

the American military the most trusted institution in this country for 250 years.

Good order and discipline is not a slogan. It means that the rules apply to everyone, including the leaders at the top. It means that accountability flows both ways and that promotions are based on merit, not loyalty to a party. And it means that servicemembers of every faith and background are welcomed and respected.

Secretary Hegseth is undermining every one of those tenets. Our servicemembers deserve better, and we have an obligation as a body, this Senate, to say so plainly and to counter this abuse of power.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

The Democratic leader.

CONGRATULATING THE NEW YORK KNICKS ON WINNING THE 2026 NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION FINALS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, this is one—one—happy moment. It is an honor to offer this resolution with Senator GILLIBRAND to pay tribute to the great New York Knicks. With their historic victory in the NBA finals, the Knicks reminded the country and the world that it is never a good idea to bet against New York.

We just witnessed perhaps the greatest playoff run in history and finals series in history as well. Coming off the second longest playoff win streak in the NBA history, the Knicks achieved the first, fourth, and sixth biggest comeback wins in the history of the NBA finals, and they did it all in a single series—absolutely extraordinary coming off that second longest playoff win streak in NBA history.

We are so, so proud—so, so proud—of our New York Knicks. This team has joined the ranks of DeBusschere and Bradley, of Willis Reed, of Earl “the Pearl” and Clyde, and the rest of the 1973 legendary Knicks who last brought the title home. I admired that team as a young man, and we have been waiting and waiting and waiting, and here we are again.

For their efforts, this championship team will be honored tomorrow with what many are expecting to be the largest ticker-tape parade in New York history. In fact, the Knicks’ victory goes beyond the team itself; it brings such honor, such pride, such joy to New York and has united our diverse city in a way that maybe nothing else could.

It is truly an honor to introduce and pass this resolution to congratulate the Knicks for winning the champion-

ship and to thank them for the dedication they showed to our city both on and off the court throughout the season.

I speak for the Senate—perhaps with the exception of one or two Spurs fans—when I say: Let’s go, Knicks!

Mr. President, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 771, congratulating the Knicks, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 771) congratulating the New York Knicks on winning the 2026 National Basketball Association Finals.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble 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. 771) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. “Go Knicks!”

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill 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 nomination of Executive Calendar No. 760, Michelle Steel, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Korea.

John Thune, Ted Budd, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Katie Boyd Britt, Thom Tillis, Roger Marshall, Rick Scott of Florida, Bernie Moreno, Mike Rounds, John Boozman, Joni Ernst, Jon Husted, Marsha Blackburn, Steve Daines, Shelley Moore Capito, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Pete Ricketts.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the mandatory quorum call under rule XXII has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Michelle Steel, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Korea, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE) and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 54, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 176 Ex.]

YEAS—54

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

NAYS—41

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

NOT VOTING—5

Bennet	Justice	Warnock
Booker	McConnell	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). On this vote, the yeas are 54, the nays are 41. The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Vermont.

U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, I strongly support the resolution offered by my colleagues Senator CORTEZ MASTO and Senator KAINE.

This resolution requires a report from the State Department on the human rights practices of the Government of Honduras during the very corrupt Presidency of Juan Orlando Hernandez and a report on steps the United States has taken to promote human rights and to bring drug traffickers and criminals in Honduras to justice.

During former President Hernandez’s time in office, the United States—our taxpayers—provided hundreds of millions of dollars in aid to Honduras, including to the Honduran security forces.

So the information requested in this resolution is directly relevant to Congress’ oversight responsibilities. We have an obligation to make certain that taxpayer dollars are served in the

purpose of the United States and our citizens.

There is no reason why the State Department should not do this oversight.

According to U.S. Federal prosecutors, Mr. Hernández—the former two-term President of Honduras—was at the center of one of the largest and most violent drug trafficking conspiracies in the entire world. Mr. Hernández used the Honduran military and he used the Honduran police to arrest, to imprison, to torture, and in some cases to murder his political opponents and independent journalists who challenged and exposed the rampant corruption and abuses of his government.

In March 2024, a U.S. Federal jury in Manhattan found Mr. Hernández guilty of three charges: conspiring to import tons of cocaine into the United States, using and carrying machine guns and destructive devices to advance that trafficking conspiracy, and conspiring to use such weapons. He was sentenced to 45 years' imprisonment and was fined \$8 million.

Mr. Hernández claimed that he was the victim of "political persecution," but there has been absolutely no credible evidence to support that fraudulent claim. His conviction and sentence were affirmed on appeal. Far from being treated unfairly, Mr. Hernández was afforded every right of due process and a fair trial available to criminal defendants under our system of justice.

Astonishingly and to my dismay, on December 1, 2025, Mr. Hernández received a full and complete pardon from President Trump. Mr. Hernández is free because of President Trump's pardon, but he does remain a convicted felon.

The resolution we are voting on today calls for a full accounting of the Hernández administration's violations of human rights and connections—direct connections—with drug traffickers, the corruption of government officials, and the involvement in torture, murder, and other crimes of violence.

It also requires an assessment of the likelihood that U.S. aid to the Honduran security forces was used to support activities related to drug trafficking and related crimes. None of us want our foreign aid to be used for drug running. This is information the State Department has access to and that Congress and the American people, as well as the people of Honduras, have every right to know.

Again, there is absolutely nothing partisan or controversial about this resolution. All of us—all of us—are against corruption. All of us demand accountability of foreign aid that is financed by taxpayers. All of us want to bring to justice those who commit crimes that involve drugs that cause so much damage to the men and women and the young people in all of our States.

I commend the Senators from Nevada and Virginia for offering the resolution, and I urge its adoption.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ARMSTRONG). The Senator from Tennessee.

KIDS ONLINE SAFETY ACT

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I feel like I have probably worn the carpet out in this Chamber talking about Big Tech and what happens to our children when they are on different social media platforms, because it seems that repeatedly Big Tech makes the decision to put profit over the safety of our children. We have seen this repeatedly. You look at these big tech companies, and what do they base their valuation on? It is based on the number of eyeballs they bring to their sites and then the data those eyeballs generate, which means you have to scroll for hours and hours on end. Indeed, we know that studies are showing us that teenagers spend as much as 8 hours a day with a phone in their hands—8 hours a day. One of the reasons this happens is because these social media platforms—whether it is Snapchat or TikTok or Instagram—are designed specifically to addict you. Research has shown this. This addiction fuels depression, eating disorders, and self-harm.

It is astounding to me that you can find videos on how to commit suicide, music to commit suicide to. This is evil, and it is wrong. And we know from research that most kids meet drug traffickers, sex traffickers, predators, pedophiles, perpetrators, sextortionists, groomers—they meet them online. That is where the introduction comes.

I have talked a lot. As I said, I feel like I have worn the carpet out down here talking about what is happening on Facebook and Instagram and Snap and TikTok and Discord and the effect it has on our Nation's precious, precious children. But this also applies to companies that are not big-name companies, that everyone does not yet know about, because this is an issue that goes across all social media sites of all sizes.

There is a site that is especially dangerous for our teens, and it is called Kik, K-I-K. Kik is a messaging app that is very popular with preteens and teens, and the big selling point is that it allows the users to conceal their identities. How about that for a lesson for your children and grandchildren? Let's lie, and then let's cover it up. And your parents probably won't know you are on Kik. You provide no personal information, no profile picture, no verification.

It should come as no surprise that Kik has become a paradise for pedophiles. In fact, the National Center on Sexual Exploitation recently released a report calling it the "predator's paradise." One of the center's researchers created an account, posing to be a 12-year-old girl. So she put it up there to see what would happen—12-year-old girl. Immediately, within seconds—within seconds—this account was flooded with sexual messages from strangers, including nude photos. Most

of the messages are too explicit to be repeated here.

I encourage parents to read this report from the National Center on Sexual Exploitation. They need to read it and get a sense of just how easy it is for a sexual predator to contact their child.

The danger on this is this: If your child did this and if they put an account up there—it was instant. Instant. And this is something your child cannot unsee. This is why parents need to be aware. So look at that report.

These issues with Kik are not new. For years, the center has documented sexual predators on that platform. In response, Kik claimed that it implemented safety measures to protect children. But how about that? An account set up as a 12-year-old girl—zero protections; immediate, within seconds, responses to that account, to that post, with sexual messages.

The center's latest report lays out what a big lie this is. Kik's policies are actually designed to allow that kind of predatory behavior. Kik purports to be an 18-and-up platform. Yet the app still allows children to connect with strangers through a rebranded stranger-connection tool. And get this: It is called Kik-it. K-I-K-I-T. Kik-it. What this does is it puts a user into a private chat with a stranger.

The center also discovered multiple accounts advertising that they are under age—"im12," "13yearoldgirl," and others—but the platform has done absolutely nothing—zero, nothing—to remove these.

Now, Kik says it has implemented sexual content filters. If it has done that, how did this massive number of messages get through within 1 minute—within a minute? So Kik is lying. The 12-year-old test account the center created had the filter turned on. That did not stop her from receiving unsolicited sexual messages and nude photos from strangers.

We have seen this story over and over from Big Tech platforms. They allow predators and criminals to harm our children. They give them that access. They sell them that drug. They ship it in to them. They deliver it to the doorstep.

The 15-year-old girl thinks she is going to meet a 16-year-old boy at the mall, and it turns out to be a 40-year-old man who drugs her, and she loses her life. This is what is happening.

Every time we bring this forward, they promise that they are going to do better, that they are going to make the platform safer, but their reforms are toothless, and they are doing nothing to protect our children. The reason is it would cut into their bottom line. Our children are dollar signs to them, and if they can get away with making an extra buck off of our kids—indeed. We have a couple of the companies that actually assign a dollar value per child, an annual dollar value: They are worth \$247 to us, so the more the merrier.

And they don't care. They absolutely don't care.