

Cutting that support is not fiscally responsible; it is morally indefensible. A Lancet study estimated that Trump's foreign aid cuts will cost 14 million lives by 2030, including over 4.5 million kids. Thousands of children are already dying.

The bill also codifies an \$850 million "America First Opportunity Fund" for an administration that has proven itself to be a reckless and unlawful custodian of Federal funding. This risks becoming a political slush fund, untethered from evidence-based programs and longstanding safeguards that ensure taxpayer dollars are used to advance genuine U.S. interests, not pet projects and foreign ventures that serve the interests of the Trump family, Trump campaign contributors, and his billionaire buddies at the expense of America's national security interests.

The bill imposes a new cap on how much foreign assistance can be transferred to the Department of Homeland Security—an important check—but it still allows hundreds of millions of dollars to be transferred to an already bloated DHS for immigration enforcement. That is unacceptable.

I also object to the bill's \$3.3 billion in foreign military financing to the Government of Israel with no conditions or guardrails. The Netanyahu government has spent years openly flouting international law and disregarding U.S. interests, advice, and warnings, including concerns ranging from blocking humanitarian assistance and ethnic cleansing in Gaza to continued settler violence and mushrooming illegal settlements in the West Bank.

I made clear on October 7, 2023, the day the heinous Hamas attack brutally killed over 1,200 people and seized over 200 hostages, that Israel had a right—indeed a duty—to go after Hamas. But the Netanyahu government's response went way beyond targeting Hamas to imposing collective punishment on all the people of Gaza.

In Gaza, entire neighborhoods have been systematically destroyed. Throughout the war, more than 1.9 million Palestinians have been forcibly displaced, many of them multiple times, through military orders, bombardment, and the deliberate rendering of civilian areas unlivable. All of this has occurred with U.S.-funded weapons and equipment.

In the West Bank, 240 Palestinians, including 55 children, were killed by Israeli forces or settlers in 2025, according to OCHA. Even the IDF found that Israeli settler violence in the West Bank rose by about 25 percent in 2025. This violence happened with virtual impunity and in many cases with the complicity of Israeli forces in the area. Along with settler violence, Israeli settlement expansion continues to rise, with a record number of 9,629 settlement housing units being approved by the Israeli Government in 2025, more than the previous 6 years combined. This includes approval for construction

in the area known as E1, east of Jerusalem. Construction in E1 would effectively bisect the West Bank, preventing the development of a contiguous Palestinian state and sounding the death knell of the already diminishing prospects for a two-state solution. The Netanyahu government also retroactively legalized eight illegal outposts, half of which are located deep within the West Bank.

We should be using every tool at our disposal to ensure that the Netanyahu government complies with President Trump's stated objective of a "credible pathway to Palestinian self-determination and statehood" and end its slow-motion annexation of the West Bank, destruction of neighborhoods in Gaza, and displacement of the Palestinian people.

Conditions on foreign military financing and other types of assistance are not unusual; in fact, they are the norm. Other U.S. partners—including longstanding recipients like Egypt, Lebanon, Pakistan, El Salvador, Colombia, and Mexico—have had their assistance routinely tied to human rights, accountability, or other statutory benchmarks. Yet this bill provides the Netanyahu government with a blank check and no meaningful guardrails. That double standard weakens U.S. credibility and undermines our commitment to our core values.

I appreciate that the Defense title in this bill funds a pay raise for our servicemembers and makes investments to support military families and critical work at Maryland's military bases. But I am deeply disturbed by the way Trump has misused and wrongfully deployed our military, from our Active-Duty forces to our National Guard.

The Trump administration's abduction of dictator Nicolas Maduro wasn't a "law enforcement operation" or an effort to stop drug trafficking. It was about oil, seizing and controlling Venezuela's oil for the benefit of Trump's billionaire buddies. It is simply wrong to risk the lives of brave American soldiers to profit the Trump campaign's political contributors.

And Trump has deployed the National Guard to DC, Los Angeles, Memphis, and Chicago, manufacturing claims of emergency and chaos to use the Guard in domestic law enforcement and his mass deportation agenda rather than using Justice Department resources to work with local partners and keep communities safe. And as State and local leaders and courts have stood 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.

Taken together, these abuses of power show an authoritarian administration using the military for its own ends, not for U.S. national security. These concerns only reinforce my existing reservations about the continued uncontrolled growth in defense spending, especially when the Pentagon con-

tinues to fail independent audits for 8 consecutive years.

Finally, I want to underscore a point regarding the financial services and general government portion of this bill, which funds the General Services Administration. GSA, together with the FBI, is responsible for the FBI headquarters project. This bill provides no additional funding for that project, but GSA has funding available from prior year appropriations. There are still significant outstanding questions about this project and a security assessment and construction plan is underway and must be delivered to Congress as directed in the CJS Appropriations bill. From the start of this project, Congress has expected that the building would meet Level 5 ISC security requirements to safeguard the FBI mission, and GSA has shared its expectation that this project will meet that standard, though the security assessment is not yet complete. In order to ensure adequate congressional oversight and use taxpayer resources responsibly, GSA should also pause activities until the plan is finished and Congress has reviewed it.

As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I recognize the challenges in negotiating these bills given the radical demands of the administration and the complicity of too many of my Republican colleagues in the House and Senate. I appreciate the hard-won investments and safeguards in these bills and the rejection of dozens of partisan House policy riders. That said, for the reasons I have outlined and because I believe more can be done to rein in this administration's authoritarian impulses, I oppose this package.

U.S. SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent, for myself as chairman of the Select Committee on Ethics and for Senator COONS, vice chairman of the committee, that the annual report of the Select Committee on Ethics for calendar year 2025 be printed in the RECORD.

The committee issued this report on January 31, 2026, as required by the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[Jan. 31, 2026]

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

119TH CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

The Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007 (the Act) calls for the Select Committee on Ethics of the United States Senate to issue an annual report no later than January 31st of each year providing information in certain categories describing its activities for the preceding year. Reported below is the information describing the Committee's activities in 2025 in the categories set forth in the Act:

(1) The number of alleged violations of Senate rules received from any source, including the number raised by a Senator or

staff of the Committee—181. (In addition, 5 alleged violations from previous years were carried into 2025.)

(2) The number of alleged violations that were dismissed—

(A) For lack of subject matter jurisdiction or in which, even if the allegations in the complaint are true, no violation of Senate rules would exist: 150.

(B) Because they failed to provide sufficient facts as to any material violation of the Senate rules beyond mere allegation or assertion: 10.

(3) The number of alleged violations for which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry: 27. (This figure includes 5 matters from previous years carried into 2025.)

(4) The number of alleged violations for which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry that resulted in an adjudicatory review: 0.

(5) The number of alleged violations for which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry and the Committee dismissed the matter for lack of substantial merit or because it was inadvertent, technical or otherwise of a *de minimis* nature: 18.

(6) The number of alleged violations for which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry and the Committee issued private or public letters of admonition: 0.

(7) The number of matters resulting in a disciplinary sanction: 0.

(8) Any other information deemed by the Committee to be appropriate to describe its activities in the previous year:

In 2025, the Committee staff conducted 20 Member and office campaign activity briefings; 26 employee code of conduct training sessions; 3 public financial disclosure clinics, seminars, and webinars; 32 ethics seminars and customized briefings for Member DC offices, state offices, and Senate committees; and 1 private sector ethics briefing.

In 2025, the Committee staff handled approximately 12,974 inquiries (via telephone and email) for ethics advice and guidance.

In 2025, the Committee wrote approximately 1,023 ethics advisory letters and responses including, but not limited to, 822 travel and gifts matters (Senate Rule 35) and 137 conflict of interest matters (Senate Rule 37).

In 2025, the Committee received 4,485 public financial disclosure reports including periodic transaction reports.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I was unable to attend votes on January 15, 2026. Had I been able to attend, I would have continued to vote in favor of H.R. 6938, Commerce, Justice, Science; Energy and Water Development; and Interior and Environment Appropriations on rollcall vote No. 10.

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN OF CUTLER

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, in 1826, 6 years after Maine became our Nation's 23rd State, a small fishing town was incorporated in downeast Maine. Cutler, named after Joseph Cutler, an early settler from Massachusetts, is a beacon of Maine's nationally renowned beauty and a stronghold for Maine's traditional lobstering sector. From its humble beginnings to a booming fishing industry, Cutler remains a great pearl of the State of Maine.

During the mid-19th century, Cutler Harbor fostered substantial growth in the town's fishing industry, lumber shipping, and small boat operations. Known as the Harbor of Refuge, it became a safe place for fisherman to ride out the vicious storms of the coast.

As the town grew, Cutler played an important role in the promotion of maritime safety and American national security. Since 1876, the Little River Lighthouse, with a formidable cast iron tower, has guided fishermen and has been integral to U.S. Coast Guard operations in the area. It is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places, ensuring its existence for generations to come.

In addition, for 65 years, the Cutler Naval Station, with one of the most powerful radio transmitters in the world, has provided critical communications for the U.S. Navy's submarine fleet, anywhere in the world, whether on the surface or submerged.

Cutler is home to Maine's spectacular Bold Coast. The Cutler Coast Public Reserved land boasts an abundance of scenic hiking trails, peatlands, secluded beaches, and wild ocean views, offering a stunning example of the beauty that defines the State of Maine. In addition, Cutler remains a hub of the Maine blueberry industry that produces almost 85 percent of the world's wild blueberries.

Cutler's spirit and historic connection to America's freedom continues today. Every Fourth of July, the townspeople honor the courage, sacrifice, and vision that won our Nation's independence. This year's observation will be especially meaningful with the addition of a fun-filled bicentennial celebration.

The Maine State motto is "Dirigo," meaning "I Lead." With the beacon from its Little River Lighthouse lighting the way, Cutler has a bright and hopeful future. I congratulate the people of Cutler, ME, on this 200th anniversary and wish them all the best in the years to come.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Holstead, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. RISCH for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

*Gregory LoGerfo, of Massachusetts, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Coordinator for Counterterrorism, with the rank and status of Ambassador at Large.

Nominee: LoGerfo, Gregory Daniel.
Post: Counterterrorism Coordinator.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

Scott Brown for Senate, \$50, June 2025, Gregory LoGerfo; Brian Shortleeve for Governor, \$50, July 2025, Gregory LoGerfo; Louis Ingrassia for New York Assembly, \$50, Oct. 2024, Gregory LoGerfo.

Spouse: None.

*Eric Meyer, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Nominee: Eric Meyer.

Post: Sri Lanka.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, donee, date, and amount:

Eric Meyer: None.

Karina Fausing (spouse): None.

*Jennifer Wicks McNamara, of Virginia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Nominee: Jennifer Wicks McNamara.

Post: Hanoi, Vietnam.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, donee, date, and amount:

Self: None.

Spouse: None.

*Frank Weiland, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs).

By Mr. WICKER for the Committee on Armed Services.

*Army nomination of Lt. Gen. Joshua M. Rudd, to be General.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Col. Joshua E. Izenour and ending with Col. Guillermo Rosales, Jr., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 10, 2025.

*Air Force nomination of Gen. John D. Lamontagne, to be General.

Air Force nomination of Brig. Gen. Christopher A. Eason, to be Major General.

Army nominations beginning with Brig. Gen. Phillip C. Baker and ending with Brig. Gen. Patrick A. Teague, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 15, 2025.

Army nomination of Brig. Gen. Rhett R. Cox, to be Major General.

*Army nomination of Lt. Gen. Patrick D. Frank, to be Lieutenant General.

*Air Force nominations beginning with Lt. Gen. Stephen F. Jost and ending with Maj. Gen. Joel L. Carey, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 15, 2025. (minus 4 nominees: Lt. Gen. Patrick D.