

Americans and our healthcare system simply can't afford to be nickel-and-dimed like Republicans are forcing them to do. The ACA premium tax credits have protected millions of Americans from higher healthcare costs, they have reduced the number without healthcare insurance, and they have provided robust choices for consumers and provided stability for healthcare providers, particularly in rural areas, and there are rural areas affected in Connecticut.

In addition to the impending cuts in Medicaid, Republicans are refusing to extend these subsidies. It is cruel. It is unnecessary. It is dumb.

So I am here to advocate for the 139,000 Connecticut residents who depend on these credits and the 24 million Americans who are making decisions about healthcare insurance coverage right now at their kitchen tables, in their living rooms, in their homes.

It should not be a partisan issue. At the end of the day, it is a choice: Do we choose a highly successful solution that has reduced healthcare costs for the whole Nation or do we allow the clock to run out and raise healthcare costs for families in every State in this country?

That choice can still be made in the next 24 hours, in the next 2 days, to shorten and lessen the pain that will be felt by Americans.

I choose to stand with working families. I will fight, and we are unified in our fight. As a matter of conscience and conviction, we will not be bullied.

Donald Trump should know that we will stand strong for working families in America. They deserve healthcare. It is about saving healthcare and holding Donald Trump accountable to follow the law. When there is a budget, when it is passed by Congress and signed by the President, he cannot be allowed to simply ride roughshod over it and disregard it.

It is the rule of law and healthcare that are at stake here. I will fight for it.

I yield the floor.

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.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-88, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Australia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$705 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MARY BETH MORGAN
(For Michael F. Miller, Director).
Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-88

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Australia.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment * \$605 million.
Other \$100 million.
Total \$705 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):
Forty-eight (48) M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS)

Non-Major Defense Equipment:

The following non-MDE items will also be included: M1084A2 HIMARS resupply vehicles; M1095 trailers; Low Cost Reduced Range Practice Rocket (LCRRPR) pods; intercom systems; radio and communication mounts; spares parts and services; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; studies and surveys; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (AT-B-UOU).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: AT-B-UNP, AT-B-UMJ, AT-B-UMK.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: September 30, 2025.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Australia—M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems

The Government of Australia has requested to buy forty-eight (48) M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS). The following non-MDE items will also be included: M1084A2 HIMARS resupply vehicles; M1095 trailers; Low Cost Reduced Range Practice Rocket (LCRRPR)

pods; intercom systems; radio and communication mounts; spare parts and services; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; studies and surveys; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$705 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States. Australia is one of the United States' most important allies in the Western Pacific. The strategic location of this political and economic power contributes significantly to ensuring peace and economic stability in the Western Pacific. It is vital to the U.S. national interest to assist this ally in developing and maintaining a strong and ready self-defense capability.

The proposed sale will improve Australia's capability to meet current and future threats, and will enhance interoperability with U.S. forces and other allied forces. Australia will use the capability to strengthen its homeland defense and provide greater security for its critical infrastructure. Australia will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractors will be Lockheed Martin, located in Grand Prairie, TX; L3Harris Corporation, located in Melbourne, FL; Leonardo DRS, located in Arlington, VA; and Oshkosh Corporation, located in Stafford, VA. At this time, the U.S. Government is not aware of any offset agreement proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Australia.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-88

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) is a C-130 transportable wheeled launcher with Global Positioning System (GPS) Precise Positioning Service capability mounted on a 5-ton Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles (FMTV) truck chassis. HIMARS is the modern Army-fielded version of the Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) M270 launcher and can fire all the MLRS Family of Munitions (FOM), including Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System (GMLRS) variants and the Army Tactical Missile System. Utilizing the MLRS FOM, the HIMARS can engage targets between 15 and 300 kilometers with GPS-aided precision accuracy.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that Australia can provide the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This proposed sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Australia.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(A) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 0J-25. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 25-08 of January 2, 2025.

Sincerely,

MARY BETH MORGAN
(for Michael F. Miller, Director).

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 0J-25

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(A), AECA)

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Japan.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 25-08; Date: January 2, 2025; Implementing Agency: Air Force.

(iii) Description: On January 2, 2025, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 25-08 of the possible sale under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act of one thousand (1,000) AIM-120D-3 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM); two hundred (200) AIM-120C-8 AMRAAM; twenty (20) AIM-120D-3 guidance sections, including precise positioning provided by either Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module or M-Code; and four (4) AIM-120C-8 guidance sections. The following non-MDE were also included: AMRAAM propulsion sections, warheads, AIM-120 Captive Air Training Missiles (CATM), missile containers, and control section spares; Common Munitions Built-in Test (BIT) Reprogramming Equipment (CMBRE); ADU-891 Adaptor Group Test Sets; munitions support and support equipment; spare and repair parts, consumables, accessories, and repair and return support; classified software delivery and support; classified

publications and technical documentation; transportation support; studies and surveys; warranties; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistical support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total value was \$3.64 billion. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$3.47 billion of this total.

This transmittal notifies the inclusion of the following non-MDE items: KGV-135A communications security devices. The estimated total value of the new items is \$30 million, but there will be no increase in the previously notified \$0.17 billion non-MDE value. The estimated total value remains \$3.64 billion. MDE constitutes \$3.47 billion of this total.

(iv) Significance: This notification is being provided because the additional non-MDE item was not enumerated in the original notification. The inclusion of this non-MDE represents an increase in capability over what was previously notified. This proposed sale will significantly improve Japan's capability to meet current and future threats by defending its homeland and U.S. personnel stationed there.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a major ally that is an important force for peace, political stability, and economic progress in the Asia-Pacific region.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology:

The KGV-135A communications security device is a high-speed general purpose encryptor and decryptor module used for wideband data encryption.

The Sensitivity of Technology Statement contained in the original notification applies to additional items reported here.

The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: September 30, 2025.

REMEMBERING EVAN C. BERQUIST

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, in May, Minnesotans suddenly lost Evan Berquist, of St. Paul. His kindness and thoughtfulness touched the lives of so many people in Minnesota and around the world who miss him dearly. I wish to extend my deepest sympathy to his family and loved ones as they continue to mourn his passing.

I ask unanimous consent that his obituary be printed in the RECORD.

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

EVAN C. BERQUIST OBITUARY

St. Paul—Berquist, Evan C. 43, a beloved husband, father, and son, died unexpectedly on May 9th, 2025. Evan was born in St. Paul, MN to Alice and Charles Berquist on January 27, 1982. From the very beginning, Evan was a thoughtful, kind, intellectual, and fun person with an uncanny knack for connecting with people. He was the best older brother to Blake Berquist, constantly playing with, picking on, guiding, and supporting him. He graduated from St. Paul Academy before going to Colorado College, where he studied history and Spanish and graduated with honors. Evan met his wife and best friend, Laura K. Berquist (née Walski), during a college trip to the Pacific Northwest. It was obvious they were going to be partners for life from the start. They formed a deep connection, exchanging handwritten love

letters at a time when communicating by email and text message was prolific. Evan and Laura supported each other through first jobs in far flung places, graduate and law school. They married in August of 2010. After college, Evan leaned into his love of language and adventure. He worked at a hot dog factory in Costa Rica and then at a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit, supporting democracy strengthening programs in Latin America. Evan attended Stanford Law School in northern California and clerked for a federal judge in Puerto Rico. It was in Puerto Rico where Evan and Laura had their son, Tim. They enjoyed exploring the island together and taking life slowly. Work opportunities brought them back to St. Paul, where they welcomed their daughter, Sasha. Evan loved Tim and Sasha with all of his heart. He was never happier than when reading with Tim and talking about the wide world. They were fierce wrestling competitors in the swimming pool. Evan cherished and supported Sasha's creativity. He and Sasha could often be found working together on imaginative writing, self-publishing many stories and humorous cartoons together. Evan admired Sasha's joy for acting and was so proud watching her perform. In the evenings, Evan and Laura would get lost in long conversations, often staying up too late in the process. They connected over long walks with their dogs, Tilla and Penny. Evan continued his career in Minnesota, working in private law practice for the next 12 years, most recently for Maslon LLC. He dedicated significant time to his pro bono work, helping many organizations in the Twin Cities, and was recognized for his important work with many accolades. In his free time, Evan appreciated simple times with loved ones. Golfing with his mom, brother, and friends. Taking trips. Teaching his kids how to bodysurf in big waves. Evan was always reading—devouring any book, newspaper, or magazine in sight. Evan faced chronic pain with quiet determination for most of his life, confronting it privately through research, physical therapy, and medical protocols. In recent months, Evan endured difficult injuries, his health challenges intensified, and his mental health suffered. He sought help and worked tirelessly to get better. Despite his courageous efforts and the devoted support of his family, Evan's illness and pain became too much to overcome. Through it all, Evan remained a loving father, playmate, and partner to Laura, Sasha, and Tim. He will be dearly missed and loved forever. Evan is survived by his loving wife Laura Berquist and two children, Tim and Sasha Berquist; parents Alice and Charles Berquist, brother Blake Berquist (Andrea Larson) and many family members and friends whom he loved. Service details will be forthcoming. In lieu of flowers, donations in Evan's memory can be made to the Berquist Family. Laura, Tim and Sasha will spend time talking about Evan's big heart and commitment to service and carefully choose charity recipients in his name.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO KELLEY ERSTINE

● Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, today I would like to offer my congratulations to Mr. Kelley Erstine for his induction into the Arkansas Insurance Hall of Fame. A native of Sheridan, AR, Mr. Erstine is the CEO of Independent Insurance Agents of Arkansas. As CEO,