

honey badger within the course of one Sunday morning church service, and we have all had that experience, and that is normal.

Kids don't typically have a mature sense of self or impulse control, and that is why God gave them parents. But today, if a little girl has a week where she thinks she is a boy because she hates wearing dresses and loves to climb trees with her brothers, some activists think we ought to pump her full of puberty blockers that destroy her bone health so she feels "affirmed" in her decision to play cops and robbers with the boys.

Secretary Hillary Clinton once famously said it takes a village to raise a child. What she meant was it takes a Federal Government to raise a child. No, it doesn't. Kids need parents to succeed, and parents have the right to raise their children according to their values. Parents are here to protect kids from danger, from the kids' own immaturity, and from misguided government agents.

And contrary to what these activists say, there are some sane ways to treat children who struggle with gender confusion. Many doctors in Europe and the United States recognize that permanently maiming and chemically castrating confused children is bone-deep, down-to-the-marrow stupid. That is why many physicians have adopted the practice of "watchful waiting." That is a treatment plan—we offer it in Louisiana—whereby doctors and psychologists wait to implement any medical treatment to children with gender dysphoria while watching to ensure that they have all the responsible mental health support that they need.

As I mentioned earlier, 85 percent of children will outgrow their dysphoria during puberty. Watchful waiting ensures that the child is well supported and protected from irreversible physical and psychological damage.

Some activists, though, don't want to let doctors wait, and a lot of those activists work in the Biden administration. In 2021, the Biden administration announced that it would start requiring doctors to issue hormone treatments or surgeries to transgender individuals, even if such procedures—even if such procedures—run contrary to the doctor's medical judgment or religious beliefs. And, unsurprisingly, the Biden administration has been sued over that.

It is not just doctors facing pressure to conform to the demands of gender activists. In some States, parents have lost custody of their kids for refusing to do it. Schools have fired counselors simply for wanting parents to be told about their kid's gender transition.

I am terrified that our country is mass-producing a generation of mutilated and sterilized young people because policymakers in our schools and our cities and our State capitals and Washington are too afraid to stand up and say: Enough.

And that is why, in conclusion, I am so proud of the Louisiana State Legis-

lature. The Louisiana State Legislature passed HB648. HB648 protects Louisiana's children and supports their parents. HB648 makes it illegal to use puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and surgery on children under the age of 18—period, full stop.

It wasn't easy to get this bill passed. Our lawmakers faced strong opposition from gender activists, and our former Governor, John Bel Edwards, vetoed the bill. But in Louisiana, we will run into hell and back to keep our kids safe, and that is why senate and house members—Democrats and Republicans—in the Louisiana State Legislature overrode the Governor's veto. They said: No, children are children.

Congress should follow the leadership of the Louisiana State Legislature and so many European governments to ensure that parents—not activists—have the power to make medical and moral decisions for their children. And that is why I am helping to lead the Families' Rights and Responsibilities Act, which would do that. This bill would require the Federal Government to pass the strict scrutiny test—that is the Supreme Court's toughest level of review—before it could infringe upon a parent's right.

Nothing disturbs me more than the notion that a child's upbringing should be determined by some bureaucrat rather than the child's parents, especially when those bureaucrats use the power of the government to maim children. It makes me want to throw up. It makes me want to reach for the sick bucket.

Congress must do more to protect parents and their kids from the zealots of the transgender movement and from newspaper reporters who inaccurately report the news.

I yield to my colleague Senator PETERS.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Michigan.

NOMINATION OF HAMPTON Y. DELLINGER

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise in support of Hampton Dellinger's nomination to lead the Office of Special Counsel.

Federal employees must be able to report waste, fraud, and abuse across government without fear of retaliation. Whistleblowers have exposed serious safety shortfalls, wasteful spending, and corruption. They help keep government accountable, and they are indispensable in the oversight work of Congress and the inspectors general.

The Office of Special Counsel protects whistleblowers' rights. The Agency investigates their disclosures and prosecutes instances of retaliation against vulnerable employees.

In addition to those responsibilities, OSC helps ensure that the Federal Government is free from improper partisan activity and protects our servicemembers and veterans from employment discrimination.

Mr. Dellinger is well qualified to lead the Office of Special Counsel. He has nearly three decades of legal experi-

ence, including as a senior official in the North Carolina Attorney General's Office and the U.S. Department of Justice. He has worked with whistleblowers in both the public and private sector and has advanced policies that protect whistleblower rights.

Most importantly, Mr. Dellinger has demonstrated the utmost integrity throughout his career. He is willing to take on powerful interests for the public good and will lead OSC in an independent, nonpartisan way.

I urge my colleagues to join me in confirming Mr. Dellinger to this important role today.

VOTE ON DELLINGER NOMINATION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the question is, will the Senate advise and consent to the Dellinger nomination?

Mr. HEINRICH. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

The result was announced—yeas 49, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 54 Ex.]

YEAS—49

Baldwin	Heinrich	Rosen
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Booker	Kaine	Schumer
Brown	Kelly	Shaheen
Butler	King	Sinema
Cantwell	Lujan	Stabenow
Cardin	Manchin	Tester
Carper	Markey	Van Hollen
Casey	Menendez	Warner
Coons	Merkley	Warnock
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warren
Duckworth	Murray	Welch
Durbin	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Fetterman	Padilla	Wyden
Gillibrand	Peters	
Hassan	Reed	

NAYS—47

Barrasso	Graham	Paul
Blackburn	Grassley	Ricketts
Boozman	Hagerty	Risch
Braun	Hawley	Romney
Britt	Hoeben	Rounds
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Johnson	Schmitt
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Collins	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Cotton	Lummis	Thune
Cramer	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	Vance
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Mullin	Young
Fischer	Murkowski	

NOT VOTING—4

Crapo	Smith
Klobuchar	Tillis

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 515, Cara L. Abercrombie to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Cara L. Abercrombie, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Abercrombie nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BENNET. 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.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CARDIN. 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.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 24-09, concerning the Navy's proposed Let-

ter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$75 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-09

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO).

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment * \$0.
Other \$75 million.
Total \$75 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-MDE: Foreign Military Sales (FMS) Cross Domain Solutions (CDS); High Assurance Internet Protocol Encryptor (HAIPE) devices; Global Positioning System (GPS) receivers; communications equipment; requirements analysis; engineering; technical services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (TW-P-GQD).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: February 21, 2024.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States—Taiwan Advanced Tactical Data Link System Upgrade Planning

The Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) has requested to buy Foreign Military Sales (FMS) Cross Domain Solutions (CDS); High Assurance devices; Global Positioning System (GPS) receivers; communications equipment; requirements analysis; engineering; technical services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$75 million.

This proposed sale is consistent with U.S. law and policy as expressed in Public Law 96-8.

This proposed sale serves U.S. national, economic, and security interests by supporting the recipient's continuing efforts to modernize its armed forces and maintain a credible defensive capability. The proposed sale will help improve the security of the recipient and assist in maintaining political stability, military balance, and economic progress in the region.

The proposed sale will improve the recipient's ability to meet current and future threats by enhancing communications and network security, and providing infrastructure to allow the secure flow of tactical information. The recipient will have no difficulty absorbing this support and equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this, equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor(s) will be determined through U.S. Government competitive

processes. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require an estimated 200 U.S. Government personnel and 200 U.S. contractor representatives to travel to the recipient, as required, to provide engineering and technical support services as well as program and technical reviews.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-09

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The Foreign Military Sales (FMS) Cross Domain Solution (CDS) provides a gateway that allows for secure exchange of information between networks.

2. The High Assurance Internet Protocol Encryptor (HAIPE) devices provide a gateway that allows two enclaves to securely exchange data over a network.

3. The Global Positioning System (GPS) Precise Positioning System (PPS) Host Application Equipment (HAE) OPS/Inertial Navigation System (INS) with chipset to receive the M-code signal is a self-contained navigation system that provides the following: acceleration, velocity, position, attitude, platform azimuth, magnetic and true heading, altitude, body angular rates time tags, and coordinated universal time (UTC) synchronized time. The M-code chipset enables the GPS receiver access to the encrypted M-code signal providing protection against active spoofing attacks and improved jamming resistance.

4. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

5. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

6. A determination has been made that the recipient can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

7. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the recipient.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

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