

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The AIM-120C-8 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM) is a supersonic, air or surface-launched aerial intercept guided missile featuring digital technology and microminiature solid-state electronics. AMRAAM capabilities include look-down and shoot-down, multiple launches against multiple targets, resistance to electronic countermeasures, and interception of high and low-flying and maneuvering targets. This potential sale will include AMRAAM guidance sections, control sections, warhead spares, and containers.

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

3. 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.

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

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Norway.

NATIONAL ORAL HEALTH MONTH

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I rise today to recognize June as National Oral Health Month. This month provides us an opportunity to reflect on the significant role oral health plays in overall health and to recommit our efforts to ensure that Americans have access to quality oral health care.

While oral diseases alone contribute to negative outcomes, there are proven relationships between poor oral health and other medical conditions like cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancers, pneumonia, premature birth, and infectious diseases. The World Health Organization estimates economic productivity losses from oral diseases at \$323 billion in 2022.

Oral disease affects Americans of all ages. For children, dental cavities remain one of the most common chronic diseases. About one in four preschool children experienced caries in primary teeth and at least one in six children aged 6 to 11 years experienced dental cavities in permanent teeth. According to the CDC, 34 million school hours are lost each year—on average—because of emergency dental care.

In Maryland, like many other States, we have witnessed firsthand the consequences of neglecting the oral health of young people. Deamonte Driver, a 12-year-old Prince George's County resident, tragically died in 2007 due to a lack of comprehensive dental services. Deamonte's death was particularly heartbreaking because it was entirely preventable. What started out as a toothache turned into a severe brain infection that could have been pre-

vented by an \$80 extraction. After multiple surgeries and a lengthy hospital stay, sadly, Deamonte passed away.

We must ensure everyone has timely, affordable access to oral health care.

In recent years, dentists nationwide have seen a significant decrease in operating room access for dental procedures. This problem has primarily impacted children and adults with disabilities who are in need of urgent dental care and cannot access it in an office-based setting, necessitating care in an operating room. Earlier this Congress, Senator BLACKBURN and I sent a letter to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services urging them to include the recently established code for dental surgical services in the 2024 Medicare Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System. I am glad to say that the code was included in CMS's final rule to expand access to these critical procedures and shorten the waitlists to receive care under general anesthesia in operating rooms.

I am proud to say that we have since made significant progress in improving access to pediatric dental care in our country and in Maryland. In 2009, Congress reauthorized the Children's Health Insurance Program—CHIP—with an important addition: a guaranteed pediatric dental benefit. Research shows that CHIP generally offers more comprehensive benefits at a much lower cost to families than private coverage. Additionally, the Affordable Care Act—ACA—has significantly improved access to affordable dental care for millions of Americans by requiring most insurers to cover essential health benefits.

Providing dental coverage for adults also improves outcomes for their children. A 2021 study found that Medicaid adult dental coverage was associated with a reduction in the prevalence of untreated tooth decay among children after parents had access to coverage for at least 1 year. The study found that all children saw improvements in oral health, and non-Hispanic Black children experienced larger and more persistent improvements than non-Hispanic White children. A Medicaid dental benefit for adults would enhance the progress for children and provide much needed dental care and improve oral health outcomes for adults, showing the interconnectedness in outcomes for all ages.

Earlier this Congress, I introduced the Medicare Dental Benefit Act. This legislation would require Medicare coverage to include dental and oral health services, such as routine diagnostic and preventive services, basic and major dental services, and emergency care. By including these services in Medicare, more than 65 million seniors and people with disabilities would have access to affordable dental care.

I have also worked with Senator STABENOW to introduce the Medicaid Dental Benefit Act. This bill would extend comprehensive dental health benefits to tens of millions of low-income

Americans on Medicaid. The legislation would provide States with a 100 percent Federal match for the dental benefit for 3 years. This investment of Federal funds would support States to set up or improve their dental benefit and assist in provider education and outreach efforts to better connect enrollees to oral health care.

Last year, I held a hearing in the Senate Finance Health Care Subcommittee to focus on these issues. The hearing highlighted disparities in access to oral health care, which have persisted and have serious consequences for children, adults, families, and communities. I was proud to have Dr. Warren Brill, a distinguished pediatric dentist from Maryland who has long provided care to low-income children serve as a witness. Dr. Brill was able to provide valuable insights for our conversation and gave Senators an on-the-ground perspective of someone doing this important work.

It is also important that we support research focused on empowering dentists and advancing oral health for all. I am proud to have the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, one of the National Institutes of Health, in Maryland and I was glad to pass a resolution this Congress to recognize their 75th anniversary and highlight the important work they do.

While we will continue to work on combating oral disease in Maryland and the United States, we must also realize that it is a global challenge that requires cooperation from partners around the world to address effectively.

Oral diseases, such as tooth decay and gum disease, are globally the most common health conditions, impacting over 3.5 billion people as of 2019. Despite the widespread nature of oral diseases, many go untreated as health systems around the world are often not properly equipped to deliver appropriate oral health care.

In light of these concerning figures, I am glad to see that the World Health Organization, FDI World Dental Federation, and National Institutes of Health have all issued landmark oral health reports in 2021 and 2022 as well as the World Health Assembly having adopted a global strategy on oral health in 2022. Our coordinated efforts with global partners are essential to overcoming this widespread issue.

It is important that we reiterate that oral health is a crucial part of overall health and accessing care should not be a luxury reserved for the most privileged. Ensuring affordable, quality care not only helps to combat widespread issues like dental caries and gum disease, but also can work to the significant health disparities that exist in America. As we recognize the progress we have made on this issue, we must recommit to expanding access to oral health services, reducing disparities and emphasizing a preventative approach. I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort.

250TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNION, MAINE

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, on July 19, 1774, a small band of rugged and courageous pioneers established a settlement in the Maine wilderness between the Medomak and Saint George rivers. They cleared the land, built cabins, endured hunger and cold, and, with backbreaking work, created a community. Today, it is a pleasure to join the people of Union, ME, in celebrating the 250th anniversary of a community that is a wonderful place to live, work, and raise families. Although part of a land grant made by the Plymouth Council in 1629, the territory remained unsettled for more than a century due to conflicting claims of jurisdiction by the English and French. When the hostilities ended, Dr. John Taylor of Massachusetts bought the land and led the settlement party. Originally called Taylor Town, it was renamed Sterlingtown in honor of a Revolutionary War hero and finally incorporated as Union to commemorate our new Nation.

Among the many illustrious natives of Union is John Langdon Sibley, scholar, author, and librarian of Harvard University. His history of his beloved hometown from its origin to 1850 is remarkable for its thoroughness, insight, and wit.

"By competent judges," he wrote, "the soil of Union is considered as good as that of . . . the best farming towns in the State." The scenery provided by lush vegetation, hills, valleys, rivers, and streams "affords a rich enjoyment to people of taste and admirers of nature." Although Mr. Sibley allows that the assertion from a neighboring town that "people never die in Union" is an exaggeration, he posits that the uncommonly pure water, brisk air circulation over the varied terrain, the vigorous agricultural work, and generally good habits are why inhabitants "wear the hue of health" and why visitors often remark "that there was more female beauty in Union than in any other town in the county or State."

The work ethic of the townspeople and water power from the fast-moving rivers soon made Union a center of industry, with foundries, sawmills, grain mills, and factories manufacturing products ranging from carriages and farm equipment to footwear and musical instruments. Thousands of artifacts from those early days are preserved at the Matthews Museum of Maine Heritage, with a special section devoted to Dr. Augustin Thompson, the Union-born Civil War hero, physician, and inventor of Moxie, the patent nerve medicine that is now the official soft drink of the State of Maine.

Union cherishes its history. Next to the museum stands the Hodge School, the thoroughly restored one-room schoolhouse that served the town from 1864 to 1954. Established more than 150 years ago, the Union Fair celebrates the town's agricultural traditions. Laid

out in 1790, the picturesque Union Common is the oldest public town common in Maine, with memorials to patriots and a bandstand listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The people of Union are rightfully proud of their town and have worked together to plan an exciting and fun-filled 3-day sestercentennial celebration beginning July 19. Among events will be the opening of a time capsule from the bicentennial celebration in 1974.

In addition to John Langdon Sibley's book, the story of Union was told in the popular 1940 historical novel "Come Spring" by Ben Ames Williams. Republished in 2000 by the Union Historical Society, the novel imagines the struggles and triumphs of the real-life Robbins family during the first years of the settlement's—and our Nation's—existence.

In the preface to his novel, the author writes that Union "is a small Maine town founded by ordinary people in the ordinary way, by carving a community out of the forest and putting the land to work. The people in this book were not individually as important as George Washington, the town was not as important as New York, but people like them made this country, and towns like this were and are the soil in which our country's roots are grounded."

Union's 250th anniversary is not merely about the passing of time. It is about human accomplishment. We celebrate the people who, for longer than America has been a nation, have pulled together, cared for one another, and built a great community. Thanks to those who came before, Union, ME, has a wonderful history. Thanks to those there today, it has a bright future.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTER FOR BLACK EXCELLENCE AND CULTURE OF MADISON

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam President, I rise to recognize the Center for Black Excellence and Culture, which will break ground in Madison this year on Juneteenth National Independence Day. I wish also to acknowledge the many community leaders who have worked tirelessly to make the Center a reality.

The Center for Black Excellence and Culture was founded by Reverend Doctor Alex Gee who has been a fierce advocate for Madison's African-American community for more than 30 years. The Center will unite and uplift Madison's African-American community by providing a space for entrepreneurial exploration, cultural engagement, and celebration.

Rev. Dr. Gee and his board of directors have joined with other community leaders to raise over \$28 million for the project. Now that they have reached their goal, they will begin construction on June 19, 2024. The decision to break ground on Juneteenth was an intentional and powerful one.

The new Black inspired and designed building will sit on 3.5 acres of land and will include many commercial spaces, including an art gallery and theatre space. Rev. Dr. Gee has convened a powerhouse team of Black leaders and hundreds of diverse Black voices to shape the Center. These leaders will support thousands of students through mentorship and professional development and teach students about African-American history and culture to inspire and advance the Black community in Madison and beyond.

The Center will also include a space dedicated to Rev. Dr. Gee's mother, Ms. Verline Gee, who served the Madison community for decades as a mentor, poet, social worker, and faith leader. Ms. Gee's story is one of strength and perseverance. She was born in Mississippi and worked alongside her parents as a migrant farmer in her youth. As a child she moved to the Midwest eventually making her way to Madison. Throughout her life, Ms. Gee was always passionate about education. She was one of the inaugural students to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Black Studies Program. The Center for Black Excellence and Culture will honor the memory of Ms. Gee and all other African-American community members who have contributed so much to Madison.

Juneteenth celebrates the end of slavery in the United States, but it also serves as a reminder of the work that still needs to be done to dismantle deep-rooted systems of racial injustice. While strides have been made, the African-American community continues to face significant systemic injustices. Across Wisconsin, African-American families are five times more likely than White families to experience poverty and 61 percent of all African-American households in Dane County live near or below the poverty line. The presence of these injustices makes the Center for Black Excellence all the more critical.

True freedom requires liberty and equity for all. The Center for Black Excellence and Culture will contribute to this mission and serve as a model for other cities to follow.

As the Center for Black Excellence breaks ground this Juneteenth, I honor the accomplishments of Rev. Dr. Gee, the Center's board of directors, the memory of Ms. Verline Gee and all the community leaders, past and present, who made the Center a reality.

CONGRESSIONAL AWARD GOLD MEDALISTS

Ms. LUMMIS. Madam President, today I wish to congratulate this year's winners of the Congressional Award. The Congressional Award was established by Congress in 1979 and, for many years, has recognized the spectacular achievements of young people in the areas of volunteerism, personal development, fitness, and expedition.

The brilliant design of this program allows individuals to set their own