

(1) data or justification about—

(A) the decision-making process that lead to these involuntary dismissals; or

(B) the already existing disruptions to several critical Department programs; or

(2) the Administration's plan for the future of the Department;

Whereas veterans make up 30 percent of the Federal workforce, serving first in uniform and then choosing to continue to serve in the Federal Government; and

Whereas it is the duty of the United States to support our veterans by making sure they have the benefits and care they were promised: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that any veteran Federal employee that was involuntarily removed or otherwise dismissed without cause since January 20, 2025, should—

(1) be immediately reinstated with guaranteed full and timely back pay; and

(2) receive timely notice of their reinstatement with clear instructions on the path forward for their position, with clear understanding, communication, and oversight from their respective chains of command.

SENATE RESOLUTION 167—RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ARCTIC COUNCIL AND REAFFIRMING THE COMMITMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE ARCTIC COUNCIL

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. KING) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 167

Whereas the United States became an Arctic nation upon the purchase of Alaska in 1867;

Whereas the Arctic Council was established on September 19, 1996, through the Ottawa Declaration, to enhance cooperation, coordination, and interaction among the Arctic states with the active involvement of Arctic Indigenous peoples and other Arctic inhabitants on common Arctic issues;

Whereas the United States is a founding member of the Arctic Council and has twice served as Chair, from 1998 to 2000, and again from 2015 to 2017;

Whereas the Ottawa Declaration defines 8 states, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden, and the United States, as Arctic states and members of the Arctic Council as they have sovereignty over territory in the Arctic region;

Whereas the Arctic region is undergoing unprecedented environmental, economic, and social changes due to the impacts of climate change and increased human activity;

Whereas the Arctic Council has an advanced understanding of Arctic challenges through scientific assessments, policy recommendations, and collaborative initiatives;

Whereas the engagement of Indigenous communities and respect for traditional knowledge are integral to the Arctic Council's success;

Whereas the Arctic Council is the leading intergovernmental initiative involving all Arctic states, raising global awareness of the Arctic's significance and influencing international climate policies;

Whereas the Arctic Council has addressed key issues such as persistent organic pollutants, oil spill prevention, search and rescue, and scientific collaboration;

Whereas the Arctic Council emphasizes sustainable development, environmental protection, and peace in the Arctic amidst grow-

ing competition over resources and shipping routes;

Whereas the Arctic Council has played a vital role in maintaining the Arctic as a region of low tension and its continued work is essential to ensuring a safe, secure, and stable Arctic for all;

Whereas the Arctic Council has made significant contributions to understanding Arctic biodiversity, ocean health, and sustainable resource management, while also addressing emerging threats such as microplastics and shipping pollution;

Whereas the United States has demonstrated leadership in Arctic affairs, notably through initiatives such as the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment, which provided a groundbreaking understanding of climate change impacts, and the International Circumpolar Surveillance system, a region-wide disease surveillance system led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

Whereas the United States has supported collaborative Arctic Council initiatives such as the Circumpolar Wildland Fire Initiative, developed under Norway's Chairship, in partnership with Gwich'in Council International;

Whereas the Russian Federation's illegal war of aggression against Ukraine has significantly impacted the operations of the Arctic Council, raising concerns over the Russian Federation's military modernization in the Arctic and reinforcing cooperative security ties among the 7 other Arctic states (commonly known as the "A7");

Whereas, in response to the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, the A7 states temporarily paused participation in all Arctic Council meetings;

Whereas the European Union suspended cooperation with the Russian Federation in the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, leading to the withdrawal of the Russian Federation in 2023;

Whereas, despite the suspension of cooperation with the Russian Federation, the Arctic Council and its working groups resumed activities in mid-2023;

Whereas, in February 2024, the Russian Federation suspended annual payments to the Arctic Council until its participation was reinstated;

Whereas, in February 2024, the 8 Arctic states, in consultation with Indigenous permanent participant organizations, reached consensus to gradually resume official working group meetings;

Whereas Finland and Sweden's accession to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization has heightened the Arctic's strategic importance for the alliance;

Whereas, in recent years, the United States has expanded its diplomatic presence in the Arctic region and strengthened economic and people to people ties with the region;

Whereas the Russian Federation's diplomatic isolation from the A7 states has led to the Kremlin's increased cooperation with non-A7 countries, particularly the People's Republic of China, which poses a threat to United States and European national security; and

Whereas a national intelligence estimate by the National Intelligence Council indicates that both Arctic and non-Arctic states will likely increase their competitive activities and military presence in the region as warming temperatures make the Arctic more accessible and states seek to protect their investments: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the key role the Arctic Council has played as a critical forum for fostering international cooperation, sustainable development, and environmental protection in the Arctic region;

(2) commends the Arctic Council for its achievements in promoting scientific research, policy coordination, and Indigenous participation to address regional challenges;

(3) affirms the United States commitment to active participation and leadership within the Arctic Council to advance shared goals and uphold the values of cooperation and respect among Arctic nations and Indigenous peoples;

(4) acknowledges the Arctic Council's 8 member states—Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden, and the United States—as key participants in the Arctic Council due to their sovereignty over territories in the Arctic Region, which enables them to engage in collaborative efforts to address Arctic issues;

(5) encourages increased collaboration among Arctic Council member states, permanent participants, and observers to address emerging challenges and opportunities in the Arctic, including the impacts of climate change and sustainable economic development;

(6) supports robust funding and resources for United States agencies and organizations engaged in Arctic Council activities to ensure the United States fulfills its responsibilities as an Arctic nation;

(7) calls upon the Arctic Council to continue prioritizing peace, security, and environmental stewardship in the Arctic to safeguard the region for future generations;

(8) urges the executive branch to uphold and promote the principles and objectives of the Arctic Council in its Arctic policy and diplomacy efforts;

(9) emphasizes the importance of increased United States attention and resources in the Arctic as geopolitical competition and human activities in the region intensify; and

(10) emphasizes the importance of the position of United States Arctic Ambassador-at-Large to provide strong and consistent United States leadership in Arctic diplomacy and engagement and urges the executive branch to take all necessary steps to prevent prolonged vacancies in this critical role.

SENATE RESOLUTION 168—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF THE RISE UP FOR LGBTQI+ YOUTH IN SCHOOLS INITIATIVE, A CALL TO ACTION TO COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES TO DEMAND EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY, BASIC CIVIL RIGHTS PROTECTIONS, AND FREEDOM FROM ERASURE FOR ALL STUDENTS, PARTICULARLY LGBTQI+ YOUNG PEOPLE, IN K-12 SCHOOLS

Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 168

Whereas young people, teachers, school staff, families, and communities must be free from transphobia, homophobia, racism, sexism, and ableism in K-12 schools;

Whereas K-12 schools must be safe and inclusive learning environments that include and affirm LGBTQI+ young people, especially those who are transgender, nonbinary, intersex, Black, Indigenous, people of color, and people with disabilities and those who

are from communities that experience marginalization;

Whereas, for more than 2 decades, Congress has supported a resolution for a National Day of Silence, and, for a decade, Congress has supported a resolution for No Name-Calling Week;

Whereas advocates have designated 2025 to 2026 as a time for communities to support the Rise Up for LGBTQI+ Youth in Schools Initiative in support of LGBTQI+ young people in schools by building on the goals of National Day of (No) Silence and No Name-Calling Week to create a sustained call to action to demand equal educational opportunities, basic civil rights protections, and freedom from erasure for all students;

Whereas LGBTQI+ young people frequently experience bias-based bullying and harassment, discrimination, and punitive discipline that increases the likelihood they will enter the school-to-prison pipeline;

Whereas over 200 anti-LGBTQI+ education bills have been introduced each year in State legislatures across the United States, the majority of which specifically target transgender and nonbinary young people, including—

(1) in the 26 States that have enacted policies between 2021 and 2025 that prohibit transgender students from playing alongside their peers on school sports teams; and

(2) in the 17 States that have enacted laws between 2021 and 2025 that prevent transgender students from using the school bathroom or locker room that corresponds with their gender identity;

Whereas the GLSEN 2021 National School Climate Survey found that LGBTQI+ students who experienced discrimination on the basis of their LGBTQI+ identity at school in the past year, including being prevented from using the restroom that aligned with their gender identity and being barred from playing on the school sports team that aligned with their gender identity, were nearly 3 times as likely to have missed school in the past month, had lower grade point averages, reported lower feelings of school belonging, and had higher levels of depression compared to LGBTQI+ students who had not experienced similar discrimination;

Whereas LGBTQI+ young people are more likely than their non-LGBTQI+ peers to experience mental health concerns, including stress, anxiety, and depression;

Whereas nearly half of LGBTQI+ young people seriously considered suicide in the last year, a trend that increases among Indigenous, Black, and multiracial LGBTQI+ young people;

Whereas the GLSEN 2021 National School Climate Survey found that, among LGBTQI+ students who said that they were considering dropping out of school, 31.4 percent indicated that they were doing so because of the hostile climate created by gendered school policies and practices;

Whereas States have passed or attempted to pass legislation that erases or censors LGBTQI+ individuals, history, and contributions from classroom literature and curricula, including—

(1) in the 9 States that enacted laws between 2022 and 2025 censoring instruction related to LGBTQI+ people; and

(2) in the 8 States that enacted laws between 2021 and 2025 that treat instruction related to LGBTQI+ individuals in history, science, the arts, or any academic class as a sensitive topic that requires parental notification and allows parents to opt their child out of such instruction;

Whereas these laws harm students and force families to consider leaving their homes, as demonstrated in a Williams Institute report, which found that 56 percent of LGBTQI+ parents of students in the State of

Florida considered moving out of the State, and 16.5 percent have taken steps to move out of State because of the passage of the Parental Rights in Education Act by the State in 2022;

Whereas States have gone farther by specifically targeting transgender students and their families with policies that attack mental health counseling and gender-affirming care for transgender students, including the introduction of at least 35 bills in 18 States since the beginning of the 2025 legislative session that prohibit or create barriers to the social affirmation of transgender and nonbinary students in schools, such as using the chosen name and pronouns of a student, regardless of the risk to the safety, health, and well-being of the student;

Whereas 86 percent of transgender and nonbinary young people say that recent debates prompted by State legislation restricting the rights of transgender individuals have negatively impacted their mental health;

Whereas data provided by the Department of Justice shows that there were a reported 247 anti-LGBTQ hate crimes in schools in 2023;

Whereas every young person must have equal educational opportunity and freedom from the fear that their basic civil and educational rights will be taken away from them;

Whereas young people who develop in positive school climates, free from bullying, harassment, and discrimination, report greater physical and psychological safety, greater mental well-being, and improved educational and life outcomes;

Whereas positive school transformation must recognize that safety is too low of a bar and that all communities deserve to be acknowledged and affirmed in schools;

Whereas students and families, educators, and community members in every State and territory are advocating for safe and inclusive learning environments that affirm LGBTQI+ young people, particularly those who are transgender, nonbinary, intersex, Black, Indigenous, people of color, and people with disabilities;

Whereas affirming policies such as enumerated anti-bullying protections, gender neutral dress code guidelines, and inclusive learning practices are proven strategies to address hostile learning environments for all students; and

Whereas we must all demand the best possible future for all young people in schools, particularly those who identify as LGBTQI+, without exception: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of the Rise Up for LGBTQI+ Youth in Schools Initiative in demanding the best possible future for all young people in schools, particularly those who identify as LGBTQI+;

(2) recognizes the contributions of students and families, educators, and community members who participate in the National Day of (No) Silence, to draw attention to the bullying, harassment, assault, and discrimination faced by LGBTQI+ students; and

(3) encourages each State, territory, and locality to support the Rise Up for LGBTQI+ Youth in Schools Initiative and adopt laws and policies that prohibit bias-based victimization, exclusion, and erasure.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEEDING

I, Senator RON WYDEN, intend to object to proceeding to the nomination of Sean Plankey, of Pennsylvania, to be Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, Depart-

ment of Homeland Security, dated April 9, 2025.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I have 14 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to Rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct an executive session.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, at 9:45 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session