

split-second decision of a provider. It should be a fundamental right, especially in the United States of America, where we have a Constitution that says that all people are created equal. Now, I know it says “all men are created equal,” but I think, since the founding of this country, that has been expanded to the understanding that we are talking about all of the citizens of this country.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, in just minutes, we will vote on Calendar No. 338, S.J. Res. 103, which will reverse the indecent, unjust policy that this administration implemented secretly on New Year’s Eve.

I ask my colleagues to keep in their minds and thoughts and hearts the women veterans who have devoted so much to this country and who continue to serve and sacrifice as we speak.

I ask them to keep in mind the female service officer who was raped before transitioning out of the military service and who learned she was pregnant after enrolling in the VA’s healthcare system. She is no longer covered by the VA to have an abortion. If she were still on Active Duty, the Department of Defense would pay for or perform the abortion. If she worked for the VA, her Federal employee healthcare insurance would pay for the abortion. If she were someone serving in a Federal prison, her abortion would be covered. But because she is an enrollee in the VA’s healthcare system after bravely serving this country, she is not even covered for an abortion resulting from rape or if her health is at risk.

That is not right. That is not just. That is not worthy of a great country. It is not matching her service with our staying faithful to her.

So for all these reasons, advocates of women’s healthcare, advocates of veterans, and people who simply support healthcare as a human right support this resolution to do the right thing.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS RELATING TO “REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES”—Motion to Proceed

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 338, S.J. Res. 103.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 338, S.J. Res. 103, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Veterans Affairs relating to “Reproductive Health Services”.

VOTE ON MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. 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 Utah (Mr. CURTIS).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Utah (Mr. CURTIS) would have voted “nay.”

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 50, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 72 Leg.]

YEAS—48

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

NAYS—50

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

NOT VOTING—2

Curtis	Schatz
--------	--------

The motion was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk for the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 311, H.R. 7147.

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. 311, H.R. 7147, a bill making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

John Thune, Pete Ricketts, John Barrasso, Tim Sheehy, Mike Crapo, Joni Ernst, Jim Banks, Todd Young, David McCormick, Jon A. Husted, Mike Rounds, John R. Curtis, Susan M. Collins, Alan Armstrong, Steve Daines, Roger F. Wicker, Katie Boyd Britt.

RECOGNIZING THE 205TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF GREECE AND CELEBRATING DEMOCRACY IN GREECE AND THE UNITED STATES

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to consideration of S. Res. 661, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 661) recognizing the 205th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating democracy in Greece and the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 661) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

HONORING THE MEMORY, SERVICE, AND SACRIFICE OF MASTER SERGEANT NICOLE M. AMOR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Armed Services Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 648 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 648) honoring the memory, service, and sacrifice of Master Sergeant Nicole M. Amor, United States Army Reserve.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to; that the Klobuchar amendment to the preamble be considered and agreed to; that the preamble,

as amended, be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 648) was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 4785) to the preamble was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the preamble)

In the preamble, strike the second whereas clause and insert the following:

Whereas, on March 1, 2026, an unmanned aircraft system attack on Port Shuaiba killed Master Sergeant Nicole M. Amor, age 39, of White Bear Lake, Minnesota, Captain Cody A. Khork, 35, of Winter Haven, Florida, Sergeant First Class Noah L. Tietjens, 42, of Bellevue, Nebraska, Sergeant Declan J. Coady, 20, of Des Moines, Iowa, Major Jeffrey R. O'Brien, 45, of Waukeke, Iowa, and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Robert M. Marzan, 54, of Spotsylvania, Virginia;

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. RES. 648

Whereas United States servicemembers assigned to the 103rd Sustainment Command, United States Army Reserve, were deployed to Port Shuaiba, Kuwait, in support of Operation Epic Fury;

Whereas, on March 1, 2026, an unmanned aircraft system attack on Port Shuaiba killed Master Sergeant Nicole M. Amor, age 39, of White Bear Lake, Minnesota, Captain Cody A. Khork, 35, of Winter Haven, Florida, Sergeant First Class Noah L. Tietjens, 42, of Bellevue, Nebraska, Sergeant Declan J. Coady, 20, of Des Moines, Iowa, Major Jeffrey R. O'Brien, 45, of Waukeke, Iowa, and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Robert M. Marzan, 54, of Spotsylvania, Virginia;

Whereas Master Sergeant Amor was a dedicated soldier who served the United States with distinction for nearly 20 years in the United States Army Reserve, including on previous deployments to Kuwait and Iraq in 2019;

Whereas Master Sergeant Amor earned numerous military awards and decorations for her service, including the Army Commendation Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Service Medal, the Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, and the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" Device;

Whereas Master Sergeant Amor was posthumously promoted from Sergeant First Class to Master Sergeant; and

Whereas Master Sergeant Amor was a devoted spouse and mother and was beloved by her community: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the memory, service, and sacrifice of Master Sergeant Nicole M. Amor, United States Army Reserve;

(2) extends its sympathies, gratitude, and support to the family of Master Sergeant Amor, and to all others affected by the attack at Port Shuaiba, Kuwait, on March 1, 2026; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of Master Sergeant Amor.

MORNING BUSINESS

TOWN OF CHELSEA 175TH ANNIVERSARY

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, In 1851, 31 years after Maine became the 23rd State of the Union, the small, agricultural town of Chelsea was incorporated. Chelsea, named after the town of Chelsea, MA, is known for its peaceful community, with a strong sense of pride in its history. From its humble beginnings to a thriving agricultural center, Chelsea remains a true treasure of central Maine.

The first settlers were farmers, and their fierce determination and hard work made Chelsea an agricultural force. Chelsea became the largest produce market in the county, with apples from the town's sizable orchard a leading fare. By 1856, the first cider mill had been built. In addition, Chelsea shipped more wool than anywhere else in the State during the last half of the 19th century.

Chelsea has also played an important role in honoring those who serve our country. The Togus Veterans Hospital, established by President Abraham Lincoln, was the first Federal facility dedicated to providing care for America's heroes. In its long history, the facility cared for veterans from the American Civil War to the present day.

Thanks to its strategic location on the beautiful Kennebec River, Chelsea served as a significant site in our country's fight for independence during the Revolutionary War. More than 1,000 soldiers followed the Kennebec River north during Benedict Arnold's Quebec Expedition in 1775, using Chelsea as a key staging area to plan and prepare for the long journey.

Aside from the Togus Veterans Hospital, perhaps the building with the greatest historical significance is the Chelsea Grange Hall. Built in 1914, the Grange Hall symbolizes Chelsea's rural heritage and is a place where an organized effort is made to bring people together for good times and to orient the community around family and friendship.

Chelsea's history and its continued service to this Nation make it an absolute pearl of our State. The town of Chelsea has a proud legacy of service, resilience, and close-knit community spirit woven into the heart of rural Maine.

Maine has long played a role in the guidance and leadership of our great Nation. The town of Chelsea, by her safeguarding of our Nation's heroes and her place in our revolutionary history, leads the State of Maine into a future of continued service to neighbors and Nation.

NATIONAL AHEC WEEK

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize this week as National AHEC—Area Health Education Centers—Week.

The AHEC program was originally authorized in 1971 and worked in conjunction with other Health Resources and Services Administration programs to provide health professionals to staff brick-and-mortar community health centers across the country. Today, AHECs offer hands-on and innovative health career curriculums for pre-college level students and are committed to continuing education, clinical training of health professionals, and responding to community health needs. The Nation's 300 AHECs are in nearly every State and in multiple U.S. territories.

AHEC clinical training placements put health professions students in a variety of real-world settings, such as urban and rural community health clinics and health departments that provide healthcare to traditionally hard-to-reach populations. Students, in particular those working through their AHECs, are more likely to remain in the communities where they trained, making it critically important to establish training opportunities in rural and underserved areas.

The need to strengthen the healthcare workforce continues. According to data from the Association of American Medical Colleges, the U.S. could see a shortage of up to 124,000 physicians by 2034, and the American Hospital Association says more than 200,000 new registered nurses are needed each year to meet increasing healthcare needs and to replace retiring nurses. AHECs have continued to work towards addressing workforce shortage areas, especially in rural and underserved communities. Just in the past 5 years, the AHEC program has trained 2 million healthcare professionals.

I have had the opportunity to work closely with the New Hampshire AHEC and have witnessed the amazing work they do. The mission of the New Hampshire AHEC is to support workforce development activities for current and future healthcare workers in the Granite State. In 2025, the New Hampshire AHEC offered continuing education to over 4,500 healthcare workers, improving treatment options for patients suffering from diseases such as diabetes and substance use disorder. In addition to working with providers, they also offer trainings on chronic disease, chronic pain, and diabetes self-management to patients in the community. More than 3,000 individuals have participated in these programs since 2010.

The New Hampshire AHEC team were pioneers in identifying the need for a workforce that bridges healthcare and community. Over the past 28 years, New Hampshire AHEC has focused on building the healthcare workforce by offering both day and residential programs for high school students, while also providing didactics and community-based experiences for health professions students across the State. It cannot be understated how important the New Hampshire AHEC is for our