

than a punchline. Our roads and bridges were crumbling, our water systems were aging, and too many students were struggling to complete their homework assignments because they lacked access to reliable internet.

But 3 years ago, we finally came together on a bipartisan basis to agree that investing in our Nation's infrastructure is not a joke, and we did something about it. Last Friday marked 3 years since President Biden signed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act—also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law—into law.

Under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we have made historic investments in America. Since its enactment, the Biden-Harris administration has announced \$568 billion in funding for more than 66,000 projects across all 50 States, DC, the territories, and Tribes. This funding has helped repair more than 196,000 miles of road, update 11,400 bridges, replace more than 350,000 lead pipes, and create nearly 16 million jobs.

As the son of two railroad workers, an aspect of these achievements that is most exciting to me is the \$66 billion invested in rail, which is the largest investment in passenger rail since the inception of Amtrak. For Illinoisans, this is especially important because Chicago is the rail hub of North America, with more trackage radiating in more directions than any other city. And thanks to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, our rail is becoming more efficient and reliable every day.

Senator DUCKWORTH and I have worked to make sure these historic levels of investment in transportation and infrastructure are felt in Illinois. The Biden administration invested \$18.9 billion in our State's public infrastructure—\$12.2 billion going to transportation. This also includes \$1.5 billion for clean water, including \$578 million dedicated to lead pipe and service line replacement.

For Illinoisans, this has meant investments through hundreds of grant awards all across the State, investments like CTA's long-awaited red line extension project, which will bring faster, more accessible transit options to our community, create thousands of jobs, and strengthen our economy. It has meant three large grant awards for O'Hare International Airport. This is one of our Nation's largest and busiest airports, and this funding will help it update its terminals and make sure Americans can get from point A to point B safely and on time.

It has meant millions of dollars invested in improving Chicago's Union Station, one of the Nation's busiest rail stations; in finishing the Springfield Rail Improvements Project—a decade-long effort to relocate the rail corridor in our State's capital; adding new zero emissions buses to fleets across the State, including in Rock Island and Rockford; and in completing the Chicago Region Environmental Transportation Efficiency or "CRE-

ATE" program, which will untangle rail bottlenecks in the Chicago region.

It also has meant investments in improving roadways like Goshen Road down in Edwardsville and replacing outdated railcars in East St. Louis. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is making America's public infrastructure more reliable and cost-efficient.

Now, there is no doubt that these historic investments serve hard-working families, strengthen our economy, and make us more competitive on the world stage. Now, some of you might say, "Well, that all sounds great, but how did we pay for all of this?"

I am happy to share that this law was paid for, in part, by a bill of mine called the REFUND Act, which requires drug manufacturers to pay a rebate to Medicare for unused and discarded medications. You see, for far too long, Big Pharma packaged expensive drugs in excessive, Costco-sized vials and made taxpayers and seniors foot the bill for leftover medication that was literally thrown in the trash. With this legislation, not only did the profiteering come to an end, we are saving seniors and taxpayers billions of dollars that helped to offset the cost of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

When Americans need to take the bus, cross a bridge, or hop on the train to get to work in the morning, when they need to catch a flight to attend a family gathering, when they need to fill a pot or glass of water or connect to the internet, they expect that our Nation's infrastructure will safely, cheaply, and reliably deliver for them.

In addition to making our infrastructure more dependable, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law has already created millions of good-paying, union jobs, boosted domestic manufacturing, and grown our economy from the middle out and the bottom up in every community. In red States and blue States alike, in communities rural and urban, this law is investing in America the way Americans deserve.

REMEMBERING BARBARA T. BOWMAN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it is often said that the greatest thing a leader can do is help nurture, shape, and create the next generation of leaders. Over the course of her life, Barbara Taylor Bowman—a pioneering force in early childhood education—did just that. I am sorry that Barbara passed away on November 4 at the age of 96. I wanted to take this moment to share some details about the remarkable life she led and the tremendous legacy she leaves.

A daughter of Illinois, Barbara was born just before the Great Depression. She was raised on the South Side of Chicago, where her early life was shaped by the positive values of community and education and the unjust realities of segregation and inequity. These formative experiences would later inspire her work and lifelong dedication to educational equity.

Barbara graduated from Sarah Lawrence College in 1950 and pursued a career as a preschool teacher, going on to earn her master's degree in education from the University of Chicago in 1952. By this point, her passion for bettering the lives of children through education had firmly taken root. Pursuing teaching during President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty, Barbara was inspired by the creation of Head Start, a program of the Department of Health and Human Services that provides comprehensive early childhood education, health, and nutrition. Shortly thereafter, in 1966, the Erikson Institute—originally founded as the Chicago School for Early Childhood Education by Barbara, child psychologist Maria Piers, social worker Lorraine Wallach, and philanthropist Irving B. Harris—was born.

Their vision for the Erikson Institute was simple: create an institution that would equip educators with the skills and knowledge to give all children an equal opportunity to succeed. Each of its founders left their own mark on the organization, but as the longest serving of its founders, Barbara not only shaped the institute's direction, she shaped its legacy. She went on to serve as its president from 1994 to 2001 and maintained a professorship at the institute, where she was the Irving B. Harris Professor of Child Development. And her impact did not go unnoticed. Today, the institute's Barbara T. Bowman Professor of Child Development position is named in her honor.

But this is far from the only recognition Barbara received. She served as the Chicago Public Schools' chief early education officer, the president of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, and was awarded honorary degrees from Bank Street College, Dominican University, Governors State University, Roosevelt University, and Wheelock College. Though impressive, these achievements fall short of capturing the impact Barbara had on Chicago and our Nation's children. She was a force for good, and she helped mold several generations of leaders through her commitment to education and social justice.

But to Barbara, one of her most important roles was that of mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. With her beloved husband James E. Bowman, she raised their daughter Valerie Jarrett. She loved her daughter, her granddaughter Laura, and her great-grandchildren more than anything.

Barbara was a fierce champion for the rights of children, a staunch advocate for the power of education, and a believer in the idea that all children should have the opportunity to discover their potential. In her professional and personal life, Barbara not only shaped a pivotal educational institution, but also the very foundations of the field. She made Illinois and our Nation better.

When graduates of the Erikson Institute cross the stage with their diploma, they are each handed a yellow rose. This tradition began in Barbara's own garden, and it continues to this day as a symbol of her care and commitment to Erikson, its graduates, and our Nation's children. When future graduates receive their yellow rose, I hope they feel Barbara's presence with them and carry her legacy forward.

Loretta and I send my deepest condolences to all of Barbara's family and friends who are mourning her passing but celebrating her amazing life.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATIONS

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 still 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. 24-114, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Greece for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$160 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-114

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: Government of Greece.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* \$0.

Other \$160 million.

Total \$160 million.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: The Government of Greece has requested to buy equipment and services for follow-on support of its F-16 engines.

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-Major Defense Equipment: The following non-MDE items will be included: engine components, parts, and accessories; aircraft engine and ground handling equipment; major and minor modifications, spare parts, consumables and accessories, and repair and return support; classified and unclassified software delivery and support; classified and unclassified publications and technical documentation; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (GR-D-QBN).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: GR-D-SBD.

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

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: None.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: November 14, 2024.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Greece—F-16 Engine Follow-On Support

The Government of Greece has requested to buy equipment and services for follow-on support of its F-16 engines. The following non-MDE items will be included: engine components, parts, and accessories; aircraft engine and ground handling equipment; major and minor modifications; spare parts, consumables and accessories, and repair and return support; classified and unclassified software delivery and support; classified and unclassified publications and technical documentation; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$160 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by improving the security of a NATO Ally that continues to be a force for political and economic stability in Europe.

The proposed sale will improve Greece's capability to maintain its F-16 aircraft fleet, which it operates to promote security in the Eastern Mediterranean. Greece will have no difficulty absorbing these articles and services 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 will be General Electric Aerospace, located in Evendale, OH. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Greece.

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

CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO § 620C(D) OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961, AS AMENDED

Pursuant to Section 620C(d) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (the Act), Executive Order 12163, State Department Delegation of Authority No. 293-2, and State Department Delegation of Authority 510; I hereby certify that the furnishing to Greece of equipment and services for the refurbishment of F-16 aircraft engines and related defense articles and services is consistent with the principles contained in Section 620C(b) of the Act.

This certification will be made part of the notification to Congress under Section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended,

regarding the proposed sale of the above-named articles and services and is based on the justification accompanying such notification, of which such justification constitutes a full explanation.

BONNIE D. JENKINS,

Under Secretary for Arms Control and
International Security.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I was absent for one rollcall vote on November 19, 2024. On November 19, had I been present, I would have voted yea on the Motion to Instruct the Sergeant at Arms to Request the Presence of Absentee Senators (rollcall vote No. 283).

TRIBUTE TO FRANCIS J. FLYNN

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise, on behalf of myself and Senator WHITEHOUSE, to congratulate Francis J. Flynn, president of the Rhode Island Federation of Teachers and Health Professionals, on his upcoming retirement and to thank him for his nearly five decades of service to Rhode Island students, educators, and working families. Frank's kindness, expertise, and commitment to lifting up educators and the communities they serve have made him an indispensable resource for public servants at all levels of government across our State.

A proud graduate of Rhode Island College, Frank started his career in Cranston as a special education teacher. He served at all levels from elementary school through high school and worked to ensure that students with special needs had the supports necessary to fully participate in academics and the school community. Frank's devotion to his students and the community put him on a leadership path where he could focus his advocacy in support of students and educators. The skills and values he developed as a special education teacher—a focus on inclusion and the ability to address people's unique needs—served him well as he assumed a leadership role in the Cranston Teachers' Alliance, where he served as president for 8 years. During that time, he worked with the district to establish new teacher mentoring programs, a professional development institute, and other reforms, looking for ways to collaborate on things that were, in his words, "good for the kids and good for the district."

In 2010, Frank was elected president of the Rhode Island Federation of Teachers and Health Professionals, where he continued his pragmatic approach to leadership, maintaining open lines of communication and looking for areas to collaborate. His steady leadership helped Rhode Island educators navigate the once-in-a-generation pandemic, moving to online and hybrid learning and providing the extra support that students needed to stay connected to their studies and their communities.

Frank's leadership is widely recognized and valued across the labor