

those who do benefit, it becomes even more clear how little sense this makes.

Even the progressive Brookings Institute pointed out that blanket student loan forgiveness benefits those who are better off by income, by education, and by wealth.

Unsurprisingly, those with student loans are more likely to have higher paying jobs. If we look back at the institutions and not just the individuals who are benefiting from these massive taxpayer subsidies, which is what they are, we will also find that this is anything but an efficient use of American taxpayer dollars.

Over 100 colleges and universities in the United States, including Columbia, Cornell, Yale, and Princeton, are currently under investigation from the Department of Education because of their mishandling of incidents of anti-Semitism on their campuses since October 7, 2023.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of ethnicity for institutions that receive Federal funding. So the complaints of anti-Semitism in the wake of the terrorist attacks on Israel have in some cases amounted to violations of Federal law.

Many of these colleges and universities are rushing to enter into settlements with the Biden administration before the Trump administration takes office on Monday, which, of course, is not surprising.

President Trump has made clear that taxpayer support for those universities that failed to end anti-Semitic propaganda that has run rampant over the past few years, that that taxpayer support will end.

Now is not the time to reward these institutions with widespread incentives to continue raising their tuition by canceling student debt.

If we want to address the affordability of college—an important topic—widespread student loan socialism is not the way to do it.

So as I said, for a variety of reasons, this would be a great place for the Department of Government Efficiency to shine the light on and for us to do something about in the coming days.

The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget pointed out that we could save the taxpayers as much as \$550 billion by reversing all of President Biden's actions on student loan cancellation—\$550 billion. So we have our work cut out for us. But one great place to start would be to end the Biden administration's reckless student loan socialism.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I would like to read into the RECORD a statement from President Joe Biden, issued this morning on the Equal Rights Amendment.

He said as follows:

I have supported the Equal Rights Amendment for more than 50 years, and I have long been clear that no one should be discriminated against based on their sex. We, as a nation, must affirm and protect women's full equality once and for all.

On January 27, 2020, the Commonwealth of Virginia became the 38th state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment.

The American Bar Association has recognized that the Equal Rights Amendment has cleared all necessary hurdles to be formally added to the Constitution as the 28th Amendment. I agree with the ABA—

President Biden said—

and with leading constitutional scholars that the Equal Rights Amendment has become part of our Constitution.

It is long past time to recognize the will of the American people. In keeping with my oath and duty to Constitution and country, I affirm what I believe and what three-fourths of the States have ratified: the 28th Amendment is the law of the land, guaranteeing all Americans equal rights and protections under the law regardless of their sex.

Mr. President, in response to this, I issue the following statement:

The Equal Rights Amendment is literally a century in the making, and over the years, generations of Americans have done their part to move it forward. They have marched on Washington, they have met with Congressmen and Senators, and as of 2020, they have crossed a crucial threshold—ratification of the ERA in 38 States. That is the exact number of States needed to certify it as the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

It is past time to explicitly prohibit discrimination based on sex in our Constitution. The President's announcement sends an important, overdue message to women and girls that they are equal under the law.

Mr. President, I believe this is a moment of historic importance, and it is the culmination of a century of effort to bring equality into the American Constitution with the 28th Amendment.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. YOUNG). Will the Senator withhold his request?

Mr. DURBIN. I withhold my request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

SALT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, last fall, Donald Trump went to Long Island, NY, and claimed he would "get SALT back." That is good news—very good news—because it was precisely Donald Trump and congressional Republicans who created the SALT cap to begin with.

These harmful policies double tax hard-working New Yorkers. They have hurt so many middle-class families—teachers, firefighters, police officers,

construction workers—particularly in higher cost areas like Long Island and the Hudson Valley of New York.

So it is good that Donald Trump and some Republicans have seen the light and that they have heard from vociferous Long Islanders, and now they are changing their minds about SALT. But let's not forget, these costly SALT caps are set to expire at the end of the year.

So to our friends on the other side, if you actually want to lower costs for Long Island, Hudson Valley, and other families across the country, all you have to do is do nothing at all on SALT caps. Let them expire, which they will right at the end of this year, and then they are gone for good, all of them.

Yes, if Congress simply says do nothing about SALT caps, all of it will go away, and that is what we should do. But instead of ensuring that New Yorkers will get SALT back, the House Freedom Caucus wants to impose a whole new round of SALT caps. They want to place new SALT caps on New York businesses small and large and want to push an increase in the SALT tax on New Yorkers.

The House Freedom Caucus is a group of very powerful, hard, hard right Republicans. The House Freedom Caucus's SALT plan will increase costs across Long Island and the Hudson Valley almost immediately.

I have got only one response to the House Freedom's SALT proposal. As we say in Brooklyn, forget about it. Forget about it. There is no scenario under God's green Earth that New York taxpayers will ever accept another unfair SALT cap like the House Freedom Caucus proposes. New York families, from Long Island to the Hudson Valley and across the State, have suffered long enough at the hands of broken Republican tax policies.

I will do everything I can, first, to remove the entire SALT cap tax and, second, to never let a new proposal that for the first time imposes the SALT cap on businesses small and large to be put into effect. I am going to do everything I can to fight this dastardly proposal.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

TRIBUTE TO CAMILLE CALIMLIM TOUTON

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Camille Calimlim Touton as she concludes her distinguished public service as the 24th Commissioner of the United States Bureau of Reclamation.

Born in Quezon City, Philippines, as the daughter of a U.S. Air Force airman, Camille Calimlim Touton and her family eventually settled down in Nevada. There, she would go on to earn her bachelor of arts and her bachelor of science from the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, before moving east to earn her master's in public policy from George Mason University.

Throughout her public service career, whether learning from my friend and colleague Congresswoman GRACE NAPOLITANO on the House Natural Resources Committee, working on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, or at the Bureau of Reclamation, Commissioner Touton has served the American people with great distinction.

Since she was sworn in as Commissioner on December 15, 2021, Commissioner Touton has improved the Bureau of Reclamation's reputation across the West and around the world by effectively leading the Bureau's 6,000 employees during an unprecedented time of drought and aridification. By rolling up her sleeves and working with partners to address some of the most challenging issues of the American West, Commissioner Touton leaves behind a proud legacy of service to the American people.

At the helm of Reclamation during the implementation of the historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act, Commissioner Touton worked to drastically increase water conservation and infrastructure improvements and help make communities more resilient to climate change impacts. Under her leadership, Reclamation made use of these generational investments to provide more than \$1.4 billion to improve drinking water for rural and disadvantaged Americans who have waited decades for access to clean, affordable water and worked to improve the lives of countless families in the American West.

In 2022, when prolonged drought led to historically low water levels in Lake Powell and Lake Mead, Commissioner Touton pressed the States and Tribes who rely on the Colorado River to find a compromise that would protect water supply throughout the basin. Her leadership was instrumental in achieving a historic, consensus-based proposal to conserve more than 3 million acre-feet of water and protect the system. To this day, 7 States and 30 Tribes have continued to engage on a longer-term agreement that will serve the 40 million people who call the Colorado River Basin home.

Commissioner Touton delivered outside of the Colorado River Basin as

well, including with a South-of-Delta drought plan in 2024 that is benefiting water users, addressing their drinking water needs, protecting Wildlife Refuges, and improving the future resilience of the San Joaquin Valley.

An invaluable resource to Members of Congress, a trusted partner to water agencies and stakeholders in the West, a dedicated public servant to constituents, and a beloved boss, Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton has made a tremendous difference for the present and future quality of life for millions of Americans.

Today, I want to thank not only Commissioner Touton for her service, but also wish her and her husband Matt and their three daughters Lexi, Ella, and Sophie success and happiness in the future as they move back west—and back home—to Nevada.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING IDAHO AIR GUN

• Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, as a member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each month I recognize and celebrate the American entrepreneurial spirit by highlighting the success of small businesses in my home State of Idaho. Today, I am pleased to honor Idaho Air Gun as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for January 2025.

Founded in 2013, Idaho Air Gun began as a firearms and reloading pro shop in Boise, offering top-quality reloading equipment and a full selection of components. Over time, the business expanded to include custom rifle builds, earning a stellar reputation for craftsmanship. In 2019, they became the first retailer in Idaho to carry precharged pneumatic air guns, shortly before Idaho became the first State to legalize the use of air guns for hunting all game species. This trailblazing development created new opportunities for hunters and outdoor enthusiasts throughout the State.

In 2021, Idaho Air Gun was invited by the State to relocate and manage the Nampa Indoor Range as an air-gun-only facility—as the only public air range in the Pacific Northwest and a vital community resource, offering a youth shooting program that has helped graduates earn college scholarships and even qualify for the Junior Olympics. In 2024, they expanded their partnership with the city of Nampa as a city recreational offering.

Congratulations to the team at Idaho Air Gun on their selection as the January 2025 Small Business of the Month. Thank you for serving Idaho as small business owners and entrepreneurs. You make our great state proud, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 9:33 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 30. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide that aliens who have been convicted of or who have committed sex offenses or domestic violence are inadmissible and deportable.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 30. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide that aliens who have been convicted of or who have committed sex offenses or domestic violence are inadmissible and deportable; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-102. A communication from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Formulas for Calculating Hourly and Unit Fees for FGIS Services" ((RIN0581-AE31) (Docket No. AMS-FGIS-24-0027)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 15, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-103. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Cyprodinil; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 11459-01-OCSP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 15, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-104. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fludioxonil; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 11524-01-OCSP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 15, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-105. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Beauveria Bassiana Strain BW149; Exemption From the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 11459-01-OCSP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 15, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-106. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Inactivated Burkholderia Rinojensis Strain A396 Cells and Spent Fermentation Media; Exemption From the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 12383-01-OCSP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 15, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-107. A communication from the Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs, Bureau of