

unclassified report titled “U.S. Telecommunications Insecurity 2022” that the Agency commissioned from independent cyber security experts. Congress and the American people have a right to read this report and the shocking information it contains. The Senate has even passed a bill demanding its release. Last session, I objected to proceeding to this nomination until CISA finally released this report. Since CISA continues to hide this report from the American people, I must continue objecting to this nomination.

CISA permitted my staff to read the report in person at the Agency’s office in the fall of 2023. However, CISA has marked this unclassified report “For Official Use Only” and has refused to provide copies of the report to Congress and in response to FOIA requests from the public. CISA claims that the report is predecisional and deliberative and protected by a so-called “deliberative process privilege.” This refusal is unjustified. Setting aside that a FOIA exemption does not apply to disclosures to Congress, based on my staff’s review of this report, this report is a technical document containing factual information about U.S. telecom security. Although the report includes some general recommendations, the report does not recommend or discuss specific policy options that CISA itself could take to address this threat. And I want to emphasize that this report contains important factual information that the public has a right to see. CISA must drop its purported “deliberative process privilege” claim and stop hiding this important information from the public.

I have repeatedly urged CISA to release this report, across two administrations. I directly asked then-CISA Director Jen Easterly to release the report in a February 27, 2024, phone call; however, she continued to stonewall my requests until she left office in January 2025. On February 29, 2024, I wrote to then-President Biden, urging the administration to take action to address the serious national security threat posed by foreign governments exploiting U.S. phone carriers’ weak cyber security. In that letter to then-President Biden, I stated that “CISA is actively hiding information about [the threat] from the American people . . . CISA refuses to publicly release this unclassified report, which includes details that are relevant to policymakers and Americans who care about the security of their phones.” The Biden administration took no action in response to my letter.

The Trump administration has taken no action in response to my requests either. On July 28, 2025, the Senate unanimously passed the Telecom Cybersecurity Transparency Act, my bill that would require the report’s public release. Soon after, CISA told the press that it now intended to release the report. However, it has still not done so. Senator WARNER and I sent a November 12, 2025, letter again urging DHS to re-

lease the report. But in a December 18, 2025, phone call, Acting Director Madhu Gottumukkala reiterated that CISA would continue to withhold the report in its entirety from the public. In that call, Dr. Gottumukkala made a new claim that releasing the report would threaten our country’s cyber security. Given that the report details vulnerabilities that are already actively being exploited by our adversaries and urgently need to be remediated, Dr. Gottumukkala’s claim is frankly absurd.

CISA’s inaction on telecommunications security prompted the Agency’s top telecommunications security expert to file a whistleblower report with the Federal Communications Commission FCC, in the summer of 2024. Citing his access to nonpublic reports and other “very concerning information,” the CISA official told the FCC that “there have been numerous incidents of successful, unauthorized attempts to access the network user location data of communications service providers operating in the USA.” He added that foreign surveillance went beyond location tracking and included “the monitoring of voice and text messages” and “the delivery of spyware to targeted devices.”

CISA’s multiyear coverup of the phone companies’ negligent cyber security has real consequences. In a November 2024 joint statement, CISA and the Federal Bureau of Investigation confirmed that the Chinese Government hacked “multiple telecommunications companies to enable the theft of customer call records data, the compromise of private communications of a limited number of individuals who are primarily involved in government or political activity, and the copying of certain information that was subject to U.S. law enforcement requests pursuant to court orders.” Vice President VANCE subsequently revealed that his communications and those of President Trump were compromised in this hack. This espionage incident and the harm to U.S. national security caused by it were the direct result of U.S. phone carriers’ failure to follow cyber security best practices, such as installing security updates and using multifactor authentication and Federal Agencies failing to hold these companies accountable.

The Federal Government still does not require U.S. phone companies to meet minimum cybersecurity standards. While it is too late to prevent the Salt Typhoon hack, there is still time to prevent the next incident. As such, I intend to object to considering this nominee until CISA agrees to release this report, which will enable Congress and the public to better understand the current threats and the need for stronger cyber defenses.

TRIBUTE TO MARK CONTRERAS
AND PATRICIA HARRISON

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize two extraor-

dinary public servants whose leadership has helped sustain and strengthen public media at a pivotal moment for our Nation: Patricia Harrison, president and chief executive officer of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and Mark Contreras, president and chief executive officer of Connecticut Public.

Mark Contreras recently announced his retirement after more than 7 years of distinguished leadership at Connecticut Public. During his tenure, Connecticut Public expanded local and multilingual journalism, strengthened its financial foundation, and continued to serve communities across the State with trusted news, educational programming, and cultural content. He also reinforced Connecticut Public’s role as the lead station for the New England News Collaborative, coordinating regional reporting on critical local and regional issues. Even amid the loss of Federal public media funding, his steady leadership ensured the organization remains resilient, mission-driven, and deeply connected to the people it serves.

I also wish to recognize Patricia Harrison, who is concluding her service as president and CEO of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, as the organization winds down operations following the loss of Federal funding. Throughout her tenure, Ms. Harrison ensured that Federal investments in public broadcasting delivered meaningful, local impact. In Connecticut, that commitment was reflected in CPB’s sustained support for trusted journalism, civic engagement, and educational opportunity. Under her leadership, CPB strengthened State government coverage in Connecticut, ensuring that residents had access to reliable, nonpartisan reporting on the work of their State leaders and institutions.

Ms. Harrison also supported American Graduate, an initiative that mobilized public media stations and community partners to help students stay on track to graduation and connect families with vital educational resources. In Connecticut, American Graduate has strengthened local collaboration and expanded access to educational support for young people across the State. In addition, Ms. Harrison championed regional journalism through CPB’s support for the New England News Collaborative, with Connecticut Public serving as the lead station. This collaboration enabled public media organizations across New England to work together to report on issues that cross State lines, providing deeper, more comprehensive coverage for communities throughout the region.

As a longtime supporter of public broadcasting, I know firsthand the vital role that organizations like CPB and Connecticut Public play in strengthening our democracy, supporting local journalism, educating children, and serving communities of

every size and background. The careers of Patricia Harrison and Mark Contreras truly exemplify that mission. I hope my colleagues will join me in celebrating the service and lasting contributions of Patricia Harrison and Mark Contreras.

HOSPITAL AT HOME PROGRAM

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, last week, the Senate passed legislation to fund the Department of Health and Human Services and other Agencies, including a section reflecting bipartisan, bicameral negotiations on healthcare policies in the jurisdiction of the Finance Committee. This bill takes important steps forward on healthcare priorities like taking on pharmaceutical middlemen, also known as pharmacy benefit managers, and achieving mental health parity by going after insurance companies that mislead seniors in Medicare Advantage with lists of doctors that aren't actually available. Americans have deep concerns about the state of their healthcare, and these reforms represent a down payment on the effort to ensure our system benefits families over giant corporations.

This package also includes a 5-year extension of the Hospital at Home Program, an innovative initiative championed by my friend and former colleague Senator Thomas R. Carper. I want to take a moment to recognize Senator Carper's leadership to advance the Hospital at Home Program. This special initiative allows hospitals to treat patients in their homes, rather than in-patient facilities. The program lets patients receive healthcare services where they want, supports family caregivers, and increases hospitals' capacity.

Through the Hospital at Home Program, hospitals are able to provide acute care to patients in their own living rooms through a combination of telehealth and in-person care along with home-delivered meals, nutrition, and medication. Hospitals are able to set patients up with equipment so they are continuously monitored from the comfort of their own homes.

Senator Carper knows the value of providing Federal support for solutions that help more Americans receive healthcare in the setting they prefer: their own homes. So far, 381 hospitals across 37 States are approved to participate in the Hospital at Home Program, and a long-term extension of the program will give more hospitals the certainty they need to take advantage of this opportunity to help patients receive healthcare in their homes. It will also help researchers evaluate whether the program is lowering out-of-pocket healthcare costs, improving outcomes for patients, and expanding access to services offered by rural and urban safety net hospitals. This data will be invaluable as Congress contemplates the future of the program.

Senator Carper championed Hospital at Home up until his last days serving

the Senate because he knew of the value it delivered to his constituents and its potential to serve Americans across the country, especially in rural and underserved communities. In recognition of his leadership, the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD should reflect that this extension would not have been possible without the leadership, vision, and persistence of Senator Carper.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING COBBLESTONE BALLROOM & EVENT CENTER

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to honor Cobblestone Ballroom & Event Center of Buena Vista County, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Originally built in 1929 as part of the historic Cobblestone Inn overlooking Storm Lake, Cobblestone Ballroom & Event Center has long served as a gathering place for celebrations and community events in northwest Iowa. Despite a fire in 1945 that destroyed much of the original building, the ballroom endured and continued to host performances and gatherings for decades. The space remained preserved with original furnishing and memorabilia even after they closed their doors in November 1986. In 2022, Cobblestone entered a new chapter when Natalie and Nathan Schumann, along with Jennifer and Chad Hustedt, purchased the building and began an extensive renovation. After restoring the property, they opened the restaurant in early 2023. That fall, they were able to reopen the ballroom itself, returning a long-standing community landmark to active use. Today, the business is operated by a team of 30 employees, with staffing levels adjusted seasonally to meet demand.

Cobblestone serves as a full-service event venue offering live music, trivia nights, themed events, weddings, and private gatherings. In addition to the main ballroom, the property includes the Mermaid Room, a renovated space frequently rented for business meetings, birthday parties, wedding ceremonies, and receptions. The venue continues to open in stages as renovations progress, with the owners focused on expanding their ability to serve the community. Alongside the ballroom, the owners operate the on-site Cobb Tavern, which serves as the venue's food and beverage space. The tavern's menu features pizza as its primary offering, along with nachos, wings, subs, salads, and a full bar with beer, wine, and liquor. The tavern provides a place for patrons to gather and serves as an integral part of the Cobblestone experience.

Beyond hosting events, Cobblestone is actively engaged in the Storm Lake

community. The business is a member of Storm Lake United, the area's chamber of commerce, where Natalie serves on the board of directors. In 2025, Cobblestone proudly hosted Storm Lake United's annual meeting and awards ceremony, where they received both the Storm Lake United Community Attraction and Tourism and New Business Recognition awards. Through the Schumanns and Hustedts' strong leadership and continued investment, Cobblestone has returned an important gathering place to Buena Vista County.

It is my honor to recognize the Schumanns and Hustedts, along with the entire Cobblestone team, for their commitment to restoring and operating this historic venue. I look forward to their continued success and wish them the best of luck in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO MASTER GUNNERY SERGEANT ANTONIO PARKER

• Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, I often say, "This country owes you one thing—and that's an opportunity." But it is up to you what you do with that opportunity. No one demonstrates making the most of this opportunity better than MGy Sgt Antonio Parker of Montgomery.

Antonio grew up in a small town with humble beginnings in southern Virginia. But his mother instilled in him the values of service and a good education. She practiced what she preached by tutoring those who couldn't read and serving at the local church. Antonio promised her that he would get his own education. And in 1981—1 week after graduating high school—Antonio enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. What began as a way to pay for a college education and keep his promise to his mother led Antonio to 28 years of military service, including more than 10 deployments. During this time, he earned five degrees focusing on business and leadership.

Along the way, he also married his wife of over 30 years—Jean, a Montgomery native. In 1999, they welcomed their son Antwon into the world, who is continuing to follow in his family's footsteps as a two-time University of Alabama graduate and is now pursuing his medical degree in Nashville.

After retiring from the military in 2009, Antonio's focus shifted to empowering those around him in the Montgomery area. He has completed 59 marathons and loves to help others lead healthier lives. Throughout the years, he has planned multiple community health events, including his Fit-4-Life 5k, where all proceeds go toward education for those in need.

Antonio's life after the military hasn't been without its challenges. While training for his 60th marathon, Antonio received the life-altering diagnosis of stage IV cancer. But 5 years later, he is still with us and making the most of every day. He credits his