

American influence, sap our resolve, torch our credibility, and fill every void we leave behind with a new order built on fear and subjugation. And we face terrorists and rogue states committed to help them sow chaos. North Korea is sending thousands of train cars full of ammunition to fuel Russia's brutal invasion of Ukraine; and Iran's Houthi proxies are signaling to Russian and Chinese ships that they will be permitted to traverse the Red Sea unharmed. But it is not enough to recognize these challenges or name-check them in policy papers. Both the administration and Congress have to act and invest and be willing to meet them.

President Biden's actions undercut any of his administration's apparent recognition of the grave moment we are facing. For 4 straight years, the Commander in Chief has requested defense budgets that don't even keep pace with inflation. De facto cuts to U.S. military funding do not signal seriousness about outcompeting our biggest strategic adversaries—China's defense, for example, is growing by more than 7 percent year-over-year—and neither did the President's hand-wringing and delay over equipping Ukraine with the capabilities needed to better defend itself against Russian aggression.

Frankly, President Biden seems to have a deep-seated discomfort in cultivating and exercising hard power—a necessary, foundational part of the statecraft that protects America and preserves our interests.

Of course, Congress has a say and a responsibility. Our work on fiscal year 2024 defense appropriations represents a critical down payment. But important requirements will remain unmet even after the needed investments this Defense bill will make.

Republicans recognized the constraints of the budget caps, and we worked hard to ensure that the national security supplemental we passed in the Senate will make further critical investments in our own military and defense industrial capability.

Earlier this week, the Commander of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, Admiral Aquilino, made the case for passing the supplemental to our House colleagues, saying “any win for Russia . . . is a win for China,” and so what we do “supporting the Ukraine problem set also provides a deterrent value” in the Indo-Pacific.

Together with full-year appropriations, the supplemental is a serious, urgent, and necessary investment in American hard power. And I will continue to urge the House to take it up and pass it without further delay.

But as the Senate prepares to finish our work on annual government funding, I want to once again thank our colleagues on the Appropriations Committee for the diligent work required to get to this point. Senator MURRAY and Senator COLLINS made a commitment nearly a year ago to restore as much regular order to the process as

possible and to work constructively across the aisle.

I am especially grateful to my friend SUSAN COLLINS, whose leadership and skill have continued to improve this legislation on behalf of Senate Republicans at every step of the process.

I am particularly proud of how the legislation before us will deliver on the priorities of my fellow Kentuckians. In significant ways, the work of rebuilding American hard power begins right here at home. It means good-paying manufacturing jobs for hard-working Americans across the country, including in Kentucky, in communities like Sterns and Somerset, where Kentuckians develop cutting-edge tools and technologies that give our servicemembers the upper hand on the battlefield or Brandenburg, where they produce new armor systems to enhance the next generation of combat equipment; or Louisville and Lexington, where they are spurring innovation in areas critical to our warfighting capabilities through partnerships with the University of Louisville and the University of Kentucky.

Of course, funding the government this week also puts more weight behind missions even closer to home, like our fight against the substance abuse epidemic which has had a staggering—staggering—impact in my home State. We are devoting more resources to the Kentucky National Guard to reinforce State and local law enforcement as they combat the flow of illegal drugs literally pouring over our border. And we are directing billions toward States like Kentucky so we can promote long-term recovery, find new ways to treat addiction, and spare more lives from this deadly crisis. Through prevention, treatment, and enforcement, we are taking direct aim at a health crisis that has hollowed out our communities and hit middle America especially hard.

Our work is far from finished, but I am proud of what my Senate colleagues have accomplished to close out the annual appropriations process. It is now time to finish the job.

NOMINATION OF ADEEL ABDULLAH MANGI

Mr. President, on another matter, I have spoken repeatedly about the nomination of Adeel Mangi to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals in New Jersey. As I explained, his radical associations are truly staggering. And this fact seems to have rubbed some of our Democratic colleagues the wrong way. Yesterday, one of my esteemed Democratic colleagues objected that we were unfairly ignoring Mr. Mangi's record as a lawyer. Well, I have looked at that record and encourage Democrats to do the same.

Our colleagues may not mind Mr. Mangi's cavorting with apologists for terrorism and cop killing. That much wouldn't be surprising, considering that their party is in the process of succumbing to noxious strains of anti-Semitism and soft-on-crime radicalism.

But it is a bit odd that more of our colleagues don't seem to care that Mr. Mangi has spent his entire career in “white shoe” corporate law, working as a hired gun for causes Democrats love to hate.

For example, did you know that Mr. Mangi defended monopolists accused of fixing the prices of chocolate? Just in time for Easter.

While Democrats promote the Green New Deal, Mr. Mangi defended a foreign conglomerate as it pursued a fossil fuel contract.

It is hard to count the number of cases Mr. Mangi has litigated in defense of companies accused of fixing the price of prescription drugs. This is a practice that the senior Senator from Vermont says “rip[s] off the American people.” Mr. Mangi says it demands compelled arbitration. In at least three of these pharmaceutical suits, Mr. Mangi fought against union pension funds. Curiously, none of these cases are on Mr. Mangi's committee questionnaire.

I don't begrudge a lawyer based on their clients—and I am sure Mr. Mangi was handsomely paid. And besides, we are talking about perfectly defensible and often successful legal arguments. But do my Democratic friends feel the same way?

Fortunately, a growing number of our colleagues are saying they are unwilling to walk the plank for Mr. Mangi's radical affiliations. But his remaining supporters? They might land among the sharks themselves if they insist he be judged on his legal record.

NOMINATION OF ERNEST GONZALEZ

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Ernest Gonzalez to the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas.

Born in San Antonio, TX, Mr. Gonzalez received his B.B.A. from the University of Texas at San Antonio and his J.D. from the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University. From 1994 to 2000, he worked at the Bexar County District Attorney's Office in San Antonio, where he prosecuted misdemeanor and felony crimes. In 2000, he joined the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas in Del Rio as an assistant U.S. attorney, where his portfolio consisted primarily of immigration and narcotics violations.

From 2003 to 2023, Mr. Gonzalez worked as an assistant U.S. attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Texas in Plano. While there, he served as chief of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces Section, and he represented the United States in a variety of domestic and international criminal cases, including drug-trafficking cases. Since 2023, he has worked as a senior attorney advisor for the U.S. Department of Justice in the Narcotics and Dangerous Drug Section of the Criminal Division in Washington, DC.

Mr. Gonzalez has an extraordinary amount of trial experience in both

State and Federal court. He has tried more than 250 jury trials to verdict, including more than 120 State jury trials and more than 135 Federal jury trials. He enjoys the strong support of both of his home State senators—Mr. CORNYN and Mr. CRUZ—and the American Bar Association unanimously rated Mr. Gonzalez as “well qualified” to serve on the Western District of Texas.

During Mr. Gonzalez’s confirmation hearing, Senator CORNYN expressed his belief that Mr. Gonzalez’s “temperament, his knowledge of the law, and ability to handle a large docket will serve the Del Rio Division of the Western District well.” I agree with that assessment. I strongly support Mr. Gonzalez’s nomination, and I urge my colleagues to join me.

Mr. SCHATZ. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we start the 12 noon vote now.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON GONZALEZ NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Gonzalez nomination?

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

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

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

The clerk will call the roll

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Tennessee Mr. (HAGERTY), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT).

The result was announced—yeas 88, nays 7, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 102 Ex.]

YEAS—88

Baldwin	Cotton	Kelly
Barrasso	Crapo	Kennedy
Bennet	Cruz	King
Blumenthal	Daines	Klobuchar
Booker	Duckworth	Lankford
Boozman	Durbin	Lee
Brown	Ernst	Lujan
Budd	Fetterman	Lummis
Butler	Fischer	Manchin
Cantwell	Gillibrand	Markey
Capito	Graham	McConnell
Cardin	Grassley	Menendez
Carper	Hassan	Merkley
Casey	Heinrich	Moran
Cassidy	Hickenlooper	Mullin
Collins	Hirono	Murkowski
Coons	Hyde-Smith	Murphy
Cornyn	Johnson	Murray
Cortez Masto	Kaine	Ossoff

Padilla	Schatz	Vance
Paul	Schumer	Warner
Peters	Scott (SC)	Warnock
Reed	Shaheen	Warren
Ricketts	Sinema	Welch
Risch	Smith	Whitehouse
Romney	Stabenow	Wicker
Rosen	Tester	Wyden
Rounds	Thune	Young
Rubio	Tillis	
Sanders	Van Hollen	

NAYS—7

Britt	Marshall	Tuberville
Hawley	Schmitt	
Hoeben	Sullivan	

NOT VOTING—5

Blackburn	Cramer	Scott (FL)
Braun	Hagerty	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WELCH). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will immediately be notified of the Senate’s action.

The Senator from Washington.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

UDALL FOUNDATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2023—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask the Chair to lay before the Senate a message from the House of Representatives on H.R. 2882.

I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT).

The result was announced—yeas 78, nays 18, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 103 Leg.]

YEAS—78

Baldwin	Duckworth	Markey
Barrasso	Durbin	McConnell
Bennet	Ernst	Menendez
Blumenthal	Fetterman	Merkley
Booker	Fischer	Moran
Boozman	Gillibrand	Mullin
Britt	Graham	Murkowski
Brown	Grassley	Murphy
Butler	Hassan	Murray
Cantwell	Heinrich	Ossoff
Capito	Hickenlooper	Padilla
Cardin	Hirono	Peters
Carper	Hoeben	Reed
Casey	Hyde-Smith	Ricketts
Cassidy	Kaine	Romney
Collins	Kelly	Rosen
Coons	King	Rounds
Cornyn	Klobuchar	Schatz
Cortez Masto	Lujan	Schumer
Cotton	Lummis	Shaheen
Cramer	Manchin	Sinema

Smith	Tillis	Welch
Stabenow	Van Hollen	Whitehouse
Sullivan	Warner	Wicker
Tester	Warnock	Wyden
Thune	Warren	Young

NAYS—18

Budd	Kennedy	Rubio
Crapo	Lankford	Sanders
Cruz	Lee	Schmitt
Daines	Marshall	Scott (SC)
Hawley	Paul	Tuberville
Johnson	Risch	Vance

NOT VOTING—4

Blackburn	Hagerty
Braun	Scott (FL)

The motion was agreed to.
(Mr. KELLY assumed the Chair.)

UDALL FOUNDATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2023

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). The Chair lays before the Senate the message from the House.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Resolved, that the House agree to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2882) entitled “An Act to reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Trust Fund, and for other purposes.”, with a House amendment to the Senate amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

MOTION TO CONCUR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move that the Senate concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment.

CLOTURE MOTION

Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 2882, a bill to reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Patty Murray, Jack Reed, Peter Welch, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jeff Merkley, Catherine Cortez Masto, Margaret Wood Hassan, Sheldon Whitehouse, Tim Kaine, Richard J. Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Brian Schatz, Tina Smith, Jeanne Shaheen, Chris Van Hollen.

MOTION TO CONCUR WITH AMENDMENT NO. 1790

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to concur in the House amendment with an amendment No. 1790, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER] moves to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 2882, with an amendment numbered 1790.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that further reading be dispensed with.