

[Rollcall Vote No. 551 Leg.]

YEAS—54

Banks	Fischer	Moody
Barrasso	Graham	Moran
Blackburn	Grassley	Moreno
Boozman	Hagerty	Mullin
Britt	Hawley	Murkowski
Budd	Hoeben	Ricketts
Capito	Husted	Risch
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Collins	Johnson	Schmitt
Cornyn	Justice	Scott (FL)
Cortez Masto	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	King	Sheehy
Cramer	Lankford	Sullivan
Crapo	Lee	Thune
Curtis	Lummis	Tillis
Daines	Marshall	Tuberville
Ernst	McConnell	Wicker
Fetterman	McCormick	Young

NAYS—45

Alsobrooks	Hirono	Rosen
Baldwin	Kaine	Sanders
Bennet	Kelly	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kim	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	Klobuchar	Schumer
Booker	Lujan	Shaheen
Cantwell	Markey	Slotkin
Coons	Merkley	Smith
Duckworth	Murphy	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murray	Warner
Gallago	Ossoff	Warnock
Gillibrand	Padilla	Warren
Hassan	Paul	Welch
Heinrich	Peters	Whitehouse
Hickenlooper	Reed	Wyden

NOT VOTING—1

Cruz

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). On this vote, the yeas are 54, the nays are 45.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion, upon reconsideration, is not agreed to.

The motion was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, what is the pending business before the Senate?

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the pending business.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2296) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Wicker/Reed amendment modified No. 3748, in the nature of a substitute.

Wicker (for Ernst) amendment No. 3427 (to amendment No. 3748), to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on casualty assistance and long-term care programs.

Thune amendment No. 3863 (to amendment No. 3427), relating to the enactment date.

Thune amendment No. 3864 (to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 3748), relating to the enactment date.

Thune amendment No. 3865 (to amendment No. 3864), relating to the enactment date.

Motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Armed Services, with instructions, Thune amendment No. 3866, relating to the enactment date.

Thune amendment No. 3867 (to (the instructions) amendment No. 3866), relating to the enactment date.

Thune amendment No. 3868 (to amendment No. 3867), relating to the enactment date.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, we know that under Joe Biden and Chris Wray's leadership, the FBI, it turns out, was truly rotten to the core. In many ways, they oversaw the worst political corruption of the justice system in our Nation's history, and now we have proof.

They raided Mar-a-Lago. They indicted President Trump on baseless charges and weaponized America's top law enforcement Agency against conservatives, against parents, and against people of faith.

On Monday, we found out that this abuse of power had reached the Halls of the Congress. Thanks to internal FBI documents provided by Director Patel and Deputy Director Bongino to Chairman GRASSLEY, we now know that the Biden FBI tracked the private communications of eight U.S. Senators, including me.

What we have in common is this: We are all Republicans, we all support President Trump, and we all had questions about the 2020 election.

According to the documents that were given, the FBI tracked who we were calling on our phones, who was calling us, where we were physically located when the calls were made or received, and how long each call lasted. This is an abuse of authority. It is despicable. And we know that their abuses were far greater and more numerous than those abuses toward us.

Earlier this year, Chairman GRASSLEY released whistleblower disclosures showing that the Biden FBI obtained the government-issued cell phones of both President Trump and former Vice President Pence.

Last month, we learned that the Agency launched a political investigation into nearly 100 Republican and conservative groups, including the Republican National Committee, the Republican Attorneys General Association, and Charlie Kirk's Turning Point USA.

We are only learning about this weaponization of government against conservatives because the Trump administration is committed to total transparency for the American people. The work that President Trump, his administration, Attorney General Pam Bondi, Director Patel, and Deputy Director Bongino are doing is so appreciated—not only by us but by the American people.

It is time for the weaponization of government to stop. It is time to make certain that these individuals who did this, who were part of the CR-15 unit that worked with Jack Smith, who were working on Arctic Frost—it is time for them to be fired from their positions. And I appreciate that this work is taking place each and every day.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. President, yesterday, my colleagues and I who are on the Judiciary Committee had the pleasure of hearing from Attorney General Bondi, who has done so much to restore accountability and transparency at the U.S. Department of Justice.

Instead of waging political investigations, the Department, under her leadership, is focused on enforcing the rule of law, and that includes enforcing the rule of law in Memphis, TN.

As we speak, the Justice Department and FBI are among the 13 Federal Agencies that are on the ground working with local and State officials to support the Memphis Police Department and to lock up violent criminals.

In just over a week of operations, President Trump's Memphis Safe Task Force has delivered tremendous results. As of Monday, authorities have made 321 arrests. This includes 82 who were on ICE warrants, 41 on gun charges, 18 for sex offenses, and 1 for homicide. This is on top of the 503 gang members who were arrested by the FBI in their work from July 15 to September 15.

Having the additional Agencies there is support that has truly been needed in Memphis to sustain this work that is rooting out gangs and criminals.

Last year, the city of Memphis saw the highest crime rate in the country. In some parts of the city, shootings, robberies, and murders were a daily occurrence.

Memphians have long demanded action to address the city's crime crisis, but the Memphis Police Department is short 500 officers, with just over 20 people in their current recruitment class. With Federal law enforcement helping to keep the peace, Memphis police are now empowered to track down repeat violent criminals, including gang members who have terrorized city residents for too long.

At the same time as the Memphis operation, the Trump administration has surged Federal resources to other crime-ridden cities to restore law and order. In Portland and Chicago, ICE agents have had to overcome obstruction efforts by Democrat elected officials. They have had to push back on Democrat elected officials to enforce the rule of law and to detain criminal illegal aliens.

To preserve the hard-fought wins of the Memphis Safe Task Force and Federal law enforcement across the country, we need to make certain that these violent criminals are behind bars. Yet, in too many cases, soft-on-crime prosecutors and judges have allowed violent criminals back on the streets without bail to continue their criminal activity.

Last year, in Memphis, an 18-year-old who was released without bond after stealing multiple vehicles went on to murder a man in an attempted robbery. Just days earlier, a man released without bail after being charged with auto theft and unlawful possession of a

weapon killed a Memphis police officer in a shootout.

During a Judiciary Committee hearing that I chaired last week on blue-city chaos and tragedy, State Senator Brent Taylor, who represents parts of Memphis, told me that soft-on-crime prosecutors are the weak link in the work Memphis is trying to do and the work that Memphis law enforcement is trying to do. Their DA is the weak link. After years of senseless violence, we cannot allow the hard work of the Memphis Safe Task Force to go to waste.

To ensure that the rule of law is enforced, I recently introduced the Keep Violent Criminals Off Our Streets Act. This legislation is backed by the White House, and it would ban the award of certain Federal funds to States and localities that limit the use of cash bail.

There must be consequences for these leftist officials who put criminals ahead of law-abiding citizens. There have to be consequences for these prosecutors, these DAs, that continue to practice cashless bail policies. So banning these jurisdictions from having those Federal funds is a way that we can say: Enforce cash bail and get these violent criminals off the streets.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, in just a few weeks, millions of Americans will start the process of picking new health insurance plans, and I believe a number of them are going to see the cost of their health insurance double. This is, unfortunately, not a mistake. It is the price of Washington failing them. And it is not just a number on a bill. It is the first sign for these families that their lives are going to be much harder.

We are now 8 days into a government shutdown, but, make no mistake, this debate isn't about something happening here in this building. It is about the price Americans pay for their healthcare—because if we don't work together to extend the Affordable Care Act's premium tax credits, millions of families will see their health insurance costs skyrocket overnight.

Last year alone, 309,000 Arizonans used these tax credits, saving them an average of more than \$400 per month. Many of them would need to pay hundreds of dollars more per month. Some will see their costs more than double.

That is money that a lot of families simply do not have. That means cutting groceries, skipping a car payment, or saying no to the next time that their kid asks to join a school activity, like a Little League team.

For a lot of folks, it will mean losing coverage altogether because they just

cannot afford it. So, now, these families are going to be one accident or one illness away from financial ruin.

This uncertainty could also mean that insurers exit the marketplace, leaving people with limited coverage options.

These are not hypotheticals. Over the last week, I have spent time on the phone with Arizonans who have reached out to my office to share what these tax credits mean for them and what also happens when they go away. I want to share a few stories from these folks, who are already bracing for the worst—because if anyone here is still wondering what this debate is about, this is it.

So I talked to a guy named Rusty, from Tucson. He is a cancer survivor. He runs his own small business in Tucson. He also takes care of his mother, who is in memory care. He told me:

I've been using the Marketplace for years. Last year, I paid \$277 a month for my plan. I've now been told my premiums could jump to between \$450 and \$600 a month.

That will not be sustainable short term or long term.

The premium tax credit has made it affordable for those of us who need health insurance but can't go out to the general market.

I have to have health insurance—

He said—

but [there's] really no way I can afford what is about to happen.

Rusty is not asking for anything extraordinary. He is asking to keep what is already working for him: the ability to afford care while he works hard and contributes to his community.

Robin, who is 60 years old, lives in Northern Arizona and is trying to save for retirement. She said—and this is a quote from Robin:

These subsidies have been crucial in making health insurance affordable. I am struggling to pay for my living expenses as is.

My work has not been enough to provide me with a full-time salary, and although I do have some other form of income, it is still not enough for me to live on should my healthcare subsidy disappear.

I feel like many of us, middle class Americans—

This is Robin—

who are caught up in a trap of helplessness because we do not qualify for other benefits, and yet we do not make enough in order to sustain a healthy quality of life, considering how everything that we need to live on has increased in price.

The expiration of these subsidies could lead to significant increases in healthcare costs and potentially make it difficult to maintain coverage.

Now, Robin doesn't qualify for Medicaid, but she does work hard. She just wants to be able to afford health insurance until she reaches Medicare eligibility. And Robin said she is not looking for a handout; she is looking for a hand up.

Cricket, who is 63, is a realtor from Phoenix. She is self-employed and not yet eligible for Medicare. So for the past 8 years, she has relied on the Affordable Care Act for her health coverage. And if the tax credits go away, her coverage will become unaffordable.

She told me—this is a quote from Cricket:

Without it, I would have faced bankruptcy. If premiums rise or these subsidies go away, I could lose my home and everything I've worked for.

Health care shouldn't be a privilege, it's a right.

Daylene—this next story should remind all of us of what is at stake in this fight. Daylene, from Casa Grande, was diagnosed with congestive heart failure 20 years ago, when she turned 40. Doctors told her that she might live 1 or 2 years. She said, because of these credits, she has been able to afford her insurance and medication that literally keeps her heart beating. She wrote to us:

My monthly cardiac drug costs alone would be over \$2,000 without my insurance from ACA.

She continued to tell me that these credits gave her more than healthcare. It gave her freedom to leave an abusive marriage because, before that, she relied on her husband to afford her healthcare.

That is what this is about. When people can't afford healthcare, they stay in situations they shouldn't stay in just to keep their coverage: a job they don't want; a city they do not want to live in, maybe farther from family; and, in the worst case, an abusive relationship—because they need affordable coverage.

Survival, dignity, and freedom—that is what we are talking about here when we talk about affordable health insurance and care.

In Arizona, people like Rusty and Cricket and Daylene and Robin, they do not have lobbyists. What they have is faith that when they write their Senator, someone will listen. I am not just listening, I am fighting for them and thousands more across my State who are in the same exact position.

These are hard-working people. They are doing everything right. They are not asking for special treatment. They are small business owners who have to purchase their own plans. They are older Americans who aren't yet eligible for Medicare and folks who live in rural Arizona and don't get healthcare through an employer.

There are hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of these people across the country. They are asking for all of us here in this body to work as hard for them as they do for their families. And what makes this so frustrating is how simple the solution is. We can vote today to extend these tax credits and reopen the government. But so far, Donald Trump and my Republican colleagues would rather use people's healthcare as leverage than sit down and work with us to protect it.

Arizonans are counting on us to do what is right, not for political points but for people's lives. That is our job, and I am here ready to work on this with my Democrat and Republican colleagues across the aisle in this Chamber and in the House of Representatives and in the White House. So let's get this done.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

ISLAMIC EXTREMISTS

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about one of the greatest threats facing our country today: Islamic extremism.

You know, 24 years ago, September 11, 2001, nearly 3,000 innocent Americans were murdered in a coordinated terroristic attack carried out by radical Islamic extremists. Those of us who lived through that day remember exactly where we were when those planes hit the buildings. That day changed this country forever.

We were smacked in the face with the reality that there are people who are so hell-bent on destroying America that they will kill themselves just to try to harm us. That is reality. It sends shivers down your spine, but it is true, and it happened.

In the aftermath of 9/11, we created the Department of Homeland Security. Basically, we went to war. We spent the following two decades unsuccessfully attempting to westernize the Middle Eastern countries most responsible for this attack. We strengthened surveillance and gave up personal freedoms in the hope of preventing another large-scale attack.

But 20 years later, we have to ask: Have we made any progress at all in rooting the evil of radical Islam out of this country? Have we done it?

Let's be honest. Radical Islamic terrorism didn't go away after 2001.

In 2009, 13 people were killed in a mass shooting at Fort Hood by an Army psychiatrist who was radicalized by Islamic teachings.

In 2013, three were killed and hundreds injured when two brothers detonated bombs at the finish line of the Boston Marathon. They were inspired by their radical Islamic beliefs.

Then, in 2015, an ISIS-inspired couple killed 14 people and injured 22 at a party in Southern California.

In 2016, Omar Mateen killed 49 people and injured 53 more at a nightclub in Orlando, FL. Mateen pledged allegiance to ISIS during this attack.

It continued in 2019, when a Saudi military trainee opened fire at the Pensacola Naval Air Station, killing three Americans, including one young man from my home State of Alabama.

Earlier this year in Louisiana, a deranged person drove a truck into a crowd on Bourbon Street in New Orleans, killing 14 people. To no one's surprise, he said he was "inspired" by the Islamic State.

These attacks, they weren't just against people, they were an all-out assault on Western culture, freedom, and the values that we hold dear to our heart. But it doesn't stop there.

Thanks to Joe Biden, thousands of people on the suspected Terror Watchlist were allowed to enter this country over the past 4 years. Islamic extremism and Sharia Law openly call for the destruction of America and Western culture.

Let's be clear about this: The thousands of terrorists we have allowed to enter our country have brought their anti-American rhetoric and ideology with them. We are seeing this in cities like Minneapolis, Dearborn, Portland, Chicago, and even New York City.

You know, the leading candidate for mayor of New York City is a far-left socialist who sympathizes with extremist groups like Hamas.

But this insanity sadly isn't limited to New York. We have elected Members of Congress who openly support the radical Islamic terrorist organization Hamas.

Just yesterday, we paused to remember the more than 1,200 innocent people, including 40 Americans—40 Americans—who were slaughtered by Hamas terrorists in Israel on October 7, 2023.

Hamas literally means "Islamic Resistance Movement." It has been 2 years, and two U.S. Congresswomen, OMAR and TLAIB, they still refuse to condemn these heinous crimes in Israel. These two Members were elected to represent American citizens, and they are sympathizing with Islamic terrorists instead. It is almost hard to believe, but it is true. And they don't hide it.

You know, we are allowing people with extremist ideologies, people who hate American values, to not only live here but to hold positions of power and influence in our government. It is un-American, and it is an insult to the millions of Americans who have sacrificed their lives for this country and its freedom.

You know, if you think this poisonous ideology won't affect your way of life, just look at Europe. The United Kingdom, once a proud nation that helped save the world from Nazi tyranny, has essentially lost its identity. It is gone.

Mass migration has destroyed their society. There is no freedom of speech; crime is through the roof; and openly Anti-Semitic, pro-Hamas riots have become a regular occurrence. This is in Europe; this is the UK.

The UK Prime Minister, Keir Starmer, recently appointed a person with extreme pro-Palestinian views as Home Secretary. In the UK, the Home Secretary is in charge of protecting national security, ensuring law and order, and overseeing immigration. What a surprise.

So the person who is in charge of immigration and national security is openly a pro-terrorist. If we aren't careful, the United States will look like Europe in 10 years or less. It is coming.

We can't bury our heads in the sand about this any longer. The Quran openly calls for violence against non-Muslims—openly. Radical Islamists take these instructions literally and use them to justify terror.

It is not politically correct to say this, but it is the damn truth, something you won't hear from the deranged leftists who run cover for Is-

lamic extremism is about the inhumane and disgusting ways that they treat women.

In Muslim countries that follow Sharia law, it is considered normal for women to be raped, trafficked, and forced to marry as young as the age of 6. Pedophilia is rampant, and women are lucky if they are allowed to drive.

I am old enough to remember when Democrats championed the #MeToo movement, which was self-described as a "global, survivor-led movement to end sexual violence."

But these same Democrats who championed the #MeToo movement have been radio silent when it comes to the way women are regularly treated in countries that practice radical Islam. I have yet to hear my Democrat colleagues who are siding with Hamas talk about the brutal ways Hamas has abused the women they have held hostage since October 7, nor have I heard Democrats who claim to be feminists talk about the fact that some Muslim countries that practice Sharia law require women to be completely covered from head to toe.

These women, they are not allowed to get an education, work a job, or, in some cases, even leave home. They are barred from gyms, parks, and beauty salons. They are forbidden from traveling without a male relative and forced to wear certain covering that covers everything but their eyes.

But meanwhile, the men in these countries are allowed to abuse women, have sex with children, or have multiple wives—no problem. Everyone, but especially feminist groups, should be outraged about this horrible abuse of women, but that doesn't fit the left's narrative. So you won't hear a peep from liberal so-called feminists about the disgusting treatment of women in radical Islamic countries.

You also won't hear from Democrats about how radical Islamic terrorists are currently carrying out a mass genocide of Christians in Nigeria. Think about this, more than 62,000 Christians have been slaughtered since 2000 by radical Islamic terrorists in Nigeria. You heard that right, 62,000.

In just this year alone, more than 7,000 Nigerian Christians have been murdered because of their faith alone.

You can't turn on the TV without hearing about Israel's so-called mass genocide of Palestinians—every day. Yet, when it comes to 62,000 Christians being slaughtered by radical Muslims, it is radio silence. This extreme ideology is straight from the pit of Hell, and it has no place in American society.

We are blessed that freedom of worship is a constitutionally guaranteed right in this country. That is what our forefathers fought for. If you want to come here legally, practice a peaceful version of Islam, and blend into our society life by adopting the treasured values of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, you are welcome to do so.

But if you believe that Sharia law supersedes American law, you should be

deported immediately. If we don't take a stand now, our way of life, our Christian values, our freedoms, and our national identity will disappear. There is only room for one law in this country, and that is the Constitution of the United States of America. Sharia law is anti-American and has no place in a free society.

Texas has already taken action to ban Sharia law, and I commend it. Other States should follow. We must protect American values, not apologize for them. I truly believe we are at a crossroads in this country.

For too long, people have tiptoed around this issue, afraid to hurt somebody's feelings or make people uncomfortable. But the time for being politically correct is over. The truth is that radical Islamic extremists want every single freedom-loving American dead—bottom line. They have proven over and over again that they are willing to do whatever it takes to kill just one American citizen, whatever it takes.

It doesn't just happen overseas. It has been allowed to fester and is alive and well in our very own country, just waiting for the right opportunity to attack. It is coming.

Just yesterday, thousands of extremists gathered in New York to champion radical Islam; it is scary. So the question is, Will we continue down this path and end up like Europe or will we honor the sacrifices made by the millions of Americans who have given their lives for our freedoms by standing up against people like the radical Islam?

Now is the time to act because if we don't, we will lose this country as we know it. It will be gone. This isn't about a Republican or Democrat issue; it is an American issue.

I hope my Democrat colleagues will join me in sending a loud, clear message that we will not tolerate Sharia law in this country—not now, not ever.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BANKS). The Senator from Alaska.

ALASKA'S RIGHT TO IVORY SALES AND TRADITION ACT

ACCELERATING NETWORKING, CYBERINFRASTRUCTURE, AND HARDWARE FOR OCEANIC RE- SEARCH ACT

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I am down on the Senate floor here to try to pass two really important pieces of legislation for a great part of Alaska, and this is the Alaska Native community in my State. These are incredible, patriotic Americans. By the way, Alaska Natives serve at higher rates in the military than any other ethnic group in the country. They are great Americans. They add so much to our State. They are the first peoples of Alaska, and so in my State, it is almost about 20 percent of the population. So it is a population I care deeply about.

We work closely with them on so many different issues across so many different areas, and so I like to legislate in the areas that matter to them. And we are going to do that. You know, lately—and I am going to try to stay positive here; I have given speeches on the Senate floor about this before—some of my Democratic colleagues on the other side of the aisle have taken it out on the Alaska Native people in legislation, really kind of bad stuff. I am not going to be negative, but there has been this trend of anti-Alaska Native bias on the other side of the aisle. It has been very disappointing. To be honest, it has been puzzling.

But I am hoping today, these two bills that we are going to move forward that go to the heart of Alaska Native culture in one and Alaska Native patriotism in the other are going to be UC'd. I know my Republican colleagues have already passed on these.

So the first piece of legislation I want to bring up is what we call the Alaska's Right To Ivory Sales and Tradition. The acronym on that is the ARTIST Act.

Now, let me give you a little bit of background on this. For thousands of years Alaska Natives have responsibly harvested whales, walrus, other marine animals from our northern seas. These animals are eaten, shared, honored, and no part of the animal goes to waste.

They still do this tradition in my State. They have the right to do it under law. The bones, the ivory, the baleen, even all of those pieces are used for beautiful art. If you have had a chance to visit my office, you have seen the beautiful art that adorns the walls of my Senate office. Carvings made from whale baleen, walrus tusks, crafted by Alaska Native artists.

This is some of the most beautiful art in America. It is deeply ingrained in Alaska's culture, the ability to make this art. It also provides important economic opportunity for our artists in many of these remote villages, artists who rely on the ability to sell these works to Alaskans and the hundreds of thousands of people who come to my great State to visit who want to take home a piece of Alaska Native heritage. So it is a win-win-win for everybody, but it is an economic driver of a lot of small villages in my State.

And by the way, carving, harvesting walrus ivory is completely legal under Federal law, Federal regulations, Federal law. There is no question about that. However, there has been some, I guess, well-intentioned laws from some States that in an attempt to ban African elephant ivory, which we all want to do that—that is not allowed in America, by the way—States have gone too far and cast this huge net and said you can't buy any ivory products anywhere, including Alaska Native products from Alaska walrus harvesting.

This really has hurt my State. People coming up from States that have banned all ivory say: I can't take that home. I can't buy it. Sorry.

So this is a simple, simple bill. You know, if a visitor wants to come buy some ivory earrings in Alaska by one of our great Alaska Native artists and then bring them home to a State that has a ban on ivory, which is not sensible—again, walrus ivory, not African elephant ivory—we want to be able to say at the Federal level that we should be able to do this.

So that is what my ARTIST Act does. It prohibits States from banning the importation, sale, or possession of Alaskan Native handicrafts made with walrus ivory. Environmental groups support it. By the way, the Biden administration supported this. It is straightforward bipartisan legislation that recently was passed unanimously by the Commerce Committee.

So this is about as bipartisan as it gets. And what I want to do is to cut through the confusion that there now exists with certain States and a lot of tourists in my great State, to affirm the right of the Alaska Native people to continue these centuries-old practices of sustainable, respectful ivory carving, entirely within Federal law, and to be able to make sure that is clarified across the country.

So I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 178, that is S. 254; further, that the committee-reported substitute amendment be considered and agreed to, the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

Mr. PADILLA. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I ask that the Senator modify his request and the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following bills en bloc: Calendar No. 178, S. 254, and Calendar No. 169, S. 318; that the committee-reported substitute amendments be considered and agreed to en bloc; the bills, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed en bloc; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator so modify his request?

Mr. SULLIVAN. Yes, I agree to the modification.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bills by title en bloc.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 254) to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to protect the cultural practices and livelihoods of producers of Alaska Native handicrafts and marine mammal ivory products, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation with an amendment to strike all