

should be a marathon into an unnecessary sprint. Strengthening our national defense, ensuring the government pays the bills, supporting our agriculture sector—these are the ABCs of governing, and we are not doing it.

Now 11 more legislative days remain to get that work done. It is an impossible schedule, but it is completely by design and completely preventable. Leaving this work until the end of the year and taking yet another break for the month of October so Democrats can campaign is not a way to govern.

The American people look to Washington, in particular the U.S. Congress, and they see dysfunction. They know things aren't working the way they should, but that is because of a failure of leadership starting right here in the U.S. Senate. I hope, as a result, they will choose new management come November.

Madam President, this Chamber isn't the only place that Democratic dysfunction is on full display. I spoke a few months ago about the Biden-Harris administration's Department of Education bungling the rollout of this year's Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA. Every young person who is going to college needs to fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or they may not be able to go to the school they want to go to. They may not be able to afford it. This document determines the financial aid students will receive through loans, grants, scholarships, and work-study programs. It can determine not only the college that you choose or can afford but whether college education itself is even financially feasible.

This year, that critical information was delayed unnecessarily, putting young Texans' dreams on hold. The Biden-Harris Department of Education was nearly 3 months behind on releasing what they claim was their new and improved FAFSA. Some students couldn't complete the FAFSA at all due to technical glitches. Again, more dysfunction, more bungling. The result, FAFSA completion rates in Texas were down by nearly 9 percent, or almost 30,000 students, compared to last year—worse than during the pandemic.

Now, these aren't just numbers on a page. These are young Texans who now find themselves unsure how or if they will be able to go to college or, at least, the one they want to go to.

Last month, the Texas Tribune told the story of a young Texas A&M sophomore who didn't find out that her financial aid package was actually cut by \$10,000 until July, after she had already enrolled in classes and signed up for on-campus housing.

Now she says she will have to limit herself to eating just one meal a day at the dining hall, allowing herself two on the days when she gets particularly hungry.

This is the real-life cost of the Biden-Harris administration's ineptitude, and it is a huge disservice to these young people who are just starting out on

their college education and pursuing a career and their dreams. Texas students and our workforce will feel the impact of this disastrous FAFSA process and the downstream effects for years to come.

Now, the Biden administration hopes that there is so much going on that nobody will notice, but I guarantee these young people who are being denied their dreams and access to the grants and financial aid they need in order to pick their college, they are noticing, as well as their families. But the administration hopes that people won't hear or read complaints from students and their families.

Well, my hope is that these students and their families continue to tell their stories and that the media keeps covering them. This is a scandal, nothing more and nothing less, and parents of college-age students should think twice before giving this administration another chance to make a mess of their children's future yet again.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair lays before the Senate a certificate of appointment to fill the unexpired term created by the resignation of former Senator Robert Menendez of New Jersey.

The certificate, the Chair is advised, is in the form suggested by the Senate.

Hearing no objection, the reading of the certificate will be waived, and it will be printed in full in the RECORD.

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

##### STATE OF NEW JERSEY

##### CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT

*To the President of the Senate of the United States:*

This is to certify that, pursuant to the power vested in me by the Constitution of the United States and the laws of the State of New Jersey, I, Philip D. Murphy, the Governor of New Jersey, do hereby appoint George S. Helmy, a Senator from New Jersey to represent New Jersey in the Senate of the United States until the vacancy therein caused by the resignation of Senator Robert Menendez, effective August 20, 2024, is filled by election as provided by law.

Witness: His excellency our Governor, Philip D. Murphy, and our seal hereto affixed at Trenton this 23rd day of August, in the year of our Lord 2024.

By the Governor:

PHILIP D. MURPHY,  
Governor.

Attest:

TAHESHA L. WAY,  
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

#### ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. If the Senator-designate will now present himself at the desk, the Chair will administer the oath of office.

The Senator-designate, George S. Helmy, escorted by Mr. BOOKER, advanced to the desk of the President pro tempore; the oath prescribed by law was administered to him by the President pro tempore; and he subscribed to the oath in the Official Oath Book.

Mr. BOOKER. Congratulations.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I just want to say a word of congratulations to our new Senator. I spoke on the floor earlier. He is going to be a great addition, and it is another ceiling being broken. He is the first member of the Coptic Church to become a Senator in the United States of America, one of the oldest Christian denominations ever. So welcome.

Mr. HELMY. Thank you.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

##### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 780.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Mary Kay Lanthier, of Vermont, to be United States District Judge for the District of Vermont.

##### CLOTURE MOTION

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The 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 nomination of Executive Calendar No. 780, Mary Kay Lanthier, of Vermont, to be United States District Judge for the District of Vermont.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Laphonza R. Butler, Benjamin L. Cardin, Mazie Hirono, Chris Van Hollen, Ben Ray Lujan, Brian Schatz, Thomas R. Carper, Margaret Wood Hassan, Christopher Murphy, Tammy Duckworth,

Tina Smith, Jack Reed, Patty Murray, Amy Klobuchar.

### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 781.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Laura Margarete Provinzino, of Minnesota, to be United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. 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 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 nomination of Executive Calendar No. 781, Laura Margarete Provinzino, of Minnesota, to be United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Laphonza R. Butler, Benjamin L. Cardin, Mazie Hirono, Chris Van Hollen, Ben Ray Lujan, Brian Schatz, Thomas R. Carper, Margaret Wood Hassan, Christopher Murphy, Tammy Duckworth, Tina Smith, Jack Reed, Patty Murray, Amy Klobuchar.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, September 9, be waived.

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

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

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

The Senator from Kansas.

#### NATIONAL INTEREST ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION CORRIDOR

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I, like many of my colleagues, spent a lot of time in our home States during the

month of August and early September, and I am ready to come back and go to work. I am pleased to report that I had a number of conversations about things that we are doing and not doing with the citizens of the State of Kansas.

I traveled from east to west and north to south, from Elwood in the northeast corner to Sedan in southeast Kansas, to St. Francis and Sharon Springs in the far western part of our State, southwest corner, to Liberal, KS.

And I rise today to speak on behalf of many Kansans on a couple of topics. I would tell my colleagues: Many of my constituents are angry and afraid of potentially losing their homes, farms, and businesses, and their land as a result of the Department of Energy's proposed National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor.

During August, Kansans from across the State—but particularly those who are in line for this corridor—raised their concerns with me about this proposal and that it would give way to a large-scale Federal Government intervention in rural America, in rural Kansas.

One woman in Downs, KS, shared how her home sits within the proposed corridor, and she is fearful of how the proposed transmission line would impact her family.

By designating this corridor, the Department of Energy opens up the door for potential officials from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to steamroll State regulators by overriding their decisions on whether or not to site electric transmission lines.

The Federal Government should not be in the business of condemning land for eminent domain, especially for a transmission project that was rejected by a State regulator.

Kansans know these decisions should not be made by folks in Washington, DC, who live hundreds and hundreds of miles away.

That is why I am introducing legislation with Congressman TRACEY MANN, my successor in the First District of Kansas, to prevent the Federal Government from possessing landowner's property without their consent for these transmission projects.

In addition to this legislation, I have also been engaged with the Department of Energy, who has assured me they will continue to accept comments and take them into consideration through the next phase of this proposal.

After an unacceptably short comment period, it is critical the Department of Energy fully understands the objections my constituents have with this proposal.

Protecting the Kansas way of life involves standing up for our smallest towns and for family farms, many of which have been passed down generation to generation.

As these proposals move forward, I will continue to work to defend Kansas agriculture, small businesses, and the rights of property owners across our State from Federal overreach.

We must—we must—make certain that the Federal taxpayer dollars are not used for eminent domain and that decisions about electrical transition siting be left in Kansas, not in Washington, DC.

#### FARM TO FLY ACT

Madam President, I also had the opportunity to see developments in our State regarding sustainable aviation fuel, or SAF. SAF has a threefold benefit: It provides a cleaner energy supply for the aviation industry, it diversifies and bolsters our American energy industry, and it provides farmers with new markets to sell their crops or the byproducts of their crops.

Sustainable aviation fuel is a biofuel made from products like corn, sorghum, and soybeans that can be used in aircraft and produces fewer greenhouse gas emissions than traditional fuels. It is a key component of decarbonizing aviation. Most airplanes flown by major airlines today are able to use SAF without any modifications to their aircraft, making SAF a great alternative to traditional jet fuel.

Southwest Airlines is making a significant investment in developing the technologies and infrastructure to produce SAF by building a plant in Kansas that will take corn stover—the stalks, leaves, and cobs leftover after harvest—and turning it into ethanol that will be used to fuel airplanes.

Widespread production of SAF will also add a new energy source to our Nation's repertoire of energy production. When it comes to energy production, I believe in an "all of the above" strategy. We need to be investing in all energy production—including wind, solar, fossil fuels, ethanol, and now SAF.

To help spur investment in SAF production, I introduced the Farm to Fly Act, which would help accelerate the production and development of SAF through existing U.S. Department of Agriculture programs.

Generating this new fuel source would not be possible without our producers. Agriculture is a critical industry but also a challenging industry. We need to make certain we are providing our farmers with every opportunity to sell their crops in a variety of markets.

To help spur on the development of SAF and other forms of sustainable aviation energy, I am launching the Senate Sustainable Aviation Caucus, with Senator BOOZMAN and Senator DUCKWORTH as cochairs.

The purpose of this caucus is simple: advance our Nation's biofuels, energy, and aviation industries in an effort to increase domestic competitiveness, promote national security, and bolster passenger safety. This caucus will work together to find ways to maximize the aviation industry's financial sustainability and increase its resiliency.

I come from a State that is known for both its aviation and its agriculture, and I love seeing the two come together in this circumstance. I encourage my colleagues to join our efforts in seeking innovative solutions to