

Republican leader Senator McCONNELL. For as long as I have served as Democratic Leader, he has sat opposite me across the aisle. As he transitions away from leadership—it was nice seeing him in the seat over there where he didn't have to get up all the time—I would like to thank him for those important occasions when we worked together, despite our many fierce disagreements.

Let me also congratulate another colleague, our new Republican Leader JOHN THUNE. Leader THUNE and I have served in this Chamber for a long time. I know he is a good and decent American, someone who loves his country as we all do.

I know he just became leader a moment ago, so I hope he doesn't mind if I offer some unsolicited advice. The majority leader sets the tone, and that tone determines, to a large extent, how successful we will be moving forward.

If we look back at all the bills we passed in 2021 and 2022, most of them originated in the Senate because both parties found ways to reach across the aisle.

I want to work with the new Republican leader to keep that bipartisan streak going in the new year. I don't expect we will agree on everything or even many things, but there will still be opportunities to improve the lives of the American people if we are willing to work together.

So today I congratulate Leader THUNE and look forward to serving alongside him in the 119th Congress.

Let me also congratulate all our returning colleagues who have just taken their oaths of office. It is a great honor to serve in this Chamber with you. The work we do in this Chamber has the potential to create enormous prosperity for millions of American people, if we do our jobs right.

So I challenge our new Members as my new colleagues to make the most of the next 6 years. It will go by faster than you think.

On the Democratic side, it brings me great joy and excitement to welcome our six new colleagues to the Democratic caucus. I have spent the last year or so getting to know every single one of them as candidates; and seeing them finally raise their hands, take the oath, and walk amongst us as colleagues fills us all with pride.

Now, every time Democrats welcome new Members to our caucus, it is an exciting day, but I am particularly excited to get to work with this uniquely talented new class. I expect we will accomplish many good things for the American people and prevent bad things from being done to them.

This year's class is distinct in two ways: They are not only unusually experienced, but many of them are making history by taking the oath of office.

First, I would like to welcome Senator RUBEN GALLEGU from the great State of Arizona. Senator GALLEGU arrives to the Senate as a veteran legis-

lator, both literally and figuratively. He served our country as a member of the U.S. Marine Corps. He served the people of Arizona as a longtime Member of the House. Now that he has taken the oath of office, the people of Arizona have a Hispanic Senator representing them for the first time ever.

From the State of Delaware, I would like to welcome Senator LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER. Many of us know Senator BLUNT ROCHESTER well because like many of our new colleagues, she was a longtime Member of the House—five of our new six colleagues were House Members, so they have a lot of great experience—where she climbed up the ranks of leadership to become assistant whip while serving on the influential Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Like the other historymaking Members of our class, Senator BLUNT ROCHESTER is the first woman and the first person of color ever to represent Delaware in the Senate.

Let me welcome our new colleague from Maryland, Senator ALSOBROOKS. Born and raised in Prince George's County, she was the youngest person and first woman ever elected as the top law enforcement officer of the county she grew up in. So she has immense experience in fighting crime, standing up for victims of abuse and violence, and helping working-class Americans as County Executive. And she now becomes the first African-American Senator ever to serve from the State of Maryland.

From the State of Michigan, we are excited to welcome Senator ELISSA SLOTKIN, another deeply experienced public servant. She is another longtime veteran of the House and one of America's top national security experts. At a time when Americans demand bipartisanship, Senator SLOTKIN knows how to do it. She served in the CIA under President Bush and in the Department of Defense under President Obama.

And, finally, I would like to acknowledge two more colleagues who have already taken their oaths but deserve special recognition on this special day: Senator ADAM SCHIFF from California and Senator ANDY KIM from New Jersey.

A longtime Member of the House, Senator SCHIFF is a well-known leader to many of us, admired for his thoughtfulness, his eloquence, and fierce level of democracy.

And, finally, last but certainly not least, I would like to congratulate our newest colleague from New Jersey, Senator ANDY KIM. He boasts an impressive record as a longtime leader in the House, a top national security expert and diplomat, and is the first Korean American from any State to serve in the Senate.

So to our new colleagues, we say, "Welcome." We are excited to work with you; we are ready to help you. And as you find your bearings, we urge you never to lose sight of the great responsibility you carry as a Member of this body.

NEW REPUBLICAN MAJORITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now, the election is behind us. It is time to look to the future. Now begins the hard work, the important work, the solemn work, of rewarding the trust people have placed in us. Very soon, a new administration will be sworn into office alongside the new majorities in Congress. But for the first time in a long time, the next President will be someone we have seen before, President-elect Trump will return to the Oval Office.

In this first day of the 119th Congress, I would like to take a moment to talk about how Senate Democrats will approach the next 2 years.

It can be summarized like this: Democrats stand united, not because of who we fight against but because of who we are fighting for—the American people.

We are here ready to fight for the American people. We are here to fight for the working class of this country. We are here to build ladders of opportunity to the middle class.

Democrats aren't a monolith. We come from many different States and many different opinions. But we grew up in places as varied as Brooklyn, NY, and Atlanta, GA. We are from the West Coast, the East Coast, the industrial Midwest, and everywhere in-between. And we sometimes disagree, just as any tight-knit family disagrees. But Democrats are united—fiercely united—when it comes to fighting for working Americans, for working families.

In the months and years to come, Democrats will show where our values lie through our actions and words and through the policies we push in this Chamber.

Democrats are here to tackle the biggest problems that face our country. Democrats are here because we need to make housing more affordable for the millions struggling to keep a roof over their heads.

We need to make sure Americans earn higher paychecks, and keep more of their paychecks too. Democrats are here because we want to lower the cost of childcare, an outrageously high expense for too many American families who have struggled to get the best lives for themselves and their children.

Democrats are here to defend a woman's right to choose, to defend our fundamental liberties, to defend the wellspring of our democracy. We want to help our small business owners thrive and function as the engines of our economy. We want to help Americans save more money when they go to the grocery store, when they go to the pharmacy, when they pay their cable and internet bill. We want to make sure Americans aren't ripped off by giant corporations through hidden fees and predatory behavior.

Democrats stand ready to make lives better for the American people. We want to work with anyone and hold the line whenever necessary to achieve that goal.

The time to get to work is now. It is a new day, a new Congress, and Democrats stand united and ready to fight and deliver for the American people.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

JUDICIAL UNDERSTAFFING DELAYS GETTING EMERGENCIES SOLVED ACT OF 2024—VETO

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair lays before the Senate a communication of the Secretary of the Senate regarding a message from the President received during the adjournment of the Senate.

You may proceed.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: On Monday, December 23, 2024, the President of the United States sent by messenger the attached sealed envelope addressed to the President of the Senate dated December 23, 2024, said to contain a message from the President on his objections to S. 4199, an Act to authorize additional district judges for the district courts and convert temporary judgeships, which he returns without his signature. The Senate not being in session on the day which the President delivered this message, I accepted the message at 4:45 p.m., and I now present to you the President's message, with the accompanying papers, for disposition by the Senate.

Respectfully,

SONCERIA A. BERRY,
Secretary of the Senate.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the veto message on S. 4199 be considered as having been read and spread in full upon the Journal and that it be presented in the RECORD.

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

The veto message is ordered to be printed in the RECORD as follows:

To the Senate of the United States:

I am returning herewith without my approval S. 4199, the "Judicial Understaffing Delays Getting Emergencies Solved Act of 2024" or the "JUDGES Act of 2024."

S. 4199 seeks to hastily add judgeships with just a few weeks left in the 118th Congress. The House of Representatives's hurried action fails to resolve key questions in the legislation, especially regarding how the new judgeships are allocated, and neither the House of Representatives nor the Senate explored fully how the work of senior status judges and magistrate judges affects the need for new judgeships. The efficient and effective administration of justice requires that these questions about need and allocation be further studied and answered

before we create permanent judgeships for life-tenured judges.

S. 4199 would create new judgeships in States where Senators have sought to hold open existing judicial vacancies. Those efforts to hold open vacancies suggest that concerns about judicial economy and caseload are not the true motivating force behind passage of this bill now.

Therefore, I am vetoing this bill.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, December 23, 2024.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL FOR THE LYING IN STATE OF THE REMAINS OF THE LATE JAMES EARL CARTER, JR., 39TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 3, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 3) authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for the lying in state of the remains of the late James Earl Carter, Jr., 39th President of the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening motion or debate.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 3) was agreed to.

(The concurrent resolution is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

MORNING BUSINESS

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION TRAVEL REGULATIONS

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD updated U.S. Senate Travel Regulations.

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

UNITED STATES SENATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS
ADOPTED BY THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION ON DECEMBER
24, 2024

GENERAL REGULATIONS

I. Travel Authorization

A. Only those individuals having an official connection with the function involved may obligate the funds of said function.

B. Funds disbursed by the Secretary of Senate may be obligated by:

1. Members of standing, select, special, joint, policy or conference committees

2. Staff of such committees

3. Employees properly detailed to such committees from other agencies

4. Employees of Members of such committees whose salaries are disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate and employees appointed under authority of section 111 of Public Law 95-94, approved August 5, 1977, when designated as "ex officio employees" by the Chairman of such committee. Approval of the reimbursement voucher will be considered sufficient designation.

5. Senators, including staff and nominating board members. (Also individuals properly detailed to a Senator's office under authority of Section 503(b)(3) of P.L. 96-465, approved October 17, 1980.)

6. All other administrative offices, including Officers and staff.

C. An employee who transfers from one office to another on the same day he/she concludes official travel shall be considered an employee of the former office until the conclusion of that official travel.

D. All travel shall be either authorized or approved by the chairman of the committee, Senator, or Officer of the Senate to whom such authority has been properly delegated. The administrative approval authority required will be issued prior to the expenses being incurred and will specify the travel to be undertaken unless circumstances in a particular case prevent such prior approval.

E. Official Travel Authorizations: The General Services Administration, on behalf of the Committee on Rules and Administration, has contracted with several air carriers to provide discount air fares for Members, Officers, and employees of the Senate only when traveling on official business. This status is identifiable to the contracting air carriers by one of the following ways:

1. The use of a government issued travel charge card

2. The use of an "Official Travel Authorization" form which must be submitted to the air carrier prior to purchasing a ticket. These forms must be personally approved by the Senator, Committee chairman, or Officer of the Senate under whose authority the travel for official business is taking place. Payment must be made in advance by cash, credit card, check, or money order. The Official Travel Authorization forms are available in the Senate Disbursing Office.

II. Funds for Traveling Expenses

A. Individuals traveling on official business for the Senate will provide themselves with sufficient funds for all current expenses, and are expected to exercise the same care in incurring expenses that a prudent person would exercise if traveling on personal business.

1. Travel Advances

(a) Advances to Committees (P.L. 81-118)

(1) Chairmen of joint committees operating from the contingent fund of the Senate, and chairmen of standing, special, select, policy, or conference committees of the Senate, may requisition an advance of the funds authorized for their respective committees.

(a) When any duty is imposed upon a committee involving expenses that are ordered to be paid out of the contingent fund of the Senate, upon vouchers to be approved by the chairman of the committee charged with such duty, the receipt of such chairman for any sum advanced to him[her] or his[her] order out of said contingent fund by the Secretary of the Senate for committee expenses not involving personal services shall be taken and passed by the accounting officers of the Government as a full and sufficient voucher; but it shall be the duty of such chairman, as soon as practicable, to furnish to the Secretary of the Senate vouchers in detail for the expenses so incurred.