rely on public-private partnerships. Just think about what it could mean in fast-evolving areas of technology.

Under the model of prescription drug socialism, the Biden administration is laying the groundwork for government patent seizure on other cutting-edge technologies, from semiconductors to nuclear energy.

America's pipeline of lifesaving cures is the envy of the world. American entrepreneurs and researchers save millions of lives. If President Biden wants to march in on this innovation sector, the bright minds behind it just might decide to take their intellectual property and march out of the American market.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The Republican whip.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, this week, the Senate will vote on the final version of the National Defense Authorization Act, or NDAA, which is one of the most important bills we consider each year.

We had a robust floor debate on the Senate version of this bill in July featuring the kind of open amendment process we should be using on a regular basis to debate important legislation. All told, more than 900 amendments were considered, and 121 amendments were adopted during floor consideration, making this the most open NDAA floor debate in years. I wish we had been able to take up a final version of this legislation earlier, but I am glad we are on track to finally pass it this week.

I have said it before, and I will say it again. If we don't get national security right, the rest is conversation. The se-

curity of our Nation is the precondition for everything else—for the continued enjoyment of our freedoms, for a flourishing society, for a healthy economy, for government's ability literally to do anything. So there is no time when we can afford to let our readiness slide or to take the security of our Nation for granted.

But the unfortunate truth is that we have some catching up to do when it comes to military preparedness. We have military services that are well below their recruitment targets. We are behind on shipbuilding and ship maintenance. There is a persistent pilot shortage, and in a number of cases, we have too few mission-capable aircraft. We are not doing an adequate job of maintaining the kind of supply we need of certain munitions. And the list goes on.

This is not an acceptable situation, and it could have very serious consequences. To give just one example, recent war games envisioning a U.S.-China conflict following an attack on Taiwan have had grim results, showing enormous military and economic costs to both sides. One story on these war games noted:

And while the ultimate outcome in these exercises is not always clear—the U.S. does better in some than others—the cost is [clear]. In every exercise the U.S. uses up all its long-range air-to-surface missiles in a few days, with a substantial portion of its planes destroyed on the ground.

In every exercise the U.S. uses up all its long-range air-to-surface missiles in a few days, with a substantial portion of its planes destroyed on the ground.

Well, needless to say, we have some serious work to do, and I am pleased to report that this year's NDAA does make some genuine progress on the readiness front. The bill expands the Pacific Deterrence Initiative and deepens our ties with our ally Taiwan to help detour Chinese aggression. It rejects the President's dangerous plan to shrink the U.S. Navy and authorizes investment in new ships. It contains multiple measures to increase our supply of munitions, including the addition of six critical munitions to the Pentagon's multiyear procurement program. Two of these munitions—Tomahawk missiles and Mark 48 torpedoes—play an important role in our ability to deter China.

I am also pleased that the committee responded to my request and included significant funding for joint air-to-surface standoff missile procurement, the long-range anti-ship missile, and development of the nuclear long-range standoff weapon, or LRSO. These are essential arrows to have in the quiver for our bombers, and the future LRSO will help modernize the air leg of our nuclear triad.

This year's NDAA also critically invests in recruitment. As I mentioned earlier, we have multiple military services that are well below their recruitment targets. These represent serious future personnel deficiencies. All the ships, planes, and munitions in the

world will be of very limited help if we don't have the personnel necessary to deploy these resources. So expanding and improving our recruitment efforts has to be a priority.

We also have to continue to work to improve the quality of life of our military members and their families, which is why I am pleased to report that this year's bill includes a 5.2-percent pay increase for our troops, as well as measures to improve barracks quality and expand access to mental health care, among other things.

I am also pleased that this year's NDAA takes measures to keep our military's focus warfighting and not the dissemination of woke ideologies by Pentagon bureaucrats.

Above all, I am proud to report that this year's bill authorizes full funding for the next steps of the B-21 mission, the Air Force's new, long-range, strategic bomber, which will revolutionize our long-range strike capabilities and be hosted at South Dakota's own Ellsworth Air Force Base. The Air Force calls the B-21 Raider the future backbone of its bomber force.

One of my top priorities here in Congress over the past several years has been ensuring that the Air Force—and Ellsworth in particular—has everything it needs for this critical advancement in our Nation's readiness. This year's NDAA will once again fund not only the B-21 bomber, which we excitedly saw take flight 1 month ago, but the support facilities at Ellsworth that will be needed to maintain this aircraft once it enters service.

While, as I said, we are passing this bill a little late, I am pleased that we are finally passing it and in what I expect will be a strongly bipartisan fashion.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. President, now we should turn to addressing another important aspect of our national security in a bipartisan fashion, and that is securing our border. The kind of unchecked illegal immigration we are currently experiencing at our southern border represents a serious national security threat—one that so far Democrats are refusing to meaningfully address. I hope that their position will shift in the coming days and that we will be able to work together to pass a supplemental bill which not only provides support for our allies but which also contains real measures to secure our border. The NDAA should not be the only national security legislation that we pass this December.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

DASH ACT

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I got back late last night from Oregon—another round of community meetings. You can't do your job well sitting behind your desk back here; you have to get out into the community. I have had more than 1,000—really more than 1,060—open-to-all townhalls, in every corner of Oregon, and I am going to talk for a few minutes about the issue I hear about constantly, and that is the shortage of affordable housing for working families.

I am going to talk about what it means for my constituents, but I will tell you, I hear about it all across the country and from Senators on both sides of the aisle. I have just introduced legislation with the distinguished Senator from Alaska, Senator SULLIVAN, about housing that is affordable for working families. Ask the New Hampshire Senators about employers and workers facing housing challenges there. Ask those from Kansas what is going on in Kansas City, where they can't house teachers. Oregonians from Brookings to Baker City are facing rising rents and housing costs and are making tough financial choices. They ought to have enough money because they are working hard to pay for affordable shelter.

Here is a statistic that will give you a sense of what the challenge is all about. In my State, 26 school districts have been forced to buy, rent, or build housing for their teachers. So get this, Mr. President—and we are westerners, and we understand this. We know we have a lot of challenges competing in tough markets. We have a leg up geographically with Asia, for example, on the west coast, but we are losing it if we don't have affordable housing for working families, for firefighters and teachers.

Folks, the minority community has said: We are trying to start small businesses on a credit card, and we can't afford shelter.

In Oregon, these school districts—more than 20 of them—are now basically in the housing business. How in the world—I see my friend from Alaska is here. We have been talking about these issues. It is wonderful to work with him on it. How in the world did our schools suddenly get in the housing business? I guess in some places they are going to in effect rent houses they bought to teachers, and the teachers will practically be back, I say to my friend from Alaska, in their college days. They will be waiting to use the washing machine in line with other teachers.

So I just don't think it is right that all our school districts have to get into the housing business—by the way, there was a front-page story in the Wall Street Journal here not long ago about the same sort of thing in Kansas City.

I have introduced comprehensive legislation as chairman of the Finance Committee to tackle this issue. It is

called the DASH Act—the Decent, Affordable, Safe Housing for All Act. Today, we are just going to focus on one piece, which is affordable housing for working families.

Senator SULLIVAN and I have teamed up here in the Senate. I am very pleased that our bill is bipartisan and bicameral.

I am very pleased that our bill is bipartisan and bicameral. Representatives JIMMY PANETTA and MIKE CAREY are offering the same kind of tax credit that Senator SULLIVAN and I are offering for working families, and our proposal is built on the proven and successful—what is called LIHTC—low-income housing tax credit.

My view is that the combination of LIHTC, plus the help that Senator SULLIVAN and I and our counterparts in the House want to advance—those two efforts—could spur a juggernaut of new and desperately needed housing construction. Our bill could be a big shot in the arm to the countless middle-income Americans hoping to get their shot at the American dream of owning a home.

I want, as we get into this issue of working families, to make sure that everybody understands that we are also recommitting our support to the existing programs that help the homeless and help folks of modest incomes, like LIHTC. These are people who, every week, walk an economic tightrope. They are balancing the food bill against the fuel bill and the fuel bill against housing costs. We desperately need more LIHTC funding, and as chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, I am going to continue to push that.

But I don't think the two needs here for working families and low-income folks are mutually exclusive. We can do both. We ought to do both. Our country is not at its best when we pit working families against people of modest means. We ought to be extending opportunity for all Americans.

I will just say—and I am going to yield to my friend from Alaska—that small businesses across my State—and I heard it yesterday again at our business summit in Portland—can't grow because employees can't afford housing. Even when they have good-paying jobs, families are forced to search for months for reasonably priced properties, only to be up against several other families in similar circumstances and contending for the same property.

So we are going to continue to try to build on the progress of LIHTC. My hope is—and I had a good talk just this morning with the chairman in the other body, Chairman JASON SMITH of the Ways and Means Committee, my counterpart. We had a good conversation about the effort to get help for kids with what is called the child tax credit, and an equal amount of help for the research and development tax issue for innovation so we can outcompete China. We made good progress just in the last week, Chairman SMITH and I,