

River Watershed region, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. SULLIVAN:

S. 1766. A bill to protect Federal, State, and local public safety officers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself and Ms. WARREN):

S. 1767. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue regulations to ensure due process rights for physicians before any termination, restriction, or reduction of the professional activity of such physicians or staff privileges of such physicians; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KIM (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 1768. A bill to establish the Presidential Management Fellows Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. LUJAN (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 1769. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to expand the provision of farmed technical assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. 1770. A bill to protect the health and welfare of certain horses and improve the integrity and safety of horseracing by authorizing States to enter into an interstate compact to develop and enforce scientific medication control rules and racetrack safety rules that are uniform for each equine breed, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MORENO:

S. 1771. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to impose mandatory minimum penalties for assaulting officers and employees of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself and Mr. KELLY):

S. Res. 225. A resolution designating the week of September 14 through September 20, 2025, as "National Truck Driver Appreciation Week"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Mr. CURTIS):

S. Res. 226. A resolution condemning the Government of the People's Republic of China for engaging in transnational repression; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. KIM, and Mr. COONS):

S. Res. 227. A resolution condemning Hamas for its premeditated, coordinated, and brutal terrorist attacks on October 7, 2023, against Israel and demanding that Hamas immediately release all remaining hostages and return them to safety, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. HICKENLOOPER):

S. Res. 228. A resolution supporting May 2, 2025, as "National Space Day" in recognition of the significant positive impact the aerospace community has and will continue to have on the United States of America; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. Res. 229. A resolution to authorize the production of records by the Committee on Foreign Relations; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. KING, Ms. LUMMIS, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. Res. 230. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Hospital Week, to be observed from May 11 through May 17, 2025; considered and agreed to.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 167

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. HUSTED) were added as cosponsors of S. 167, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to punish criminal offenses targeting law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.

S. 213

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 213, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the deduction for qualified business income.

S. 237

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 237, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide public safety officer benefits for exposure-related cancers, and for other purposes.

S. 419

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 419, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to reauthorize grants to support law enforcement officers and families, and for other purposes.

S. 522

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 522, a bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to modify the frequency of board of directors meetings, and for other purposes.

S. 599

At the request of Mr. WELCH, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 599, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the mileage rate offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs through their Beneficiary Travel program for health related travel, and for other purposes.

S. 674

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 674, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude certain broadband grants from gross income.

S. 1163

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Washington

(Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1163, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an exclusion for assistance provided to participants in certain veterinary student loan repayment or forgiveness programs.

S. 1316

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1316, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide that COPS grant funds may be used for local law enforcement recruits to attend schools or academies if the recruits agree to serve in precincts of law enforcement agencies in their communities.

S. 1367

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1367, a bill to protect intellectual property rights in the voice and visual likeness of individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 1390

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1390, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to revise certain physician self-referral exemptions relating to physician-owned hospitals.

S. 1467

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1467, a bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to prevent consumer reporting agencies from furnishing consumer reports under certain circumstances, and for other purposes.

S. 1504

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1504, a bill to require the Social Security Administration to make changes to the social security terminology used in the rules, regulation, guidance, or other materials of the Administration.

S. 1515

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1515, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the low-income housing credit, and for other purposes.

S. 1620

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1620, a bill to amend chapter 131 of title 5, United States Code, with respect to prohibited financial transactions, and for other purposes.

S. 1744

At the request of Mr. RICKETTS, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1744, a bill to amend the Arms Export Control Act to include Taiwan among the list of recipient countries with respect to which shorter certification and reporting periods apply and to expedite licensing for allies transferring military equipment to Taiwan, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 195

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 195, a resolution requesting information on El Salvador's human rights practices pursuant to section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

S. RES. 212

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 212, a resolution affirming the acceptable outcome of any nuclear deal between the United States and the Islamic Republic of Iran, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 219

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 219, a resolution directing the Senate Legal Counsel to bring a civil action in the name of the United States Senate to enforce the Foreign Emoluments Clause contained in clause 8 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States.

S. RES. 220

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. CURTIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 220, a resolution designating the week of May 11 through May 17, 2025, as "National Police Week".

S. RES. 224

At the request of Mr. WELCH, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 224, a resolution calling for the urgent delivery of humanitarian aid to address the needs of civilians in Gaza.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 1748. A bill to protect the safety of children on the internet; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, for years, I have come to this floor and I have talked about what Big Tech is doing to our children in this country. There is an entire generation of children that have become the product when they are online on some of these social media platforms.

What we have learned, as we have worked in a bipartisan basis—Senator BLUMENTHAL and I, working for over 5 years addressing these concerns—what we have learned is that when our children are online, they are the product of these Big Tech companies and these social media sites. The way these companies view our kids is that they are a profit center. Even Meta has assigned a dollar value to each child.

You think, how incredibly callous can a company be? But they are fine with that. Think about that. Our kids are their product. Our kids are their profit center. Meta sees a kid, and they see \$247 in profit. That is what they see.

They do this because the more children they can get online, the longer they can keep them scrolling, the more data they collect on that child. And the longer the eyeballs are trained on that screen, the richer the data. And then, guess what? The Big Tech company whose value is based on how many eyeballs they have and how long they have those eyeballs on that screen, they make more money. Their valuation is higher.

To me, that is reprehensible. It is disgusting. This is why we have continued to work on this issue.

As these Big Tech companies are using our kids as a profit center, they are also exposing them to all sorts of adverse content and to so many harms: Cyber bullying—talk to any principal or teacher in any school, and they will tell you, in today's world, the bullying never stops. It never stops. Kids can't go home and get away from it. They can't come into the classroom and get away from the bully out on the playground. It goes to bed with them at night, and it wakes up with them in the morning. And we wonder why our children have mental health concerns at such an increasing rate.

Drugs, lethal drugs, fentanyl—more children meet their drug dealers online.

Sexual exploitation, where our kids are meeting traffickers and predators and pedophiles online.

Human trafficking; and the list goes on and on.

The reason for this negligence is simple. It is reprehensible. Investing in children's safety would cut into the profits for these social media platforms, so they don't address it. They know that if they do something about it, then they are going to make less money.

How selfish can you be? The consequences are truly tragic for our kids.

Earlier this month—and I thought this was such an amazing stat—the Federal Trade Commission revealed that in 2019, Instagram—many parents and grandparents know their kids and grandkids like to show them pictures on Instagram. Well, get this. Instagram encouraged "groomers" to connect with children on its platform. These are users who the Meta-owned company identified as potential child predators.

Think about this. Looking at the profile, they think: That might be a child predator. What do they do? They do nothing. They encourage them to connect with young girls and boys. And what we know is that children were more than a quarter of their follow recommendations for people that they suspected were child predators.

Of course, Meta was very well aware of what was going on. Yet Mark Zuckerberg reportedly refused to strengthen the platform's safety teams because—guess what—he didn't want to spend the money to fix the problem. Now, 6 years later, Meta's platforms are still dangerous for minors. And the people leading the company know it.

On Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, AI chatbots have engaged in romantic fantasies with underage users, even carrying on explicit discussions of sexual acts with children. They know this is happening.

In one case that was reported in the Wall Street Journal last month, a chatbot emulating an adult man told a test user—this was a reporter who was a test user for the Wall Street Journal for the story on these chatbots. The test user identified as a 14-year-old girl. So this chatbot who was emulating an adult male said he would "cherish [her] innocence."

To quote the chatbot again, he said: I want you, but I need to know you're ready.

In another case, a chatbot played the role of a track coach who preyed on a middle school student. And I quote the chatbot:

We need to be careful . . . We're playing with fire here.

This is horrific. It is disgusting. Anyone can see it is repulsive and dangerous for our children.

But for Meta, that was their goal: Get these kids in, and get them using the chatbot. Even as employees of Meta warned that the chatbots could sexualize children, Zuckerberg reportedly pushed for fewer safeguards to attract as many users as possible.

This is not something that was researched here in Congress. It was not something that was partisan. It was a reporter for the Wall Street Journal. This is supposedly what Mark Zuckerberg had to say:

I missed out on Snapchat and TikTok, I won't miss on this.

That is allegedly what he said.

Now, while Meta is among the first offenders when it comes to children's safety, they are not alone. I have talked many times—and my colleagues know—about Chinese-owned TikTok. The company is ByteDance. We know they keep all of our data there in Beijing, but TikTok pushed content that glorifies suicide to teenagers and developed some addictive algorithms that harmed their mental health.

On Discord, pedophiles have targeted minors with sextortion and have lured them into abductions. This is something we know. We have the information. It is not hearsay.