NOMINATION OF JENNIFER LEE MASCOTT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today the Senate will vote to confirm Jennifer Lee Mascott, nominated to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

Ms. Mascott is a nominee who was selected for her loyalty to President Trump and her extreme view on expansive Presidential power, which she has advocated for many years.

At a Federalist Society event in 2018, she agreed with John Eastman, President Trump's disgraced and disbarred lawyer, in stating that any independence of independent Agencies is ''too much.'' And just days before she joined the White House Counsel's Office, she stated that the Supreme Court should overrule Humphrey's Executor, the landmark 90-year precedent establishing the constitutionality of laws protecting the heads of independent Agencies from being fired. She claimed that ''the President needs to be able to . . . get rid of folks who don't follow his instructions'' at independent Agencies.

If Ms. Mascott's arguments carry the day, President Trump will be free to continue his holy war against bipartisan independent Agencies entrusted with protecting the rights and safety of Americans like the Federal Trade Commission and the Consumer Product Safety Commission. If he succeeds, something as important as consumer protection will be based on the whims of the political party in power, not the valued expertise of subject matter experts.

Just last year, Ms. Mascott told this committee that the Supreme Court's outrageous decision granting sweeping immunity to President Trump was ''modest.''

I am also troubled by Ms. Mascott's selection process for this Delaware seat. Nominees are required to provide details about how they were selected, but Ms. Mascott failed to provide the dates when she was interviewed by the White House Counsel's Office. Notably, the Delaware Senators suggested to the White House several well-qualified conservative jurists who had strong ties to the Delaware legal community. Ms. Mascott was selected although she has never lived in Delaware nor any State in the Third Circuit; she is not licensed to practice in Delaware; and she was only admitted to the Third Circuit this May.

For all these reasons, I urge my colleagues to oppose her nomination.

VOTE ON MASCOTT NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Mascott nomination?

Mr. ROUNDS. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Nevada (Mr. CORTEZ MASTO) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 561 Ex.]

YEAS—50

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

NAYS—47

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

NOT VOTING—3

Cortez Masto	Cotton	Cruz

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUSTED). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session and execute the order with respect to Calendar No. 115, S. 2296.

I would reiterate that last vote was a 10-minute vote that took 27 minutes. People should stay close to the floor. Ten-minute votes, OK? Ten-minute votes.

Thank you.

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

The Senator from Kentucky.

AMENDMENT NO. 3761 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3748

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I call up my amendment No. 3761 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. PAUL] proposes an amendment numbered 3761 to amendment No. 3748.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To prohibit earnings on balances maintained at a Federal Reserve bank by or on behalf of a depository institution)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. PROHIBITION ON EARNINGS AND OVERNIGHT REVERSE REPURCHASE AGREEMENT FACILITIES.

(a) EARNINGS.—Section 19(b) of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 461(b)) is amended by striking paragraph (12) and inserting the following:

''(12) EARNINGS ON BALANCES.—No Federal Reserve bank may pay earnings on balances maintained at a Federal Reserve bank by or on behalf of a depository institution.''.

(b) OVERNIGHT REVERSE REPURCHASE AGREEMENT FACILITIES.—Section 14(b)(2) of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 355(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''(2) To'' and inserting ''(2)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), to''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) No Federal reserve bank may participate in any overnight reverse repurchase agreement facility or enter into any reverse repurchase agreement.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section and the amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

Mr. PAUL. I ask unanimous consent that the debate be 4 minutes, equally divided.

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

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, the Federal Reserve pays both foreign and domestic banks to simply park their money in Fed accounts—in other words, to not loan money at all.

Over the past 5 years, the Fed's big bank bailout amounts to over half a trillion dollars. This bailout causes the Fed to operate at a loss, which means the Fed cannot remit profits to the taxpayer as it normally does. According to the economist Judy Shelton, if these payments stopped, ''banks would [buy] Treasury Securities,'' and it would bring interest rates down. Some people say that this program is a floor to interest rates.

My amendment ends these subsidies. Let's end the Fed's big bank bailout. Let's lower interest rates. Please vote for my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, during the 2008 financial crisis and the $700 billion bailout for giant banks, the Federal Reserve exploited another authority to shovel money out the back door and into the hands of those giant banks.

For the first time ever, the Fed started paying interest on overnight funds that big financial institutions deposit with the Fed. This was a dream come true for those financial giants—no risk and lots of free money printed by the Fed.

How much money? Seven hundred eighty-five billion dollars since 2008.

Some of that money could have been used to pay down the national debt or fund tax cuts or whatever Congress wanted. Instead, public money went

straight into the pockets of giant banks.

And the Fed has a very convoluted argument about why they should be allowed to pay interest, claiming it helps them set interest rates. But no one is fooled. Before 2008, the Fed managed interest rates while paying zero on overnight funds and never had a problem.

Let's call this out for what it is: another taxpayer subsidy for giant banks.

If another emergency happens and the Fed needs authority to lend out money like that, make them come to Congress, and let's get a vote on it.

Last year alone, the banks earned $270 billion in profits. Jamie Dimon made $39 million. Other megabanks' CEOs made at least $30 million. The banking industry does not need another subsidy from American taxpayers.

This bipartisan proposal would end that subsidy. I urge a ''yes'' vote on Paul No. 3761. And understand, today's vote is just the start of a bipartisan fight to get this bill signed into law.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I oppose the Paul amendment. This amendment would remove one of the primary tools used by the Federal Reserve to implement monetary policy. The Fed used these tools that have been indicated on the floor with great effectiveness to contain the damage in financial crises in 2008 and 2020.

In this uncertain economic moment, handcuffing the Fed would be a grave mistake. Unemployment is increasing, inflation is not contained, markets are highly volatile, tariffs are imposed and rescinded, and the Fed is under constant attack from the White House.

The Fed needs all the tools in its box to prevent a crisis. We cannot wait in another crisis to have the Fed ask Congress to respond. That would be going in the wrong direction. If Congress does remove these tools, then the Fed could be forced to begin a fire sale on Treasury securities and mortgage-backed securities worth trillions of dollars, and the Fed will no longer be able to control the monetary system.

We have to do what we can to ensure that the Federal Reserve can prevent a crisis, and that it is not left waiting on the sidelines in the crisis unable to respond effectively.

I urge a ''no'' vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, briefly, a number of Members are at their desks and will vote from their desks. I am told that the majority leader means it when he says we are going to have 10-minute votes. I would urge my colleagues, we can have a speedy disposition of all of these important amendments or we can go into the wee hours. I urge my Members to consider their votes.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 3761

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question now occurs on adoption of the amendment.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 14, nays 83, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 562 Leg.]

YEAS—14

Cantwell	Markey	Sanders
Durbin	Marshall	Scott (FL)
Hawley	Merkley	Warren
Lee	Murphy	Welch
Lummis	Paul	

NAYS—83

Alsobrooks	Graham	Padilla
Baldwin	Grassley	Peters
Banks	Hagerty	Reed
Barrasso	Hassan	Ricketts
Bennet	Heinrich	Risch
Blackburn	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rounds
Blunt Rochester	Hoeven	Schatz
Booker	Husted	Schiff
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Britt	Johnson	Schumer
Budd	Justice	Scott (SC)
Capito	Kaine	Shaheen
Cassidy	Kelly	Sheehy
Collins	Kennedy	Slotkin
Coons	Kim	Smith
Cornyn	King	Sullivan
Cotton	Klobuchar	Thune
Cramer	Lankford	Tillis
Crapo	Luján	Tuberville
Curtis	McConnell	Van Hollen
Daines	McCormick	Warner
Duckworth	Moody	Warnock
Ernst	Moran	Whitehouse
Fetterman	Moreno	Wicker
Fischer	Mullin	Wyden
Gallego	Murray	Young
Gillibrand	Ossoff	

NOT VOTING—3

Cortez Masto	Cruz	Murkowski

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 14, the nays are 83.

The 60-vote threshold having not been achieved, the amendment is not agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3761) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

AMENDMENT NO. 3274 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3748

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I would call up amendment No. 3274 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Texas [Mr. CORNYN], for Mr. CRUZ, proposes an amendment numbered 3274 to amendment No. 3748.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To extend the prohibition on certain reductions to B–1 bomber aircraft squadrons)

At the appropriate place in subtitle D of title I, insert the following:

SEC. ___. EXTENSION OF PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN REDUCTIONS TO B–1 BOMBER AIRCRAFT SQUADRONS.

Subsection (d)(1) of section 133 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117–81; 135 Stat. 1574), as most recently amended by section 146 of the Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 (Public Law 118–159; 138 Stat. 1810), is further amended by striking ''September 30, 2026'' and inserting ''September 30, 2030''.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, this amendment would make sure there is no gap between the deployment of the B–1 bomber currently housed in Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota and Dyess Air Force Base in Texas. No gap—we don't retire this workhorse prematurely until the development and deployment of the B–21 bomber.

This not only has the largest payload of any U.S. aircraft, it is also the U.S. Air Force's testbed bomber for hypersonic weapons, making it a supersonic standoff missile truck ready for future conflict.

I would ask all of my colleagues to support it, and we would be happy to have a voice vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, this amendment would not change the current budget or program of the U.S. Air Force. The Air Force is already planning to keep the B–1 fleet longer than 2030, but this will signal a congressional intent to do so.

I would also request a voice vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, this is an excellent amendment.

I ask unanimous consent to vitiate the 60-vote threshold in relation to the Cruz amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 3274

The question occurs on adoption of the amendment.

The amendment (No. 3274) was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

AMENDMENT NO. 3535 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3748

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 2 minutes for each side.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Would you call up your amendment, please.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 3535 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Florida [Mr. SCOTT] proposes an amendment numbered 3535 to amendment No. 3748.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To require Presidential appointment and Senate confirmation of the Inspector General of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection)

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT OF INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM AND THE BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 4 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 401—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection,'' after ''National Security Agency,''; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by inserting ''the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System;'' after ''National Security Agency;'';

(2) in section 415—

(A) in subsection (a)(1)(A), by striking ''the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection,'';

(B) in subsection (c), by striking the third and fourth sentences; and

(C) in subsection (g)—

(i) by striking paragraph (3); and

(ii) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (3);

(3) in section 418, by striking ''or 421'' and inserting ''421, or 425''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''§ 425. Special provisions concerning the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Inspector General of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection shall have all of the authorities and responsibilities provided by this chapter—

''(1) with respect to the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, as if the Bureau were part of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; and

''(2) with respect to a Federal reserve bank without the permission of the Federal reserve bank.

''(b) RELATIONSHIP TO DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY.—The provisions of subsection (a) of section 412 of this title (other than the provisions of subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (E) of subsection (a)(1) of section 412 of this title) shall apply to the Inspector General of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection and the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System in the same manner as such provisions apply to the Inspector General of the Department of the Treasury and the Secretary of the Treasury, respectively.''.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 4 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 424 the following:

''425. Special provisions concerning the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on January 31, 2029.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. I ask that each side have 2 minutes to discuss it.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I rise today to offer my amendment, Scott No. 3535, to bring accountability and transparency to every American, including our brave service men and women.

For too long, our Nation's central bank, under the leadership of Jay Powell, has failed to do its basic duty of providing stability for American families.

Jay Powell's Federal Reserve has not only mismanaged the Federal's monetary policy but is overseeing regulatory and bank failures, reports of corruption, unethical practices among its own members, and a flagrant disregard for the best interest of American families.

This is all being completely overlooked by their inspector general because he is handpicked by the Fed Chairman, reports to the Fed Chairman. He gets paid by the Fed Chairman. He sets his salary. It is a clear conflict of interest.

We need accountability at the Fed to rebuild the public's trust, and that means bringing in an independent, Senate-confirmed inspector general at the Federal Reserve.

I urge all my colleagues to support this bipartisan effort to establish an independent inspector general at the Federal Reserve so we can bring true accountability to the Fed and ensure the central bank is working in America's best interest.

I yield to my colleague Senator WARREN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I rise to support Senator SCOTT's bill that would increase oversight of the Federal Reserve.

I believe in Fed independence so the Fed can do its work setting interest rates and maximizing employment, but independence does not mean insulation from following the rules—especially ethics rules.

For years, the Fed has rebuffed congressional oversight, and for years, Fed officials have been caught up in ethics scandals without any accountability.

Unlike virtually every other major Federal Agency, the Fed hires and fires and sets the salary for its own inspector general. That means that in 2021, when high-level Fed officials were embroiled in a scandal involving financial trades they made during the COVID pandemic, the Fed's own in-house IG conducted the only investigation and said, essentially: Nothing to see here.

Maybe that is right, but the Fed's watchdog should be truly independent and able to call out abuses.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Ms. WARREN. I urge a ''yes'' vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to oppose this amendment.

I will say there is no argument that we should reform parts of the process for an IG for the Federal Reserve, but this amendment is not that reform that is necessary.

What this amendment does is it will increase the political control over an independent central bank by allowing the President—the President—to hire and fire the Federal Reserve's independent inspector general at will.

This is part of the administration's attack on the Fed's independence—the independence that is absolutely integral to our economy's success. The President has attempted to illegally remove a Governor from her post and threatened to fire the Chair of the Board. He is doing this to exert political control over the Fed's monetary decisions.

No President, current or future—this should also apply to future Presidents—should have increased powers to politicize our central bank and its critical monetary policy decisions, whether it is by attempting to take it over through the OMB, manufacturing partisan investigations at the Justice Department, or appointing a political operative as the inspector general.

I would urge my colleagues to vote against increasing Presidential power and threatening the independence of the Federal Reserve. We are seeing that now. We cannot further that attempt.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 3535

Mr. WICKER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question occurs on adoption of the amendment.

Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 563 Leg.]

YEAS—53

Banks	Fischer	Moreno
Barrasso	Graham	Mullin
Blackburn	Hagerty	Murphy
Boozman	Hawley	Ricketts
Britt	Hoeven	Risch
Budd	Husted	Sanders
Cantwell	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Justice	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lankford	Sheehy
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cramer	Lummis	Thune
Crapo	Markey	Tuberville
Curtis	Marshall	Warren
Daines	McCormick	Wicker
Durbin	Merkley	Wyden
Ernst	Moody	Young
Fetterman	Moran	

NAYS—43

Alsobrooks	Gillibrand	King
Baldwin	Grassley	Klobuchar
Bennet	Hassan	Luján
Blumenthal	Heinrich	McConnell
Blunt Rochester	Hickenlooper	Murkowski
Booker	Hirono	Murray
Collins	Kaine	Ossoff
Coons	Kelly	Padilla
Duckworth	Kennedy	Peters
Gallego	Kim	Reed

Rosen	Shaheen	Warnock
Rounds	Slotkin	Welch
Schatz	Smith	Whitehouse
Schiff	Van Hollen	
Schumer	Warner	

NOT VOTING—4

Cortez Masto		
Cruz	Paul	Tillis

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 43.

The 60-vote threshold having not been achieved, the amendment is not agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3535) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the next amendment in order be the Curtis amendment No. 3697.

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

The Senator from Utah.

AMENDMENT NO. 3697 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3748

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. President, I call up my amendment No. 3697 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Utah [Mr. CURTIS] proposes an amendment numbered 3697 to amendment No. 3748.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To require a review of the methodologies used to determine the amounts of locality-based comparability payments and to require the President's Pay Agent to conduct a pilot program establishing alternative models for determining the amounts of those payments)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. MODERNIZATION OF THE PAY COMPARABILITY SYSTEM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMPARABILITY PAYMENT.—The term ''comparability payment'' means a comparability payment payable under section 5304 or 5304a of title 5, United States Code.

(2) GENERAL SCHEDULE POSITION; PAY DISPARITY.—The terms ''General Schedule position'' and ''pay disparity'' have the meanings given those terms in section 5302 of title 5, United States Code.

(3) PAY AGENT.—The term ''Pay Agent'' means the agent designated by the President under section 5304(d) of title 5, United States Code.

(b) REQUIREMENT.—The Pay Agent shall enter into a contract with the National Academy of Public Administration under which, not later than 380 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Academy of Public Administration, in consultation with the Pay Agent, the Secretary of Defense, the Federal Salary Council, and the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, shall—

(1) conduct a review of the methodologies used to determine the amounts of comparability payments, which shall include—

(A) an assessment of the extent to which comparability payments align with cost-of-living and labor market data, as derived from—

(i) salary data from the National Compensation Survey and Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics programs administered by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor;

(ii) the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor;

(iii) regional price parity indices published by the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the Department of Commerce;

(iv) the House Price Index published by the Federal Housing Finance Agency;

(v) the National Housing Market Indicators produced by the Department of Housing and Urban Development; and

(vi) other Federal indicators or reputable publicly available indicators, as determined appropriate by the Pay Agent; and

(B) a specific analysis of—

(i) pay disparities in Utah; and

(ii) regional pay disparities affecting the recruitment and retention of Federal employees in defense-related roles, using Utah as a case study for areas undergoing rapid economic growth; and

(2) recommend alternative models for determining the amounts of comparability payments, including by—

(A) making adjustments based on broader economic indicators;

(B) comparing the rates of pay payable under General Schedule positions with the rates of pay payable under positions in the Federal Government that are not General Schedule positions, such as rates of pay established under the AcqDemo Project of the Department of Defense carried out under section 1762 of title 10, United States Code; and

(C) using regional housing market trends, with a particular focus on the markets in Salt Lake City, Ogden, Layton, Utah, and other similarly fast-growing areas, as determined by the Pay Agent.

(c) PILOT PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding sections 5304 and 5304a of title 5, United States Code, after the National Academy of Public Administration completes the review described in subsection (b), the Pay Agent shall carry out a pilot program under which the Pay Agent, after consideration of the alternative models recommended under subsection (b)(2), uses alternative models to determine the amounts of comparability payments that shall be paid in Utah and each area in which a pay disparity described in subsection (b)(1)(B)(ii) exists.

(2) LENGTH OF PILOT PROGRAM.—The pilot program under this subsection shall terminate on the date that is 3 years after the date on which the National Academy of Public Administration completes the review under subsection (b).

(3) NOTIFICATION.—Before implementing a pilot program under this subsection, the Pay Agent shall provide notice regarding, and an explanation of, that pilot program to Congress and the public.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to limit the authority of an agency under section 5305, 5753, or 5754 of title 5, United States Code, to establish special salary rates or offer recruitment, relocation, or retention bonuses while the Pay Agent is carrying out the requirements under subsection (b) or any pilot program under subsection (c).

(e) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as granting authority to use alternative models to determine the amounts of comparability payments after the termination of the pilot program under subsection (c)(2).

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be up to 2 minutes, equally divided.

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

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. President, I rise today in support of my amendment to create a pilot program to address the shortcomings in the locality pay system that are impacting Utah and likely impacting all of you in your military installations and all of your Federal employees around this country.

The outdated locality pay formula has several flaws in its metrics. In my State, it doesn't take into account blue-collar workers. It doesn't even take into account cost of living.

My amendment creates a pilot program for OPM to use Utah's situation as a case study on these pay disparities to improve the formulas for all of us. It is a top priority for Hill Air Force Base and a top priority for me. I suspect, in many of your cases, it is a priority as well.

I urge my colleagues to vote for my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, first off, I would just like to say I thank my colleague from Utah for raising this incredibly important issue.

I have also heard about this issue with Federal locality pay in my home State of Michigan. And I don't think this is a problem just in Utah and Michigan; it is in all of our States. However, I have concerns about how this amendment, as drafted, could unintentionally weaken existing safeguards that ensure consistency and competitive salaries across the Federal workforce. Opening the door to these kinds of changes, in this current environment that we are in right now, is particularly concerning.

The administration has already frozen locality pay and is reshaping the Federal workforce in ways that I certainly do not support. This amendment would give the administration too much authority to inflict additional pain on Federal employees. I would be happy to work together with my colleague on a bill that provides Federal employees with the competitive compensation that they certainly deserve and includes appropriate safeguards to prevent unintended consequences that I know the sponsor of this amendment wants to avoid as well.

But I would urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this amendment until we can go through the work necessary. And I give my commitment to do that to my colleague and friend the Senator from Utah and that we will get this right because it is an issue. It is just not ready today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. President, my thanks to my colleague from Michigan. I think it is clear that we share the objective together.

I also want to point out that I do share your concerns and am anxious to work with you. In my perfect world, we would do this in conference because every day this is not figured out is a day that our troops are not getting the

appropriate pay. If that doesn't happen, let's work together; let's find that common ground between the objective we are trying to accomplish here and the safeguards that you are worried about.

I yield back my time.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 3697

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question now occurs on adoption of amendment No. 3697.

Mr. CURTIS. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 564 Leg.]

YEAS—51

Banks	Graham	Moran
Barrasso	Hagerty	Moreno
Blackburn	Hawley	Mullin
Boozman	Hoeven	Murkowski
Britt	Husted	Paul
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Ricketts
Capito	Johnson	Risch
Cassidy	Justice	Schmitt
Collins	Kaine	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Sheehy
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Curtis	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Welch
Durbin	McCormick	Wicker
Fischer	Moody	Young

NAYS—46

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Rounds
Baldwin	Hirono	Sanders
Bennet	Kelly	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kim	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	King	Schumer
Booker	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cantwell	Luján	Slotkin
Coons	Markey	Smith
Duckworth	Merkley	Van Hollen
Ernst	Murphy	Warner
Fetterman	Murray	Warnock
Gallego	Ossoff	Warren
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Grassley	Peters	Wyden
Hassan	Reed	
Heinrich	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—3

Cortez Masto	Cruz	Tillis

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. MOODY). On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 46. The 60-vote threshold having not been achieved, the amendment is not agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3697) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the next amendment in order be the Cotton-Gillibrand amendment, No. 3759, and I further ask unanimous consent to vitiate the 60-vote threshold in relation to that amendment.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 3759 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3748

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Madam President, I call up my amendment No. 3759 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mrs. GILLIBRAND], for Mr. COTTON, proposes an amendment numbered 3759 to amendment No. 3748.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To modify the authority to protect certain facilities and assets of the United States from incursions)

At the end of subtitle E of title III, add the following:

SEC. 350. MODIFICATION OF PROTECTION OF CERTAIN FACILITIES AND ASSETS FROM INCURSIONS.

Section 130i of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking ''any provision of title 18'' and inserting ''sections 32, 1030, and 1367 and chapters 119 and 206 of title 18''; and

(B) by striking ''officers and civilian employees'' and inserting ''officers, civilian employees, and contractors'';

(2) in subsection (b)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''Detect'' and inserting ''During the operation of the unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft, detect''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting before the period at the end the following: '', including through the use of remote identification broadcast or other means'';

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking ''Any unmanned'' and inserting ''(1) Any unmanned''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(2) Any forfeiture conducted under paragraph (1) shall be made subject to the requirements for civil, criminal, or administrative forfeiture, as the case may be, under applicable law or regulation.'';

(4) in subsection (d), by adding at the end the following:

''(3)(A) The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that the regulations prescribed or guidance issued under paragraph (1) require that, when taking an action described in subsection (a)(1), all due consideration is given to—

''(i) mitigating impacts on privacy and civil liberties under the First and Fourth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States;

''(ii) mitigating damage to, or loss of, real and personal property;

''(iii) mitigating any risk of personal injury or death; and

''(iv) when practicable, obtaining the identification of or issuing a warning to the operator of an unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft prior to taking action under subparagraphs (C) through (F) of subsection (b)(1), unless doing so would—

''(I) endanger the safety of members of the armed forces or civilians;

''(II) create a flight risk or result in the destruction of evidence; or

''(III) seriously jeopardize an investigation, criminal proceeding, or legal proceeding pursuant to subsection (c).

''(B) Nothing in this paragraph may be construed to limit the inherent right to self defense of a member of the armed forces.'';

(5) in subsection (e)—

(A) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(1) the interception, acquisition, maintenance, or use of, or access to, communications to or from an unmanned aircraft system under this section is conducted in a manner consistent with the First and Fourth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States and applicable provisions of Federal law;'';

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''a function of the Department of Defense'' and inserting ''an action described in subsection (b)(1)'';

(C) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

''(3) records of such communications are maintained only for as long as necessary, and in no event for more than 180 days unless the Secretary of Defense determines that maintenance of such records—

''(A) is necessary to investigate or prosecute a violation of law or to directly support an ongoing security operation; or

''(B) is required under Federal law or for the purpose of any litigation;''; and

(D) in paragraph (4)—

(i) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

''(A) is necessary to support an ongoing action described in subsection (b)(1);'';

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''; or'' and inserting a semicolon;

(iii) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (D);

(iv) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following new subparagraph:

''(C) is necessary to support the counter unmanned aircraft systems activities of another Federal agency with authority to mitigate the threat of unmanned aircraft systems or unmanned aircraft in mitigating such threats; or''; and

(v) in subparagraph (D), as redesignated by clause (iii), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and'';

(6) by redesignating subsections (f), (g), (h), (i), and (j) as subsections (g), (h), (j), (k), (l), respectively;

(7) by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

''(f) CLAIMS.—Claims for loss of property, injury, or death pursuant to actions under subsection (b) may be made consistent with chapter 171 of title 28, and chapter 163 of this title, as applicable.'';

(8) in subsection (h), as redesignated by paragraph (6), by striking ''March 1, 2018'' and inserting ''March 1, 2026'';

(9) by inserting after subsection (h), as so redesignated, the following:

''(i) ANNUAL REPORT.—(1) Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and publish on a publicly available website a report summarizing all detection and mitigation activities conducted under this section during the previous year to counter unmanned aircraft systems.

''(2) Each report under paragraph (1) shall include—

''(A) information on any violation of, or failure to comply with, this section by personnel authorized to conduct detection and mitigation activities, including a description of any such violation or failure;

''(B) data on the number of detection activities conducted, the number of mitigation activities conducted, and the number of instances of communications interception from an unmanned aircraft system;

''(C) whether any unmanned aircraft that experienced mitigation was engaged in or attempting to engage in activities protected under the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

''(D) whether any unmanned aircraft or unmanned aircraft system was properly or improperly seized, disabled, damaged, or destroyed and an identification of any methods used to seize, disable, damage, or destroy such aircraft or system; and

''(E) a description of the efforts of the Federal Government to protect privacy and civil liberties when carrying out detection and mitigation activities under this section to counter unmanned aircraft systems.

''(3) Each report required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted and published in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.''.

(10) by striking subsection (k), as so redesignated, and inserting the following:

''(k) SUNSET.—This section shall terminate on December 31, 2030.''; and

(11) in subsection (l), as so redesignated—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by inserting ''the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs,'' after ''the Committee on the Judiciary,''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by inserting ''the Committee on Homeland Security,'' after ''the Committee on the Judiciary,''; and

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (C), by redesignating clauses (i) through (ix) as subclauses (I) through (IX), respectively, and moving those subclauses, as so redesignated, two ems to the right;

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (C) as clauses (i), (ii), and (iii), respectively, and moving those clauses, as so redesignated, two ems to the right; and

(iii) in the matter preceding clause (i), as redesignated by clause (ii), by striking ''means any facility or asset that—'' and inserting ''means—

''(A) any facility or asset that—'';

(iv) in clause (iii), as redesignated by clause (ii)—

(I) in subclause (VIII), as redesignated by clause (i), by striking ''; or'' and inserting a semicolon;

(II) in subclause (IX), as so redesignated, by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(III) by adding at the end the following new subclauses:

''(X) protection of the buildings, grounds, and property to which the public are not permitted regular, unrestricted access and that are under the jurisdiction, custody, or control of the Department of Defense and the persons on that property pursuant to section 2672 of this title;

''(XI) assistance to Federal, State, or local officials in responding to incidents involving nuclear, radiological, biological, or chemical weapons, high-yield explosives, or related materials or technologies, as well as support pursuant to section 282 of this title or the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq); or

''(XII) activities listed in section 2692(b) of this title; or''; and

(v) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) any personnel associated with a facility or asset specified under subparagraph (A) while engaged in direct support of a mission of the Department of Defense specified in clause (iii) of such subparagraph.''.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes equally divided.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Madam President, I rise in support of amendment No. 3759, the Comprehensive Operations for Unmanned-System Neutralization and Threat Elimination Response Act, or the COUNTER Act.

This is a commonsense amendment to mitigate threats to military facilities from unmanned aircraft systems. Hundreds of drones have been spotted in the vicinity of military installations over the past 2 years, including military sensitive sites like Langley Air Force Base.

But current laws give the Department of Defense quite limited authority to mitigate these threats, and the patchwork of interagency coordination required to address them leaves gaps that endanger our military bases and the men and women who serve there.

This is an alarming threat to our national security.

That is why this amendment is so important. It would give the DOD the authority to secure all of its bases, enhancing the protection against unmanned aircraft system incursions.

It would also allow the DOD to share information about threats posed by UAS with the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security to improve the interagency mitigation efforts.

Additionally, the amendment includes language that protects Americans' privacy and constitutional rights, while still meeting the needs of the military to protect our servicemembers and sensitive military sites.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this amendment to strengthen our national security and protect our military facilities.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, I thank Senator GILLIBRAND for her work on this legislation. I think most Americans, if not a few Senators, are shocked when they learn how little defenses our troops have against drones that are approaching their military bases. They really have to wait until an unidentified drone demonstrates hostile intent before they can neutralize the threat. That is not what we would say if a box truck was driving up to a base. We shouldn't have to say it when a drone is approaching a base.

Senator GILLIBRAND has cited a lot of recent threats here. This legislation would close the gap, simplify military guidance, and make our troops safer.

I would urge everyone a ''yes'' vote, and I think Senator GILLIBRAND and I would welcome a voice vote as well.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 3759

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question now occurs on adoption of amendment No. 3759.

The amendment (No. 3759) was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the next amendment in order be the Marshall amendment No. 3213, and I further ask unanimous consent to vitiate the 60-vote threshold in relation to that amendment.

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

The Senator from Kansas.

AMENDMENT NO. 3213 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3748

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam President, I call up my amendment No. 3213 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kansas [Mr. MARSHALL] proposes an amendment numbered 3213 to amendment No. 3748.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To prohibit the flying, draping, or other display of any flag other than the flag of the United States at covered public buildings)

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. PROHIBITION ON FLAGS OTHER THAN THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED PUBLIC BUILDING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the term ''covered public building'' has the meaning given the term ''public building'' in section 3301(a) of title 40, United States Code.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ''covered public building'' includes—

(i) a building in use by the Senate or House of Representatives or otherwise under the jurisdiction of the Architect of the Capitol;

(ii) a military installation; and

(iii) any embassy or consulate of the United States.

(2) FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES.—The term ''flag of the United States'' has the meaning given the term in section 700(b) of title 18, United States Code.

(3) MILITARY INSTALLATION.—The term ''military installation'' has the meaning given the term in section 2801(c) of title 10, United States Code.

(b) PROHIBITIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, except as provided in subsection (c), no flag that is not the flag of the United States may be flown, draped, or otherwise displayed—

(1) on the exterior of a covered public building; or

(2) in an area of a covered public building that is fully accessible to the public, including an entryway or hallway.

(c) EXCEPTIONS.—The prohibitions under subsection (b) shall not apply to—

(1) a National League of Families POW/MIA flag (as designated by section 902(a) of title 36, United States Code);

(2) a Hostage and Wrongful Detainee flag (as designated by section 904(a) of title 36, United States Code);

(3) any flag that represents the nation of a visiting diplomat or a representative of the government of that nation visiting the covered public building at which the flag is displayed;

(4) in the case of a Member of Congress, the State flag of the State represented by the Member that is located outside or within the office of the Member;

(5) any flag that represents a unit or branch of the Armed Forces or any flag that supports the Armed Forces;

(6) any flag of historical significance to the United States, including the Betsy Ross flag, the Gadsden flag, and the Bennington flag;

(7) any flag that represents public safety;

(8) any flag commemorating a special national observance, including any 9/11 memorial, Remembrance Day, Veterans Day, or Memorial Day flag;

(9) in the case of a religious liturgy or ceremony at a military installation or facility, any flag that represents a religious organization or church that is described in section

501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of that Code;

(10) in the case of a Federal agency, any flag that represents the Federal agency;

(11) any flag that represents an Indian Tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)); or

(12) any flag that represents the State, territory, county, city, or local jurisdiction in which the covered public building is located.

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam President, the American flag represents something deeply personal to most of us in this room. Someone from every generation in my family, going back to the Civil War, has served under one flag—the American flag.

It is more than stars and stripes. This one flag is a symbol of sacrifice, of freedom and unity. Every time we place our hands over our hearts, we are reminded that we are one Nation under God. We are not a patchwork of ideologies competing for space on a flagpole. No flag that divides or politicizes should ever be flown on a Federal building.

This is about respect. It is about unity and putting America first, standing together under one flag—the Stars and Stripes—and that is why I urge my colleagues to support our amendment, ensuring only the American flag is flown on Federal buildings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Madam President, Senator MARSHALL's amendment would prohibit any flag other than the U.S. flag from being flown outside or in publicly accessible areas of military installations, public buildings in the United States, American Embassies and consulates, and public areas of congressional office buildings, including hallways.

This amendment raises serious constitutional concerns about the right of free expression. But one example would be that a Member of Congress could not fly the flag of Israel, for example, unless he or she were being visited by an Israeli Ambassador. And that is a constraint, I think, on speech and the rights of Members of Congress, as well as others.

So I would urge a ''no'' vote on this.

With respect to specific military installations, in the fiscal year 2024 national defense bill, section 1052 gave the Secretary of Defense discretion to indicate what flag would be appropriate on a military installation. So we have dealt with this issue before in a bipartisan manner.

I would urge a ''no'' vote on Senator MARSHALL's amendment.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 3213

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question now occurs on adoption of amendment No. 3213.

The amendment (No. 3213) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

AMENDMENT NO. 3814 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3748

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I call up my amendment No. 3814 to substitute amendment No. 3748 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kansas [Mr. MORAN] proposes an amendment numbered 3814 to amendment No. 3748.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the availability of care for veterans from facilities and providers of the Department of Defense)

At the end of subtitle C of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 724. IMPROVEMENT OF AVAILABILITY OF CARE FOR VETERANS FROM FACILITIES AND PROVIDERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) OUTREACH ON AVAILABLE CARE.—Not less frequently than annually, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall conduct outreach to increase awareness among veterans enrolled in the system of annual patient enrollment of the Department of Veterans Affairs established and operated under section 1705(a) of title 38, United States Code, of the ability of those veterans to receive care at military medical treatment facilities.

(b) TRAINING ON REFERRALS.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure training for staff and contractors involved in scheduling, or assisting in scheduling, appointments for care under the community care program specifically includes training regarding options for referral to facilities and providers of the Department of Defense.

(c) PREFERRED PROVIDERS.—Subsection (g) of section 1703 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading, by inserting ''AND PREFERRED PROVIDERS'' after ''NETWORK''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) The Secretary shall consider providers under subsection (c)(2) to be preferred providers under this section.''.

(d) ACTION PLANS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall develop and implement action plans at covered facilities—

(A) to expand the partnership between the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs with respect to the provision of health care;

(B) to improve communication between the Department of Veterans Affairs and pertinent command and director leadership of military medical treatment facilities;

(C) to increase utilization of military medical treatment facilities with excess capacity;

(D) to increase case volume and complexity for graduate medical education programs of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs;

(E) to improve resource sharing agreements or permits, as applicable, between the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs, which would also ensure lessened barriers to shared facility spaces; and

(F) to increase access to care for veterans described in subsection (a) in areas in which a military medical treatment facility is located that is identified by the Secretary of Defense as having excess capacity.

(2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The action plans required under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) Cross-credentialing and privileging of health care providers, including nurses, medical technicians, and other support staff, to jointly care for beneficiaries in medical facilities of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(B) Expediting access to installations of the Department of Defense for staff and beneficiaries of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(C) Including in-kind or non-cash payment or reimbursement options for expenses incurred by either the Department of Defense or the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(D) Allowing eligible veterans to seek certain services at military medical treatment facilities without referral or preauthorization from the Department of Veterans Affairs, for which reimbursement to the Department of Defense will be made.

(E) The designation of a coordinator within each covered facility to serve as a liaison between the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs and to lead the implementation of such action plan.

(F) A mechanism for monitoring the effectiveness of such action plan on an ongoing basis, to include establishing relevant performance goals and collecting data to assess progress towards those goals.

(G) Prioritize the integration of relevant information technology and other systems or processes to enable seamless information sharing, referrals and ancillary orders, payment methodologies and billing processes, and workload attribution when Department of Veterans Affairs personnel provide services at Department of Defense facilities or when Department of Defense personnel provide services at Department of Veterans Affairs facilities.

(H) Any other matter that the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs consider appropriate.

(3) APPROVAL OF ACTION PLANS.—Before implementing any action plan required under paragraph (1) at a covered facility or covered facilities, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that approval for the action plan is obtained from—

(A) the co-chairs of the Department of Veterans Affairs-Department of Defense Joint Executive Committee established under section 320 of title 38, United States Code;

(B) the local installation commander for the covered facility of the Department of Defense; and

(C) the director of the relevant medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs with respect to any covered facility or covered facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(4) REPORTS.—

(A) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report containing the action plans required under paragraph (1).

(B) SUBSEQUENT REPORT.—Not later than one year after submitting the report required under subparagraph (A), the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report containing—

(i) a status update on the progress of implementing the action plans required under paragraph (1); and

(ii) recommendations for developing subsequent action plans for each facility with respect to which there is a sharing agreement in place.

(e) REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO SHARING AGREEMENTS.—

(1) LEAD COORDINATOR.—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that there is a lead coordinator at each facility of the Department of

Defense or the Department of Veterans Affairs, as the case may be, with respect to which there is a sharing agreement in place.

(2) LIST OF AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall maintain on a publicly available website a list of all sharing agreements in place between medical facilities of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(f) TREATMENT OF EXISTING LAWS REGARDING SHARING OF HEALTH CARE RESOURCES.—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out this section notwithstanding any limitation or requirement under section 1104 of title 10, United States Code, or section 8111 of title 38, United States Code.

(g) FUNDING.—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may use funds available in the DOD–VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund established under section 8111(d)(2) of title 38, United States Code, to implement this section.

(h) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section or the amendments made by this section shall be construed to require veterans to seek care in facilities of the Department of Defense.

(i) EXTENSION OF CERTAIN LIMITS ON PAYMENTS OF PENSION.—Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking ''November 30, 2031'' and inserting ''April 30, 2032''.

(j) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Veterans Affairs of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Veterans Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAM.—The term ''community care program'' means the Veterans Community Care Program under section 1703 of title 38, United States Code.

(3) COVERED FACILITY.—The term ''covered facility'' means—

(A) a military medical treatment facility ias defined in section 1073c(j) of title 10, United States Code; or

(B) a medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs located nearby a military medical treatment facility described in subparagraph (A).

(4) SHARING AGREEMENT.—The term ''sharing agreement'' means an agreement for sharing of health-care resources between the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs under section 1104 of title 10, United States Code, or section 8111 of title 38, United States Code.

(5) VETERAN.—The term ''veteran'' has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I ask my colleagues to support amendment No. 3814 to the NDAA. This amendment would improve collaboration between the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense to expand access to care for veterans and support greater utilization of military medical treatment facilities. Current law allows DOD to downgrade the scope of a military treatment facility if the facility volume doesn't justify the capacity of patients and if surrounding communities can absorb this capacity.

My amendment, which incorporates feedback from DOD and VA, would require improved outreach, education, training, and partnership between the VA and DOD. It would make certain that excess capacity at military medical treatment facilities is used to increase access to care for veterans living in that community, while also providing more training opportunities for DOD personnel.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to vitiate the 60-vote threshold in relation to the Moran amendment No. 3814.

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

Is there further debate?

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 3814

The question now occurs on adoption of amendment No. 3814.

The amendment (No. 3814) was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

AMENDMENT NO. 3288 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3748

Mr. LEE. Madam President, I call up the Lee-Duckworth amendment No. 3288 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Utah [Mr. LEE] proposes an amendment numbered 3288 to amendment No. 3748.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To address the treatment of funds received by National Guard Bureau as reimbursement from States)

At the end of subtitle B of title V, add the following:

SEC. 515. TREATMENT OF FUNDS RECEIVED BY NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU AS REIMBURSEMENT FROM STATES.

Section 710 of title 32, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(g) TREATMENT OF REIMBURSED FUNDS.—Any funds received by the National Guard Bureau from a State, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, Guam, or the Virgin Islands as reimbursement under this section for the use of military property—

''(1) shall be credited to—

''(A) the appropriation, fund, or account used in incurring the obligation; or

''(B) an appropriate appropriation, fund, or account currently available for the purposes for which the expenditures were made; and

''(2) may only be used by the Department of Defense for the repair, maintenance, or other similar functions related directly to assets used by National Guard units while operating under State active duty status.''.

Mr. LEE. Madam President, across the country, our guardsmen are on the frontlines of our national security.

They are on the frontlines of our national security, securing our cities and our border, and, most commonly, leading natural disaster recovery efforts in our various States.

In 2022, over half of the National Guard's members responded to natural disasters, including wildfires, hurricanes, winter storms, tornadoes, and even volcanoes.

The National Guard's motto is ''Always Ready, Always There,'' and yet there is an unnecessary bureaucratic hurdle jeopardizing the readiness of Guard assets for future missions. When the National Guard is used in a State Active-Duty status for missions like disaster response, the State may use Federal equipment to complete the mission but must reimburse the Federal National Guard Bureau for the associated expenses. Current law requires those reimbursements to flow through the Treasury Department rather than the Guard unit incurring the expense.

Why does this matter? Well, it matters because we need to get rid of this unnecessary step that is harming the States and the Guard.

The amendment simply directs reimbursements to the appropriate Guard unit directly, the unit where the asset resides, to ensure its readiness for future missions.

If we are going to expect the Guard to be always ready and always there, we must streamline the State Active-Duty reimbursement process and ensure the Guard is made whole.

I encourage my colleagues to support this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Madam President, this is a bipartisan amendment that deals with a longstanding, multiyear issue supported by 49 State adjutant generals. When the National Guard units are mobilized by their Governors and paid for by the Federal Government, our antiquated reimbursement system for reimbursing the National Guard for maintenance of their Federal equipment leads to long delays for States to receive the promised funds.

This amendment only modernizes our payment system to ensure that the Federal Government more efficiently reimburses States to ensure that Federal National Guard equipment that is used for title 32 or State Active-Duty missions of our Guard, such as responses to natural disasters, can be adequately maintained.

I urge my colleagues to vote yes on this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, this amendment has widespread support. I ask unanimous consent to vitiate the 60-vote threshold in relation to the Lee-Duckworth amendment No. 3288.

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

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 3288

The question now occurs on adoption of amendment No. 3288.

The amendment (No. 3288) was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

AMENDMENT NO. 3926 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3748

(Purpose: To protect the national security of the United States by imposing sanctions with respect to certain persons of the People's Republic of China and prohibiting and requiring notifications with respect to certain investments by United States persons in the People's Republic of China.)

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I call up the Cornyn and Cortez Masto amendment No. 3926 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Texas [Mr. CORNYN] proposes an amendment numbered 3926 to amendment No. 3748.

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of October 7, 2025, under ''Text of Amendments.'')

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I would ask unanimous consent that Senator WARREN and I be allowed to speak with 2 minutes divided between us, a minute each.

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

Mr. CORNYN. If this amendment sounds familiar, it is. It passed the 118th Congress by a vote of 91 to 6. Simply stated, this is a transparency bill that will give us some insight into the amount of money being invested in the People's Republic of China and the extent to which those investment dollars are directly flowing into the arsenal of our greatest strategic adversary: the People's Republic of China.

The U.S.-China Economic and Security Commission noted that the United States is the most important foreign source of investment to semiconductors, quantum computing, and AI in China.

Because of China's military fusion strategy, these investments are directly bolstering the People's Liberation Army. Voting for this amendment will provide transparency to us as policymakers to know where the money is going and how it is being used in China—hopefully, the way that we can protect ourselves and protect our interests in the Indo-Pacific.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Ms. WARREN. Madam President, we have a responsibility to ensure that the United States remains the world's leader in advanced technology. There is broad bipartisan agreement that we should be developing the most sensitive, cutting-edge technologies right here at home, rather than funding their development in countries that do not share our values.

This amendment would advance that goal by codifying a program to screen specific types of U.S. investments in China and other countries of concern.

It would protect our national security and help ensure that American ingenuity, innovation, and investment do not end up turbocharging these countries' advancements in fields like artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and microelectronics.

I commend Senators CORTEZ MASTO and CORNYN for their leadership in this effort and look forward to working with my colleagues to get versions of this important legislation signed into law.

Today's vote is an important bipartisan step to protect American innovation and safeguard our national security.

I urge a ''yes'' vote.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, we would be happy to have a voice vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, this is an extremely important amendment which will protect America's interests, and I ask unanimous consent to vitiate the 60-vote threshold in relation to the amendment, Cornyn-Cortez Masto No. 3926.

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

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 3926

The question now occurs on adoption of amendment No. 3926.

The amendment (No. 3926) was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

AMENDMENT NO. 3841 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3748

(Purpose: To prohibit contracting with certain biotechnology providers.)

Mr. HAGERTY. Madam President, I call up my amendment No. 3841 to substitute amendment No. 3748 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Tennessee [Mr. HAGERTY] proposes an amendment numbered 3841 to amendment No. 3748.

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of September 9, 2025, under ''Text of Amendments.'')

Mr. HAGERTY. Madam President, I stand before you today to urge the adoption of the Hagerty-Peters amendment for the bipartisan BIOSECURE Act.

The BIOSECURE Act is rooted in basic common sense. It would stop U.S. taxpayer money from going to Chinese technology companies that are aligned with the People's Liberation Army, companies like BGI.

The threat we face is real, and it is growing. Communist China has openly identified biotechnology as a key domain for future warfare. To cite just one chilling example, in 2017, National Defense University of the People's Liberation Army wrote about the possibility of ''specific ethnic genetic attacks'' that ''can be a precise, targeted attack''—get this—''that destroys a race, or a specific group of people, or a specific person.'' This is bone-chilling, this is real, and this is the objective of the CCP and the PLA through this DNA data collection.

The Chinese military entity added that ''its potentially huge war effectiveness can bring extreme panic to human beings.'' Of course it would.

That is not science fiction; that is a PLA strategy document.

Companies like BGI—one of the so-called national champions of Chinese biotech—are in position to facilitate what was once heretofore unthinkable: a genetically targeted bioweapon. Evidence suggests that BGI is working with China's military to conduct joint research. It is using the Chinese military supercomputers to process biodata, and it is collaborating with Chinese military hospitals to genetically enhance the performance of Chinese soldiers. Can you believe this?

Under China's national intelligence laws, all Chinese companies, regardless of where they operate in the world, must turn over any data they have collected if the Chinese Government wants it. Given the stated interest of the PLA in bioweapons, you can be sure they will be interested in the genetic data of Americans.

Make no mistake, BGI and companies like it are not just commercial actors; they are tools of the CCP—collecting, storing, and analyzing DNA for millions of people worldwide, including the genetic data of Americans that they collect, very often without informed consent. That is why the Department of War has already singled out BGI on its list of communist companies that operate in the United States and that collaborate with the People's Liberation Army.

The solution is simple. The BIOSECURE Act stops U.S. taxpayer money from flowing to biotechnology companies of concern. It ensures that the Federal Government cannot buy from, contract with, nor subsidize CCP-controlled biotech firms that put at risk the DNA of American citizens and the security of the United States. It gives industry an adjustment period when new entities are designated as ''biotechnology companies of concern.'' It provides limited waiver authority where absolutely necessary on a case-by-case basis.

Just last month, Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin were overheard talking about biotechnology, organ transplants, and even the possibly of extending life to 150 years. They know what is at stake. We must acknowledge it too.

This amendment is about protecting Americans' most personal information—their DNA. I urge my colleagues to support it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I commend Senator HAGERTY and Senator PETERS, who is not on the floor right now, but I also commend him for his leadership on this amendment, which should pass overwhelmingly.

I ask unanimous consent to vitiate the 60-vote threshold in relation to the Hagerty-Peters amendment No. 3841.

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

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 3841

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on adoption of the amendment.

The amendment (No. 3841) was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

AMENDMENT NO. 3109 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3748

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I call up my amendment No. 3109 to

amendment No. 3748 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER] proposes an amendment numbered 3109 to amendment No. 3748.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To prohibit the use of funds to procure or modify foreign aircraft for presidential airlift)

At the end of subtitle D of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1038. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS TO PROCURE OR MODIFY FOREIGN AIRCRAFT FOR PRESIDENTIAL AIRLIFT.

None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2026 for the Department of Defense may be made available for the procurement, modification, restoration, or maintenance of an aircraft previously owned by a foreign government, an entity controlled by a foreign government, or a representative of a foreign government for the purposes of providing presidential airlift options.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, back in May, President Trump accepted the largest foreign gift to an American President in modern history—a $400 million luxury Boeing 747 for use as Air Force One.

It is outrageous that President Trump wants to fly around the world like a King while Americans are getting hammered by tariffs and paying more for healthcare, groceries, rent, and electricity.

Some say that this plane was gifted and that it didn't cost the United States anything, but make no mistake about it, merely retrofitting this foreign-owned luxury jet to make it fully operational will cost hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars.

That is money that shouldn't be wasted, so, today, I have an amendment that will make sure not a penny of taxpayer dollars provided in this NDAA will go to any remodeling or maintenance of the President's foreign-owned Air Force One.

It would prohibit funds authorized by this bill from being diverted for procurement, modification, restoration, or maintenance of an aircraft previously owned by a foreign government for the purpose of providing a Presidential airlift, and it would ensure the security and continued reliability of the Air Force One fleet.

Republicans like to talk about eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse. Spending even a penny of taxpayer dollars on retrofitting this luxury is about as wasteful—as wasteful—as it gets.

I urge my Republican colleagues who care about spending taxpayer dollars responsibly to support this amendment.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, I rise in opposition to this amendment because it would have a significant negative effect on our U.S. nuclear deterrence.

In addition to the obvious stab at President Trump, the way the amendment is drafted would affect one of our military's most important programs: the Survivable Airborne Operations Center—otherwise known as the Doomsday Plane.

This aircraft program is crucial to ensuring command and control for the President if we are attacked with nuclear weapons. It is an important part of our nuclear deterrent.

The program purchased a Boeing 747 aircraft from Korean Air, and thus this program would be unable to spend appropriated money this year if this amendment passes.

For those reasons, I urge a ''no'' vote.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 3109

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question now occurs on adoption of the amendment.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 46, nays 50, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 565 Leg.]

YEAS—46

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

NAYS—50

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

NOT VOTING—4

Cortez Masto	Hawley	Tillis
Cruz		

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 46, the nays are 50.

The 60-vote threshold not having been achieved, the amendment is rejected.

The amendment (No. 3109) was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 3872 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3748

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I call up my amendment No. 3872 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Maryland [Mr. VAN HOLLEN] proposes an amendment numbered 3872 to amendment No. 3748.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To amend title 32, United States Code, to clarify certain limitations on full-time National Guard duty performed in a State, Territory, or the District of Columbia)

At the end of subtitle B of title V, add the following:

SEC. 515. REQUIREMENT OF CONSENT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR CERTAIN FULL-TIME NATIONAL GUARD DUTY PERFORMED IN A STATE, TERRITORY, OR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Subsection (f) of section 502 of title 32, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''Under'' and inserting ''Subject to paragraph (2) and under''; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

''(A) Support of operations or missions undertaken by the member's unit at the request of the President or Secretary of Defense, with the consent of—

''(i) the chief executive officer of each State (as that term is defined in section 901 of this title) in which such operations or missions shall take place; and

''(ii) if such operations or missions shall take place in the District of Columbia, the Mayor of the District of Columbia.''.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam President, this amendment says that the Governor of one State may not deploy its National Guard to another State without the consent of the Governor of the recipient State.

As the Republican Governor of Oklahoma Kevin Stitt said today, ''As a federalist believer, one governor against another governor, I don't think that's the right way to approach this.''

I agree. And it is worth noting that Governor Stitt is the current chairman of the National Governors Association.

Voluntary cooperation is one thing, but I don't think any of my colleagues would appreciate it if the Governor of Maryland used Federal dollar-supported National Guard troops in Maryland to deploy to any of your States without the consent of your State. That is the principle behind this amendment.

I urge its adoption.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. SCHMITT. One thing my friend did not mention is this also affects Washington, DC. Another reason I oppose this amendment is it would weaken Federal authority over the DC National Guard and hinder its ability to respond to a crisis.

Cooperation with the Mayor of DC is valuable, but collaboration does not require granting the Mayor Commander-in-Chief powers over a Federal military force. The President must retain that authority to ensure unity in command in a rapid, coordinated Federal response when it is needed most.

I ask my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 3872

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on adoption of the amendment.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 47, nays 50, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 566 Leg.]

YEAS—47

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

NAYS—50

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

NOT VOTING—3

Cortez Masto	Cruz	Tillis

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 47, the nays are 50.

The 60-vote threshold having not been achieved, the amendment is not agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3872) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

AMENDMENT NO. 3210 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3748

(Purpose: To limit the provision of support by the Armed Forces to civilian law enforcement activities.)

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Madam President, I call up my amendment No. 3210 to amendment No. 3748 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Illinois [Ms. DUCKWORTH] proposes an amendment numbered 3210 to amendment No. 3748.

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of July 31, 2025, under ''Text of Amendments.'')

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Madam President, in the last few months, we have seen President Trump force military troops, uninvited, into American cities—first into Los Angeles, then into our Nation's Capital, and now into Chicago.

Let's be clear: Ordering our troops to intimidate the very Americans they were willing to risk their lives to protect does nothing to make our Nation stronger. It is just another move straight out of an authoritarian 101 playbook. A move that tramples on civil rights instills fear among Americans and distracts our troops from their core mission of keeping Americans safe from actual adversaries who wish to do us harm. Our National Guard signed up to serve and protect this country, not to protect one man's thin skin.

That is why, today, I am introducing a provision that would reduce the misuse of the military for nonmilitary purposes. It would install commonsense congressional oversight by requiring Congress to approve any redirection of expensive military assets to support law enforcement for longer than 30 days. This is essential to protecting against civil rights abuse, including the use of military bases for detentions or providing DOD surveillance to support policing on U.S. soil.

To be clear, my provision would allow States facing situations that overwhelm their capacities from natural disasters and public health emergencies to benefit from research in military and logistical support for a month. It would also help ensure that America's elected representatives, not a wannabe dictator, get to decide whether to bring in military readiness of such extraordinary measures.

If my colleagues on the other side of the aisle care about respecting our troops as much as they claim to, they have no choice but to join me in voting yes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CRAMER. Madam President, protecting the American people and their property is fundamental to the government. In fact, it is a core principle and the responsibility of the Federal Government. I see no need or any good reason to remove the tools that the President has to do exactly that—to protect people and property.

The use of our military to support local law enforcement, not to become law enforcement, is legal. President Trump has proven it to be effective. I think that just because you don't like the current President, it is not a reason to make dramatic changes to the laws that restrict him from doing the very thing he promised he would do when he ran for the office.

I oppose the amendment, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 3210

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on adoption of the amendment.

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 46, nays 52, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 567 Leg.]

YEAS—46

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

NAYS—52

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

NOT VOTING—2

Cortez Masto	Cruz

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 46, the nays are 52.

The 60-vote threshold having not been achieved, the amendment is not agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3210) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

AMENDMENT NO. 3337 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3748

Mr. YOUNG. Madam President, I call up my amendment No. 3337 to amendment No. 3748 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Indiana [Mr. YOUNG], for Mr. KAINE and himself, proposes an amendment numbered 3337 to amendment No. 3748.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To repeal the authorizations for use of military force against Iraq)

At the end of subtitle B of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1219. REPEAL OF AUTHORIZATIONS FOR USE OF MILITARY FORCE AGAINST IRAQ.

(a) AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF MILITARY FORCE AGAINST IRAQ RESOLUTION.—The Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution (Public Law 102–1; 105 Stat. 3; 50 U.S.C. 1541 note) is hereby repealed.

(b) AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF MILITARY FORCE AGAINST IRAQ RESOLUTION OF 2002.—The Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (Public Law 107–243; 116 Stat. 1498; 50 U.S.C. 1541 note) is hereby repealed.

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, the Iraq war started 22 years ago; the Gulf war, 34 years ago. Today, Iraq is a partner, not an adversary, and it is time for the law to reflect that.

DOD has assured Congress that operations can continue without these expired AUMFs. Our amendment does not implicate the 2001 AUMF, which is critical to ongoing operations.

Both Chambers have passed the same repeal before on a bipartisan basis. The House included it in its NDAA this year. Let's do the same here in the Senate and close the book on these forever wars.

I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I would like to ask unanimous consent to just speak for a minute.

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

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I want to thank my colleague. Senator YOUNG and I have worked on this for a number of years. As he mentioned, the first Gulf war started in 1991, the second Gulf war in 2002, and it was over in 2011—14 years ago.

Last week, the Pentagon issued a statement about the drawdown of U.S. troops in Iraq, and this was the statement from the Pentagon:

This reduction reflects our combined success in fighting ISIS and marks an effort to transition to a lasting U.S.-Iraq security partnership.

An adversary to a partner beating a sword into a plowshare.

Both Houses have voted to repeal this war, and it is time that we take this action. This will be the first congressional repeal of a war authorization since the Gulf of Tonkin in 1971.

I ask for a ''yes'' vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I intend to vote against this. I think keeping this AUMF actually would help us assure continued success.

I think I see how the wind is blowing, and I will consent to a voice vote. Understanding that that is the sentiment of the body, I ask unanimous consent to vitiate the 60-vote threshold in relation to amendment No. 3337.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 3337

The question is on adoption of the amendment.

The amendment (No. 3337) was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

AMENDMENT NO. 3853 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3748

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I call up my amendment No. 3853 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Vermont [Mr. SANDERS] proposes an amendment numbered 3853 to amendment No. 3748.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To reduce the bloated Pentagon budget by 10 percent and instead expand veteran dental care at the Department of Veterans Affairs)

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. FUNDING FOR DENTAL CARE FROM DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The amount authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2026 by this Act is—

(1) the aggregate amount authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2026 by this Act (other than for military personnel and the Defense Health Program); minus

(2) the amount equal to 10 percent of the aggregate amount described in paragraph (1).

(b) ALLOCATION.—The reduction made by subsection (a) shall—

(1) apply on a pro rata basis among the accounts and funds for which amounts are authorized to be appropriated by this Act (other than military personnel and the Defense Health Program);

(2) be applied on a pro rata basis across each program, project, and activity funded by the account or fund concerned; and

(3) be used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide direct dental care to all veterans eligible for health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs through expansions in dental treatment rooms and equipment and hiring of additional dentists and other clinicians.

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, amendment No. 3853 is very simple. It would cut 10 percent from this Defense bill, excluding military personnel and the Defense Health Program, and it would use those funds to provide direct dental care to all veterans eligible for healthcare from the VA.

We are now spending over $1 trillion a year on the military—more than the next nine nations combined.

While Congress has cut funding for housing, education, nutrition, this bill increases military spending by over 8 percent.

Meanwhile, the Pentagon is the only major Federal Agency not capable of passing an independent audit, and nobody denies that there is not massive waste, fraud, and abuse within the DOD.

As the former chair of the Veterans' Committee, I agree with all of the major veterans organizations, that we have got to strengthen VA healthcare, and one of the gaps in that system is a lack of dental care. We have got veterans whose teeth are rotting in their mouth. They cannot get dental care.

I think we should get our priorities right. Let's cut a very large military budget, spending much too much. Let's protect our veterans. Let's pass this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, our military budgets are already carefully balanced. It is based on our national security priorities. Indiscriminate cuts contemplated in this amendment would undercut our readiness.

I ask for a ''no'' vote.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 3853

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on adoption of the amendment.

Mr. WICKER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 10, nays 88, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 568 Leg.]

YEAS—10

Baldwin	Sanders	Welch
Markey	Smith	Wyden
Merkley	Van Hollen	
Murphy	Warren	

NAYS—88

Alsobrooks	Grassley	Murray
Banks	Hagerty	Ossoff
Barrasso	Hassan	Padilla
Bennet	Hawley	Paul
Blackburn	Heinrich	Peters
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Reed
Blunt Rochester	Hirono	Ricketts
Booker	Hoeven	Risch
Boozman	Husted	Rosen
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Budd	Johnson	Schatz
Cantwell	Justice	Schiff
Capito	Kaine	Schmitt
Cassidy	Kelly	Schumer
Collins	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Coons	Kim	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	King	Shaheen
Cotton	Klobuchar	Sheehy
Cramer	Lankford	Slotkin
Crapo	Lee	Sullivan
Curtis	Luján	Thune
Daines	Lummis	Tillis
Duckworth	Marshall	Tuberville
Durbin	McConnell	Warner
Ernst	McCormick	Warnock
Fetterman	Moody	Whitehouse
Fischer	Moran	Wicker
Gallego	Moreno	Young
Gillibrand	Mullin	
Graham	Murkowski	

NOT VOTING—2

Cortez Masto Cruz

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 10, the nays are 88.

The 60-vote threshold having not been achieved, the amendment is not agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3853) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

AMENDMENT NO. 3927 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3748

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I call up amendment No. 3927 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Oregon [Mr. MERKLEY] proposes an amendment numbered 3927 to Amendment No. 3748.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To limit the use of Federal law enforcement officers for crowd control, and for other purposes)

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. IDENTIFICATION OF FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ENGAGED IN CROWD CONTROL.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term ''Federal law enforcement officer'' means—

(A) an employee or officer in a position in the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of the Federal Government who is authorized by law to engage in or supervise a law enforcement function; or

(B) an employee or officer of a contractor or subcontractor (at any tier) of an agency in the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of the Federal Government who is authorized by law or under the contract with the agency to engage in or supervise a law enforcement function;

(2) the term ''law enforcement function'' means the prevention, detection, or investigation of, or the prosecution or incarceration of any person for, any violation of law; and

(3) the term ''member of an armed force'' means a member of any of the armed forces, as defined in section 101(a)(4) of title 10, United States Code, or a member of the National Guard, as defined in section 101(3) of title 32, United States Code.

(b) REQUIRED IDENTIFICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each Federal law enforcement officer or member of an armed force who is engaged in any form of crowd control, riot control, or arrest or detainment of individuals engaged in an act of civil disobedience, demonstration, protest, other activity protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, or riot in the United States shall at all times display identifying information in a clearly visible fashion, which shall include—

(A) for a Federal law enforcement officer, the Federal agency and the last name or unique identifier of the officer; and

(B) for a member of an armed force, the service branch and the last name or unique identifier of the member.

(2) PROHIBITION ON COVERING OF IDENTIFYING INFORMATION.—A Federal law enforcement officer or member of an armed force may not tape over or otherwise obscure or conceal the identifying information required under paragraph (1) while the officer or member is engaged in any form of law enforcement activity described in paragraph (1).

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to—

(1) provide any new authority or expand existing authority for members of an armed force to engage in law enforcement activity; or

(2) affect existing law regarding the deployment of members of an armed force for law enforcement activity.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, back in 2021, in the NDAA, we had a clause that said Federal military police who were responding to a civil disturbance need to wear visible identification, including an individual identifier, which could, in fact, be a number or a name, and the name of the armed services, but there are three points of confusion that exist in this 2021 law.

The first is, what is included in civil disturbance? So this amendment clarifies that it includes crowd and riot control and arrests at protests and demonstrations.

Second of all, what about security contractors that serve the Federal police or Federal services? It says, yes, those are covered.

Third, that when you are going to a civil disturbance in support of the Federal Government, it also includes whether you are going in support of local police, to clarify that distinction.

That is all it is—three simple things—and it is so important to engender trust in America that we have this type of basic provision but clarified so we understand exactly when it applies.

I reserve the balance of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. ROUNDS. Madam President, I rise in opposition to the amendment, but let me explain why. During the discussions in our Armed Services Committee, we recognized that there was an issue that Republicans and Democrats both agreed on. Senator DUCKWORTH offered a bipartisan amendment that specifically addressed this particular issue. It requires members of the armed services to wear their name tag, with one exception that Senator MERKLEY does not address appropriately, we believe; and that is the issue of a riot.

In the case of a riot, we decided that it was not appropriate to require these young men and women to wear that name tag. They still have to have their uniforms on, but they don't have to wear a name tag during that time period.

It is a good, bipartisan amendment. It is already found within the body of this bill.

I would rise in opposition to the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, let me just note that that provision now creates a conflict with the 2021 law that does require an individual identifier. So this amendment resolves that conflict and ensures there is trust by having that trust-building name or number on the uniform as well.

I encourage an ''aye'' vote.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 3927

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on adoption of the amendment.

Mr. WICKER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 47, nays 50, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 569 Leg.]

YEAS—47

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

NAYS—50

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

NOT VOTING—3

Cortez Masto Cruz Tillis

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 47, the nays are 50. The 60-vote threshold having not been achieved, the amendment is not agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3927) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

AMENDMENT NOS. 3340, 2928, 3355, 2952, 3376, 2971, 3405, 3039, 3435, 3136, 3439, 3156, 3489, 3351, 3703, 3530, 3732, 3557, 3788, 3570, 3799, 3601, 3810, 3712, 3811, 3724, 3813, 3751, 3823, 3818, 3702, 3825, 3842, 3834, 3890, 2979, 3272, 3742, 3901, 3819, 3899, 3888, 3880, 3015, 3753, 3826, 3728, 3928, EN BLOC

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I call up the amendments en bloc as provided by the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the following

amendments are called up en bloc, which the clerk will report by number:

The Senator from Mississippi [Mr. WICKER] proposes amendment Nos. 3340, 2928, 3355, 2952, 3376, 2971, 3405, 3039, 3435, 3136, 3439, 3156, 3489, 3351, 3703, 3530, 3732, 3557, 3788, 3570, 3799, 3601, 3810, 3712, 3811, 3724, 3813, 3751, 3823, 3818, 3702, 3825, 3842, 3834, 3890, 2979, 3272, 3742, 3901, 3819, 3899, 3888, 3880, 3015, 3753, 3826, 3728, 3928, en bloc.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 3340

(Purpose: To require the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States to annually review, update, and report on the facilities and property of the United States Government determined to be national security sensitive for purposes of review of real estate transactions under section 721 of the Defense Production Act of 1950)

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. REVIEW OF AND REPORTING ON NATIONAL SECURITY SENSITIVE SITES FOR PURPOSES OF REVIEWS OF REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS BY THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES.

(a) LIST OF NATIONAL SECURITY SENSITIVE SITES.—Section 721(a)(4)(C) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4565(a)(4)(C)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(iii) LIST OF SITES.—For purposes of subparagraph (B)(ii), the Committee may prescribe through regulations a list of facilities and property of the United States Government that are sensitive for reasons relating to national security. Such list may include certain facilities and property of the intelligence community and National Laboratories (as defined in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801)).''.

(b) REVIEW AND REPORTS.—Section 721(m) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4565(m)(2)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end the following:

''(L) A list of all notices and declarations filed and all reviews or investigations of covered transactions completed during the period relating to facilities and property of the United States Government determined to be sensitive for reasons relating to national security for purposes of subsection (a)(4)(B)(ii).

''(M) A certification that the list of sites identified under subsection (a)(4)(C)(iii) reflects consideration of the recommended updates and revisions submitted under paragraph (4)(B). Upon request from any Member of Congress specified in subsection (b)(3)(C)(iii), the chairperson shall provide a classified briefing to that Member, and staff of the member with appropriate security clearances, regarding the list of sites identified under subsection (a)(4)(C)(iii).'';

(2) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

''(4) ANNUAL REVIEW OF LIST OF FACILITIES AND PROPERTY.—Not later than January 31 of each year, each member of the Committee shall—

''(A) review the facilities and property of the agency represented by that member that are on the list prescribed under subparagraph (C)(iii) of subsection (a)(4) of facilities and property that are sensitive for reasons relating to national security for purposes of subparagraph (B)(ii) of that subsection; and

''(B) submit to the chairperson a report on that review, after approval of the report by an Assistant Secretary or equivalent official of the agency, which shall include any recommended updates or revisions to the list regarding facilities and property administered by the member of the Committee.''.

AMENDMENT NO. 2928

(Purpose: To make certain spouses eligible for services under the disabled veterans' outreach program)

At the appropriate place in title X, insert the following:

SEC. _____. ELIGIBILITY OF SPOUSES FOR SERVICES UNDER THE DISABLED VETERANS' OUTREACH PROGRAM.

Section 4103A of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting ''and eligible persons'' after ''eligible veterans''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by inserting '', and eligible persons,'' after ''Other eligible veterans'';

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting ''and eligible persons'' after ''veterans'' each place it appears; and

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by inserting ''or eligible person'' after ''veteran'' each place it appears; and

(ii) by inserting ''or eligible person's'' after ''veteran's'';

(2) in subsection (d)(1)—

(A) by inserting ''and eligible persons'' after ''eligible veterans'' each place it appears; and

(B) by striking ''non-veteran-related''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(e) ELIGIBLE PERSON DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'eligible person' means—

''(1) any spouse described in section 4101(5) of this title; or

''(2) the spouse of any person who died while a member of the Armed Forces.''.

AMENDMENT NO. 3355

(Purpose: To expand the authority of the Marshal of the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court Police to protect retired and former Chief Justices and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States)

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. AUTHORITY OF MARSHAL OF THE SUPREME COURT AND SUPREME COURT POLICE.

Section 6121(a)(2) of title 40, United States Code, is amended by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

''(C) if the Marshal determines such protection is necessary—

''(i) any retired or former Chief Justice or Associate Justice of the Supreme Court; or

''(ii) any member of the immediate family of the Chief Justice, any Associate Justice, any retired or former Chief Justice or Associate Justice, or any officer of the Supreme Court.''.

AMENDMENT NO. 2952

(Purpose: To require the Secretary of Defense to implement recommendations of the Comptroller General of the United States relating to critical military housing supply and affordability)

At the end of subtitle B of title XXVIII, add the following:

SEC. 2827. IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPTROLLER GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO CRITICAL MILITARY HOUSING SUPPLY AND AFFORDABILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall implement each recommendation of the Comptroller General of the United States contained in the report dated October 30, 2024, and entitled, ''Military Housing: DOD Should Address Critical Supply and Affordability Challenges for Service Members'' (GAO–25–106208), as those recommendations are modified under subsection (b).

(b) RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE IMPLEMENTED.—In carrying out the requirements under subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense shall implement the recommendations specified under such subsection as follows:

(1) The Secretary shall—

(A) perform a structured analysis to develop a comprehensive list of housing areas in which members of the Armed Forces and their families may face the most critical challenges in finding and affording private sector housing in the community;

(B) in conducting the analysis under subparagraph (A), consider the unique characteristics of a location, such as vacation rental areas; and

(C) regularly update the list required under subparagraph (A) not less frequently than once every two years.

(2) The Secretary shall obtain and use feedback on the financial and quality-of-life effects of limited supply or unaffordable housing on members of the Armed Forces, through the status of forces survey and other service or installation-specific feedback mechanisms.

(3) The Secretary shall, in coordination with the Secretary of each military department—

(A) develop a plan for how the Department of Defense can respond to and address the financial and quality-of-life effects in housing areas identified under paragraph (1); and

(B) in developing the plan under subparagraph (A), examine strategies for increasing housing supply or providing alternative compensation to offset the effects of limited supply or unaffordable housing in housing areas identified under paragraph (1).

(4) The Secretary shall clarify, through the issuance of guidance to the military departments, the role of the Office of the Secretary of Defense in oversight of the Housing Requirements and Market Analysis process of the military departments to ensure that—

(A) the military departments conduct such process in a timely manner; and

(B) the Secretary submits to Congress any plans or other matters relating to such process for each fiscal year as required by existing law.

(5) The Secretary shall ensure that the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environment provides updated guidance to the military departments on how installations of the Department of Defense should coordinate with local communities, including by clearly defining the roles and responsibilities of commanders and military housing offices of such installations in addressing housing needs.

(c) NON-IMPLEMENTATION REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—If the Secretary of Defense elects not to implement a recommendation specified under subsection (a), as modified under subsection (b), the Secretary shall, not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report that includes a justification for such election.

AMENDMENT NO. 3376

(Purpose: To require a strategy for United States security assistance to Mexico)

At the end of subtitle E of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1265. STRATEGY FOR UNITED STATES SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO MEXICO.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of

the House of Representatives a report with a strategy for United States security assistance to Mexico.

(b) STRATEGY ELEMENTS.—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall include the following elements:

(1) A detailed plan for how United States security assistance will—

(A) dismantle transnational criminal networks that traffic illicit drugs, including fentanyl, into the United States and profit from other criminal activities, including pervasive human trafficking and human smuggling, weapons trafficking, cybercrimes, money laundering, and the importation of precursor chemicals to mass-produce illicit drugs;

(B) increase the capacity of Mexico's military and public security institutions to improve security at Mexico's northern and southern borders and degrade transnational criminal organizations; and

(C) enhance the institutional capacity of civilian law enforcement, prosecutors, and courts to strengthen rule of law, redress public corruption related to the activities and influence of transnational criminal organizations, and combat impunity.

(2) A detailed summary of activities to implement the plan described in paragraph (1), including a list of implementing government entities and nongovernmental organizations.

(3) A detailed summary of priorities, milestones, and performance measures to monitor and evaluate results of the strategy.

(c) BILATERAL COOPERATION REPORTING.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include an overview of bilateral cooperation mechanisms and engagements between the United States Government and the Government of Mexico, such as diplomatic engagements, security assistance programs, technical assistance, and other forms of cooperation that advance the priorities described in subsection (b).

(d) FORM.—The report and strategy required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(e) BRIEFING.—Not later than 1 year after the submission of the report and strategy required under subsection (a), and annually thereafter, the Secretary of State shall provide to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a briefing on the implementation of the strategy.

(f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING USE OF MILITARY FORCE AGAINST MEXICO.—Nothing in this section may be construed as an authorization for the use of military force against Mexico or any entity within Mexico.

AMENDMENT NO. 2971

(Purpose: To direct the Office for Victims of Crime of the Department of Justice to continue implementing the anti-trafficking recommendations of the Government Accountability Office and to report to Congress regarding such implementation)

At the end of subtitle D of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1038. CONTINUED IMPLEMENTATION OF ANTI-TRAFFICKING PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Preventing Child Trafficking Act of 2025''.

(b) DEFINED TERM.—In this section, the term ''anti-trafficking recommendations'' means the recommendations set forth in the report of the Government Accountability Office entitled ''Child Trafficking: Addressing Challenges to Public Awareness and Survivor Support'', which was published on December 11, 2023.

(c) IN GENERAL.—The Office for Victims of Crime of the Department of Justice, in coordination with the Office on Trafficking in Persons of the Administration for Children and Families, shall continue implementing the anti-trafficking recommendations by—

(1) working together, in accordance with the leading collaboration practices referenced in GAO–24-106038, to develop and implement strategies to prevent child trafficking and support child trafficking survivors; and

(2) establishing achievable performance goals and targets for anti-trafficking programs for children that reflect leading practices, such as being objective, measurable, and quantifiable, using baseline data from program grantees.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office for Victims of Crime shall submit a report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives that explicitly describes the steps taken pursuant to subsection (c).

AMENDMENT NO. 3405

(Purpose: To require a plan to modernize the nuclear security enterprise)

At the appropriate place in subtitle C of title XXXI, insert the following:

SEC. 31_____. PLAN TO MODERNIZE NUCLEAR SECURITY ENTERPRISE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator for Nuclear Security shall develop a plan—

(1) to accelerate and modernize Material Staging Capabilities to replace aged, oversubscribed facilities within the nuclear security enterprise, which shall include a description of all phases and an estimate of the costs required to carry out such plan; and

(2) to accelerate near-term Critical Decisions milestones in fiscal year 2026.

(b) EXECUTION.—The Administrator for Nuclear Security shall carry out the plan required by subsection (a) concurrently with an infrastructure modernization program for high explosives capabilities, including continued construction of the High Explosives Synthesis Formulation and Production facility (21-D-510).

(c) BRIEFINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator for Nuclear Security shall brief the appropriate congressional committees on the Material Staging Capabilities plan required by subsection (a).

(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''appropriated congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

AMENDMENT NO. 3039

(Purpose: To authorize the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to reimburse the Town of Chincoteague, Virginia, for costs directly associated with the removal and replacement of certain drinking water wells)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. DRINKING WATER WELL REPLACEMENT FOR CHINCOTEAGUE, VIRGINIA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration may enter into an agreement, as appropriate, with the Town of Chincoteague, Virginia, for a period of up to five years, for reimbursement of the Town of Chincoteague's costs directly associated with—

(1) the development of a plan for removal of drinking water wells currently situated on property administered by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; and

(2) the establishment of alternative drinking water wells on property under the administrative control, through lease, ownership, or easement, of the Town of Chincoteague.

(b) ELEMENTS.—An agreement under subsection (a) shall include, to the extent practicable—

(1) a provision for the removal and relocation of the three remaining wells described in that subsection;

(2) a description of the location of the site to which such wells will be relocated or are planned to be relocated; and

(3) a current estimated cost of such relocation, including for the purchase, lease, or use of additional property, engineering, design, permitting, and construction.

(c) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, in coordination with the heads or other appropriate representatives of relevant entities, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress any agreement entered into under subsection (a).

(d) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(1) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives.

AMENDMENT NO. 3435

(Purpose: To reauthorize the Second Chance Act of 2007)

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. SECOND CHANCE ACT REAUTHORIZATION.

(a) STATE AND LOCAL REENTRY DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—Section 2976 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10631) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (7), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in paragraph (8), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(9) treating substance use disorders, including by providing peer recovery services, case management, and access to overdose education and overdose reversal medications; and

''(10) providing reentry housing services.''; and

(2) in subsection (o)(1), by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2026 through 2030''.

(b) GRANTS FOR FAMILY-BASED SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT.—Section 2926(a) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10595a(a)) is amended by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2026 through 2030''.

(c) GRANT PROGRAM TO EVALUATE AND IMPROVE EDUCATIONAL METHODS AT PRISONS, JAILS, AND JUVENILE FACILITIES.—Section 1001(a)(28) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10261(a)(28)) is amended by striking ''2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023'' and inserting ''2026 through 2030''.

(d) CAREERS TRAINING DEMONSTRATION GRANTS.—Section 115(f) of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (34 U.S.C. 60511(f)) is amended by striking ''2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023'' and inserting ''2026 through 2030''.

(e) OFFENDER REENTRY SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE COLLABORATION PROGRAM.—Section 201(f)(1) of the Second

Chance Act of 2007 (34 U.S.C. 60521(f)(1)) is amended by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2026 through 2030''.

(f) COMMUNITY-BASED MENTORING AND TRANSITIONAL SERVICE GRANTS TO NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.—Section 211(f) of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (34 U.S.C. 60531(f)) is amended by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2026 through 2030''.

AMENDMENT NO. 3136

(Purpose: To require a report on the feasibility of implementing artificial intelligence into anti-money laundering investigations relating to activity by foreign terrorist organizations, drug cartels, and other transnational criminal organizations)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE INTO CERTAIN ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING INVESTIGATIONS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network of the Department of the Treasury, in consultation with the Chair of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve, the Comptroller of the Currency, and the Chair of the National Credit Union Administration, shall submit to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives a report on the feasibility of implementing artificial intelligence into anti-money laundering investigations relating to activity by foreign terrorist organizations, drug cartels, and other transnational criminal organizations that addresses the following:

(1) The types of investigations in which artificial intelligence would be helpful.

(2) The types of artificial intelligence programs that would be effective in such investigations.

(3) The types of schemes artificial intelligence would be best placed to detect.

(4) Any potential issues to implementation of artificial intelligence in such investigations.

AMENDMENT NO. 3439

(Purpose: To prohibit certain reductions to the inventory of E–3 airborne warning and control system aircraft)

At the end of subtitle D of title I, add the following:

SEC. 142. PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN REDUCTIONS TO INVENTORY OF E–3 AIRBORNE WARNING AND CONTROL SYSTEM AIRCRAFT.

(a) PROHIBITION.—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2026 for the Air Force may be obligated or expended to retire, prepare to retire, or place in storage or in backup aircraft inventory any E–3 aircraft if such actions would reduce the total aircraft inventory for such aircraft below 16.

(b) EXCEPTION FOR PLAN.—If the Secretary of the Air Force submits to the congressional defense committees a plan for maintaining readiness and ensuring there is no lapse in mission capabilities, the prohibition under subsection (a) shall not apply to actions taken to reduce the total aircraft inventory for E–3 aircraft to below 16, beginning 30 days after the date on which the plan is so submitted.

(c) EXCEPTION FOR E–7 AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT.—If the Secretary of the Air Force procures enough E–7 Wedgetail aircraft to accomplish the required mission load, the prohibition under subsection (a) shall not apply to actions taken to reduce the total aircraft inventory for E–3 aircraft to below 16 after the date on which such E–7 Wedgetail aircraft are delivered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3156

(Purpose: To include as an additional right or privilege of commissioned officers of the Public Health Service (and their beneficiaries) certain leave provided under title 10, United States Code, to commissioned officers of the Army (or their beneficiaries)

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. APPLICATION OF LEAVE PROVISIONS FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 221(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 213a(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following: ''(22) Chapter 40, Leave.''.

(b) CONFORMING REPEAL.—Section 219 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 210–1) is repealed.

AMENDMENT NO. 3489

(Purpose: To direct the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, to conduct a study of the national security risks posed by consumer routers, modems, and devices that combine a modem and router, and for other purposes)

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. STUDY OF NATIONAL SECURITY RISKS POSED BY CERTAIN ROUTERS AND MODEMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a study of the national security risks and cybersecurity vulnerabilities posed by consumer routers, modems, and devices that combine a modem and router that are designed, developed, manufactured, or supplied by persons owned by, controlled by, or subject to the influence of a covered country.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the results of the study conducted under subsection (a).

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED COUNTRY.—The term ''covered country'' means a country specified in section 4872(f)(2) of title 10, United States Code.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.

AMENDMENT NO. 3351

(Purpose: To authorize grants to implement school-community partnerships for preventing substance use and misuse among youth)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. KEEPING DRUGS OUT OF SCHOOLS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DIRECTOR.—The term ''Director'' means the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

(2) DRUG-FREE COMMUNITIES FUNDED COALITION.—The term ''Drug-Free Communities funded coalition'' means a recipient of a grant under section 1032 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 (21 U.S.C. 1532).

(3) EFFECTIVE DRUG PREVENTION PROGRAMS.—The term ''effective drug prevention programs'', with respect to a school-community partnership between a Drug-Free Communities funded coalition and a local school, means strategies, policies, and activities that—

(A) are tailored to meet the needs of the student population of the school, based on the environment of the school and the community surrounding the school; and

(B) prevent and reduce substance use and misuse among local youth.

(4) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ''eligible entity'' means a coalition (within the meaning of section 1032 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 (21 U.S.C. 1532)) that—

(A) receives or has received a grant under subchapter I of chapter 2 of title I of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 (21 U.S.C. 1523 et seq.); and

(B) has a memorandum of understanding in effect with not less than 1 local school to establish a school-community partnership.

(5) LOCAL SCHOOL.—The term ''local school'' means an elementary, middle, or high school located in an area served by an eligible entity.

(6) SCHOOL-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP.—The term ''school-community partnership'' means a partnership between a Drug-Free Communities funded coalition and not less than 1 local school for the purpose of implementing effective drug prevention programs.

(7) SUBSTANCE USE AND MISUSE.—The term ''substance use and misuse''—

(A) has the meaning given the term in paragraph (9) of section 1023 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 (21 U.S.C. 1523); and

(B) includes the use of electronic or other delivery mechanisms to consume a substance described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of that paragraph.

(b) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) INITIAL GRANTS.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Director may award grants to eligible entities for the purpose of implementing a school-community partnership.

(B) RENEWAL GRANTS.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Director may award to an eligible entity who has received a grant under subparagraph (A) an additional grant for each fiscal year during the 3-fiscal-year period following the fiscal year for which the grant was awarded under subparagraph (A), for the purpose of continuing the school-community partnership.

(2) LIMITATIONS.—

(A) AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant under this subsection may not exceed $75,000 for a fiscal year.

(B) RECIPIENTS.—Not more than 1 eligible entity may receive a grant under this subsection to establish a school-community partnership with a particular local school.

(c) INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT.—The Director may enter into an interagency agreement with a National Drug Control Program agency, as defined in section 702 of the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998 (21 U.S.C. 1701), to delegate authority for—

(1) the execution of grants under this section; and

(2) other activities necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the Director under this section.

(d) APPLICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity desiring a grant under this section, in coordination with each local school with which the eligible entity has a school-community partnership, shall submit to the Director an application at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Director may require.

(2) PLAN.—The application submitted under paragraph (1) shall include a detailed, comprehensive plan for the school-community partnership to implement effective drug prevention programs.

(e) USE OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity receiving a grant under this section shall use funds from the grant—

(A) to implement the plan described in subsection (d)(2); and

(B) if necessary, to obtain specialized training and assistance from the organization receiving the grant under section 4(a) of Public Law 107–82 (21 U.S.C. 1521 note).

(2) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Grants provided under this section shall be used to supplement, and not supplant, Federal and non-Federal funds that are otherwise available for drug prevention programs in local schools.

(f) EVALUATION.—Section 1032(a)(6) of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 (21 U.S.C. 1532(a)(6)) shall apply to a grant under this section in the same manner as that section applies to a grant under subchapter I of chapter 2 of subtitle A of title I of that Act (21 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $7,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2031.

(2) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Not more than 8 percent of the funds appropriated pursuant to paragraph (1) may be used by the Director for administrative expenses associated with the responsibilities of the Director under this section.

AMENDMENT NO. 3703

(Purpose: To address disclosures by directors, officers, and principal stockholders of foreign private issuers)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. DISCLOSURES BY DIRECTORS, OFFICERS, AND PRINCIPAL STOCKHOLDERS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Holding Foreign Insiders Accountable Act''.

(b) DISCLOSURES.—

(1) AMENDMENTS.—Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78p(a)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''(including, solely for the purposes of this subsection, every person who is a director or an officer of a foreign private issuer, as that term is defined in section 240.3b–4 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation)'' after ''an officer of the issuer of such security'';

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

''(D) with respect to a foreign private issuer, the securities of which are, as of the date of enactment of the Holding Foreign Insiders Accountable Act, registered pursuant to subsection (b) or (g) of section 12, on the date that is 90 days after that date of enactment.''; and

(C) in paragraph (4)(A), by inserting ''and in English'' after ''electronically''.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date that is 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) EFFECT ON REGULATION.—If any provision of section 240.3a12–3(b) of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation, is inconsistent with the amendments made by subsection (b), that provision of such section 240.3a12–3(b) (or such successor) shall have no force or effect beginning on the effective date described in subsection (b)(2).

(d) ISSUANCE OR AMENDMENT OF REGULATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Securities and Exchange Commission shall issue final regulations (or amend or rescind, in whole or in part, existing regulations of the Commission) to carry out the amendments made by subsection (b).

(2) ADDITIONAL RULEMAKING.—The Securities and Exchange Commission may issue such additional regulations (or amend or rescind, in whole or in part, existing regulations of the Commission) as necessary to implement the intent of this section.

AMENDMENT NO. 3530

(Purpose: To provide for fairness in the issuance of tactical equipment to Diplomatic Security Service personnel)

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. FAIRNESS IN ISSUANCE OF TACTICAL EQUIPMENT TO DIPLOMATIC SECURITY SERVICE PERSONNEL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In any instance when the Diplomatic Security Service of the Department of State issues tactical gear to Special Agents, uniform division officers, or personal service contractors, the Service must, whenever such products are commercially available, provide both men's and women's sizing options.

(b) TACTICAL EQUIPMENT DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''tactical equipment'' includes, among other items, ballistic plates, ballistic plate carriers, helmets, media jackets, tactical pants, and gloves.

AMENDMENT NO. 3732

(Purpose: To improve the bill.)

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of September 2, 2025, under ''Text of Amendments.'')

AMENDMENT NO. 3557

(Purpose: To require the Inspector General of the Department of Defense to conduct an audit of foreign exposure from Department of Defense cloud computing contracts and to require the Secretary of Defense to update guidance to reduce, mitigate, or eliminate risk)

At the appropriate place in title XVI, insert the following:

SEC. 16___. AUDIT AND UPDATED GUIDANCE TO REDUCE, MITIGATE, OR ELIMINATE RISK FROM CLOUD COMPUTING CONTRACTS WITH FOREIGN EXPOSURE.

(a) REVIEW OF FOREIGN EXPOSURE FROM DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CLOUD COMPUTING CONTRACTS.—

(1) AUDIT REQUIRED.—The Inspector General of the Department of Defense shall conduct an audit of cloud computing contracts for the Department of Defense to assess the risk of exposure of sensitive information, including data, systems architecture details, procedures, or other controlled unclassified information, as a result of policies that may have allowed computer scientists or engineers from foreign countries of concern to access proposed software updates to underlying cloud computing infrastructure or operating systems.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The audit conducted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall cover the following:

(A) Determination of how many cloud computing contracts the Department has that may be or have been supported by employees located in foreign countries of concern or are citizens of foreign countries of concern.

(B) Identification of policies or clauses in such cloud computing contracts that allow for the use of so called ''digital escorts'', computer scientists, or engineers from foreign countries of concern.

(C) Assessment of agreements in place that use so called ''digital escorts'' to provide oversight to employees from foreign countries of concern, including identification of instances in which such authorities were used during the period beginning on January 1, 2022, and ending on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(D) Assessment of the national security risks that stem from cloud computing contracts that use labor from foreign countries of concern.

(E) Recommendations on ways to reduce, mitigate, or eliminate risk from initiatives such as so called ''digital escorting'', or the use of computer scientists or engineers from foreign countries of concern.

(3) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than July 1, 2026, the Inspector General shall submit to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives a report setting forth the findings of the Inspector General with respect to the audit conducted pursuant to paragraph (1).

(b) GUIDANCE TO REDUCE, MITIGATE, OR ELIMINATE RISK.—

(1) GUIDANCE.—Based on the audit conducted under subsection (a), the Secretary shall issue new guidance to reduce, mitigate, or eliminate risk to Department data or cloud computing infrastructure from foreign countries of concern.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The guidance issued pursuant to paragraph (1) shall—

(A) restrict the use of personnel from foreign countries of concern to support Department information technology systems; and

(B) require disclosure to the congressional defense committees if the Secretary finds a Department information technology system is maintained by personnel from a foreign country of concern.

(3) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive any guidance issued under paragraph (1) in any case in which the Secretary certifies in writing that such waiver—

(A) does not pose a risk to national security; and

(B) is necessary in the interest of national security.

(c) DEFINITION OF FOREIGN COUNTRY OF CONCERN.—In this section, the term ''foreign country of concern'' has the meaning given that term in section 9901 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (15 U.S.C. 4651).

AMENDMENT NO. 3788

(Purpose: To make improvements to the AUKUS partnership)

At the appropriate place in title XII, insert the following:

Subtitle ____—AUKUS Improvement Act of 2025

SEC. ____. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''AUKUS Improvement Act of 2025''.

SEC. ____. FLEXIBILITY WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT AND OTHER ARMS TRANSFER REQUIREMENTS.

Section 38(l) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778(l)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(8) EXEMPTION FROM CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Defense articles sold by the United States under this Act, whether pursuant to the exemption authorized under this section or identical to defense articles eligible for export under that exemption, may be reexported, retransferred or temporarily imported exclusively between the Government of Australia, the Government of the United Kingdom, or entities eligible under section 126.7(b)(2) of title 22 of the Code of Federal Regulations, or successor regulations, notwithstanding the requirement for the consent of the President under section

3(a)(2) of this Act, or under section 505(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2314(a)(1)(B).

''(B) INTRA-COMPANY, INTRA-ORGANIZATIONAL, AND INTRA-GOVERNMENTAL TRANSFERS.—Intra-company, intra-organization, and intra-governmental transfers related to defense articles and defense services described under subparagraph (A) are authorized between officers, employees, and agents who satisfy section 120.64 of title 22 of the Code of Federal Regulations, or successor regulations, including dual or third country nationals who satisfy section 126.18 of title 22 of the Code of Federal Regulations, or successor regulations.''.

SEC. ___. ELIMINATION OF CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT FOR COMMERCIAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OR MANUFACTURING LICENSE AGREEMENTS INVOLVING AUSTRALIA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Manufacturing Licensing Agreements and Technical Licensing Agreements for Australia and the United Kingdom that do not involve defense articles that are not subject to the licensing exemption under section 38(l) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778(l)) are not subject to the requirements for congressional notification pursuant to section 36(d) of that Act (22 U.S.C. 2776(d)).

AMENDMENT NO. 3570

(Purpose: To establish the Commercial Space Activity Advisory Committee)

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. COMMERCIAL SPACE ACTIVITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a Commercial Space Activity Advisory Committee (in this section referred to as the ''Committee'').

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall be composed of 15 members appointed by the Secretary.

(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall be composed of representatives from a variety of space policy, engineering, technical, science, legal, academic, and finance fields who have significant experience in the commercial space industry, which may include previous Government experience.

(B) LIMITATION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), the Secretary may not appoint as a member of the Committee any employee or official of the Federal Government.

(ii) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may appoint as a member of the Committee a special government employee (as defined in section 202(a) of title 18, United States Code) who serves on 1 or more other Federal advisory committees.

(3) TERM.—Each individual appointed as a member of the Committee—

(A) shall be appointed for a term of not more than 4 years; and

(B) during the 2-year period beginning on the date on which such term ends, may not serve as a member of the Committee.

(c) DUTIES.—The duties of the Committee shall be—

(1) to advise on the status and recent developments of nongovernmental space activities;

(2) to provide to the Secretary and Congress recommendations on the manner in which the United States may facilitate and promote a safe, sustainable, robust, competitive, and innovative commercial sector that is investing in, developing, and conducting space activities within the jurisdiction of the Department of Commerce, including through the development and implementation of any regulatory framework applicable to the commercial space industry.

(3) to identify, and provide recommendations in response to, any challenge faced by the United States commercial sector relating to—

(A) the application of international obligations of the United States relevant to commercial space sector activities in outer space;

(B) export controls that affect the commercial space sector;

(C) harmful interference with commercial space sector activities in outer space; and

(D) access to adequate, predictable, and reliable radio frequency spectrum;

(4) to review existing best practices for United States entities to avoid—

(A) the harmful contamination of the Moon and other celestial bodies; and

(B) adverse changes in the environment of the Earth resulting from the introduction of extraterrestrial matter; and

(5) to provide information, advice, and recommendations on matters relating to—

(A) United States commercial space sector activities in outer space; and

(B) other commercial space sector activities, as the Committee considers necessary.

(d) TERMINATION.—The Committee shall terminate on the date that is 10 years after the date on which the Committee is established.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Office of Space Commerce.

(2) STATE.—The term ''State'' means each of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any other commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States.

(3) UNITED STATES ENTITY.—The term ''United States entity'' means—

(A) an individual who is a national of the United States (as defined in section 101(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a))); and

(B) a nongovernmental entity organized or existing under, and subject to, the laws of the United States or a State.

AMENDMENT NO. 3799

(Purpose: To establish requirements and prohibitions relating to the provision of health care services at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri)

At the end of subtitle B of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 718. PROVISION OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES AT FORT LEONARD WOOD, MISSOURI.

(a) ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of the Army, shall conduct an assessment of the adequacy of health care services available to covered beneficiaries under the TRICARE program located at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The assessment required by subsection (a) shall include the following elements:

(1) An evaluation of the ability of the local area to provide adequate access to care for the covered beneficiary population surrounding Fort Leonard Wood.

(2) An evaluation of potential impacts to access and quality of care for such beneficiaries if the General Leonard Wood Army Community Hospital were to be realigned, downgraded, or have its scope of services reduced.

(3) An evaluation of the ability to establish additional partnerships with the Department of Veterans Affairs for the provision of health care service at the General Leonard Wood Army Community Hospital.

(4) Such other matters as the Secretary considers relevant for determining the continued viability of the General Leonard Wood Army Community Hospital.

(c) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary of Defense may not close, downgrade, or reduce the scope of care offered by the General Leonard Wood Army Community Hospital unless—

(1) the Secretary—

(A) completes the assessment required by subsection (a) and delivers such assessment to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives; and

(B) certifies to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives that any such changes would not reduce or degrade the health care services available to covered beneficiaries and the local community; and

(2) the Chief of Staff of the Army certifies to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives that there will be no degradation of medical readiness of units assigned to Fort Leonard Wood as a result of any changes to the status of the General Leonard Wood Army Community Hospital.

AMENDMENT NO. 3601

(Purpose: To clarify limitations applicable to the authority to transfer functions of the Air National Guard to the Space Force)

At the end of subtitle B of title V, add the following:

SEC. 515. LIMITATIONS APPLICABLE TO THE AUTHORITY TO TRANSFER SPACE FUNCTIONS OF THE AIR NATIONAL GUARD TO THE SPACE FORCE.

Section 514 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 (Public Law 118–159; 10 U.S.C. 20001 note) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (k) as subsection (l); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (j) the following new subsection:

''(k) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as—

''(1) authorizing the transfer of a member of the Air National Guard of the United States other than on a one-time basis as specified in subsection (c); or

''(2) setting future precedent with respect to waiving the applicability of any provision of title 32.''.

AMENDMENT NO. 3810

(Purpose: To require the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States to review and prohibit certain transactions relating to agriculture)

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. REVIEW AND PROHIBITIONS BY COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES OF CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 721 of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4565) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

''(14) AGRICULTURE.—The term 'agriculture' has the meaning given that term in section 3 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 203).'';

(2) in subsection (b)(1), by adding at the end the following:

''(I) CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL LAND TRANSACTIONS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after receiving notification from the Secretary of Agriculture of a reportable agricultural land transaction, the Committee shall determine—

''(I) whether the transaction is a covered transaction; and

''(II) if the Committee determines that the transaction is a covered transaction, whether to—

''(aa) request the submission of a notice under clause (i) of subparagraph (C) or a declaration under clause (v) of such subparagraph pursuant to the process established under subparagraph (H); or

''(bb) initiate a review pursuant to subparagraph (D).

''(ii) REPORTABLE AGRICULTURAL LAND TRANSACTION DEFINED.—In this subparagraph, the term 'reportable agricultural land transaction' means a transaction—

''(I) that the Secretary of Agriculture has reason to believe is a covered transaction;

''(II) that involves the acquisition of an interest in agricultural land by a foreign person, other than an excepted investor or an excepted real estate investor, as such terms are defined in regulations prescribed by the Committee; and

''(III) with respect to which a person is required to submit a report to the Secretary of Agriculture under section 2(a) of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3501(a)).

''(iii) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subparagraph shall be construed to apply to the acquisition of an interest in agricultural land by a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States.'';

(3) in subsection (k)(2)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (H), (I), and (J) as subparagraphs (I), (J), and (K), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (G) the following:

''(H) The Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to any covered transaction related to the purchase of agricultural land or agricultural biotechnology or otherwise related to the agriculture industry in the United States.''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(r) PROHIBITIONS RELATING TO PURCHASES OF AGRICULTURAL LAND AND AGRICULTURAL BUSINESSES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Committee, in conducting a review under this section, determines that a transaction described in clause (i), (ii), or (iv) of subsection (a)(4)(B) would result in the purchase or lease by a covered foreign person of real estate described in paragraph (2) or would result in control by a covered foreign person of a United States business engaged in agriculture, the President shall prohibit the transaction unless a party to the transaction voluntarily chooses to abandon the transaction.

''(2) REAL ESTATE DESCRIBED.—Subject to regulations prescribed by the Committee, real estate described in this paragraph is agricultural land (as defined in section 9 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3508)) in the United States that is in close proximity (subject to subsection (a)(4)(C)(ii)) to a United States military installation or another facility or property of the United States Government that is—

''(A) sensitive for reasons relating to national security for purposes of subsection (a)(4)(B)(ii)(II)(bb); and

''(B) identified in regulations prescribed by the Committee.

''(3) WAIVER.—The President may waive, on a case-by-case basis, the requirement to prohibit a transaction under paragraph (1) after the President determines and reports to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives that the waiver is in the national interest of the United States.

''(4) COVERED FOREIGN PERSON DEFINED.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In this subsection, subject to regulations prescribed by the Committee, the term 'covered foreign person'—

''(i) means any foreign person (including a foreign entity) that acts as an agent, representative, or employee of, or acts at the direction or control of, the government of a covered country; and

''(ii) does not include a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States.

''(B) COVERED COUNTRY DEFINED.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term 'covered country' means any of the following countries, if the country is determined to be a foreign adversary pursuant to section 791.4 of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation):

''(i) The People's Republic of China.

''(ii) The Russian Federation.

''(iii) The Islamic Republic of Iran.

''(iv) The Democratic People's Republic of Korea.''.

(b) SPENDING PLANS.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, each department or agency represented on the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States shall submit to the chairperson of the Committee a copy of the most recent spending plan required under section 1721(b) of the Foreign Investment Risk Review Modernization Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4565 note).

(c) REGULATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall direct, subject to section 553 of title 5, United States Code, the issuance of regulations to carry out the amendments made by this section.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The regulations prescribed under paragraph (1) shall take effect not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this section shall—

(1) take effect on the date that is 30 days after the effective date of the regulations under subsection (c)(2); and

(2) apply with respect to a covered transaction (as defined in section 721 of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4565)) that is proposed, pending, or completed on or after the date described in paragraph (1).

AMENDMENT NO. 3712

(Purpose: To allow the Secretary of the Interior to enter into memoranda of understanding for the purpose of scientific and technical cooperation in the mapping of critical minerals and rare earth elements)

At the appropriate place in subtitle F of title X, insert the following:

SEC. 10_____. FINDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESOURCE EXPLORATION.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the United States should prioritize, to the greatest extent practicable, the onshoring of critical mineral processing.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ALLIED FOREIGN COUNTRY.—The term ''allied foreign country'' means a member country of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization or a country that has been designated as a major non-NATO ally under section 517 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321k).

(2) CRITICAL MINERAL.—The term ''critical mineral'' has the meaning given the term in section 7002(a) of the Energy Act of 2020 (30 U.S.C. 1606(a)).

(3) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term ''institution of higher education'' has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

(4) PARTNER FOREIGN COUNTRY.—The term ''partner foreign country'' means a country that is a source of a critical mineral or rare earth element.

(5) RARE EARTH ELEMENT.—The term ''rare earth element'' means cerium, dysprosium, erbium, europium, gadolinium, holmium, lanthanum, lutetium, neodymium, praseodymium, promethium, samarium, scandium, terbium, thulium, ytterbium, or yttrium.

(6) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Geological Survey.

(c) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH RESPECT TO THE MAPPING OF CRITICAL MINERALS AND RARE EARTH ELEMENTS.—

(1) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—The Secretary may enter into a memorandum of understanding with 1 or more heads of agencies of partner foreign countries with respect to scientific and technical cooperation in the mapping of critical minerals and rare earth elements.

(2) OBJECTIVES.—In negotiating a memorandum of understanding under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall seek to increase the security and resilience of international supply chains, to the maximum extent practicable, for critical minerals and rare earth elements by—

(A) committing to assisting the partner foreign country through cooperative activities described in paragraph (3) that help the partner foreign country map reserves of critical minerals and rare earth elements; and

(B) ensuring that mapping data created through the cooperative activities described in paragraph (3) is protected against unauthorized access by, or disclosure to, governmental or private entities based in countries that are not—

(i) a party to the memorandum of understanding; or

(ii) an allied foreign country.

(3) COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES.—The cooperative activities referred to in paragraphs (2) and (5)(A)(ii) include—

(A) acquisition, compilation, analysis, and interpretation of geologic, geophysical, geochemical, and spectroscopic remote sensing data;

(B) prospectivity mapping and mineral resource assessment;

(C) analysis of geoscience data, including developing derivative map products that can help more effectively evaluate the mineral resources of the partner foreign country;

(D) scientific collaboration to enhance the understanding and management of the natural resources of the partner foreign country to contribute to the sustainable development of the mineral resources sector of that partner foreign country;

(E) training and capacity building in each area described in subparagraphs (A) through (D);

(F) facilitation of education and specialized training in geoscience and mineral resource management at institutions of higher education;

(G) training in relevant international standards for relevant officials of the government and private companies of the partner foreign country; and

(H) cooperation among entities of the partner foreign country that are a party to the memorandum of understanding and entities in the United States, including Federal departments and agencies, institutions of higher education, research centers, and private companies.

(4) NOTIFICATION AND REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(A) DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this paragraph, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(i) the Committees on Energy and Natural Resources, Foreign Relations, and Appropriations of the Senate; and

(ii) the Committees on Natural Resources, Foreign Affairs, and Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(B) NOTIFICATION AND REPORT.—Not later than 30 days before the Secretary intends to enter into a memorandum of understanding under paragraph (1), the Secretary and the Secretary of State shall jointly—

(i) notify the appropriate committees of Congress; and

(ii) submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report detailing the implementing partners, scope of the memorandum of understanding, activities to be undertaken, estimated costs, and source of funding.

(5) SECRETARY OF STATE.—

(A) AUTHORITY.—For purposes of negotiating and implementing the memorandum of understanding under paragraph (1), the Secretary of State shall be responsible for matters relating to—

(i) ensuring that private companies headquartered in the United States or an allied foreign country are offered the right of first refusal in the further development of critical minerals and rare earth elements in the partner foreign country; and

(ii) facilitating private-sector investment in the exploration and development of critical minerals and rare earth elements.

(B) CONCURRENCE.—The Secretary shall obtain the concurrence of the Secretary of State in—

(i) prioritizing and selecting partner foreign countries with which to enter into a memorandum of understanding under paragraph (1);

(ii) negotiating a memorandum of understanding under paragraph (1);

(iii) implementing a memorandum of understanding entered into under paragraph (1); and

(iv) carrying out paragraphs (4) and (6).

(6) CONSULTATION WITH PRIVATE SECTOR.—The Secretary shall consult with relevant private sector actors, as the Secretary determines to be appropriate, in—

(A) prioritizing and selecting partner foreign countries with which to enter into a memorandum of understanding under paragraph (1); and

(B) assessing how a memorandum of understanding can best facilitate private sector interest in pursuing the further development of critical minerals and rare earth elements in accordance with the objectives described in paragraph (2).

(d) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section impedes or otherwise alters any authority of the Director of the United States Geological Survey provided by—

(1) the matter under the heading ''GEOLOGICAL SURVEY'' of the first section of the Act of March 3, 1879 (43 U.S.C. 31(a)); or

(2) the first section of Public Law 87–626 (43 U.S.C. 31(b)).

AMENDMENT NO. 3811

(Purpose: To strengthen relations between the United States and the countries in the Western Balkans, and for other purposes.)

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of September 8, 2025, under ''Text of Amendments.'')

AMENDMENT NO. 3724

(Purpose: To require that additional factors be included in the design of counseling pathways under the Transition Assistance Program of the Department of Defense)

At the appropriate place in subtitle E of title V, insert the following:

SEC. ___. FACTORS FOR COUNSELING PATHWAYS UNDER TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Section 1142(c)(1) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraph (M) as subparagraph (R); and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (L) the following new subparagraphs:

''(M) Child care requirements of the member (including whether a dependent of the member is enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member Program).

''(N) The employment status of other adults in the household of the member.

''(O) The location of the duty station of the member (including whether the member was separated from family while on duty).

''(P) The effects of operating tempo and personnel tempo on the member and the household of the member.''.

AMENDMENT NO. 3813

(Purpose: To require the provision of certain services to veterans in the Freely Associated States)

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE CERTAIN SERVICES TO VETERANS IN THE FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.

(a) TELEHEALTH AND MAIL ORDER PHARMACY BENEFITS.—Section 1724(f)(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(C) Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026, the Secretary shall furnish to veterans described in subparagraph (A), subject to agreements described in such subparagraph, telehealth benefits and mail order pharmacy benefits.''.

(b) BENEFICIARY TRAVEL.—Section 111(h)(1) of such title is amended by striking ''the Secretary may make payments'' and inserting ''beginning not later than one year after the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026, the Secretary shall make payments''.

(c) QUARTERLY REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than quarterly, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the status of implementation of the amendments made by this section and the cost of such implementation.

(2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(d) EXTENSION OF CERTAIN LIMITS ON PAYMENTS OF PENSION.—Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking ''November 30, 2031'' and inserting ''April 30, 2032''.

AMENDMENT NO. 3751

(Purpose: To improve the safety and security of Members of Congress, immediate family members of Members of Congress, and congressional staff.)

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of September 3, 2025, under ''Text of Amendments.'')

AMENDMENT NO. 3823

(Purpose: To modify the requirements for transfers of United States defense articles and defense services among the Baltic states)

At the end of subtitle C of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1230B. MODIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS FOR TRANSFERS OF UNITED STATES DEFENSE ARTICLES AND DEFENSE SERVICES AMONG BALTIC STATES.

(a) EXEMPTIONS FROM REQUIREMENT FOR CONSENT TO TRANSFER.—

(1) RETRANSFERS AMONG BALTIC STATES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the requirements of section 3(a)(2) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 USC 2753(a)(2)) and Section 505(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 USAC 2314(a)(1)), retransfers of defense articles related to United States-origin mobile rocket artillery systems among Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia shall not require prior Presidential consent.

(B) EXPIRATION.—The authority provided in subparagraph (A) shall cease to have effect on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) AGREEMENTS.—

(A) CONSENT TO TRANSFER NOT REQUIRED.—An agreement between the United States and a Baltic State under section 3 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2753(a)) with respect to defense articles or defense services related to mobile rocket artillery systems provided by the United States shall not require the Baltic state to seek approval from the United States to transfer the defense article or defense service to any other Baltic state.

(B) MODIFICATION.—With respect to any agreement under section 3(a)(2) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2753(a)(2)) in effect as of the date of the enactment of this Act that requires the consent of the President before a Baltic state may transfer a defense article or defense service related to mobile rocket artillery systems provided by the United States, at the request of any Baltic state, the United States shall modify such agreement so as to remove such requirement with respect to such a transfer to any other Baltic state.

(b) COMMON COALITION KEY.—The Secretary of Defense may establish among the Baltic states a common coalition key or other technological solution within the Baltic states for the purpose of sharing ammunition for High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS) among the Baltic states for training and operational purposes.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) BALTIC STATE.—The term ''Baltic state'' means the following:

(A) Estonia.

(B) Lithuania.

(C) Latvia.

(2) DEFENSE ARTICLE; DEFENSE SERVICE.—The terms ''defense article'' and ''defense service'' have the meanings given such terms in section 47 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2794).

AMENDMENT NO. 3818

(Purpose: To enhance United States support for identifying and recovering Ukranian children who were abducted by the Russian Federation, and to hold accountable those who are responsible for such abductions)

At the end of subtitle E of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1265. SUPPORTING THE IDENTIFICATION AND RECOVERY OF ABDUCTED UKRAINIAN CHILDREN.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Abducted Ukrainian Children Recovery and Accountability Act''.

(b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) According to a White House press release, dated March 25, 2025, ''The United States and Ukraine agreed that the United States remains committed to helping achieve the exchange of prisoners of war, the release of civilian detainees, and the return of forcibly transferred Ukrainian children.''.

(2) To implement the commitment referred to in paragraph (1), the United States Government requires an organized and resourced policy approach to assist Ukraine with—

(A) investigations of Russia's abduction of Ukrainian children;

(B) the rehabilitation and reintegration of children returned to Ukraine; and

(C) justice and accountability for perpetrators of the abductions.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND ADVISORY SUPPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Department of Justice and the Department of State are authorized—

(A) to provide law enforcement and intelligence technical assistance, training, capacity building, and advisory support to the Government of Ukraine in support of the commitment described in subsection (b)(1); and

(B) to advance the objectives described in subsection (b)(2).

(2) TYPE OF ASSISTANCE.—The law enforcement and intelligence technical assistance authorized under paragraph (1)(A) may include—

(A) training regarding the utilization of biometric identification technologies in abduction and trafficking in persons investigations;

(B) assistance with respect to collecting and analyzing open source intelligence information;

(C) assistance in the development and use of secure communications technologies; and

(D) assistance with respect to managing and securing relevant databases.

(3) REPORTS.—Not later than 30 days after the determination to provide assistance in any category identified in this subsection, the Secretary of State shall brief the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives on—

(A) the amount of assistance determined to be obligated;

(B) the type of assistance to be utilized; and

(C) any information on the technology operationalized to support the means identified in this subsection.

(d) COORDINATION.—

(1) NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS.—The Department of Justice and the Department of State may coordinate with, and provide grants to, nongovernmental organizations to carry out the assistance authorized under subsection (c).

(2) FEDERAL AGENCIES.—The National Security Council may coordinate with appropriate representatives from the Department of Justice, the Department of State, the intelligence community (as defined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003)), and other Federal agencies, as needed, to carry out the assistance authorized under subsection (c).

(e) REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION OF ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of State is authorized to provide support to the Government of Ukraine and nongovernmental organizations and local civil society groups in Ukraine for the purpose of providing Ukrainian children (including teenagers) who have been abducted, forcibly transferred, or held against their will by the Russian Federation with—

(A) medical and psychological rehabilitation services;

(B) family reunification and support services; and

(C) services in support of the reintegration of such children into Ukrainian society, including case management, legal aid, and educational screening and placement.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit a report to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives that describes all current or planned foreign assistance programs that will provide the assistance authorized under paragraph (1).

(f) ATROCITY CRIMES ADVISORY GROUP FOR UKRAINE.—The Department of State is authorized to support the Atrocity Crimes Advisory Group for Ukraine by providing technical assistance, capacity building, and advisory support to the Government of Ukraine's Office of the Prosecutor General, and other relevant components of the Government of Ukraine, for the purpose of investigating and prosecuting cases involving abducted children, and other atrocity crimes.

(g) DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.—The Department of Justice is authorized to provide technical assistance, capacity building, and advisory support to the Government of Ukraine through its Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance, and Training, which shall be coordinated by the Resident Legal Adviser at the United States Embassy in Kyiv, for the purpose of investigating and prosecuting cases involving abducted children, and other atrocity crimes.

(h) REPORTS.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act—

(1) the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Attorney General, shall submit a report to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives that describes current and planned United States Government support for the Government of Ukraine's work to investigate and prosecute atrocity crimes; and

(2) the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of the Treasury, shall submit a report to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives that outlines—

(A) any discrepancies between the sanctions regimes of the United States, the United Kingdom, and the European Union with respect to those responsible for the abduction of Ukrainian children; and

(B) efforts made by the United States Government to better align such sanction regimes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3702

(Purpose: To improve coordination between Federal and State agencies and the Do Not Pay working system)

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. _____. IMPROVING COORDINATION BETWEEN FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES AND THE DO NOT PAY WORKING SYSTEM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 205(r) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405(r)), as amended by section 801(a)(7) of title VIII of division FF of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260), is amended by striking paragraph (11) and inserting the following:

''(11) The Commissioner of Social Security shall, to the extent feasible, provide information furnished to the Commissioner under paragraph (1) to the agency operating the Do Not Pay working system described in section 3354(c) of title 31, United States Code, for the authorized uses of the Do Not Pay working system to help prevent improper payments of, and support the recovery of improperly paid, benefits or other payments through a cooperative arrangement with such agency, provided that the requirements of subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (3) are met with respect to such arrangement with such agency. The Commissioner of Social Security and the agency operating the Do Not Pay working system shall, while the data described in the preceding sentence is being provided to the agency operating the Do Not Pay working system, enter into an agreement based upon an agreed upon methodology, which covers the proportional share of State death data costs, which the Commissioner of Social Security and the agency operating the Do Not Pay working system may periodically review.

''(12) The Commissioner of Social Security may not record a death to a record that may be provided under this section for any individual unless the Commissioner of Social Security has found it has clear and convincing evidence to support that the individual should be presumed to be deceased.''.

(b) IMPROVING COORDINATION REGARDING INDIVIDUALS INCORRECTLY IDENTIFIED AS DECEASED.—Section 205(r)(7) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405(r)(7)), as added by section 801(a)(4) of title VIII of division FF of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260), is amended by striking ''and'' at the end of subparagraph (A), by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (B) and inserting ''; and'', and by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(C) notify any agency that has a cooperative arrangement with the Commissioner of Social Security under paragraph (3) or (11) of the error.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on December 27, 2026.

AMENDMENT NO. 3825

(Purpose: To authorize the establishment of a Baltic Security Initiative for the purpose of strengthening the defensive capabilities of the Baltic countries)

At the end of subtitle C of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1230B. BALTIC SECURITY INITIATIVE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Pursuant to the authority provided in chapter 16 of title 10, United States Code, the Secretary of Defense may establish and carry out an initiative, to be known as the ''Baltic Security Initiative'', for the purpose of deepening security cooperation with the military forces of the Baltic countries.

(b) RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING AUTHORITIES.—An initiative established under subsection (a) shall be carried out pursuant to the authorities provided in title 10, United States Code.

(c) OBJECTIVES.—The objectives of an initiative established under subsection (a) should include—

(1) to achieve United States national security objectives by—

(A) deterring aggression by the Russian Federation; and

(B) implementing the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's new Strategic Concept, which seeks to strengthen the alliance's deterrence and defense posture by denying potential adversaries any possible opportunities for aggression;

(2) to enhance regional planning and cooperation among the military forces of the Baltic countries, particularly with respect to long-term regional capability projects, including—

(A) long-range precision fire systems and capabilities;

(B) integrated air and missile defense;

(C) maritime domain awareness;

(D) land forces development, including stockpiling large caliber ammunition;

(E) command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance;

(F) special operations forces development;

(G) coordination with and security enhancements for Poland, which is a neighboring North Atlantic Treaty Organization ally; and

(H) other military capabilities, as determined by the Secretary; and

(3) with respect to the military forces of the Baltic countries, to improve cyber defenses and resilience to hybrid threats.

(d) STRATEGY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report setting forth a strategy for the Department of Defense to achieve the objectives described in subsection (c).

(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—The strategy required by this subsection shall include a consideration of—

(A) security assistance programs for the Baltic countries authorized as of the date on which the strategy is submitted;

(B) the ongoing security threats to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's eastern flank posed by Russian aggression, including as a result of the Russian Federation's 2022 invasion of Ukraine with support from Belarus; and

(C) the ongoing security threats to the Baltic countries posed by the presence, coercive economic policies, and other malign activities of the People's Republic of China.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary $350,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2026, 2027, and 2028 to carry out an initiative established under subsection (a).

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary should seek to require matching funds from each of the Baltic countries that participate in such an initiative in amounts commensurate with amounts provided by the Department for the initiative.

(f) BALTIC COUNTRIES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''Baltic countries'' means—

(1) Estonia;

(2) Latvia; and

(3) Lithuania.

AMENDMENT NO. 3842

(Purpose: To establish a military-civilian medical surge program)

At the end of subtitle C of title VII, insert the following:

SEC. 724. MILITARY-CIVILIAN MEDICAL SURGE PROGRAM.

Section 1096 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by adding at the end the following ''**; medical surge program**''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(e) MEDICAL SURGE PROGRAM.—(1) The Secretary of Defense, in collaboration with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall carry out a program of record known as the Military-Civilian Medical Surge Program to—

''(A) support locations that the Secretary of Defense selects under paragraph (3)(B); and

''(B) enhance the interoperability and medical surge capability and capacity of the National Disaster Medical System in response to a declaration or other action described in subparagraphs (A) through (E) of paragraph (4).

''(2)(A) The Secretary of Defense, acting through the National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (or such successor center), shall oversee the operation, staffing, and deployment of the Program.

''(B) In carrying out the Program, the Secretary shall maintain requirements for staffing, specialized training, research, and education regarding patient regulation, movement, definitive care, and other matters the Secretary determines critical to sustaining the health of members of the armed forces.

''(3)(A) In carrying out the Program, the Secretary shall establish partnerships at locations selected under subparagraph (B) with public, private, and nonprofit health care organizations, health care institutions, health care entities, academic medical centers of institutions of higher education, and hospitals that the Secretary determines—

''(i) are critical in mobilizing a civilian medical response in support of a wartime contingency or other catastrophic event in the United States; and

''(ii) have demonstrated technical proficiency in critical national security domains, including high-consequence infectious disease and special pathogen preparedness, and matters relating to defense, containment, management, care, and transportation.

''(B)(i) The Secretary shall select not fewer than eight locations that are operationally relevant to the missions of the Department of Defense under the National Disaster Medical System and are aeromedical or other transport hubs or logistics centers in the United States for partnerships under subparagraph (A).

''(ii) The Secretary may select more than eight locations under clause (i), including locations outside of the continental United States, if the Secretary determines such additional locations cover areas of strategic and operational relevance to the Department of Defense.

''(4) The Secretary shall ensure that the partnerships under paragraph (3)(A) allow for civilian medical personnel to quickly and effectively mobilize direct support to military medical treatment facilities and provide support to other requirements of the military health system pursuant to the following:

''(A) A declaration of a national emergency under the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.).

''(B) A public health emergency declared under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d).

''(C) A declaration of war by Congress.

''(D) The exercise for the President of executive powers under the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1541 et seq.).

''(E) Any other emergency or major disaster as declared by the President.

''(5)(A) Not later than July 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report on the status, readiness, and operational capabilities of the Program.

''(B) Each report required under subparagraph (A) shall include an assessment of personnel readiness, resource availability, interagency coordination efforts, and recommendations for continued improvements to the Program.

''(6) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to authorize the Department of Defense to control, direct, limit, or otherwise affect the authorities of the Secretary of Health and Human Services with respect to leadership and administration of the National Disaster Medical System, public health and medical preparedness and response, staffing levels, or resource allocation.

''(7) In this subsection:

''(A) The term 'institution of higher education' means a four-year institution of higher education (as defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a))).

''(B) The term 'National Disaster Medical System' means the system established under section 2812 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh–11).

''(C) The term 'Program' means the Military-Civilian Medical Surge Program established under paragraph (1).''.

AMENDMENT NO. 3834

(Purpose: To amend the Federal Credit Union Act to provide for certain ways in which credit unions may be Agent members of the National Credit Union Administration Central Liquidity Facility)

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. AGENT MEMBERSHIP.

Section 304(b)(2) of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1795c(b)(2)) is amended by striking ''all those credit unions'' and inserting ''any such credit unions''.

AMENDMENT NO. 3890

(Purpose: To establish the SkyFoundry Program)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. SKYFOUNDRY PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense shall establish a program to encourage the rapid development, testing, and scalable manufacturing of small unmanned aircraft systems and components, with potential expansion to associated energetics and other autonomous systems as determined by the Secretary, leveraging existing competencies within the commercial sector and the Department of Defense organic industrial base.

(2) DESIGNATION.—The program established pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be known as the ''SkyFoundry Program'' (in this section the ''Program'').

(3) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary of Defense shall—

(A) administer the Program through the Secretary of the Army; and

(B) establish the Program as part of the Defense Industrial Resilience Consortium.

(b) ALTERNATIVE ACQUISITION MECHANISM.—In carrying out the Program, the Secretary of Defense shall prioritize alternative acquisition mechanisms to accelerate development and production, including—

(1) other transaction authority under section 4022 of title 10, United States Code;

(2) middle tier of acquisition pathway for rapid prototyping and rapid fielding as authorized by section 3602 of such title; and

(3) software acquisition pathway as authorized by section 3603 of such title.

(c) COMPONENTS.—The Program shall have two components as follows:

(1) INNOVATION FACILITY.—An innovation facility for the development of small unmanned aircraft systems. The facility may be operated by United States Special Operations Command in collaboration with United States Army Materiel Command, serving as the research, development, and testing hub, integrating lessons learned from global conflicts to rapidly evolve United States small unmanned aircraft systems designs in partnership with contractor entities.

(2) PRODUCTION FACILITY.—The Commander of United States Army Materiel Command shall identify a production facility with the competencies for producing various forms of

small unmanned aircraft systems and components of small unmanned aircraft systems. The facility shall be operated by United States Army Materiel Command in collaboration with industry partners to enable scalable production as needed.

(d) PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP MODEL.—To support the Program, the Secretary may leverage authorities, including section 2474 of title 10, United States Code, to foster voluntary public-private partnerships. Such partnerships may include—

(1) agreements with private industry, academic institutions, and nonprofit organizations in support of the Program; and

(2) innovative arrangements that allow industry partners to utilize government facilities and equipment, such as co-located hybrid teams of military, civilian, and contractor personnel, to promote technology transfer, workforce development, and surge capacity.

(e) FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the Program, the Secretary shall prioritize utilizing or modifying existing Army Depot facilities and select at least two separate sites for the Program, one to house the innovation facility required by paragraph (1) of subsection (c) and one to house the production facility required by paragraph (2) of such subsection.

(2) AUTHORITY TO RENOVATE, EXPAND, AND CONSTRUCT.—The Secretary may renovate, expand, or construct facilities for the Program using available funds, notwithstanding chapter 169 of title 10, United States Code.

(3) SELECTION OF SITES.—When selecting sites for the Program, the Secretary shall consider that the production facility required by subsection (c)(2) shall be housed at an existing Army Depot.

(f) INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS.—The Secretary shall ensure that any public-private partnership established under this section provides the United States delivery of technical data and rights in technical data for any systems or technologies developed under the Program using Federal Government funding in accordance with sections 3771 through 3775 of title 10, United States Code.

(g) DEFENSE PRODUCTION ACT DESIGNATION.—The President (or the Secretary of Defense under delegated authority) may use authorities under title III of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4531 et seq.) to support domestic industrial base capacity for small unmanned aircraft systems and associated energetics and autonomous systems.

AMENDMENT NO. 2979

(Purpose: To exempt children of certain Filipino World War II veterans from the numerical limitations on immigrant visas)

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. EXEMPTION FROM IMMIGRANT VISA LIMIT.

Section 201(b)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151(b)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(F) Aliens who—

''(i) are eligible for a visa under paragraph (1) or (3) of section 203(a); and

''(ii) have a parent (regardless of whether the parent is living or dead) who was naturalized pursuant to—

''(I) section 405 of the Immigration Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–649; 8 U.S.C. 1440 note); or

''(II) title III of the Act of October 14, 1940 (54 Stat. 1137, chapter 876), as added by section 1001 of the Second War Powers Act, 1942 (56 Stat. 182, chapter 199).''.

AMENDMENT NO. 3272

(Purpose: To support law enforcement agencies and crime victims.)

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of July 31, 2025, under ''Text of Amendments.'')

AMENDMENT NO. 3742

(Purpose: To authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard.)

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of September 2, 2025, under ''Text of Amendments.'')

AMENDMENT NO. 3901

(Purpose: To increase the supply of affordable housing in America.)

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of September 18, 2025, under ''Text of Amendments.'')

AMENDMENT NO. 3819

(Purpose: To provide for certain authorities of the Department of State, and for other purposes.)

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of September 8, 2025, under ''Text of Amendments.'')

AMENDMENT NO. 3899

(Purpose: To require the President or his designee to certify whether the Government of Syria is meeting certain conditions following repeal of the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019)

At the end of section 6211 of division E, insert the following:

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter for the following 4 years, the President or his designee shall submit to Congress an unclassified report, with a classified annex if necessary, that certifies whether the Government of Syria—

(1) has committed itself to the goal of eliminating the threat posed by ISIS and other terrorist groups and has worked in partnership with the United States to join as a member of the Global Coalition To Defeat ISIS;

(2) is making progress in providing security for religious and ethnic minorities in Syria and includes representation from religious and ethnic minorities in the government;

(3) is not taking unilateral, unprovoked military action against its neighbors, including the State of Israel, and continues to make progress towards international security agreements, as appropriate;

(4) is not knowingly financing, assisting (monetarily or through weapons transfers), or harboring individuals or groups (including foreign terrorist organizations and specially designated global terrorists) that are harmful to the national security of the United States or allies and partners of the United States in the region;

(5) has removed, or has taken steps to remove, foreign fighters from senior roles in the Government of Syria, including those in the state and security institutions of Syria; and

(6) is in the process of investigating and has committed to prosecuting those that have committed serious abuses of internationally recognized human rights since December 8, 2024, including those responsible for the massacre of religious minorities.

(c) NOTIFICATION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF SYRIA.—The President or his designee shall inform the Government of Syria of the findings of the report required under subsection (b).

(d) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON REIMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—If the President or his designee is unable to make an affirmative certification under subsection (b) for two consecutive reporting periods, it is the sense of Congress that sanctions under the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019 (title LXXIV of division F of Public Law 116–92; 22 U.S.C. 8791 note) should be reimposed and remain in effect until the President or his designee makes an affirmative certification under subsection (b).

AMENDMENT NO. 3888

(Purpose: To combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing at its sources globally.)

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of September 15, 2025, under ''Text of Amendments.'')

AMENDMENT NO. 3880

(Purpose: To require a report on the United States boot industrial base and Berry Amendment compliance)

At the end of subtitle C of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 849B. REPORT ON UNITED STATES BOOT INDUSTRIAL BASE AND BERRY AMENDMENT COMPLIANCE.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the United States boot industrial base, including a comprehensive plan for the Department of Defense to fully comply with the requirements under section 4862 of title 10, United States Code (commonly referred to as the ''Berry Amendment'') by not later than fiscal year 2028.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following elements:

(1) A detailed description of current and surge manufacturing capacity for Berry-compliant, government-issued boots, including suppliers of leather, textiles, soles, and components, as well as risks to supply chain resilience and small business participation. Surge manufacturing capacity includes all major domestic manufacturers of boots including those not currently supplying Berry-compliant boots.

(2) A market survey of domestic boot manufacturers regarding interest in producing Berry-compliant boots if there were to be a requirement that all members of the Armed Forces are required to only wear Berry-compliant boots.

(3) A time-phased schedule of actions, milestones, and resources required to achieve full Berry Amendment compliance for combat footwear across all military services by fiscal year 2028.

(4) An assessment of how current policies allowing the wear of ''optional combat boots'' that are not Berry-compliant undermine the intent of the Berry Amendment and weaken the United States industrial base, and recommendations for coming into compliance.

(5) A plan to implement and enforce narrowly tailored availability and medical exemptions, as authorized under section 4862(c) of title 10, United States Code, with controls to prevent overuse.

(6) Steps to expand industrial capacity for Berry-compliant government-issued boots through multiyear contracting, demand forecasting, inventory planning, and attracting new Berry-compliant suppliers by requiring that optional boots must be Berry-compliant.

AMENDMENT NO. 3015

(Purpose: To require the Secretary of Defense to conduct a feasibility study on the removal of oil from sunken World War II vessels in waters near the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Palau)

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. FEASIBILITY STUDY ON REMOVAL OF OIL FROM SUNKEN WORLD WAR II VESSELS IN WATERS NEAR THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA AND THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) there is a significant environmental threat posed by World War II-era sunken Japanese warships, including three oil tankers, located in the waters near the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Palau;

(2) such sunken vessels contain an estimated 3,000,000 to 4,000,000 gallons of oil, or approximately the equivalent of ⅓ of the *Exxon Valdez* oil tanker spill in 1989; and

(3) as such sunken vessels continue to deteriorate, small amounts of oil are already leaking, threatening to cause an ecological disaster that could negatively impact United States military activities, the marine ecosystem, and surrounding communities.

(b) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Commander of the United States Indo-Pacific Command and the head of any other relevant Federal department or agency, as appropriate, shall conduct a comprehensive study on the feasibility and advisability of removing oil from the World War II-era sunken tankers, including an analysis of the cost, logistical requirements, environmental risks, and potential methods for removing the oil from the tankers.

(2) REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than March 1, 2026, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the findings of the study conducted under paragraph (1).

(B) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subparagraph (A) shall include the following:

(i) An assessment of the operational and environmental risks posed by the oil remaining in the sunken tankers and warships, including current leakage and the potential impacts of a major spill.

(ii) An evaluation of the cost, logistical challenges, and technical approaches for safely extracting or containing oil from the shipwrecks.

(iii) A review of ongoing and planned efforts by the United States and international partners addressing such matter.

(iv) Recommendations on next steps, including resource needs, interagency and international cooperation, and timelines for potential remediation efforts.

AMENDMENT NO. 3753

(Purpose: To improve coordination of Federal efforts to identify and mitigate health and national security risks through a monitoring system to map essential medicine supply chains using data analytics)

At the end of subtitle F of title X, insert the following:

SEC. 1067. MAPPING AMERICA'S PHARMACEUTICAL SUPPLY.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Mapping America's Pharmaceutical Supply Act'' or the ''MAPS Act''.

(b) U.S. PHARMACEUTICAL SUPPLY CHAINS MAPPING.—

(1) PHARMACEUTICAL SUPPLY CHAIN MAPPING.—The Secretary, in coordination with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall ensure coordination of efforts of the Department of Health and Human Services, including through public-private partnerships, as appropriate, to—

(A) map, or otherwise visualize, the supply chains, from manufacturing of key starting materials through manufacturing of finished dosage forms and distribution, of drugs and biological products, including the active ingredients of those drugs and biological products, that are—

(i) directly related to responding to chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear threats and incidents covered by the National Response Framework; or

(ii) of greatest priority for providing health care and identified as being at high risk of shortage; and

(B) use data analytics to identify supply chain vulnerabilities that pose a threat to national security, as determined by the Secretary or the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) describe the roles and responsibilities of agencies and offices within the Department of Health and Human Services related to monitoring such supply chains and assessing any related vulnerabilities;

(B) facilitate the exchange of information between Federal departments, agencies, and offices, as appropriate and necessary to enable such agencies and offices to carry out roles and responsibilities described in subparagraph (A) related to drugs and biological products described in paragraph (1)(A), which may include—

(i) the location of establishments registered under subsection (b), (c), or (i) of section 510 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360) involved in the production of drugs and biological products, including the active ingredients of those drugs and biological products, described in paragraph (1)(A), and to the extent available, the amount of each such drug and biological product, including the active ingredients of those drugs and biological products, produced at each such establishment;

(ii) to the extent available and as appropriate, the location of establishments so registered involved in the production of the key starting materials and excipients needed to produce each drug and biological product, including the active ingredients of those drugs and biological products, and the amount of such materials and excipients produced at each such establishment; and

(iii) any applicable regulatory actions with respect to each such drug and biological product, or the establishments manufacturing such drugs and biological products, including with respect to—

(I) inspections and related regulatory activities conducted under section 704 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 374);

(II) seizures pursuant to section 304 of such Act (21 U.S.C. 334);

(III) any recalls issued;

(IV) drugs or biological products that are, at the time of the determination, or that were at a previous time, included on the drug shortage list consistent with section 506E of such Act (21 U.S.C. 356e); and

(V) discontinuances or interruptions in the production of such drugs or biological products under 506C of such Act (21 U.S.C. 355d).

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary, in consultation with the heads of departments and agencies with which the Secretary coordinates under paragraph (1), shall submit a report to the relevant committees of Congress on—

(A) the current status of efforts to map and analyze pharmaceutical supply chains, as described in paragraph (1);

(B) activities of the Secretary carried out under this subsection to coordinate efforts as described in paragraph (1), including information sharing between relevant Federal departments, agencies, and offices;

(C) the roles and responsibilities described in paragraph (2)(A), including the identification of any gaps, data limitations, or areas of unnecessary duplication between such roles and responsibilities;

(D) the extent to which Federal agencies use data analytics to conduct predictive modeling of anticipated drug shortages or risks associated with supply chain vulnerabilities that pose a threat to national security;

(E) the extent to which the Secretary has engaged relevant industry in such mapping;

(F) the drugs and biological products, including the active ingredients of those drugs and biological products, described in paragraph (1)(A) that rely on, for more than 50 percent of production, a high-risk foreign supplier or foreign entity of concern (as defined in section 9901(8) of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (15 U.S.C. 4651(8)));

(G) the drugs and biological products, including the active ingredients of those drugs and biological products, described in paragraph (1)(A) that are sourced from foreign establishments for more than 50 percent of production, including drugs manufactured domestically from active pharmaceutical ingredients sourced from foreign establishments for more than 50 percent of production;

(H) the current domestic manufacturing capabilities for drugs and biological products, including the active ingredients of those drugs and biological products, described in paragraph (1)(A), including the key starting materials and excipients of such drugs, biological products, and ingredients, and whether such capabilities utilize advanced manufacturing technologies; and

(I) any public health or national security risks, including cybersecurity threats and critical infrastructure designations, with respect to the supply chains of drugs and biological products, including the active ingredients of those drugs and biological products, described in paragraph (1)(A).

(c) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BIANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the relevant committees of Congress a report that lists all drugs purchased by the Department of Defense during the 180-day period preceding the date of the report—

(1) that contain key starting materials, excipients, or active pharmaceutical ingredients sourced from the People's Republic of China; or

(2) for which the finished drug product was manufactured in the People's Republic of China.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADVANCED MANUFACTURING.—The term ''advanced manufacturing'' has the meaning given the term ''advanced and continuous pharmaceutical manufacturing'' in section 3016(h) of the 21st Century Cures Act (21 U.S.C. 399h(h)).

(2) BIOLOGICAL PRODUCT.—The term ''biological product'' has the meaning given such term in section 351(i) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262(i)).

(3) CYBERSECURITY THREAT.—The term ''cybersecurity threat'' has the meaning given such term in section 2200 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 650).

(4) DRUG.—The term ''drug'' has the meaning given such term in section 201(g) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321(g)).

(5) RELEVANT COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''relevant committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

(6) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'', except as otherwise specified, means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(e) ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.—

(1) CONFIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL INFORMATION.—The exchange of information among the Secretary and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies for purposes of carrying out subsection (b) shall not be a violation of section 1905 of title 18, United States Code. This section shall not be construed to affect the status, if any, of such information as trade secret or confidential commercial information for purposes of section 301(j) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 331(j)), section 552 of title 5, United States Code, or section 1905 of title 18, United States Code.

(2) CYBERSECURITY MEASURES.—The Secretary shall ensure that robust cybersecurity measures are in place to prevent inappropriate access to, or unauthorized disclosure of, the information identified, exchanged, or disclosed under subsection (b).

AMENDMENT NO. 3826

(Purpose: To modify and reauthorize the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018.)

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of September 8, 2025, under ''Text of Amendments.'')

AMENDMENT NO. 3728

(Purpose: To require the executive branch to develop a whole-of-government strategy to disrupt growing cooperation among the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which are the foremost adversaries of the United States, and mitigate the risks posed to the United States.)

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of September 2, 2025, under ''Text of Amendments.'')

AMENDMENT NO. 3928

(Purpose: To require the Secretary of Defense to establish a pilot program for deploying microreactors)

At the end of section 922, add the following:

(h) PILOT PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Defense shall establish a pilot program for deploying microreactors at United States military installations to strengthen energy resilience and reduce reliance on vulnerable civilian grids.

VOTE ON AMENDMENTS EN BLOC

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, on the en bloc, I suggest a voice vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question occurs on adoption of the amendments en bloc.

The amendments (Nos. 3340, 2928, 3355, 2952, 3376, 2971, 3405, 3039, 3435, 3136, 3439, 3156, 3489, 3351, 3703, 3530, 3732, 3557, 3788, 3570, 3799, 3601, 3810, 3712, 3811, 3724, 3813, 3751, 3823, 3818, 3702, 3825, 3842, 3834, 3890, 2979, 3272, 3742, 3901, 3819, 3899, 3888, 3880, 3015, 3753, 3826, 3728, 3928) were agreed to en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Thune amendments and motions are withdrawn; amendment No. 3427 is agreed to, and the substitute amendment No. 3748, as modified, and as amended, is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3427) was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3748), in the nature of a substitute, as modified, and as amended, was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam President, we are considering the National Defense Authorization Act at a time when our democracy and our Constitution are under attack from a lawless President. We are also in the middle of a 9-day-long government shutdown, and we should be working to get the government open. Instead, Senate Republicans are seeking to conduct business-as-usual instead of addressing the impending spike in healthcare costs for American families and responsibly funding the government.

The NDAA includes critical investments in our national defense. Maryland has a key role to play in developing the technologies of the future that will keep our Nation at the cutting-edge and is the proud home of tens of thousands of military personnel and civilians working in the defense sector, as well as critical military installations. I have continually pressed for resources for our servicemembers and veterans and their families and investments in the military installations in our State that conduct groundbreaking research and support our defense.

But these are not normal times. We are witnessing an authoritarian power-grab by President Trump, and Congress has a responsibility to stand up as a co-equal, not subservient, branch of this government. We need to call it what it is: President Trump is using the power of the government, including the U.S. military, to coerce and silence voices he disagrees with. This is a playbook that dictators have used around the world, and now, it is the Trump playbook.

To date, Trump has deployed the National Guard to the District of Columbia, Los Angeles, Memphis, and Chicago. He has also ordered the deployment of National Guard troops to Portland, which has been temporarily blocked by the courts, and earlier today, a judge issued a temporary restraining order blocking the deployment of National Guard troops in Chicago as well. He is manufacturing claims of emergency and chaos to send the Guard to engage in domestic law enforcement rather than using Federal resources to work with local partners to keep communities safe and pulling members of the military away from other critical missions. The National Guard has also been supporting ICE as agents arrest and disappear people without due process. And as State and local leaders and courts of law stand in the way of these deployments, Trump has threatened to invoke the Insurrection Act to bypass them and the restrictions of the Posse Comitatus Act.

Trump's deployment of the military to assist in domestic law enforcement is a clear violation of U.S. law, including the Posse Comitatus Act. And a Federal judge agrees. On September 2, a Federal judge in the Northern District of California found that the Trump administration ''willfully'' violated the Posse Comitatus Act in its deployment of National Guard troops to Los Angeles and stated that the Trump administration clearly intends to ''[create] a national police force with the President as its chief.'' Trump clearly telegraphed this intention in his speech to top military brass at Quantico, when he called for using American cities as ''training grounds for our military'' and asserted that ''we're under invasion from within. No different than a foreign enemy but more difficult in many ways because they don't wear uniforms.''

The deployment in Los Angeles marked the first time since 1965 that the National Guard has been activated without the State Governor's consent. And it has not stopped. Trump's power grab in DC and other cities is part of his accelerating effort to militarize the streets of our country. That is why I offered an amendment to block the President from deploying the National Guard to a State, or the District of Columbia, if that State's Governor, or the DC Mayor, objects. Sen. Duckworth also put forward an amendment that would require the President to provide notification to Congress before dedicating any military or defense equipment for local law enforcement purposes. Unfortunately, both efforts failed.

At its heart, Trump's politicization of the National Guard is sowing fear and distrust and is a danger to our democracy. Enabling the military to patrol American streets chills lawful protest, blurs the line between military and civilian authority, and erodes public trust in nonpartisan service.

Trump's illegal use of U.S. Armed Forces also includes his recent missile strikes against boats in international waters, which have been flagrant violations of both U.S. and international law and can only be seen as extrajudicial killings. There is simply no evidence that these vessels posed an imminent threat, nor is there an active armed conflict between the United States and any cartel or South American country. Trump has pursued these actions in gross violation of international law and without congressional authorization.

Back in March, Trump also dredged up an old war-time law, the Alien Enemies Act, to target immigrants and deport them without due process. The administration also reached deep into the dustbin of Cold War paranoia and pulled out the McCarran-Walter Act—a relic of the McCarthy era—to brand student protestors as threats to the foreign policy of the great United States of America, used a transnational crime unit to secretly target campus protesters, and then disappeared them into ICE detention facilities with the ultimate goal of deporting them. Peaceful protest is a cornerstone of our democracy, but like the

McCarthy witch hunts of the 1950s, this campaign of fear and repression is eroding the foundational values of our democracy. A Federal district court judge found that the administration had targeted noncitizen students and scholars ''for speaking out'' and ''the facts prove that the President himself approves [of this] truly scandalous and unconstitutional suppression of free speech.''

Taken together, these abuses of power show an increasingly brazen and lawless administration that is misusing defense spending. These concerns only further my existing reservations around the continued uncontrolled growth in defense spending, especially when the Pentagon continues to fail independent audits, most recently in November 2024. In that audit, only 11 DOD components achieved clean audit opinions, but 13, including the Army, Navy, and Air Force did not. On top of that, from FY 2021 to FY 2025, authorization levels for defense spending have gone up from $740 billion to $895 billion, a 21 percent increase over the 5-year period. If this bill is enacted, we will be authorizing $924 billion, almost a trillion dollars in spending. This does not include the recent partisan budget reconciliation bill that passed into law in July 2025, which included over $150 billion in mandatory defense spending. I concur with the former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, ADM Mike Mullen, that we need to put our defense dollars to better strategic use and make the hard choices necessary to right-size our overall defense spending. If we truly care about government efficiency, we must apply the same standard to the Department of Defense, which represents over half of total Federal discretionary spending.

This is the first time during my service in the Senate that I am voting against the NDAA. I do not make this decision lightly. Ensuring that our men and women in uniform have the tools they need to defend the United States is critical, and I will never waver in protecting our servicemembers. But what we are seeing in America today and over the last few months should be a wakeup call for everyone in this Chamber. We cannot and should not authorize almost a trillion dollars in defense spending for an administration that is currently using the military to conduct local law enforcement operations and to rip communities apart. That is using the power of the Executive to silence the media, undermine the judicial system, and chill speech.

We deploy a strong military to protect our democracy and freedom from foreign threats and adversaries. Sadly, today, the threats to liberties and the rule of law are coming from our own Commander in Chief, and I will not vote to give him a blank check.

VOTE ON S. 2296

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

Mr. THUNE. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 77, nays 20, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 570 Leg.]

YEAS—77

Alsobrooks	Grassley	Moreno
Banks	Hagerty	Mullin
Barrasso	Hassan	Murkowski
Bennet	Hawley	Ossoff
Blackburn	Heinrich	Peters
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Reed
Blunt Rochester	Hirono	Ricketts
Boozman	Hoeven	Risch
Britt	Husted	Rosen
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Capito	Johnson	Schmitt
Cassidy	Justice	Schumer
Collins	Kaine	Scott (FL)
Coons	Kelly	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Shaheen
Cotton	King	Sheehy
Cramer	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Crapo	Lankford	Sullivan
Curtis	Lee	Thune
Daines	Luján	Tuberville
Ernst	Lummis	Warner
Fetterman	Marshall	Warnock
Fischer	McConnell	Whitehouse
Gallego	McCormick	Wicker
Gillibrand	Moody	Young
Graham	Moran	

NAYS—20

Baldwin	Merkley	Schiff
Booker	Murphy	Smith
Cantwell	Murray	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Padilla	Warren
Durbin	Paul	Welch
Kim	Sanders	Wyden
Markey	Schatz	

NOT VOTING—3

Cortez Masto	Cruz	Tillis

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MCCORMICK). On this vote, the yeas are 77, and the nays are 20.

The 60-vote threshold having been achieved, the bill is passed.

The bill (S. 2296) was passed.

(The bill, as amended, will be printed in a future edition of the RECORD.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table.

The majority leader.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND EXTENSIONS ACT, 2026—Motion to Proceed

Mr. THUNE. I move to proceed to calendar No. 168, H.R. 5371.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 168, H.R. 5371, a bill making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 168, H.R. 5371, a bill making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes.

John Thune, Eric Schmitt, Jim Justice, James E. Risch, Tom Cotton, Steve Daines, Ted Budd, John R. Curtis, John Boozman, Mike Rounds, Kevin Cramer, Bernie Moreno, Ron Johnson, John Barrasso, Markwayne Mullin, James Lankford, Tim Sheehy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I am delighted that this body has passed the 2026 National Defense Authorization Act with such an overwhelming vote.

At the outset, let me thank the dozens of staff members who have made this possible—and I know that my friend and colleague the ranking member will also express his appreciation to a very hard-working and capable and intelligent list.

But let me name my staff, specifically, and it is going to take a while to thank them all: Adam Barker, Kristina Belcourt, Levi Brunt, Cody Emerson, ''Marty'' Fromuth, Megan Galindo, Isaac Jalkanen, Lauren Johnson, Katie Karam, Greg Lilly, Eric Lofgren, Katie Magnus, Jonathan Moore, Katie Romaine, Mike Tokar, Eric Trager, Adam Trull, Mike Urena, Dave Vasquez, Terry Miller, Emily Yetter, Dan Hillenbrand, Beth Spivey, Ryan Bates, Jonathan Bowen, Leah Brewer, Luke Chaney, Mike Gerhart, Anna Given, Meredith Gravatte, Madeline Guenther, Brad Patout, Rick Berger, Brendan Gavin, and John Keast.

And it is possible that I have left some out, but I really do owe a debt of gratitude—and so does my friend Senator REED—to both staffs on both sides of the aisle for all of the technical work and advice in making this work.

I would remind those listening that this bill passed a committee 26 to 1. That was an overwhelming positive and speedy passage. It is designed to send a clear message.

We agree that we are not where we need to be, and this bill helps us close the gap, and it does so by focusing on two themes: rebuilding but also reforming. And we really need the ''reform'' part. This bill includes $924.7 billion as a top line. This is an increase, and it is needed. It recognizes the urgent need to rebuild our military systems, technologies, and hardware.

We also adopted the most significant acquisition reform proposal in decades. And let me give Members one example