

smile on their faces during a very dark time.

David attributes his safe return home to the many prayers of his wife, mother, family, and friends. He had a special gift waiting for him when he came back to Alabama: a baby girl who was born while he was deployed overseas. David and his wife Theresa had two more daughters and raised their family in Mobile County while he finished his degree at the University of South Alabama. After graduating, David began working in the county school system, eventually becoming a counselor and helping students navigate life's challenges.

David saw his job as more than just a 9 to 5, but as a way to invest in the lives of his students and help prepare them for the real world. Both David and Theresa have found a multitude of ways to partner together and serve the surrounding community. Through their involvement in the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program—otherwise known as RSVP—they frequently volunteer at community events and help seniors in the area prosper. David and Theresa are also members of the Christian Motorcycles Association, where they use their love of motorcycles to share their faith with other veterans. He also is a member of the Patriot Guard Riders, supporting Gold Star families and reminding them that they are not alone.

David's generosity of his time has truly made a difference that spans far beyond our State. It is my honor to recognize David Bedford as the August Veteran of the Month.●

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 5221. A bill to prohibit the purchase, sale, or exchange of nonpublic information, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-4269. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the continuation of the national emergency with respect to Lebanon that was declared in Executive Order 13441 of August 1, 2007; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4270. A communication from the Chief Regulatory Officer, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Affirmative Asylum Referrals Without Interview" (RIN1615-AD18) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 29, 2026; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4271. A communication from the Section Chief, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Relief for foreign participating member associations of FIFA from having to file a Form 990 for years in which their only US

source income is related to participation in the 2026 FIFA World Cup" (Rev. Proc. 2026-28) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 30, 2026; to the Committee on Finance.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, without amendment:

S. 2098. A bill to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Southcentral Foundation located in Anchorage, Alaska, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 119-131).

H.R. 3620. An act to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Southcentral Foundation located in Anchorage, Alaska, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 119-132).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself and Mr. WELCH):

S. 5207. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to maintain the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SHEEHY:

S. 5208. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide concealed carry privileges to qualified special operators; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. BRITT (for herself and Mr. TUBERVILLE):

S. 5209. A bill to amend title 39, United States Code, to limit bonuses to the Postmaster General, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 5210. A bill to allow Members of Congress to display works of art that are currently held in storage; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 5211. A bill to require the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to submit a strategy for cyber cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. SCHIFF):

S. 5212. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to reform executive clemency; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KING (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 5213. A bill to support programs for mosquito-borne and other vector-borne disease surveillance and control; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. 5214. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to punish criminal offenses targeting law enforcement officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BENNET, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 5215. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and enhance certain tax credits for electric vehicles, and for

other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. ALSOBROOKS (for herself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 5216. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against tax for qualified accessible housing expenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Ms. ALSOBROOKS):

S. 5217. A bill to amend the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 to extend the availability of identity protection coverage to individuals whose personally identifiable information was compromised during recent data breaches at Federal agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MORAN:

S. 5218. A bill to amend the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a program under which the Secretary will award competitive grants to eligible entities for the purpose of establishing and enhancing farming and ranching opportunities for veterans; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 5219. A bill to improve end-of-life care; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BENNET, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 5220. A bill to amend the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to reauthorize the battery processing and manufacturing program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. PETERS):

S. 5221. A bill to prohibit the purchase, sale, or exchange of nonpublic information, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BENNET, Ms. HIRONO, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 5222. A bill to establish the Cleaner Transportation at Recreational Areas to Improve our Landmarks and Sites (Cleaner TRAILS) Initiative to facilitate the installation of zero-emission vehicle fueling infrastructure on National Forest System land, National Park System land, and certain related land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WARNER:

S. 5223. A bill to prohibit the purchase or sale of securities while aware of nonpublic information contained in certain social media accounts controlled by Government officials, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S.J. Res. 204. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration relating to "Rescinding the Definition of 'Harm' Under the Endangered Species Act"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 986

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S.

986, a bill to address and take action to prevent bullying and harassment of students.

S. 1032

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Ms. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1032, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for concurrent receipt of veterans' disability compensation and retired pay for disability retirees with combat-related disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 1245

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1245, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand health care and benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs for military sexual trauma, and for other purposes.

S. 1289

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. CURTIS), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) and the Senator from Delaware (Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1289, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States and to support programs at the National September 11 Memorial and Museum at the World Trade Center.

S. 1308

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1308, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the criteria for approval of certain independent study programs for purposes of the educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

S. 1538

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1538, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to expand and improve the enforcement capabilities of the Attorney General, and for other purposes.

S. 1677

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1677, a bill to provide health insurance benefits for outpatient and inpatient items and services related to the diagnosis and treatment of a congenital anomaly or birth defect.

S. 1814

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1814, a bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for a code of conduct for justices of the Su-

preme Court of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1906

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1906, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the regulation of zootechnical animal food substances.

S. 1907

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1907, a bill to amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act to provide for a consistent definition for plant biostimulants.

S. 3131

At the request of Mr. SCHIFF, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3131, a bill to provide for the inclusion on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall of the names of the lost crew members of the USS Frank E. Evans killed on June 3, 1969.

S. 3637

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3637, a bill to amend the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to reauthorize the Agriculture Advanced Research and Development Authority, and for other purposes.

S. 3697

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK) were added as cosponsors of S. 3697, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to prohibit the approval of new abortion drugs, to prohibit investigational use exemptions for abortion drugs, and to impose additional regulatory requirements with respect to previously approved abortion drugs, and for other purposes.

S. 3799

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3799, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Healthy Start Initiative.

S. 3938

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3938, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize representatives of veterans service organizations to participate in presentations to promote certain benefits available to veterans during preseparation counseling under the Transition Assistance Program of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

S. 4379

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4379, a bill to require

the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense to jointly submit a report on efforts by the Government of the Russian Federation to violate the religious freedoms of the people of Ukraine, to require the President to impose all applicable sanctions with respect to foreign persons determined to have engaged in such efforts, and for other purposes.

S. 4395

At the request of Mr. MCCORMICK, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added as cosponsors of S. 4395, a bill to reauthorize the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002, and for other purposes.

S. 4429

At the request of Mr. MORENO, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4429, a bill to prohibit the importation, manufacture, sale, resale, or introduction into interstate commerce in the United States of connected vehicles and related software and hardware associated with foreign adversaries.

S. 4469

At the request of Mr. MCCORMICK, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4469, a bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to modify provisions relating to event contracts, and for other purposes.

S. 4931

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4931, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to preserve consumer vehicle choice, protect the electric grid, and impose limits on regulations under that Act, and for other purposes.

S. 5033

At the request of Mr. SCHIFF, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5033, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to create a right of public access to certain records relating to the courts of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 5036

At the request of Mr. SCHIFF, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5036, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit officers and employees of the judiciary from engaging in official acts affecting personal financial interests.

S. 5048

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5048, a bill to amend the Federal Power Act to modernize the hydropower licensing process, and for other purposes.

S. 5190

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5190, a bill to prohibit forced

arbitration in work disputes, and for other purposes.

S. 5200

At the request of Mr. FETTERMAN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5200, a bill to amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to include spotted lanternfly control research and development as a high-priority research and extension initiative, and for other purposes.

S. 5201

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 5201, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect more victims of domestic violence by preventing their abusers from possessing or receiving firearms, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 5970

At the request of Mr. SCHIFF, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 5970 intended to be proposed to S. 4784, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2027 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. SCHIFF):

S. 5212. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to reform executive clemency; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on the pardons bill, justice is supposed to be blind. Under Donald Trump, justice is for sale.

Today, I am introducing legislation with Senators BLUMENTHAL, HIRONO, CORTEZ MASTO, and SCHIFF to stop Trump from abusing his pardon power for personal gain. Our No Payoffs for Pardons Act will expose, deter, and prosecute corrupt pardons.

Trump sees his pardon power as just another opportunity for graft, for graft, or personal profit. The only thing Trump cares about in granting clemency is how much money you have and where do your loyalties lie.

Trump has wiped the slate clean for thousands of January 6 insurrectionists, Medicare fraudsters, white-collar criminals, and other crooks convicted of swindling the American people. The American people always pay the price for Trump's corruption, and pardons are no exception. Trump's pardons have wiped out nearly \$2 billion in re-

payments owed to the victims of these crimes.

It is the same old grift: Trump picks the pocket of law-abiding Americans to enrich criminals, his cronies, and himself. In Trump's America, if you have enough money or if you have the President's ear, then you are above the law.

Our bill reaffirms that Federal bribery laws apply to the President and that trying to buy your way out of a prison cell is a crime itself.

Our legislation would also require anyone who receives a pardon to disclose financial gifts they made in connection with their clemency.

We need to bring these corrupt pardons out of the shadows and into the light so that we can stop them for once and for all.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 5212

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "No Payoffs for Pardons Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The Constitution of the United States grants the President broad authority to issue reprieves and pardons for offenses against the United States. This power is meant to serve the interests of justice and offer a pathway to remedy unfair outcomes within the criminal legal system.

(2) The breadth of the pardon power demands it be used judiciously. At times, Presidents have made questionable clemency decisions throughout American history, creating legitimate concerns about potential misuse across the political spectrum.

(3) Alarmingly, President Donald Trump has gone further than any of his predecessors and fundamentally transformed the Presidential pardon from an instrument of mercy into a currency for insiders, repeatedly using clemency to reward political donors, loyalists, cronies, and individuals with direct access to him, while ordinary petitioners languish for years in the Department of Justice process.

(4) In his current term, President Trump has granted only a tiny handful of pardons and commutations to the roughly 10,000 people who followed the formal Department of Justice review process in 2026, while showering clemency on high-profile allies, business associates, and well-connected offenders whose chief qualification was deep pockets or proximity to the President, not the merits of their cases.

(5) President Trump has exploited clemency to erase the crimes and consequences of some of the most notorious white-collar offenders in United States history, including the longest-sentenced Medicare fraudster in the country. All told, President Trump's pardons have wiped out nearly \$2,000,000,000 in victim repayments and taxpayer recovery.

(6) President Trump has used the pardon power to undercut ongoing law enforcement investigations, including commuting the sentence of a predatory lender whose co-operation Federal prosecutors were actively seeking, instantly stripping prosecutors of leverage and signaling that well-connected

criminals can buy or lobby their way out of accountability.

(7) President Trump has leveraged clemency for convicted narcotraffickers and enablers of the international drug trade, such as the former Honduran President who turned his government into a cocaine pipeline to the United States and the creator of the Silk Road dark web drug market, even while demanding the death penalty for traffickers and campaigning on a promise to wage "war" on cartels.

(8) On the first day of his second term, President Donald Trump issued a sweeping clemency proclamation granting blanket pardons and commutations to nearly all offenders charged or convicted for crimes arising from the January 6, 2021, attack on the United States Capitol, instantly wiping away the criminal records and prison time of roughly 1,600 rioters who assaulted law enforcement and violently disrupted the peaceful transfer of power.

(9) President Trump's Department of Justice is now actively seeking to vacate and dismiss the seditious conspiracy convictions of multiple top Proud Boys and Oath Keepers leaders, including Stewart Rhodes and other organizers who helped plan and direct the assault, moving to erase the last remaining jury verdicts against the extremist ring-leaders of the insurrection and to nullify years of painstaking prosecutions by career Federal law enforcement.

(10) President Trump's pattern of clemency for wealthy benefactors, the politically connected, and corrupt officials paired with his deliberate neglect of ordinary, meritorious petitioners, has weaponized the pardon power against the rule of law, turning a constitutional safety valve into a commodity to be purchased or bartered for through political allegiance.

(11) Although the Supreme Court of the United States erroneously held in *Trump v. United States*, 603 U.S. 593 (2024), that the President has absolute immunity for the exercise of core constitutional powers, that immunity only attaches to the President and does not extend to private individuals who corruptly offer things of value to obtain clemency, or act as intermediaries in such corrupt arrangements. Congress has authority and responsibility to address corruption by clemency seekers and intermediaries, even if the conduct of the President may be beyond the reach of Federal criminal prosecution.

SEC. 3. DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR PARDON RECIPIENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 11 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§ 227A. Financial disclosure reports by recipients of executive clemency

"(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) CLEMENCY RECIPIENT.—The term 'clemency recipient' means any individual who has received a pardon, commutation of sentence, reprieve, or any other form of executive clemency pursuant to section 2 of article of the Constitution of the United States.

"(2) COVERED BENEFIT.—The term 'covered benefit' means anything of value, including any contribution, donation, gift, service, payment, transfer, contract, investment, goods, or other benefit, whether direct or indirect, provided by the clemency recipient, at the direction of the clemency recipient, or on behalf of the clemency recipient, with an aggregate value at any point during any 12-month period during the disclosure period of not less than \$10,000, as adjusted for inflation pursuant to subsection (f).

"(3) COVERED RECIPIENT.—The term 'covered recipient'—

"(A) means—