

DETAIL OF ADJUSTMENTS TO THE ALLOCATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024—Continued

(Pursuant to Sections 302 and 314 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974)

(\$ in billions)

Detail of Adjustments Made Above	Emergency		
	Security	Nonsecurity	Total
Homeland Security:			
Budget Authority	0.000	−4.300	−4.300
Outlays	0.000	−1.605	−1.605
Total:			
Revised Discretionary Budget Authority	−8.000	−9.550	−17.550
Revised Discretionary Outlays	−2.209	−4.489	−6.698

CENTER FOR SECURITY STUDIES
IN IRREGULAR WARFARE

Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, I would like to highlight an important provision, which Senator SINEMA and I worked to secure within division A of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2024. Within the budget for Defense-Wide Operations and Maintenance, \$5 million is provided for the establishment of a permanent Center of Excellence for the John S. McCain III Center for Security Studies in Irregular Warfare.

This Center, named in honor of the late Senator John McCain, would serve as a central hub for developing knowledge and understanding of irregular warfare through research, education, and external engagement across government, civil society, and foreign partners. Congress authorized the establishment of the Center in 2021.

Both Senator SINEMA and I have had regular conversations with the Department of Defense leadership about the need to establish a permanent Center of Excellence, which by law, must be located at an institution of higher education that has a proven course curriculum and existing research functions focused on irregular warfare, competition, and asymmetric challenges in statecraft and has an established network with other academic institutions to enhance such functions. We have been assured that, as soon as Congress provided dedicated funding to enable the Center of Excellence to be established, the Department would begin the process of selecting the site of the permanent Center of Excellence. The Further Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2024 provides this funding.

Therefore, we hope and expect that the Department of Defense will act, within the next 30 to 45 days, to begin the process of selecting a permanent Center of Excellence. We appreciate the attention the Department has paid to this important project, and look forward to receiving regular and positive updates as this process continues.

NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY BIRD
CONSERVATION ACT

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my colleague Senator BOOZMAN in introducing legislation that reauthorizes and makes improvements to the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act. The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act program has historically had

strong bipartisan support, and it has been my honor to champion this program's reauthorization since I was elected to the Senate in 2007. I am pleased to welcome Senator BOOZMAN to this effort after many productive years working with Senator PORTMAN. This is a critical program administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that supports habitat conservation work throughout the United States, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

Migratory birds undertake awe-inspiring journeys, from as far north as the boreal forests of Canada and the Arctic, to Latin America and the Caribbean. Their journeys require "habitat anchors" that the species have relied on for tens of thousands of years to stop over as they make their migratory journeys. The wetlands of the Chesapeake Bay watershed provide one such critical stepping stone for the 500 hundred species that travel along the Atlantic Flyway.

The program enables the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to support conservation partners along migratory flyways throughout the Western Hemisphere. This is the only Federal grant program that ensures that the links in the full migratory chain have the conservation support they need.

Since 2002, the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act program has provided more than \$89 million in grants to support 717 projects in 43 countries. The projects funded have positively affected more than 5 million acres of bird habitat and spurred partnerships on multiple levels, contributing to an additional \$346 million. It has fostered international cooperation and has evolved into a powerful conservation alliance.

Throughout my time in the U.S. Senate, I have worked to improve programs, increase authorization levels, and make funding more accessible. Still, historic funding levels have been disappointing. Congressional appropriations for this popular program are far below what is needed to support this important work, especially as climate change continues to put undue stress on our bird populations and their habitats.

Migratory birds rely on water and its associated habitats—lakes, rivers, streams, ponds, swamps, marshes, and coastal wetlands—for breeding, resting and refueling during migration, and wintering. Yet increasing human demand for water, along with climate change, pollution, and other factors are threatening these precious aquatic eco-

systems. Global headlines are sounding the alarm: 35 percent of the world's wetlands, critical to migratory birds, have been lost in the last 50 years. Birds provides critical ecosystem services, and when species are lost, their functions and benefits to particular habitats are lost as well. Birds are important to people and the planet; this is exactly why I have made their protection one of my highest priorities in Congress.

Today, I am celebrating the important improvements this bill makes to the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation program and committing to working in a bipartisan manner to provide increased resources to this worthy endeavor.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, this Women's History Month, I find it more important than ever to celebrate and recognize the contributions of women to society. Women's rights are under attack in the United States and around the world. Since the Dobbs decision to overturn Roe v. Wade, we have witnessed policies that are taking away a women's constitutional right to control their own bodies, with many legislators passing harmful abortion restrictions. But, as President Biden said in his State of the Union, "They have no clue about the power of women in America."

This year, the National Women's Alliance has chosen the theme of "Women who Advocate for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion." To contribute to this theme, I want to honor Maryland's many famous female activists and community leaders throughout history who promote diversity, equity, and inclusion.

First, a woman whose contributions cannot be overstated is Harriet Tubman. An abolitionist and political activist best known as the conductor of the Underground Railroad who emancipated an estimated 300 enslaved people. A paragon of freedom and justice, she was born in Dorchester County, MD, in March of 1822. She was also the first American woman to lead an armed military raid, acting as a spy and nurse for the Union Army during the Civil War. After the war, she continued to fight for civil rights, leading the charge for women's suffrage with other significant figures such as Susan B. Anthony. The fight for gender equality

continues today, as I lead my colleagues in working to recognize ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Second, I want to recognize Rachel Carson, a marine biologist and nature writer, who catalyzed the global environmental movement. In her home in Silver Spring, MD, Rachel Carson wrote "Silent Spring," which outlined the dangers of chemical pesticides to humans and the environment. The pesticide industry pushed back against her, branding her as crazy and communist, but she persevered. Through her continued research and advocacy, "Silent Spring" led to the banning of DDT and other pesticides and ultimately led to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency. She has been an overwhelming influence on my work to preserve our environment and the Chesapeake Bay.

I also want to honor Irene Morgan Kirkaldy, a Black civil rights activist who took a stand against segregation. Kirkaldy, a Baltimore native, was riding a Greyhound bus back home from Virginia in July of 1944 when she was arrested for refusing to give up her seat to a White couple. When her case made it to the Supreme Court, she was represented by Thurgood Marshall, and the Court ruled that segregation violated the Constitution's "protection of interstate commerce." Her bravery paved the way for the Civil Rights Movement going forward, including the monumental *Brown v. Board of Education* decision and Rosa Parks' similar act of resistance in Alabama. Strengthening civil rights and promoting equity has been a major part of my legislative agenda in Congress and before that in the Maryland House of Delegates.

Another incredible female activist I would like to highlight is Pauline Woo Tsui, a Chinese-American anti-discrimination activist who immigrated to the United States during World War II to escape Japanese occupation. A Montgomery County resident, she supported her family by working at the U.S. Army Map Service, while she also served as manager of the Federal Women's Program, advocating for the rights of around 700 female employees. She cofounded the Organization of Chinese American Women and served on the advisory board for the State Department for International Women's Year in 1975. As a civil servant and activist, Pauline set a standard for gender equity and ensuring girls had access to education worldwide.

I would additionally like to honor Carmen Delgado Votaw, an author, community leader, and public servant. She was born in Humacao, PR, and settled in Bethesda, MD, in 1962. Serving as cochair of the National Advisory Committee for Women and president of the Inter-American Commission of Women of the Organization of American States, she was instrumental in the civil rights movement for Latinx people. She also became the first

Latina chief of staff to a Member of Congress, and she worked to address challenges faced by Puerto Ricans.

It would be remiss of me not to mention Sharon Brackett, an LGBTQ+ rights activist who became the first transgender woman elected to public office in Maryland. She pushed Howard County to pass a bill that added gender identity and expression to its anti-discrimination laws and served on the Democratic Central Committee starting in 2018. Further, she was named CEO and president of Tiresias Technologies, as engineer-in-residence at the 3D Maryland Innovation + Prototyping Lab, in Columbia.

While these are only a sampling of change-making women in Maryland, they are a symbol of the drive and power that women have brought nationwide. Women outnumber and outvote men, and their continued leadership will be instrumental in promoting the values of the United States: liberty and freedom for all.

TRIBUTE TO CONNIE FLOHR

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, with my colleagues Senator MIKE CRAPO and Congressman MIKE SIMPSON, I rise today to recognize the career and service of Connie Flohr, manager for the Idaho Cleanup Project. For more than 22 years, Flohr has been a key member of the Department of Energy—DOE—and the Idaho Cleanup Project, ICP.

Flohr joined DOE's Office of Environmental Management—EM—in 2001 as a program analyst, before moving into positions as chief financial officer, EM budget director, and EM Deputy Assistant Secretary for Resource Management. In these roles, she managed the budget, planning, strategic analysis, human resources, and information technology activities for EM's 1,450 Federal employees and over 20,000 contractor employees.

Since moving to Idaho in 2017 and taking on roles at the Idaho Cleanup Project, Flohr has served as deputy manager and as the ICP manager since March 2020. She consistently delivered results, saved taxpayers millions of dollars, protected the Snake River Plain Aquifer, and removed substantial risks for the people of Idaho.

Along with these accomplishments as project manager, she is known as an agent of positive change for her influence in improving morale, developing and motivating staff to creatively identify and resolve issues, and effectively incentivizing contractors to make substantial and lasting progress in cleaning up the Department's legacy nuclear waste. Flohr is responsible for all management and disposition of high-level, transuranic, mixed low-level waste, and spent nuclear fuel—SNF—at the Idaho National Laboratory—INL—Site, providing management oversight and leadership for an annual budget of \$470 million, 52 Federal employees, and over 1,900 contractors.

It is our great honor to congratulate Connie Flohr on this accomplishment, and thank her for her years of service. We wish her the best of luck following her retirement from DOE and the Idaho Cleanup Project.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING SERGE B. HADJI

• Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute and honor the life of Serge B. Hadji, Esq. He passed away on March 10, 2024, at his home in Athens, Greece, with his wife of 50 years, Yanna, by his side. He was 81.

Serge was a devoted husband; proud father to his three boys Alexios, Philip, and Andreas; an esteemed lawyer; trustee to his alma mater, Anatolia College; mentor; and advocate for Greece, Cyprus, and the unwavering principle that the rule of law be the centerpiece of U.S. foreign policy. He was so much more than that to all that were fortunate enough to know and love him.

Serge's life story is a quintessential American immigration story. Serge was born in Thessaloniki, Greece, on September 25, 1942, and immigrated to the United States in 1960. He graduated college from the University of Buffalo, received a law degree from the Detroit College of Law, and obtained a masters in law from New York University Law School. He started his career with Rogers Hoge & Hills, a Park Avenue law firm, and went on to become senior counsel at TRW Inc., a Fortune 100 multinational company headquartered in Cleveland, OH. Throughout his legal career, he was a proud member and contributor to the legal community through his involvement with the American Bar Association—Section on Antitrust Law; the Association of the Bar of the City of New York—secretary, Trademark and Unfair Competition Committee, 1977–1980—and the International Trademark Association—member of the board, 1988–1991. He also was an adjunct professor at New York University School of Continuing Education in Law and Taxation and a lecturer at Temple University Law School in Athens, Greece. He was a member of the New York bar and was a New York lawyer through and through, maintaining his membership until he passed away.

Serge was a giant in the Greek-American world. In 1974, Serge cofounded the Panhellenic (Emergency) Committee of New York, one of the grassroots committees that sprung up throughout the U.S. to fill the political vacuum in the Greek-American community following Turkey's invasion of Cyprus on July 20, 1974. From his perspective as a key participant and keen observer of the intricacies of this issue, he later edited a book chronicling this movement, "The Rule of Law Lobby: Grassroots Mobilization and the U.S. Arms Embargo on