

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

after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*, as follows:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Alaska’s Right to Ivory Sales and Tradition Act” or the “ART-IST Act”.

SEC. 2. ALASKA NATIVE HANDICRAFTS.

Section 101(b) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act Of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1371(b)) is amended to read as follows:

“(b) EXEMPTION FOR ALASKAN NATIVES.—

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) AUTHENTIC ALASKA NATIVE ARTICLE OF HANDICRAFTS AND CLOTHING.—The term ‘authentic Alaska Native article of handicrafts and clothing’ means an item composed wholly, or in some significant respect, of natural materials and that is produced, decorated, or fashioned in the exercise of traditional Alaska Native handicrafts by an Alaska Native who resides in Alaska and who dwells on the coast of the North Pacific Ocean or the Arctic Ocean without the use of a pantograph, multiple carvers, or any other mass copying device.

“(B) MARINE MAMMAL IVORY.—The term ‘marine mammal ivory’ includes a tooth or tusk from a walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus*) or a species of cetacean.

“(C) TRADITIONAL ALASKA NATIVE HANDICRAFTS.—The term ‘traditional Alaska Native handicrafts’ includes weaving, carving, stitching, sewing, lacing, beading, drawing, and painting.

“(2) EXEMPTION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in section 109, the provisions of this Act shall not apply with respect to the taking of any marine mammal by any Alaska Native who resides in Alaska and who dwells on the coast of the North Pacific Ocean or the Arctic Ocean if such taking—

“(i)(I) is for subsistence purposes; or

“(II) is done for purposes of creating and selling authentic Alaska Native articles of handicrafts and clothing; and

“(ii) in each case, is not accomplished in a wasteful manner.

“(B) SPECIAL RULES.—

“(A) INTERSTATE COMMERCE OF ITEMS.—An item presented as an authentic Alaska Native article of handicrafts and clothing may be sold in interstate commerce only if it comports with the definition provided in paragraph (1)(A).

“(ii) EDIBLE PORTION OF MARINE MAMMAL.—Any edible portion of a marine mammal taken for the purpose of creating and selling authentic Alaska Native articles of handicrafts and clothing may be sold for native consumption or in a native village or town in Alaska.

“(3) LIMITATIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding paragraph (2), if, under this Act, the Secretary determines any species or stock of marine mammal subject to taking by Alaska Natives to be depleted, the Secretary may prescribe regulations upon the taking of such marine mammals by any Alaska Native described in this subsection.

“(B) CONTENT OF REGULATIONS.—The regulations described in subparagraph (A) may be established with reference to species or stocks, geographical area, the season for taking, or any other factors related to the reason for establishing such regulations and consistent with the purposes of this Act.

“(C) NOTICE AND HEARING; REMOVAL OF REGULATIONS.—The regulations described in subparagraph (A) shall be prescribed after notice and hearing required by section 103 of this title and shall be removed as soon as the Secretary determines that the need for their imposition has disappeared.

“(D) REGULATIONS TO BE SUPPORTED BY SUBSTANTIAL EVIDENCE.—In promulgating any regulation or making any assessment pursuant to a hearing or proceeding under this subsection or section 117(b)(2), or in making any determination of depletion under this subsection or find-

ing regarding unmitigable adverse impacts under subsection (a)(5) that affects stocks or persons to which this subsection applies, the Secretary shall demonstrate in writing (and make such writing publicly available on the website of the Secretary) that, in consideration of the whole record, including Indigenous knowledge, such regulation, assessment, determination, or finding is supported by substantial evidence.

“(E) APPLICABILITY.—The requirement under subparagraph (D) shall only be applicable in an action brought by one or more Alaska Native organizations representing persons to which this subsection applies.

“(4) PROHIBITIONS.—No State shall prohibit the interstate commerce, importation, sale, offer for sale, transfer, trade, barter, possession, or possession with the intent to sell, transfer, trade, or barter of marine mammal ivory or marine mammal bone or baleen incorporated under this title by an Alaska Native, into an authentic Alaska Native article of handicrafts and clothing.

“(5) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to—

“(A) impact the rights of any Indian Tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)) in effect on the date of enactment of the Alaska’s Right to Ivory Sales and Tradition Act; or

“(B) undermine any government-to-government consultation or engagement.”.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 318) to require a plan to improve the cybersecurity and telecommunications of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet, 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 after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*, as follows:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Accelerating Networking, Cyberinfrastructure, and Hardware for Oceanic Research Act” or the “ANCHOR Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the Director of the National Science Foundation.

(2) OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH VESSEL.—The term “oceanographic research vessel” has the meaning given the term in section 2101 of title 46, United States Code.

(3) U.S. ACADEMIC RESEARCH FLEET.—The term “U.S. Academic Research Fleet” means the United States flagged vessels that—

(A) have been accepted into, and are active participants administered within, the University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System;

(B) are operated as oceanographic research vessels by research universities and laboratories;

(C) receive funding from the National Science Foundation; and

(D) have achieved designation as a member vessel of the fleet through a standard evaluation process.

SEC. 3. PLAN TO IMPROVE CYBERSECURITY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS OF U.S. ACADEMIC RESEARCH FLEET.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall, in consultation with the head of any Federal agency, university, or laboratory that owns or operates a vessel of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet, submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a

plan to improve the cybersecurity and telecommunications of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The plan required by subsection (a) shall include—

(1) an assessment of the telecommunications and networking needs of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet, consistent with the typical scientific missions of the vessels of such fleet;

(2) in consultation with the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency and the National Institute of Standards and Technology, an assessment of cybersecurity needs appropriate for—

(A) the ownership of vessels within the U.S. Academic Research Fleet; and

(B) the scientific missions of such vessels;

(3) an assessment of the costs necessary to meet the needs described in paragraphs (1) and (2), including—

(A) any necessary equipment, such as satellite communications equipment, software, high-performance computing clusters shipboard and shoreside, or enterprise hardware; and

(B) estimated personnel costs in excess of current expenditures, including any necessary training, support, or logistics;

(4) an assessment of the time required to implement any upgrades required to meet the needs described in paragraphs (1) and (2) under varying budgets and funding scenarios;

(5) the adoption of common solutions or consensual licensing agreements, or by centralizing elements of fleet cybersecurity, telecommunications, or data management at a single facility; and

(6) in consultation with any non-Federal owners of a vessel of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet, a spending plan for the National Science Foundation, the Office of Naval Research, non-Federal owners of vessels of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet, users of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet, or any combination thereof, to provide funding to cover the costs described in paragraph (3).

(c) CONSIDERATIONS.—The Director shall, in preparing the plan required by subsection (a), consider—

(1) the network capabilities, including speed and bandwidth targets, necessary to meet the scientific mission needs of each class of vessels of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet for such purposes as—

(A) executing the critical functions and communications of the vessels;

(B) providing network access to conduct medical care via telemedicine or related crisis response care;

(C) as necessary to meet operations, uploading any scientific data to a shoreside server, including the copying of data off ship for disaster recovery or risk mitigation purposes;

(D) as appropriate, conducting real-time streaming to enable shore-based observers to participate in ship-based maintenance or research activities; and

(E) real-time coordinated viewing of—

(i) scientific instrumentation so that it is possible to conduct scientific surveys and seafloor mapping with fully remote subject-matter experts; and

(ii) critical operational technology by manufacturers and vendors so that it is possible to carry out maintenance and repairs to systems with limited expertise on the vessel, with fully remote subject-matter experts advising; and

(2) in consultation with the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the heads of other Federal agencies, as appropriate—

(A) the cybersecurity recommendations in the report of the private scientific advisory group known as JASON entitled “Cybersecurity at NSF Major Facilities” (JSR-21-10E) and dated October 2021 as applied to the U.S. Academic Research Fleet;

(B) standards and guidance for information security, including the use of encryption for

sensitive information, the detection and handling of security incidents, and other areas determined relevant by the Director;

(C) facilitating access to cybersecurity personnel and training of research and support personnel; and

(D) the requirements for controlled unclassified or classified information.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Hearing no objection, the committee-reported substitutes are considered and agreed to, the bills, as amended, are considered read a third time and passed, and the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The committee-reported amendments, in the nature of a substitute, were agreed to en bloc.

The bill (S. 254), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

The bill (S. 318), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I want to let people know back home that means that that bill, the ARTIST bill that we have been trying to get moved for a long time, just passed the U.S. Senate. So I want to thank my colleague from California, my friend from California who has worked with me, by the way, on one of the other bills that just passed. I was a cosponsor with Senator PADILLA on that, so this is good Senate cooperation on these issues.

So that is an important issue for Alaskan Native heritage, culture, artists, and now it has passed the Senate. So, again, I want to thank Senator PADILLA.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 410

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, now I hope we can move to the next bill that, to be honest, should be even easier because the bill I am going to try to pass right now passed the U.S. Senate in December, unanimously. It already passed, so this should be a no-brainer. I hope my Senate colleague from California is on the floor here ready to give this bill his full endorsement and not object to it.

Let me just talk about this bill, briefly. Again, it already passed. It passed the House in July, so if we pass it right now, it is going to go to the President of the United States' desk for a signing. And this is a really big deal for my constituents.

Here is what it is: I talked about what I called the special patriotism of Alaska Natives. They serve at higher rates in the military than any other ethnic group in the country.

They had a situation when so many—and I mean thousands and thousands—of Alaskan Natives were serving in Vietnam. When a whole host of Americans didn't want to serve in Vietnam, Alaska Natives answered the call. So

we have tens of thousands of Vietnam vets.

And when they came home, like a lot of Vietnam vets, they were not treated well. That was horrible. Our country should apologize for the horrible treatment our Vietnam vets got. Let's face it, as Alaska Natives, a lot of people still discriminated against Alaska Natives back then. They weren't treated well in that regard either. And, finally, a law had changed when they were overseas.

Alaska Native people used to have a right, starting in 1906, for a Native allotment; that is, 160 acres of land that if they can prove this is where their family raised them and hunted and fished, they could get that allotment—160 acres.

Well, when they were overseas fighting in Vietnam, that law changed. So here they were serving their country—when a lot of American males were avoiding service—and they got home, and they were told: By the way, your allotment that you are supposed to be able to get, that you wanted your whole life, that allotment changed, and you can't do it anymore. Huge injustice.

So during the first Trump administration, I introduced legislation called the Alaska Native Vietnam Veterans Land Allotment Act. And it said: Hey, if you were overseas serving in the military and you came home and the ability to get your allotment extinguished, you shouldn't be penalized for fighting for your country. You get the extended time to get your allotment. So that bill passed.

I was in the Oval Office when President Trump signed it. It was a great day for Alaska Natives, Vietnam veterans, very patriotic. It was a 5-year program. Unfortunately, we had Secretary Haaland implement it. Secretary Haaland did not implement it. Secretary Haaland, when she went through her confirmation hearing, committed to me twice: Senator, I will make this a priority of mine to implement this bill. You know what she did? She didn't do anything.

Shamefully, because radical leftwing environmental groups told her: We don't want anyone else getting land in Alaska, she did 40 allotments out of well over almost 3,000 available. She dragged her feet. She delayed it for 2 years.

So the 5-year program has almost run out of time because Secretary of the Interior Haaland was more interested in appeasing radical leftwing environmental groups than she was getting Alaska Natives their allotment, which is what the law demanded.

So this bill is very simple. Because of that delay, it changes two words in the already passed law. It says "5 years" to "10 years." It is just a 5-year extension to a bill that everybody agrees with.

These patriotic Alaska Native Vietnam vets deserve their allotments, and they shouldn't have to suffer because of Secretary Haaland's delay tactics.

So this bill has already passed the House. This bill passed the Senate unanimously in December, and I am really hoping that my Democratic colleagues—respecting the indigenous Native people of my State and their valiant Vietnam service—will join with me in just passing it, like we did in December, and it will go right to the President's desk, and they will have 5 more years to really implement this really important piece of legislation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 410 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; further, that the bill 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 objection?

The Senator from California.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I am very glad that we were able to find a bipartisan approach to the Commerce Committee bills that were passed just a few minutes ago, not just because I know it is important to my colleague from Alaska and to his constituents, but so that Native Alaskans know that this side of the aisle also supports them as well.

But as it pertains to these bills, I think we need to find a similar bipartisan approach on the Energy and Natural Resource bills that the Senator from Alaska is suggesting that we approve by unanimous consent. I am more than happy and eager to sit down with my colleague and the chair and ranking member of the committee to put together a larger package of bills to ensure that both Republican and Democratic priorities reach the President's desk and get signed into law.

I think, historically, we have been successful at avoiding a piecemeal approach, instances where only one party's priorities or one Chamber's priorities reach the President's desk and get signed into law.

And so I look forward to continuing to work in that spirit to continue the conversation with my colleague from Alaska to arrive at a balanced, bipartisan package of bills and work together to advance them. Therefore, I must object at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I appreciate my colleague from California's cooperation on the first bill, the ARTIST Act.

I am a little disappointed here on this one because, you know, it is a little bit of a delay tactic, but he certainly has my commitment to work with him, if they need to try to pair this. But I will say this: The 5 years of this bill expires at the end of this year, and we cannot—regardless if there is pairing or not pairing—we cannot let this bill expire. These great American