

Other \$136.1 million.

Total \$136.1 million.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: Foreign Military Sales case N4-B-VQX was below congressional notification threshold at \$50.7 million (\$0 in MDE) and included booster pellets; flight motors; gas generators; Stinger warheads sections; and U.S. Government and contractor engineering and technical services. NSPA has requested that the case be amended to include additional non-Major Defense Equipment. This amendment will cause the case to exceed the notification threshold, and thus notification of the entire program is required. The above notification requirements are combined as follows:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-Major Defense Equipment: The following non-MDE items will be included: booster pellets; flight motors; gas generator cartridges; Stinger warheads sections; U.S. Government and contractor technical, engineering, and logistics support services; technical documentation; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (N4-B-VQX).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: N4-B-VQY.

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

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: None.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: December 18, 2025.

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

#### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

NATO Support and Procurement Agency—Stinger Service Life Extension Program Components, Parts, and Services

The NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA) manages the Stinger Service Life Extension Program on behalf of Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands, and has requested to buy additional booster pellets; flight motors; gas generator cartridges; Stinger warheads sections; U.S. Government and contractor technical, engineering, and logistics support services; technical documentation; and other related elements of logistics and program support that will be added to a previously implemented case whose value was under the congressional notification threshold. The original Foreign Military Sales case, valued at \$50.7 million, included the following non-MDE items: booster pellets; flight motors; gas generators; Stinger warheads sections; and U.S. Government and contractor engineering and technical services. The estimated total cost is \$136.1 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of NATO partners that are a force for political stability and economic progress.

The proposed sale will improve NATO Allies' capability to meet current and future threats and enhance interoperability with U.S. and other allied forces. This proposed sale will contribute to U.S. and NATO defense goals by increasing readiness and enhancing the air defense capabilities of NATO Allies. Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into their armed forces.

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

The principal contractors will be PTI Technologies Inc., located in Oxnard, CA; and L3 Harris, located in Melbourne, FL. At

this time, the U.S. Government is not aware of any offset agreement proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

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

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

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I was absent for rollcall vote No. 439, the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 273, David Wright, of South Carolina, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Had I been present, I would have voted no.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent, but had I been present, I would have voted yes on rollcall vote No. 631, on the Cloture Motion (Motion to Invoke Cloture: Susan Courtwright Rodriguez to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina).

I was necessarily absent, but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 632 on the Joint Resolution (H.J. Res. 131).

I was necessarily absent, but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 633 on the Cloture Motion (Motion to Invoke Cloture: S. Res. 520).

I was necessarily absent, but had I been present, I would have voted yes on rollcall vote No. 634 on the Nomination (Confirmation: Susan Courtwright Rodriguez, of North Carolina, to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina).

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT OBJECTION—H.R. 5345

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I am announcing my intention to object to any unanimous consent request to proceed to H.R. 5345, the Improving Social Security's Service to Victims of Identity Theft Act.

I support my colleagues' efforts to support victims of identity theft, including children, and I am a proud cosponsor of this effort. However, I continue to be concerned that the bill's lack of administrative funding to implement the legislation would harm the Agency's ability to serve the American public.

According to SSA estimates in August 2024, implementing this bill would cost approximately \$93 million over 10 years due to hiring and training new employees, implementing necessary system changes, and estimated increased workloads.

According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Social Security's customer service budget has dropped by 23 percent since fiscal year 2010

after adjusting for inflation. Over the same period, SSA is serving 17 million more Social Security beneficiaries, a 28-percent increase. Moreover, Since February 2025, SSA reduced staff by nearly 6,000 employees through encouraging retirements and voluntary resignations, including 2,000 from front-line positions. In August 2025, SSA diverted 2,000 field office staff away from serving customers in the front office to answer national 800 number calls indefinitely. Field offices, which bore the brunt of those staffing cuts, are now forced to backfill the staffing shortages with other employees at the expense of timely processing benefit claims and assisting seniors who come into the field offices. Simply put, SSA is having to do more with less resources and fewer staff.

Creating a new component within the Agency without sufficient funding will force SSA to divert even more of its skeletal staff away from its other core mission work to perform these duties, exacerbating wait times further.

I am committed to working with the sponsors of the legislation and our colleagues on the Committee on Appropriations to ensure that SSA has the necessary resources to effectively implement the bill while improving customer service for the millions of Americans who rely on Social Security. Until then, I will object to any unanimous consent request in relation to this legislation.

#### AFGHAN REFUGEES

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, I rise to address the situation facing refugees from Afghanistan who were resettled in Vermont and who, like Afghan refugees in other States, the Trump administration is now threatening to deport.

Vermont is home to more than 650 Afghans who risked their lives to support the U.S. mission in Afghanistan. They have been welcomed by our communities. They are growing our workforce and tax base and contributing to our economy. A statewide nonprofit in Vermont, the Vermont Afghan Alliance, which is largely led by Afghans, helps reunite these Afghans with their families and assists other Afghan refugees when they arrive. They are one of several groups in Vermont doing incredible work to resettle Afghans. These individuals risked their lives for our government, and they did everything we asked of them. And now, they have become valued members of our communities.

The U.S. withdrawal in 2021 was chaotic, but the Afghans who fled did so because of a very real fear of persecution. No one can question that. Afghans who had worked with the U.S. military and intelligence community were taken to the airport in Kabul to help secure it before being allowed on a plane. They were told to leave their wives and children behind, assured that their families would come later. They feared for their lives. These individuals

had been subjected to rigorous vetting at the time of employment with the U.S. military or intelligence community, and many were vetted again in a third country by an interagency vetting process before coming to the United States.

Once in the United States, they were vetted again when applying for an immigration benefit. They were vetted yet again when interviewed by a USCIS officer in the U.S., and in adjusting immigration status. So our Afghan allies are some of the most thoroughly vetted members of our immigrant community. In fact, they may be the most extensively vetted foreign population in U.S. history.

The vetting is exhaustive, it has spanned years, conducted by multiple Agencies and administrations. It has included turning over cell phones to the FBI, providing every address resided at since birth, notification of every biometric exam taken in their lifetimes, and detailed information about the occupations and addresses of family and extended family members.

But as extensive as the vetting was and is, we know that no vetting process is 100 percent foolproof. No one can predict with absolute certainty that a person—regardless of nationality—who is cleared today won't commit a crime years later.

The horrific, targeted shooting of two members of the West Virginia National Guard on November 26—by an Afghan refugee who was reportedly trained by the CIA—was a terrible crime for which the person responsible should and will be brought to justice.

President Trump's use of that tragedy to go after a minority community has become a hallmark of this administration's hostile attitude toward immigrants and refugees. Even though it was the Trump administration that vetted the accused most recently prior to granting him asylum, President Trump has called for re-vetting all refugees who arrived under President Biden. This includes people from Afghanistan and 18 other countries, some of whom also reside in Vermont. The President has halted resettlement, paused all asylum applications, and called for the removal of anyone deemed a risk.

The fact that an Afghan has been charged with this heinous crime is tragic, but it is no more reasonable to label the entire Afghan refugee community, as well as those from 18 other countries, a security risk than it would be to label all Vermonters a security risk because of the act of one individual who a year ago shot three Palestinian students walking down a street in Burlington. It is wrong to accuse a whole population, whether on religious, racial, ethnic, or other grounds, for the abhorrent act of one individual.

I want to convey my condolences to the family of the West Virginians who were targeted, one of whom, Sarah Beckstrom, died while serving her country. She was only 20 years old and had a promising life ahead of her.

At the same time, I want to express my appreciation to the Afghans who supported our ill-fated mission in Afghanistan, at great risk to themselves, and who as a result had to abandon their country and their families to seek safety in the United States. Five years later, many of them are still waiting to be reunited with their families. Our communities are better for their presence among us.

#### TRIBUTE TO RANA ALTENBURG

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Rana Altenburg as she retires from Marquette University. Rana has served as the leader of Marquette's government affairs and community engagement initiatives since 1996. Her retirement marks the conclusion of an exceptional career spanning nearly three decades of service to Marquette University and the greater Milwaukee community.

Rana's time at Marquette began as a student, where she earned her bachelor's degree in political science and Spanish. Later, Rana received her MBA from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management.

Over her 30-year career at Marquette, Rana's advocacy efforts contributed to increased investment by both the Federal and State governments, resulting in major infrastructure projects near campus, such as the Wisconsin Avenue median, Wells Street median, Marquette Interchange, 27th Street Corridor and the Menomonee Valley. Later, Rana and her team helped secure Federal and State funding that supported capital projects and research efforts, including working with me to secure congressionally directed spending for an expansion of the school of dentistry, a simulation lab in the college of nursing, and catalytic development in the Near West Side of Milwaukee.

Rana championed the university's Les Aspin Center in Washington, DC, providing students interested in public service opportunities for internship and professional development in our Nation's Capital. The Les Aspin Center has offered incredible opportunities to many young people still working in public service, including on my staff. On campus, she was a mentor to student leaders.

A tireless advocate for Marquette, Rana takes immense pride in not only being an alumna; she is also a parent, donor and season-ticket holder to Marquette's nationally ranked basketball programs.

Outside of her work at Marquette, Rana serves as founding president of Near West Side Partners, which she helped launch in 2015. Near West Side Partners brings together schools, businesses of all sizes, nonprofits, and neighbors to strengthen and improve the community they live in. She is also a member of the boards of directors of the James W. Foley Legacy Foundation and the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

I am pleased to congratulate Rana Altenburg on a distinguished career and wish her, her husband Jeff, her daughters Sophia and Hannah, son-in-law Jack, and her granddaughter Honor much happiness and well-deserved time together in the years ahead. We will continue to look to her for her thoughtful servant leadership and wise counsel, and I know that her impact will continue to be felt within the Marquette and greater Milwaukee community for generations to come.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO DENNIS E. NIXON

• Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I honor today Mr. Dennis E. Nixon for his commitment as one of our Nation's leading banking authorities and executives, particularly for his 50 years of extraordinary service to the broader Texas communities and Texas banking industry.

A Pittsburgh, PA, native, Dennis grew up in many different places across the United States due to his father's military service. His family eventually moved to Corpus Christi, TX, where Mr. Nixon graduated from high school. He then attended the University of Texas at Austin, where he graduated in 1964 with a degree in finance. Following graduation, Mr. Nixon spent 6 years as a bank examiner with the U.S. Treasury Department before joining the Union National Bank in 1970. In 1975, he joined the Bank of Commerce, the predecessor of the International Bank of Commerce, IBC, and International Bancshares Corporation, where he currently serves as the president and chief executive officer of the International Bank of Commerce in Laredo, TX, and as chairman of the International Bancshares Corporation.

Since joining the International Bank of Commerce, Mr. Nixon has played a vital role in International Bancshares Corporation's ranking as the largest minority-owned bank organization in the United States and one of the largest independent banks in Texas. Mr. Nixon's knowledge across all areas of banking was pivotal in the development of IBC's acquisition and expansion efforts. His tenure at IBC has been marked by visionary strategies and a commitment to excellence, transforming the company into an industry-leading financial institution with assets reaching approximately \$16 billion and serving 75 communities from Del Rio to Brownsville, TX, and into Oklahoma.

Beyond his duties as chief executive officer of the International Bank of Commerce and chairman of the Bancshares Corporation, Mr. Nixon is a member of the Texas Business Leadership Council, a network of CEOs and business executives that aims to advance Texas prosperity in a globally competitive business environment. Most notable is his stewardship in raising \$11 million for MD Anderson Cancer