

women in uniform and their families, protecting our national security workforce, and preserving the national security investments over the last several years.

We all owe Kate Käufer a debt of gratitude for working through many long nights and hard negotiations in service of our Nation. As Appropriations chair this Congress, I have leaned on Kate's expertise and counsel; and it is clear to all that her expertise, dedication, and ability to work across the aisle to make progress have made our country stronger. She will be deeply missed.

On behalf of all the past chairs—and all the Senators and staff—who have worked with Kate over the years and who know firsthand just how important her counsel has been, I would like to thank you, Kate, for your service. You will be missed, and we wish you all the best for what lies ahead. Thank you.

PEPFAR

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, early this month, we commemorated World AIDS Day, and so I come to the floor today to speak about the need for America to stay the course in the fight to end HIV/AIDS.

Two decades ago—when the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) was established under George W. Bush—an HIV/AIDS diagnosis was a death sentence in many parts of the world. Today, the possibility of ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic is no longer a dream; it is a realistic prospect. And it should not be a partisan issue.

Let's remember that it was President Trump who signed the PEPFAR Extension Act of 2018. We need to set aside the manufactured allegations motivated by hyper-partisanship that have prevented the PEPFAR reauthorization and look at the facts.

First of all, PEPFAR is not only the most successful global health program; it is arguably the most successful foreign aid program since the Marshall Plan. It has earned the United States an enormous amount of goodwill around the world and distinguishes us from our strategic competitors. We launched this billion-dollar program because it was the right thing to do, not because we expected a quid pro quo.

Our adversaries have never engaged a program of such enormity and what little they do comes with strings attached. I would argue PEPFAR is one of the most effective soft power tools we have. So it is no wonder that countries around the world are looking to the U.S. for leadership in ending the deadly epidemic for once and for all.

Look at the numbers. Over the past 20 years, PEPFAR has saved 25 million people. Thanks to PEPFAR, more than 5 million children have been born HIV-free. PEPFAR also helps kids who are orphans because one or both of their

parents died from AIDS. It includes family-centered programming, nutritional support, access to education.

At the beginning of 2024, PEPFAR launched a 2-year initiative titled "Safe Births, Healthy Babies." The goal is to eliminate mother-to-child transmission and improve maternal and neonatal healthcare in Mozambique, Tanzania, and Zambia. Within these three countries alone, PEPFAR is reaching over 200,000 pregnant women living with HIV, and potentially averting 7,000 new infant HIV infections.

These are the facts. And the incredible thing is, we may be on the verge of a further breakthrough.

A study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* in July found that twice-yearly injections of lenacapavir—a drug used to treat HIV/AIDS—was 100 percent effective in preventing AIDS transmission in women—100 percent.

There is more work to be done to understand the long-term results. But we may be on the verge of ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic as we know it over the course of the coming Trump administration.

Now, even if we passed PEPFAR today, we still have work to do. According to the Global Fund, in 2023, 210,000 new infections were estimated among girls and young women.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, HIV/AIDS among girls and young women is three times higher than boys and young men. In 2023, 44 percent of all new infections were among girls and women of all ages. These disturbing trends are the result of discrimination and violence preventing access to lifesaving care for girls and young women. UNAIDS reports that an estimated 1.3 million people became infected with HIV in 2023 alone.

Let me talk about one of the biggest problems we are facing: We have lately been reauthorizing this program on a year-to-year basis. This is undermining our progress and threatening our future. A year-to-year reauthorization sends the message to partner governments that HIV/AIDS is no longer a priority. This will impact not just HIV/AIDS prevention but overall health structures that grew out of vital HIV/AIDS programs.

We need a 5-year reauthorization. A 5-year reauthorization makes all the difference if we want to end the HIV/AIDS threat by 2030. Five years allows organizations implementing PEPFAR to plan their activities with predictable timelines. It allows more efficient procurement of commodities and supplies. It helps retain medical staff and assure clients that they will be able to obtain continuous care. Without a 5-year reauthorization, there are no guarantees. Without a 5-year reauthorization, we will be putting millions at risk of new HIV/AIDS infections and death.

I know that for many Americans, the HIV/AIDS epidemic can seem far away.

But let me end with this warning: This summer, a UN report found that for the first time, more than half of new HIV infections occurred outside of Sub-Saharan Africa. Preventing this spread isn't just the right thing to do, it isn't just the moral thing to do, it is in America's national security interest to do this.

And so, to my colleagues here in Congress, I urge you to support a 5-year reauthorization of the PEPFAR program. Let's end the scourge of HIV/AIDS once and for all.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO WADE PALMER

• Mr. DAINES. Madam President, today I have the distinct honor of recognizing Montana Highway Patrol State Trooper Wade Palmer of Ravalli County as Montanan of the Month for his bravery and sacrifice made in the line of duty.

Trooper Palmer's dedication to his fellow Montanans is nothing short of remarkable. Born and raised in Missoula, Wade grew up in a large family with a passion for helping others. From a young age, he felt a call to law enforcement, driven by the desire to serve and protect his community. Over the course of his career with the Montana Highway Patrol, Wade displayed unwavering bravery and commitment, earning numerous accolades, including two Medals of Valor, the VFW Trooper of the Year award, and the Governor's Award for Excellence in Performance.

Sadly, on March 15, 2019, Wade was ambushed and critically injured in the line of duty. Ever since that horrific event, Wade remains focused on his family—his wife Lindsey and their daughters Mia and Cierra—as he continues on his journey to recovery. Despite the hardships he has faced and wounds he bears, both visible and invisible, Wade's resilience and determination inspire us all. The countless men and women who serve on the frontlines each day to serve and protect are the best among us, and they deserve our thanks. May we always remain committed to supporting and honoring our first responders.

It is my distinct honor to recognize Wade Palmer for his selfless service to the Treasure State. May God bestow blessings upon you and your family as you continue healing. You make Montana proud.●

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREENBRIAR CHILDREN'S CENTER

• Mr. OSSOFF. Madam President, I rise to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Greenbriar Children's Center in Savannah.

Founded in 1949, Greenbriar Children's Center was established by members of the Gamma Sigma Omega chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., to start an orphanage for Black children in the Savannah area.

When the orphanage was founded, Black children who were homeless or without parental support were often placed in local work farms and penal institutions.

Today, Greenbriar serves children and families of all backgrounds and ethnicities, through childcare, early learning programs, family preservation and counseling services, and an emergency shelter for children and young adults.

As Georgia's U.S. Senator, I commend the faculty, staff, and families at Greenbriar for their 75 years of service and for their work to help our kids learn, grow, and thrive.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HISTORIC HARRINGTON SCHOOL

● Mr. OSSOFF. Madam President, I rise to celebrate the Historic Harrington School, on St. Simons Island, GA, as we commemorate its 100th anniversary this year.

Formerly known as the Harrington Graded School, the Historic Harrington School functioned as the principal educational facility for three African-American communities on St. Simons Island until school consolidation in the 1960s, when students were either bused to the mainland in Brunswick, GA, or were sent to private schools for African-Americans in other parts of the State, such as Augusta and Cordele.

The Harrington community was settled by formerly enslaved families who had worked on the plantations of Georgia's barrier islands. Census data from 1900, 1910, and 1920 revealed an African-American community of sawmill workers and carpenters who, in 1924, built the one-room schoolhouse for the education of their children and grandchildren.

In the 1990s, pressure by developers caused many African-American homes and properties in the Harrington community to be sold and subdivided. Residents who did not want to sell their heritage put up yellow "Don't Ask/Won't Sell" signs in their yards.

In 2004, Ms. Isadora Hunter, who attended the school in 1928, donated her portion of family land to the St. Simon's Land Trust and Glynn County, so that the school would be preserved. That same year, Glynn County and the St. Simons Land Trust, Inc., acquired ownership of a 12-acre tract next to the schoolhouse that became a public park.

In 2011, the Historic Harrington School was selected as one of ten "Places in Peril" by the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, identifying the schoolhouse as a significant historic site threatened by deterioration. In 2017, through the grassroots activism of the Friends of Harrington School Inc., the St. Simons African American Heritage Coalition, and members of the local community, funds were raised for the schoolhouse to be completely restored, and the school officially reopened with a ribbon cutting in August of that year. The

Harrington tract, acquired by the land trust and the county pursuant to the Georgia Greenspace laws and the Glynn County Greenspace Program, opened as the Harrington Park and is maintained by the county.

Today, the Historic Harrington School is a cultural center where residents and tourists learn about the Gullah Geechee heritage of St. Simons Island and coastal Georgia.

As Georgia's U.S. Senator, I join the St. Simons Island community and all Georgians in celebrating this momentous 100th anniversary and important heritage of the Historic Harrington School.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Stringer, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES

REPORT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13818 OF DECEMBER 20, 2017, WITH RESPECT TO SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSE AND CORRUPTION—PM 63

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13818 of December 20, 2017, is to continue in effect beyond December 20, 2024.

The prevalence and severity of human rights abuse and corruption that have their source, in whole or in

substantial part, outside the United States, continue to threaten the stability of international political and economic systems. Human rights abuse and corruption undermine the values that form an essential foundation of stable, secure, and functioning societies; have devastating impacts on individuals; weaken democratic institutions; degrade the rule of law; perpetuate violent conflicts; facilitate the activities of dangerous persons; undermine economic markets; and continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States.

Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13818 with respect to serious human rights abuse and corruption.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.

THE WHITE HOUSE, December 11, 2024.

REPORT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 14059 OF DECEMBER 15, 2021, WITH RESPECT TO GLOBAL ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING—PM 64

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to global illicit drug trafficking declared in Executive Order 14059 of December 15, 2021, is to continue in effect beyond December 15, 2024.

The trafficking into the United States of illicit drugs, including fentanyl and other synthetic opioids, is causing the deaths of tens of thousands of Americans annually, as well as countless more non-fatal overdoses with their own tragic human toll. Drug cartels, transnational criminal organizations, and their facilitators are the primary sources of illicit drugs and precursor chemicals that fuel the current opioid epidemic, as well as drug-related violence that harms our communities. International drug trafficking—including the illicit production, global sale, and widespread distribution of illegal drugs; the rise of extremely potent drugs such as