

military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Jens Stoltenberg served as the Prime Minister of Norway from 2000 to 2001 and 2005 to 2013.

(2) Norway was a founding member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (referred to in this Act as “NATO”) on April 4, 1949.

(3) As Prime Minister of Norway, Jens Stoltenberg oversaw Norway’s increased defense spending levels and the modernization of the Norwegian Armed Forces.

(4) A primary objective of NATO is to provide security and support to member nations and promote democratic values to ensure stability and peace.

(5) Jens Stoltenberg assumed the position of Secretary General of NATO in October 2014.

(6) The United States was the first NATO member to support Jens Stoltenberg’s appointment as Secretary General.

(7) Jens Stoltenberg has led NATO through significant new investments, reinforced its capabilities and enhanced the collective defense of the Alliance.

(8) Jens Stoltenberg has advocated for greater burden sharing among members of the NATO Alliance, and under his leadership the Alliance will see 23 member countries reach or exceed the 2 percent defense spending commitment by 2024, compared to 4 member countries in 2014.

(9) Jens Stoltenberg’s commitment to better burden sharing has resulted in a stronger and more sustainable Alliance than at any other time in NATO history.

(10) Under Jens Stoltenberg’s leadership, NATO has successfully undergone multiple enlargement periods and has extended membership to Finland, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Sweden.

(11) In addition to bolstering the collective security of the Alliance, NATO enlargement indicates that an increasing number of countries are meeting key benchmarks on the military, political and legal requirements needed for NATO accession, enhancing interoperability, defense expenditure and intelligence sharing among member countries.

(12) Jens Stoltenberg has increased NATO’s partnerships with Indo-Pacific countries to cooperate more closely to address our shared global challenges including cyber defense, emergency technologies, and the multitude of challenges posed by the People’s Republic of China.

(13) Jens Stoltenberg included Indo-Pacific leaders at NATO summits and traveled to the region which further cemented these important partnerships.

(14) Following Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, Jens Stoltenberg has led the Alliance in maintaining unprecedented unity against Putin’s unprovoked, illegal actions.

(15) Since February 2022, NATO members have supplied Ukraine with the equipment and resources it needs to defend its democracy and its sovereignty.

(16) Jens Stoltenberg successfully marshaled political and financial support from Indo-Pacific partners to support Ukraine, including contributions of munitions and military equipment and sizeable financial contributions to NATO’s Comprehensive Assistance Plan Action Trust Fund for Ukraine.

(17) Jens Stoltenberg’s mandate was extended a total of 4 times with unanimous support by NATO allies, with 2 extensions agreed to following Russia’s unprovoked invasion of Ukraine.

(18) Jens Stoltenberg is the second longest-serving Secretary General, serving over 9 years in this position.

(19) Jens Stoltenberg has re-committed that the NATO Alliance will stand together against any threat posed to a NATO member, ensuring continued peace and stability within NATO territory and around the world.

(b) AWARD AND DESIGN.—

(1) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the award, on behalf of the Congress, of a single gold medal of appropriate design to Jens Stoltenberg, in recognition of his contributions to the security, unity, and defense of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

(2) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the award referred to in paragraph (1), the Secretary of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary. The design shall bear a image of, and inscription of the name of, Jens Stoltenberg.

(c) DUPLICATE MEDALS.—The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under subsection (b), at a price sufficient to cover the costs thereof, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

(d) STATUS OF MEDALS.—

(1) NATIONAL MEDALS.—Medals struck under this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

(2) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

(e) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF SALE.—

(1) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be necessary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under this Act.

(2) PROCEEDS OF SALES.—Amounts received from the sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under subsection (c) shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

**SA 3282.** Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**DIVISION F—DEPARTMENT OF STATE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025**

**SEC. 9001. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This division may be cited as the “Department of State Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this division is as follows:

**DIVISION F—DEPARTMENT OF STATE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025**

Sec. 9001. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 9002. Definitions.

**TITLE I—WORKFORCE MATTERS**

Sec. 9101. Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Rogers Act; creation of the Department of State.

Sec. 9102. Workforce modernization efforts.

Sec. 9103. Training float of the Department of State for Civil and Foreign Service personnel.

Sec. 9104. Competitive local compensation plan.

Sec. 9105. Language incentive pay for civil service employees.

Sec. 9106. Strategy for targeted recruitment of civil servants.

Sec. 9107. Electronic medical records.

Sec. 9108. Options for comprehensive evaluations.

Sec. 9109. Portability of professional licenses.

Sec. 9110. Expanding opportunities for Department-paid student internship program.

Sec. 9111. Career intermission program adjustment to enhance retention.

Sec. 9112. Professional counseling services.

Sec. 9113. Assignment process modernization.

Sec. 9114. Report on modifying consular tour and first tours requirements.

Sec. 9115. Comprehensive policy on vetting and transparency.

Sec. 9116. Efficiency in employee survey creation and consolidation.

Sec. 9117. Per diem allowance for newly hired members of the Foreign Service.

Sec. 9118. Termination of residential or motor vehicle leases and telephone service contracts for members of the Foreign Service.

Sec. 9119. Needs-based childcare subsidies enrollment period.

Sec. 9120. Comptroller General report on Department traveler experience.

Sec. 9121. Quarterly report on global footprint.

Sec. 9122. Report on former Federal employees advising foreign governments.

Sec. 9123. Job share and part-time employment opportunities.

Sec. 9124. Expansion of special rules for certain monthly workers’ compensation payments and other payments for personnel under chief of mission authority.

Sec. 9125. Authority to provide or reimburse for certain security services.

**TITLE II—ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONS**

Sec. 9201. State-of-the-art building facilities.

Sec. 9202. Presence of chiefs of mission at diplomatic posts.

Sec. 9203. Periodic Inspector General reviews of chiefs of mission.

Sec. 9204. Special Envoy for Sudan.

Sec. 9205. Special Envoy for Belarus.

Sec. 9206. National Museum of American Diplomacy.

Sec. 9207. Authority to establish Negotiations Support Unit within Department of State.

Sec. 9208. Restrictions on the use of funds for solar panels.

Sec. 9209. Responsiveness to Congressional Research Service inquiries.

Sec. 9210. Mission in a box.

Sec. 9211. Report on United States Consulate in Chengdu, People’s Republic of China.

- Sec. 9212. Personnel reporting.
- Sec. 9213. Support co-location with allied partner nations.
- Sec. 9214. Streamline qualification of construction contract bidders.

#### TITLE III—INFORMATION SECURITY AND CYBER DIPLOMACY

- Sec. 9301. Supporting Department of State data analytics.
- Sec. 9302. Realigning the Regional Technology Officer Program.
- Sec. 9303. Measures to protect Department devices from the proliferation and use of foreign commercial spyware.
- Sec. 9304. Report on cloud computing in Bureau of Consular Affairs.
- Sec. 9305. Information technology pilot projects.
- Sec. 9306. Leveraging approved technology for administrative efficiencies.
- Sec. 9307. Office of the Special Envoy for Critical and Emerging Technology.

#### TITLE IV—PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

- Sec. 9401. Africa broadcasting networks.
- Sec. 9402. United States Agency for Global Media.
- Sec. 9403. Extension of authorizations to support United States participation in international fairs and expos.
- Sec. 9404. Research and scholar exchange partnerships.
- Sec. 9405. Waiver of United States residency requirement for children of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty employees.

#### TITLE V—DIPLOMATIC SECURITY

- Sec. 9501. Secure Embassy Construction and Counterterrorism Act requirements.
- Sec. 9502. Congressional notification for Serious Security Incidents.
- Sec. 9503. Notifications regarding security decisions at diplomatic posts.
- Sec. 9504. Security clearance suspension pay flexibilities.
- Sec. 9505. Modification to notification requirement for security clearance suspensions and revocations.

#### TITLE VI—UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Sec. 9601. Personal service agreement authority for the United States Agency for International Development.
- Sec. 9602. Crisis operations and disaster surge staffing.
- Sec. 9603. Education allowance while on military leave.
- Sec. 9604. Inclusion in the pet transportation exception to the Fly America Act.

#### TITLE VII—OTHER MATTERS

- Sec. 9701. Authorization of appropriations to promote United States citizen employment at the United Nations and international organizations.
- Sec. 9702. Amendment to Rewards for Justice program.
- Sec. 9703. Passport automation modernization.
- Sec. 9704. Extension of certain payment in connection with the International Space Station.
- Sec. 9705. Support for congressional delegations.
- Sec. 9706. Electronic communication with visa applicants.
- Sec. 9707. Electronic transmission of visa information.
- Sec. 9708. Inclusion of cost associated with producing reports.
- Sec. 9709. Extensions.

#### SEC. 9002. DEFINITIONS.

In this division:

(1) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

(2) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(3) **DEPARTMENT.**—The term “Department” means the Department of State.

(4) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of State.

(5) **USAID.**—The term “USAID” means the United States Agency for International Development.

#### TITLE I—WORKFORCE MATTERS

##### SEC. 9101. COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROGERS ACT; CREATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

Congress recognizes and honors those who have served, or are presently serving, in the diplomatic corps of the United States, in commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Act entitled, “An Act for the reorganization and improvement of the Foreign Service of the United States, and for other purposes” (43 stat. 140, chapter 182), commonly known as the “Rogers Act of 1924”, which on May 24, 1924, established what has come to be known as the Foreign Service. Today, the Department of State includes more than 13,000 Foreign Service personnel working alongside more than 11,000 civil service personnel and 45,000 locally engaged staff at more than 270 embassies and consulates.

##### SEC. 9102. WORKFORCE MODERNIZATION EFFORTS.

The Secretary should prioritize efforts to further modernize the Department, including—

(1) making workforce investments, including increasing wages for locally employed staff and providing other non-cash benefits, and hiring up to 100 new members of the Foreign Service above projected attrition to reduce overseas vacancies and mid-level staffing gaps;

(2) utilizing authorities that allow the Department to acquire or build and open new embassy compounds quicker and at significantly less cost to get diplomats on the front lines of strategic competition; and

(3) modernizing legacy systems and human resource processes.

##### SEC. 9103. TRAINING FLOAT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR CIVIL AND FOREIGN SERVICE PERSONNEL.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop and submit to the appropriate congressional committees and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a strategy to establish and maintain a “training float” by January 1, 2027, to allow for a minimum of 8 percent and up to 10 percent of members of the Civil and Foreign Service to participate in long-term training at any given time. The strategy shall include—

(1) a proposal to ensure that personnel in the training float remain dedicated to training or professional development activities;

(2) recommendations to maintain, and an assessment of the feasibility of maintaining, a minimum of 8 percent of personnel in the float at any given time; and

(3) any additional resources and authorities needed to maintain a training float contemplated by this section.

(b) **MONITORING.**—For any established training float, not later than 120 days after

enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall ensure that personnel in such training float remain dedicated to training or professional development activities.

##### SEC. 9104. COMPETITIVE LOCAL COMPENSATION PLAN.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the effectiveness and stability of United States foreign missions are linked to the dedication and expertise of locally employed staff; and

(2) ensuring competitive compensation packages benchmarked against the local market is essential not only to retain valuable talent but also to reflect a commitment to employment practices abroad.

(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated \$47,500,000 for fiscal year 2025 to support implementation of a global baseline for prevailing wage rate goal for Local Compensation Plan positions at the 75th percentile.

##### SEC. 9105. LANGUAGE INCENTIVE PAY FOR CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEES.

The Secretary and Administrator may provide special monetary incentives to acquire or retain proficiency in foreign languages to civil service employees who serve in domestic positions that require critical language skills. The amounts of such incentives should be similar to the language incentive pay provided to members of the Foreign Service under the Foreign Service pursuant to section 704(b)(3) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4024(b)(3)).

##### SEC. 9106. STRATEGY FOR TARGETED RECRUITMENT OF CIVIL SERVANTS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a strategy for targeted and proactive recruitment to fill open civil service positions, focusing on recruiting from schools or organizations, and on platforms targeting those with relevant expertise related to such positions.

##### SEC. 9107. ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORDS.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) Foreign Service personnel at the Department serve with distinction in austere places and under challenging conditions around the world with limited healthcare availability;

(2) the use of paper medical records, which require Foreign Service personnel to carry files containing protected health information from post to post, limits the availability of their health information to Department medical personnel during critical health incidents;

(3) electronic medical records are necessary, particularly as the Department opens new embassies in the South Pacific, thousands of miles from the nearest Department medical officer, who may not have access to up-to-date personnel medical files;

(4) the lack of electronic medical records is even more important for mental health records, as the Department only has a small number of regional medical officer psychiatrists and relies heavily on telehealth for most Foreign Service personnel; and

(5) due to the critical need for electronic medical records, it is imperative that the Department address the situation quickly and focus on secure commercially available or other successful systems utilized by public and private sector organizations with a track record of successfully implementing large-scale projects of this type.

(b) **ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORDS REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than December 31, 2027, the

Secretary shall have fully implemented an electronic medical records process or system for all Foreign Service personnel and their Eligible Family Members that eliminates reliance on paper medical records and includes appropriate safeguards to protect personal privacy.

(c) **REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report on the progress made towards meeting the requirement under subsection (b).

(2) **ELEMENTS.**—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include the following elements:

(A) An updated timeline for implementation.

(B) An estimated completion date.

(C) The amounts expended to date on the required electronic medical records system.

(D) The estimated amount needed to complete the system.

(3) **TERMINATION OF REQUIREMENT.**—The reporting requirement under paragraph (1) shall cease upon notification to the appropriate congressional committees that electronic medical records have been completely implemented for all Foreign Service personnel.

**SEC. 9108. OPTIONS FOR COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATIONS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on options for integrating 360-degree reviews in personnel files for promotion panel consideration.

(b) **EVALUATION SYSTEMS.**—The report required by subsection (a) shall include—

(1) one or more options to integrate confidential 360-degree reviews, references, or evaluations by superiors, peers, and subordinates, including consideration of automated reference requests; and

(2) other modifications or systems the Secretary considers relevant.

(c) **ELEMENTS.**—The report required by subsection (a) shall describe, with respect to each evaluation system included in the report—

(1) any legal constraints or considerations;

(2) the timeline required for implementation;

(3) any starting and recurring costs in comparison to current processes;

(4) the likely or potential implications for promotion decisions and trends; and

(5) the impact on meeting the personnel needs of the Foreign Service.

**SEC. 9109. PORTABILITY OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSES.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 9 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4081 et seq.) is amended by adding after section 908 (22 U.S.C. 4088) the following new section:

**“SEC. 909. PORTABILITY OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSES.**

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—In any case in which a member of the Foreign Service or the spouse of a member of the Foreign Service has a covered United States license and such member of the Foreign Service or spouse relocates his or her residency because of an assignment or detail to a location that is not in the jurisdiction of the licensing authority that issued the covered license, such covered license shall be considered valid at a similar scope of practice and in the discipline applied for in the jurisdiction of such new residency for the duration of such an assignment

or detail if such member of the Foreign Service or spouse—

“(1) provides a copy of the member’s notification of assignment to the licensing authority in the jurisdiction in which the new residency is located;

“(2) remains in good standing with—

“(A) the licensing authority that issued the covered license; and

“(B) every other licensing authority that has issued to the member of the Foreign Service or spouse a license valid at a similar scope of practice and in the discipline applied in the jurisdiction of such licensing authority; and

“(3) submits to the authority of the licensing authority in the new jurisdiction for the purposes of standards of practice, discipline, and fulfillment of any continuing education requirements.

“(b) **INTERSTATE LICENSURE COMPACTS.**—If a member of the Foreign Service or spouse of a member of the Foreign Service is licensed and able to operate in multiple jurisdictions through an interstate licensure compact, with respect to services provided in the jurisdiction of the interstate licensure compact by a licensee covered by such compact, the member of the Foreign Service or spouse of a member of the Foreign Service shall be subject to the requirements of the compact or the applicable provisions of law of the applicable State and not this section.

“(c) **COVERED LICENSE DEFINED.**—In this section, the term ‘covered license’ means a professional license or certificate—

“(1) that is in good standing with the licensing authority that issued such professional license or certificate;

“(2) that the member of the Foreign Service or spouse of a member of the Foreign Service has actively used during the two years immediately preceding the relocation described in subsection (a); and

“(3) that is not a license to practice law.”

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents in section 2 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 908 the following new item:

“Sec. 909. Portability of professional licenses.”

**SEC. 9110. EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEPARTMENT-PAID STUDENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 9201 of the Department of State Authorization Act of 2022 (22 U.S. 2737) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2)(A), by inserting “or have graduated from such an institution within the six months preceding application to the Program” after “paragraph (1)”; and

(2) in subsection (c), by inserting “and gives preference to individuals who have not previously completed internships within the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development” after “career in foreign affairs”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following subsections:

“(k) **WORK HOURS FLEXIBILITY.**—Students participating in the Program may work fewer than 40 hours per week and a minimum of 24 hours per week to accommodate their academic schedules, provided that the total duration of the internship remains consistent with program requirements.

“(l) **MENTORSHIP PROGRAM.**—The Secretary and Administrator are authorized to establish a mentoring and coaching program that pairs Foreign Service or Civil Service employees with interns who choose to participate throughout the duration of their internship.”

**SEC. 9111. CAREER INTERMISSION PROGRAM ADJUSTMENT TO ENHANCE RETENTION.**

(a) **AUTHORITY TO EXTEND FEDERAL EMPLOYEE HEALTH BENEFIT COVERAGE.**—The

Secretary and Administrator are authorized to offer employees the option of extending Federal Employee Health Benefit coverage during pre-approved leave without pay for up to 3 years.

(b) **RESPONSIBILITY FOR PREMIUM PAYMENTS.**—If an employee elects to continue coverage pursuant to subsection (a) for longer than 365 days, the employee shall be responsible for 100 percent of the premium (employee share and government share) during such longer period.

**SEC. 9112. PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING SERVICES.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall seek to increase the number of professional counselors, including licensed clinical social workers, providing services for employees under chief of mission authority. These positions may be filled under Limited Non-Career Appointment terms.

(b) **EMPLOYMENT TARGETS.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this division, the Secretary shall seek to employ not fewer than 4 additional professional counselors, including licensed clinical social workers, in the Bureau of Medical Services to work out of regional medical centers abroad.

**SEC. 9113. ASSIGNMENT PROCESS MODERNIZATION.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall modernize the Foreign Service bidding process, and specifically implement the following elements:

(1) A stable-pair matching, preference-ranking system for non-directed Foreign Service employees and hiring bureaus, allowing for a more strategic alignment of workforce and resources.

(2) Incorporation of lessons learned from the previous stable-pair matching bidding pilot framework referred to as “iMatch”, but applied more expansively to include non-directed assignments up through FS-01 positions, taking advantage of efficiency benefits such as tandem assignment functionalities.

(3) Mechanisms to ensure transparency, efficiency, effectiveness, accountability, and flexibility in the assignment process, while maintaining equal opportunities for all officers.

(4) An independent auditing process to ensure adherence to established rules, effectiveness in meeting the Department’s needs, and prevention of bias or manipulation, including through the use of protected categories in making assignment decisions.

(b) **CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN PROMOTION ISSUES.**—In parallel with assignment process modernization efforts, the Secretary shall—

(1) assess whether any point systems tied to promotion incentives should consider service in hard-to-fill or critical positions; and

(2) assess whether the practice of dividing the assignment process into winter and summer cycles is necessary or efficient compared to stable matching processes.

(c) **REPORTING AND OVERSIGHT.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall provide the appropriate congressional committees a report on the implementation of the assignment process under this section, including—

(1) data on match rates, including in filling critical or priority positions, officer and hiring office satisfaction, and the impact on tandem placements;

(2) recommendations for further modifications to the bidding process;

(3) an overview of the strategy used to communicate any changes to the workforce; and

(4) results of analysis into additional transparency efforts, including those described in subsection (a)(3).

**SEC. 9114. REPORT ON MODIFYING CONSULAR TOUR AND FIRST TOURS REQUIREMENTS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that evaluates the feasibility of—

(1) reducing, removing, and adding flexibility to the directed consular tours requirements for non-consular-coned generalist members of the Foreign Service; and

(2) requiring that first tours for members of the Foreign Service be assigned in the National Capital Region.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The report required under subsection (a) shall include a description of resources required to implement the changes described in such subsection, a timeline for implementation, and an assessment of the benefits and consequences of such changes, including any obstacles.

**SEC. 9115. COMPREHENSIVE POLICY ON VETTING AND TRANSPARENCY.**

(a) **COMPREHENSIVE POLICY ON VETTING AND TRANSPARENCY.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop a consistent and enhanced vetting process to ensure that individuals with substantiated claims of discrimination or harassment against them, to include when administrative or disciplinary actions are taken, are not considered for assignments to senior positions or promotions to senior grades within the Foreign Service.

(b) **ELEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE VETTING POLICY.**—Following the conclusion of any investigation into an allegation of discrimination or harassment, the Office of Civil Rights, Office of Global Talent Management, and other offices with responsibilities related to the investigation reporting directly to the Secretary shall jointly or individually submit a written summary of any findings of substantiated allegations, along with a summary of findings to the committee responsible for assignments to senior positions prior to such committee rendering a recommendation for assignment.

(c) **RESPONSE.**—The Secretary shall develop a process for candidates to respond to any allegations that are substantiated and presented to the committee responsible for assignments to senior positions.

(d) **ANNUAL REPORTS.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 5 years, the Secretary shall submit to the Department workforce and the appropriate congressional committees a report on the number of candidates confirmed for senior diplomatic posts against whom there were substantiated allegations described in subsection (a).

(e) **SENIOR POSITIONS DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “senior positions” means Chief of Mission, Under Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Deputy Chief of Mission, and Principal Officer (i.e., Consuls General) positions.

**SEC. 9116. EFFICIENCY IN EMPLOYEE SURVEY CREATION AND CONSOLIDATION.**

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that employee surveys are crucial for understanding the needs and concerns of the workforce, and are most effective when they are strategically designed, collected, and the results transparent where possible.

(b) **CONSOLIDATED RESOURCE REQUIREMENT.**—The Department shall provide a consolidated resource of survey methods, best practices, and a repository of survey data to avoid survey fatigue, minimize duplicating surveys, increase confidence in survey data, and facilitate data-informed decision-making.

(c) **TIMING.**—The Secretary should determine the overall timing and administration of mandated surveys to ensure maximum participation and robust data sets.

**SEC. 9117. PER DIEM ALLOWANCE FOR NEWLY HIRED MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE.**

(a) **PER DIEM ALLOWANCE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in paragraph (2), any newly hired Foreign Service employee who is in initial orientation training, or any other training expected to last less than 6 months in the Washington, D.C. area before transferring to the employee's first assignment overseas or domestically outside the Washington, D.C. area shall, for the duration of such training, receive a per diem allowance at the levels prescribed under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) **LIMITATION ON LODGING EXPENSES.**—A newly hired Foreign Service employee may not receive any lodging expenses under the applicable per diem allowance pursuant to paragraph (1) if that employee—

(A) has a permanent residence in the Washington, D.C., area (not including government-supplied housing during such orientation training or other training); and

(B) does not vacate such residence during such orientation training or other training.

(b) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section—

(1) the term “per diem allowance” has the meaning given such term in section 5701 of title 5, United States Code; and

(2) the term “Washington, D.C., area” means the geographic area within a 50-mile radius of the Washington Monument.

**SEC. 9118. TERMINATION OF RESIDENTIAL OR MOTOR VEHICLE LEASES AND TELEPHONE SERVICE CONTRACTS FOR MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE.**

Section 907 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4087) is amended by striking “Service who are posted abroad at a Foreign Service post” and inserting “Foreign Service who are posted in the United States or posted abroad”.

**SEC. 9119. NEEDS-BASED CHILDCARE SUBSIDIES ENROLLMENT PERIOD.**

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Department and USAID shall—

(1) issue and maintain guidance on how to apply for any program authorized under section 630 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 2002 (Public Law 107-67; 115 Stat. 552); and

(2) consider using maximum flexibilities to accept applications throughout the year or in accordance with Qualifying Life Event changes (as defined by the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHB)).

**SEC. 9120. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT ON DEPARTMENT TRAVELER EXPERIENCE.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review and submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the effect of section 40118 of title 49, United States Code (commonly referred to as the “Fly America Act”) on Department travelers.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The report required under subsection (a) shall include an analysis of the extent to which the Fly America Act—

(1) disproportionately impacts Department personnel;

(2) impacts travelers, including their ability to find suitable flights and the ability to complete their travel in a timely and effective manner;

(3) increases or decreases costs to the United States Government;

(4) produces overly burdensome restrictions in times of urgent travel such as Emergency Visitation Travel and Ordered/Authorized Departure; and

(5) a description of other relevant issues the Comptroller General determines appropriate.

**SEC. 9121. QUARTERLY REPORT ON GLOBAL FOOTPRINT.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 90 days thereafter for 5 years, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report on the global footprint of the Department.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The report required under subsection (a) shall include, for each diplomatic post—

(1) the number and type of Department employees assigned to the post; and

(2) the number of allocated positions that remain unfilled.

(c) **FORM.**—The report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in classified form.

**SEC. 9122. REPORT ON FORMER FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ADVISING FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 3 years, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees, the Select Committee on Intelligence and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives a report that identifies former United States Government senior officials who have been approved by the Secretary to advise foreign governments.

(b) **FORM.**—The report required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

**SEC. 9123. JOB SHARE AND PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall establish and publish a Department policy on job share and part-time employment opportunities. The policy shall include a template for job sharing arrangements, a database of job share and part-time employment opportunities, and a point of contact in the Bureau of Global Talent Management.

(b) **WORKPLACE FLEXIBILITY TRAINING.**—The Secretary shall incorporate training on workplace flexibility, including the availability of job share and part-time employment opportunities, into employee onboarding and every level of supervisory training.

(c) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for the following 5 years, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on workplace flexibility at the Department, including data on the number of employees utilizing job share or part-time employment arrangements.

**SEC. 9124. EXPANSION OF SPECIAL RULES FOR CERTAIN MONTHLY WORKERS' COMPENSATION PAYMENTS AND OTHER PAYMENTS FOR PERSONNEL UNDER CHIEF OF MISSION AUTHORITY.**

Section 901 of title IX of division J of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (22 U.S.C. 2680b) is amended—

(1) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking “of a” and inserting “of an”; and

(ii) by striking “January 1, 2016” and inserting “September 11, 2001”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “January 1, 2016” and inserting “September 11, 2001”; and

(C) in paragraph (3), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “January 1, 2016” and inserting “September 11, 2001”; and

(2) in subsection (h)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “January 1, 2016” and inserting “September 11, 2001”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “January 1, 2016” and inserting “September 11, 2001”.

**SEC. 9125. AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE OR REIMBURSE FOR CERTAIN SECURITY SERVICES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary and the Administrator are authorized to provide or reimburse for appropriate security services to mitigate risks to certain employees or members of their households resulting from or related to the employee’s official duties or affiliation with the Department or USAID. These security equipment or services may include security cameras and services to deprioritize or remove internet search results revealing personally identifiable information.

(b) REQUIRED POLICY.—Prior to providing or reimbursing services pursuant to subsection (a), the Department shall establish a policy that—

(1) outlines the requirements for qualifying for provision or reimbursement of services;

(2) identifies the office responsible for vetting requests for provision or reimbursement of services; and

(3) mandates expeditious consideration of such requests.

(c) PROTECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION.—The Secretary and the Administrator shall not collect personally identifiable information on any United States citizens while undertaking the activities described in subsection (a) unless the collection is authorized by a court as part of a criminal investigation.

**TITLE II—ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONS**

**SEC. 9201. STATE-OF-THE-ART BUILDING FACILITIES.**

The Secretary should use existing waiver authorities to expedite upgrades and critical maintenance for the Harry S. Truman Federal Building, with the goal of having at least 85 percent of construction and upgrades completed by December 31, 2027.

**SEC. 9202. PRESENCE OF CHIEFS OF MISSION AT DIPLOMATIC POSTS.**

(a) REQUIREMENT FOR ARRIVAL AT DIPLOMATIC POST WITHIN 60 DAYS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall require that to be eligible for payment of travel expenses for initial arrival at the assigned post, a chief of mission must arrive at the post not later than 60 days after the date on which the chief of mission was confirmed by the Senate.

(2) EXCEPTIONS.—The restriction under paragraph (1) shall not apply to a chief of mission who arrives later than 60 days after confirmation by the Senate if the delay was caused by one or more of the following:

(A) A flight delay that was outside of the control of the chief of mission or the Department.

(B) A natural disaster, global health emergency, or other naturally occurring event that prevented the chief of mission from entering the country of the assigned post.

(C) Delay or refusal by the government of the host country to accept diplomatic accreditation.

(D) Family or medical emergency.

(E) Extenuating circumstances beyond the control of the chief of mission.

(3) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the requirement under paragraph (1) upon a determination that extenuating circumstances

warrant such a waiver and upon submission of a brief description of the determination to the appropriate congressional committees.

(4) NOTIFICATION REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and in each case that a chief of mission arrives at an assigned post more than 60 days after confirmation, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report identifying any chief of mission who arrived at the assigned post more than 60 days after confirmation by the Senate, and includes a description of the justification.

(b) NOTIFICATIONS ON DEPARTURES OF CHIEFS OF MISSION.—Beginning on April 1, 2025, for 5 years, the Secretary shall notify the appropriate congressional committees of any chief of mission who has permanently departed from the assigned post within 90 days of the departure.

**SEC. 9203. PERIODIC INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEWS OF CHIEFS OF MISSION.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on April 1, 2025, and for a 3-year period thereafter, the Inspector General of the Department of State shall conduct management reviews of chiefs of mission, charge d’affaires, and other principal officers assigned overseas during inspection visits, when those officers have been at post more than 180 days.

(b) DISPOSITION.—Reviews conducted pursuant to subsection (a) shall be provided to the rating officer for formal discussion as part of the performance evaluation process. The management review shall remain in the employee’s personnel file unless otherwise required by law. The subject of a review conducted pursuant to subsection (a) shall have the opportunity to respond to and comment on the review, and the response shall be included in the employee’s file for promotion panel review.

(c) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT IN CASE OF SERIOUS MANAGEMENT CONCERNS.—The Inspector General of the Department of State shall notify the Secretary, the Deputy Secretary, and the appropriate congressional committees within 30 days of any review in which serious management concerns are raised and substantiated, and which is not otherwise submitted as part of the periodic inspection or report.

**SEC. 9204. SPECIAL ENVOY FOR SUDAN.**

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President shall, with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoint a Special Envoy for Sudan at the Department (in this section referred to as the “Special Envoy”). The Special Envoy shall report directly to the Secretary and should not hold another position in the Department while holding the position of Special Envoy.

(b) DUTIES.—The Special Envoy shall—

(1) lead United States diplomatic efforts to support negotiations and humanitarian response efforts related to alleviating the crisis in Sudan;

(2) be responsible for coordinating policy development and execution related to ending the conflict and a future path to national recovery and democratic transition in Sudan across all bureaus in the Department and coordinating with interagency partners; and

(3) consult regularly with the appropriate congressional committees, and keep such committees fully and currently informed on the status of diplomatic efforts and negotiations.

(c) STAFFING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ensure that the Special Envoy is staffed with personnel approved by the envoy, including through reassignment of positions responsible for issues related to Sudan that currently exist within the Department, encouraging details or assignment of employees of the Department from regional and functional

bureaus with expertise relevant to Sudan, or through request for interagency details of individuals with relevant experience from other United States Government departments or agencies, including the Department of Treasury.

(2) BRIEFING REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Department should brief the appropriate congressional committees on the number of full-time equivalent positions supporting the Special Envoy and the relevant expertise and duties of any employees of the Department serving as detailees.

(d) SUNSET.—The position of the Special Envoy for Sudan shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 9205. SPECIAL ENVOY FOR BELARUS.**

Section 6406(d) of the Department of State Authorization Act of 2023 (division F of Public Law 118–31; 22 U.S.C. 5811 note) is amended to read as follows:

“(d) ROLE.—The position of Special Envoy—

“(1) shall only exist while United States diplomatic operations in Belarus at the United States Embassy in Minsk, Belarus are suspended; and

“(2) shall oversee the operations and personnel of the Belarus Affairs Unit.”.

**SEC. 9206. NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN DIPLOMACY.**

Title I of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 is amended by adding after section 64 (22 U.S.C. 2735a) the following:

**“SEC. 65. NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN DIPLOMACY.**

**“(a) ACTIVITIES.—**

**“(1) SUPPORT AUTHORIZED.—**The Secretary is authorized to provide, by contract, grant, or otherwise, for the performance of appropriate museum visitor and educational outreach services and related events, including—

**“(A) organizing programs and conference activities;**

**“(B) creating, designing, and installing exhibits; and**

**“(C) conducting museum shop services and food services in the public exhibition and related physical and virtual space utilized by the National Museum of American Diplomacy.**

**“(2) RECOVERY OF COSTS.—**The Secretary of State is authorized to retain the proceeds obtained from customary and appropriate fees charged for the use of facilities, including venue rental for events consistent with the activities described in subsection (a)(1) and museum shop services and food services at the National Museum of American Diplomacy. Such proceeds shall be retained as a recovery of the costs of operating the Museum, credited to a designated Department account that exists for the purpose of funding the Museum and its programs and activities, and shall remain available until expended.

**“(b) DISPOSITION OF DOCUMENTS, ARTIFACTS, AND OTHER ARTICLES.—**

**“(1) PROPERTY.—**All historic documents, artifacts, or other articles acquired by the Department of State for the permanent museum collection and determined by the Secretary of State to be suitable for display by the National Museum of American Diplomacy shall be considered to be the property of the United States Government and shall be subject to disposition solely in accordance with this subsection.

**“(2) SALE, TRADE, OR TRANSFER.—**Whenever the Secretary of State makes a determination described in paragraph (3) with respect to a document, artifact, or other article described in paragraph (1), taking into account

considerations such as the Museum's collections management policy and best professional museum practice, the Secretary may sell at fair market value, trade, or transfer such document, artifact, or other article without regard to the requirements of subtitle I of title 40, United States Code. The proceeds of any such sale may be used solely for the advancement of the activities described in subsection (a)(1) of the National Museum of American Diplomacy and may not be used for any purpose other than the acquisition and direct care of the collections of the Museum.

“(3) DETERMINATIONS PRIOR TO SALE, TRADE, OR TRANSFER.—The determination described in this paragraph with respect to a document, artifact, or other article described in paragraph (1) is a determination that—

“(A) the document, artifact, or other article no longer serves to further the mission of the National Museum of American Diplomacy as set forth in the collections management policy of the Museum;

“(B) the sale at a fair market price based on an independent appraisal or trade or transfer of the document, artifact, or other article would serve to maintain or enhance the Museum collection; and

“(C) the sale, trade, or transfer of the document, artifact, or other article would be in the best interests of the United States.

“(4) LOANS.—In addition to the authorization under paragraph (2) relating to the sale, trade, or transfer of documents, artifacts, or other articles described in paragraph (1), the Secretary of State may—

“(A) loan the documents, artifacts, or other articles to other institutions, both foreign and domestic, for repair, study, or exhibition when not needed for use or display by the National Museum of American Diplomacy; and

“(B) borrow documents, artifacts, or other articles from other institutions or individuals, both foreign and domestic, for activities consistent with subsection (a)(1).”

**SEC. 9207. AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH NEGOTIATIONS SUPPORT UNIT WITHIN DEPARTMENT OF STATE.**

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) there is a need for the United States Government to maintain a permanent institutional hub for technical expertise, strategic advice, and knowledge management in negotiations, mediation, and peace processes in order to prioritize and invest in diplomacy;

(2) the United States plays a role in enabling and supporting peace processes and complex political negotiations, the success of which is essential to stability and democracy around the world;

(3) the meaningful engagement of conflict-affected communities, particularly women, youth, and other impacted populations, is vital to durable, implementable, and sustainable peace;

(4) negotiation requires a specific technical and functional skillset, and thus institutional expertise in this practice area should include trained practitioners and subject matter experts;

(5) such skills should continue to be employed as the United States Government advises and contributes to peace processes, including those where the United States plays a supporting role or is led by multilateral and international partners; and

(6) training programs for United States diplomats should draw upon this expertise and United States lessons learned to help equip diplomats with skills to respond to peace processes and complex political negotiations, and how to request support.

(b) NEGOTIATIONS SUPPORT UNIT.—Section 1 of the State Department Basic Authorities

Act (22 U.S.C. 2651a) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(p) NEGOTIATIONS SUPPORT UNIT.—

“(1) AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH.—The Secretary of State may establish within the Department of State a unit to be known as the ‘Negotiations Support Unit’ responsible for carrying out the functions described in paragraph (2), as appropriate.

“(2) FUNCTIONS.—The functions described in this paragraph are the following:

“(A) Serving as a permanent institutional hub and resource for negotiations and peace process expertise and knowledge management.

“(B) Advising the Secretary of State, other relevant senior officials, members of the Foreign Service, and employees of the Department of State on the substance, process, and strategy of negotiations, mediation, peace processes, and other complex political negotiations from strategy and planning to implementation.

“(C) Supporting the development and implementation of United States policy related to complex political negotiations and peace processes, including those led by multilateral and international partners.

“(D) Advising on mediation and negotiations programs to implement United States policy.

“(E) Supporting training for Foreign Service Officers and civil servants on tailored negotiation and mediation skills.

“(F) Working with other governments, international organizations, and nongovernmental organizations, as appropriate, to support the development and implementation of United States policy on peace processes and complex political negotiations.

“(G) Any additional duties the Secretary of State may prescribe.

“(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2025 for the establishment of the Negotiations Support Unit under paragraph (1).”

**SEC. 9208. RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF FUNDS FOR SOLAR PANELS.**

The Department may not use Federal funds to procure any solar energy products that were manufactured in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China or other regions in the country, which are known to be produced with forced labor.

**SEC. 9209. RESPONSIVENESS TO CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE INQUIRIES.**

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congressional Research Service is charged with rendering effective and efficient service to Congress and responding expeditiously, effectively, and efficiently to the needs of Congress.

(b) RESPONSES.—The Secretary and Administrator shall ensure that for any inquiry or request from the Congressional Research Service related to its support of Members of Congress and congressional staff—

(1) an initial answer responsive to the request is sent within 14 days of receipt of the inquiry;

(2) a complete answer responsive to the request is sent within 90 days of receipt of the inquiry, together with an explanation as to why the request was delayed; and

(3) Congressional Research Service staff shall be treated as congressional staff for any informal discussions or briefings.

**SEC. 9210. MISSION IN A BOX.**

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Increasing the United States' global diplomatic footprint is imperative to advance United States' national security interests, particularly in the face of a massive diplomatic expansion of our strategic competitors.

(2) Opening or re-opening diplomatic missions, often in small island nations where there is no United States Government presence, but one is needed to advance United States strategic objectives.

(3) Diplomatic missions should be resourced and equipped for success upon opening to allow diplomats to focus on advancing United States national interests in-country.

(4) The United States can and should move more swiftly to open new diplomatic missions and provide United States diplomats and locally employed staff with a workplace that meets locally appropriate quality, safety, and security standards.

(5) To do this, the Department must streamline and support the process of opening new posts to identify efficiencies and removing obstacles that are unduly complicating the opening of new diplomatic missions, particularly in small island states and similarly situated locations.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on how the Department is creating a “mission in a box” concept to provide new such diplomatic missions the needed resources and authorities to quickly and efficiently stand up and operate a mission from the moment United States personnel arrive, or even before the opening of a new mission, particularly in small island nations.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) a list of authorities and processes related to the opening of new diplomatic missions;

(B) a list of authorities and processes related to the opening of new diplomatic missions that the Department can waive to expediently stand up new diplomatic missions;

(C) essential functions that each new diplomatic mission should be able to carry out independently upon opening;

(D) a description of functions that another post or support center will need to carry out to support the new mission;

(E) a list of essential equipment and access to facilities, including to support secure communications, that should be provided to each new diplomatic mission, the approval of which should be handled prior to or shortly after the opening of the new diplomatic mission, including arrangements for basic office equipment, vehicles, and housing;

(F) the number of recommended locally engaged staff and United States direct hires resident in-country;

(G) the number of non-resident support staff who are assigned to the new diplomatic mission, such as from another post or regional support center;

(H) a description of how medical and consular support services could be provided;

(I) procedures for requesting an expansion of the post's functions or physical platform after opening, should that be needed;

(J) any other authorities or processes that may be required to successfully and quickly stand up a new diplomatic mission, including any new authorities the Department may need;

(K) a list of incentives, in addition to pay differentials, being considered for such posts; and

(L) a description of any specialized training, including for management and security personnel supporting the establishment of such new embassies that may be required.

(c) SENIOR OFFICIAL TO LEAD NEW EMBASSY EXPANSION.—



(1) **DESIGNATION.**—The Secretary shall designate an assistant secretary-level senior official to expedite and make recommendations for the reform of procedures for opening new diplomatic missions abroad, particularly in small island states.

(2) **RESPONSIBILITIES.**—The senior official designated pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be responsible for proposing policy and procedural changes to the Secretary to—

(A) expediting the resourcing of new diplomatic missions by waiving or reducing when possible mandatory processes required to open new diplomatic missions, taking into account the threat environment and circumstances in the host country;

(B) when necessary, quickly adjudicating within the Department any decision points that arise during the planning and execution phases of the establishment of a new mission;

(C) ensuring new missions receive the management and operational support needed, including by designating such support be undertaken by another post, regional support center, or Department entities based in the United States; and

(D) ensuring that the authorities provided in the Secure Embassy Construction and Counterterrorism Act of 1999 (title VI of division A of appendix G of Public Law 106-113), as amended by the Secure Embassy Construction and Counterterrorism Act of 2022 (section 9301 of Public Law 117-263; 136 Stat. 3879), are fully utilized in the planning for all new diplomatic missions.

(d) **NEW DIPLOMATIC MISSION DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “new diplomatic mission” means any bilateral diplomatic mission opened since January 1, 2020, in a country where there had not been a bilateral diplomatic mission since the date that is 20 years before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(e) **SUNSET.**—The authorities and requirements of this section shall terminate 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 9211. REPORT ON UNITED STATES CONSULATE IN CHENGDU, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.**

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the effect of the suspension of operations at of the United States Consulate General in Chengdu, People's Republic of China, on July 27, 2020, on diplomatic and consular activities of the United States in Southwestern China, including the provision of consular services to United States citizens, and on relations with the people of Southwestern China, including in areas designated by the Government of the People's Republic of China as autonomous.

**SEC. 9212. PERSONNEL REPORTING.**

Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and at least every 120 days thereafter for 5 years, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report—

(1) describing the on-board personnel levels, hiring, and attrition of the Civil Service, Foreign Service, eligible family members, locally employed staff, and contractor workforce of the Department, on an operating unit-by-operating unit basis; and

(2) including a status update on progress toward fiscal year hiring plans for Foreign Service and Civil Service.

**SEC. 9213. SUPPORT CO-LOCATION WITH ALLIED PARTNER NATIONS.**

The Secretary, following consultation with the appropriate congressional committees, may alter, repair, and furnish United States Government-owned and leased space for use by the government of a foreign country to facilitate co-location of such government in

such space, on such terms and conditions as the Secretary may determine, including with respect to reimbursement of all or part of the costs of such alteration, repair, or furnishing. Reimbursements or advances of funds pursuant to this section may be credited to the currently applicable appropriation and shall be available for the purposes for which such appropriation is authorized.

**SEC. 9214. STREAMLINE QUALIFICATION OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT BIDDERS.**

Section 402 of the Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act of 1986 (22 U.S.C. 4852) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by inserting “be awarded” after “joint venture persons may”;

(B) by striking “bid on” both places it appears; and

(C) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$10,000,000” and inserting “\$25,000,000”; and

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph 1, by striking “two” and inserting “three”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (D), by striking “at a United States diplomatic or consular establishment abroad” and inserting “on a Federal contract abroad”;

(ii) by striking subparagraphs (E) and (G);

(iii) by redesignating subparagraph (F) as subparagraph (E); and

(iv) in subparagraph (E), as redesignated by clause (iii), by striking “80” [both places it appears] and inserting “65”.

**TITLE III—INFORMATION SECURITY AND CYBER DIPLOMACY**

**SEC. 9301. SUPPORTING DEPARTMENT OF STATE DATA ANALYTICS.**

There is authorized to be appropriated for the Department of State for fiscal year 2025 \$3,000,000 for bureaus to hire Chief Data Officers through the “Bureau Chief Data Officer Program”, consistent with section 6302 of the Department of State Authorization Act of 2023 (division F of Public Law 118-31; 22 U.S.C. 2651a note).

**SEC. 9302. REALIGNING THE REGIONAL TECHNOLOGY OFFICER PROGRAM.**

Section 9508(a)(1) of the Department of State Authorizations Act of 2022 (division I of Public Law 117-263; 22 U.S.C. 10305(a)(1)) is amended by inserting “, and shall be administered by the Bureau for Cyberspace and Digital Policy” before the period at the end.

**SEC. 9303. MEASURES TO PROTECT DEPARTMENT DEVICES FROM THE PROLIFERATION AND USE OF FOREIGN COMMERCIAL SPYWARE.**

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.**—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives.

(1) **COVERED DEVICE.**—The term “covered device” means any electronic mobile device, including smartphones, tablet computing devices, or laptop computing device, that is issued by the Department for official use.

(2) **FOREIGN COMMERCIAL SPYWARE; SPYWARE.**—The terms “foreign commercial spyware” and “spyware” have the meanings given those terms in section 1102A of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3232a).

(b) **PROTECTION OF COVERED DEVICES.**—

(1) **REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall, in consultation with the relevant agencies—

(A) issue standards, guidance, best practices, and policies for Department and

USAID personnel to protect covered devices from being compromised by foreign commercial spyware;

(B) survey the processes used by the Department and USAID to identify and catalog instances where a covered device was compromised by foreign commercial spyware over the prior 2 years and it is reasonably expected to have resulted in an unauthorized disclosure of sensitive information; and

(C) submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the measures in place to identify and catalog instances of such compromises for covered devices by foreign commercial spyware, which may be submitted in classified form.

(2) **NOTIFICATIONS.**—Not later than 60 days after the date on which the Department becomes aware that a covered device was seriously compromised by foreign commercial spyware, the Secretary, in coordination with relevant agencies, shall notify the appropriate committees of Congress of the facts concerning such targeting or compromise, including—

(A) the location of the personnel whose covered device was compromised;

(B) the number of covered devices compromised;

(C) an assessment by the Secretary of the damage to the national security of the United States resulting from any loss of data or sensitive information; and

(D) an assessment by the Secretary of any foreign government or foreign organization or entity, and, to the extent possible, the foreign individuals, who directed and benefitted from any information acquired from the compromise.

(3) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 5 years, the Secretary, in coordination with relevant agencies, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report regarding any covered device that was compromised by foreign commercial spyware, including the information described in subparagraphs (A) through (D) of paragraph (2).

**SEC. 9304. REPORT ON CLOUD COMPUTING IN BUREAU OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS.**

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the status of the Bureau of Consular Affairs adoption of cloud-based products and services as well as options to require enterprise-wide adoption of cloud computing, including for all consular operations.

**SEC. 9305. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PILOT PROJECTS.**

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chief Information Officer of the Department of State should, in consultation with the Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Consular Affairs, prioritize information technology systems with high potential to accelerate the passport renewal processes, reduce processing times, and reduce dependency on legacy systems.

**SEC. 9306. LEVERAGING APPROVED TECHNOLOGY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EFFICIENCIES.**

The Secretary and Administrator shall ensure appropriate and secure technological solutions are authorized and available for employee use, where feasible, to promote technological fluency in the workforce, including the integration of secure tools in the evaluation process to ensure performance management standards while maximizing efficiency.

**SEC. 9307. OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ENVOY FOR CRITICAL AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGY.**

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary shall establish an Office of the Special Envoy for

Critical and Emerging Technology (referred to in this section as the “Office”), which may be located within the Bureau for Cyberspace and Digital Policy.

(b) **LEADERSHIP.**—

(1) **SPECIAL ENVOY.**—The Office shall be headed by a Special Envoy for Critical and Emerging Technology, who shall—

(A) be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate; and

(B) have the rank and status of ambassador; and

(C) report to the Ambassador-at-Large for Cyberspace and Digital Policy.

(c) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The Office may include representatives or expert detailees from other key Federal agencies or research and technology-focused fellowship programs, as determined by the Special Envoy for Critical and Emerging Technology and with the consent of the Ambassador-at-Large for Cyberspace and Digital Policy, in coordination with appropriate senior officials of the Department and such agencies.

(d) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of the Office shall include—

(1) establishing, in coordination with relevant bureaus, offices and other Federal agencies, an interagency security review process for proposals regarding United States Government-funded international collaboration on certain critical and emerging technologies and associated research;

(2) establishing and coordinating an interagency strategy to facilitate international cooperation with United States allies and partners regarding the development, use, and deployment of critical and emerging technologies and associated standards and safeguards for research security, intellectual property protection, and illicit knowledge transfer;

(3) facilitating technology partnerships with countries and relevant political and economic unions that are committed to—

(A) the rule of law and respect for human rights, including freedom of speech, and expression;

(B) the safe and responsible development and use of certain critical and emerging technologies and the establishment of related norms and standards, including for research security and the protection of sensitive data and technology;

(C) a secure internet architecture governed by a multi-stakeholder model instead of centralized government control;

(D) robust international cooperation to promote open and interoperable technological products and services that are necessary to freedom, innovation, transparency, and privacy; and

(E) multilateral coordination, including through diplomatic initiatives, information sharing, and other activities, to defend the principles described in subparagraphs (A) through (D) against efforts by state and non-state actors to undermine them;

(4) supporting efforts to harmonize technology governance regimes with partners, coordinating on basic and pre-competitive research and development initiatives, and collaborating to pursue such opportunities in certain critical and emerging technologies;

(5) coordinating with other technology partners on export control policies for certain critical and emerging technologies, including countering illicit knowledge and data transfer related to certain critical and emerging technology research;

(6) conducting diplomatic engagement, in coordination with other bureaus, offices, and relevant Federal departments and agencies, with allies and partners to develop standards and coordinate policies designed to counter illicit knowledge and data transfer in aca-

demia related to certain critical and emerging technology research;

(7) coordinating with allies, partners, and other relevant Federal agencies to prevent the exploitation of research partnerships related to certain critical and emerging technologies;

(8) sharing information regarding the threat posed by the transfer of certain critical and emerging technologies to authoritarian governments, including the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation, and the ways in which autocratic regimes are utilizing technology, including for military and security purposes, to erode individual freedoms and other foundations of open, democratic societies; and

(9) collaborating with private companies, trade associations, and think tanks to realize the purposes described in paragraphs (1) through (8).

(e) **REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for the following 5 years, the Secretary, in coordination with the Director of National Intelligence and the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, as appropriate, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress an unclassified report, with a classified index, if necessary, regarding—

(1) the activities of the Office related to paragraphs (1) through (9) of subsection (d), including any cooperative initiatives and partnerships pursued with United States allies and partners, and the results of such activities, initiatives, and partnerships;

(2) the activities of the Government of the People's Republic of China, the Chinese Communist Party, and the Russian Federation in sectors related to certain critical and emerging technologies and the threats they pose to the United States; and

(3) an inventory of all international research and development programs for certain critical and emerging technologies funded by the Department or USAID that include participation by institutions or organizations that are affiliated with, or receive support from, the Government of the People's Republic of China or the Government of the Russian Federation.

(f) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.**—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Homeland Security, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) **CERTAIN CRITICAL AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES.**—The term “certain critical and emerging technologies” means the technologies determined by the Secretary, in consultation with other Federal agencies, from the critical and emerging technologies list published by the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) at the Office of Science and Technology Policy, as amended by subsequent updates to the list issued by the NSTC.

#### **TITLE IV—PUBLIC DIPLOMACY**

##### **SEC. 9401. AFRICA BROADCASTING NETWORKS.**

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chief Executive Officer of the United States Agency for Global Media shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report on the re-

sources and timeline needed to establish within the Agency an organization the mission of which shall be to promote democratic values and institutions in Africa by providing objective, accurate, and relevant news and information to the people of Africa and counter disinformation from malign actors, especially in countries in which a free press is banned by the government or not fully established, about the region, the world, and the United States through uncensored news, responsible discussion, and open debate.

##### **SEC. 9402. UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR GLOBAL MEDIA.**

Section 306 of the United States International Broadcasting Act of 1994 (22 U.S.C. 6205) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (f) and (g) as subsection (g) and (h), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (e) the following new subsection:

“(f) **SUSPENSION AND DEBARMENT OF GRANTEES.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), a grantee may not be debarred or suspended without consultation with the Chief Executive Officer and a three-fourths majority vote of the Advisory Board in support of such action.

“(2) **SUSPENSION.**—

“(A) **CRITERIA FOR SUSPENSION.**—A grantee may not be suspended unless the Advisory Board determines that the criteria described in section 513.405 of title 22, Code of Federal Regulations, have been met.

“(B) **SUSPENDING OFFICIAL.**—The Advisory Board shall collectively serve as the suspending official (as described in section 513.105 of title 22, Code of Federal Regulations).

“(3) **DEBARMENT.**—

“(A) **CRITERIA FOR DEBARMENT.**—A grantee may not be debarred unless the Advisory Board determines that one or more of the causes described in section 513.305 of title 22, Code of Federal Regulations, has been established.

“(B) **DEBARRING OFFICIAL.**—The Advisory Board shall collectively serve as the debarring official (as described in section 513.105 of title 22, Code of Federal Regulations).”.

##### **SEC. 9403. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATIONS TO SUPPORT UNITED STATES PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL FAIRS AND EXPOS.**

Section 9601 of the Department of State Authorizations Act of 2022 (division I of Public Law 117–263; 136 Stat. 3909) is amended in subsection (b), by striking “fiscal years 2023 and 2024” and inserting “fiscal years 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, and 2027”.

##### **SEC. 9404. RESEARCH AND SCHOLAR EXCHANGE PARTNERSHIPS.**

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) it is in the strategic interest of the United States to strengthen relations with Sub-Saharan African states to promote shared interests in the areas of—

(A) democracy and good governance;

(B) education and human capital;

(C) trade and economic development;

(D) science and technology;

(E) biodiversity, food, and agriculture; and

(F) the preservation and management of natural resources, including critical minerals; and

(2) historically Black colleges and universities (referred to in this section as “HBCUs”) have a long history of—

(A) cultivating diaspora relations with Sub-Saharan African states; and

(B) developing innovative solutions to some of the world's most pressing challenges.

(b) **STRENGTHENED PARTNERSHIPS.**—The Secretary and the Administrator should seek to strengthen and expand partnerships and



educational exchange opportunities, including by working with HBCUs, which build the capacity and expertise of students, scholars, and experts from Sub-Saharan Africa in key development sectors.

(d) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—The Administrator is authorized to—

(1) provide technical assistance to HBCUs to assist in fulfilling the goals of this section, including in developing contracts, operating agreements, legal documents, and related infrastructure; and

(2) upon request, provide feedback to HBCUs, to the maximum extent practicable, after a grant rejection from relevant Federal programs in order to improve future grant applications, as appropriate.

**SEC. 9405. WAIVER OF UNITED STATES RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT FOR CHILDREN OF RADIO FREE EUROPE/RADIO LIBERTY EMPLOYEES.**

Section 320(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1431(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (1)(B), by striking “; or” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(2) by adding at the end of the following new paragraph:

“(3) the child residing in the legal and physical custody of a citizen parent who is residing abroad as a result of employment with Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty.”.

**TITLE V—DIPLOMATIC SECURITY**

**SEC. 9501. SECURE EMBASSY CONSTRUCTION AND COUNTERTERRORISM ACT REQUIREMENTS.**

(a) **REPORT.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prescribe new guidance and requirements consistent with the Secure Embassy Construction and Counterterrorism Act of 1999 (title VI of division A of appendix G of Public Law 106–113), as amended by the Secure Embassy Construction and Counterterrorism Act of 2022 (section 9301 of Public Law 117–263; 136 Stat. 3879) and submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report detailing such guidance and requirements, including the impact of implementation on United States diplomatic facilities and construction projects.

(b) **CONSEQUENCE FOR NONCOMPLIANCE.**—If the Secretary fails to meet the requirement under subsection (a) no Federal funds appropriated to the Department shall be used for official travel by senior staff in the executive office of the Diplomatic Security Service, including the Assistant Secretary for Diplomatic Security, until such time as the Secretary meets the requirement.

(c) **WAIVER.**—The Secretary may waive the restriction in subsection (b) to meet urgent and critical needs if the Secretary provides written notification to the appropriate congressional committees in advance of travel.

**SEC. 9502. CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION FOR SERIOUS SECURITY INCIDENTS.**

Section 301(a) of the Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act of 1986 (22 U.S.C. 4833(a)), is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively;

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph:

“(2) **INITIAL CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.**—The Secretary shall notify the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, the majority and minority leaders of the Senate, and the Speaker and minority leader of the House of Representatives not later than 8 days after a possible Serious Security Incident has taken place. Such notification shall include a preliminary description of the incident, of an incident de-

scribed in paragraph (1), including any known individuals involved, when and where the incident took place, and the next steps in the investigation.”; and

(3) in paragraph (4), as redesignated by paragraph (1) of this section, by striking “paragraph (2)” and inserting “paragraph (3)”.

**SEC. 9503. NOTIFICATIONS REGARDING SECURITY DECISIONS AT DIPLOMATIC POSTS.**

Section 103(c) of section 103 of the Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act of 1986 (22 U.S.C. 4802(c)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively;

(2) by striking “The Secretary” and inserting “(1) The Secretary”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) The Secretary of State shall notify the appropriate congressional committees within 10 days of any decision to retain authority over or approve decisions at an overseas post, including the movement of personnel.”.

**SEC. 9504. SECURITY CLEARANCE SUSPENSION PAY FLEXIBILITIES.**

Section 610(c)(6) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4010(c)(6)) is amended by striking “paragraph 1(B)” and inserting “this subsection”.

**SEC. 9505. MODIFICATION TO NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT FOR SECURITY CLEARANCE SUSPENSIONS AND REVOCATIONS.**

Section 6710(a) of the Department of State Authorization Act of 2023 (division F of Public Law 118–31; 22 U.S.C. 2651a note) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and moving such subparagraphs, as so redesignated, 2 ems to the right;

(2) by striking “IN GENERAL.—With respect” and inserting the following: “NOTIFICATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect”;

(3) in subparagraph (B), as redesignated by paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “revocation on” and all that follows through “or revocation” and inserting “revocation on—

“(A) the present employment status of the covered official and whether the job duties of the covered official have changed since such suspension or revocation;

“(B) the reason for such suspension or revocation;

“(C) the investigation of the covered official and the results of such investigation; and

“(D) any negative fallout or impacts for the Department of State, the United States Government, or national security of the United States as a result of the actions for which the security clearance was suspended or revoked.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) **SUBMISSION TO INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITIES.**—To the extent the basis for any suspension or revocation of a security clearance is premised on the unauthorized release of intelligence (as defined by section 3(1) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(1)), the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives shall be an appropriate congressional committee for the purposes of this section.”.

**TITLE VI—UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**SEC. 9601. PERSONAL SERVICE AGREEMENT AUTHORITY FOR THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.**

Section 636(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2396(a)) is amended by

adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(17) employing individuals or organizations, by contract, for services abroad for purposes of this Act and title II of the Food for Peace Act, and individuals employed by contract to perform such services shall not by virtue of such employment be considered to be employees of the United States Government (except that the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development may determine the applicability to such individuals of section 5 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1965 (22 U.S.C. 2672) regarding tort claims when such claims arise in foreign countries in connection with United States operations abroad, and of any other law administered by the Administrator concerning the employment of such individuals abroad), and such contracts are authorized to be negotiated, the terms of the contracts to be prescribed, and the work to be performed, where necessary, without regard to such statutory provisions as relate to the negotiation, making, and performance of contracts and performance of work in the United States.”.

**SEC. 9602. CRISIS OPERATIONS AND DISASTER SURGE STAFFING.**

Section 625 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2385) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(k) **CRISIS OPERATIONS AND DISASTER SURGE STAFFING.**—(1) The United States Agency for International Development is authorized to appoint personnel in the excepted service using funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available under the heading ‘Transition Initiatives’ in an Act making appropriations for the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs to carry out the provisions of part I and chapter 4 of part II of this Act of and section 509(b) of the Global Fragility Act of 2019 (title V of division J of Public Law 116–94) to prevent or respond to foreign crises;

“(2) Funds authorized to carry out such purposes may be made available for the operating expenses and administrative costs of such personnel and may remain attributed to any minimum funding requirement for which they were originally made available.

“(3) The Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall coordinate with the Office of Personnel Management on implementation of the appointment authority under paragraph (1).”.

**SEC. 9603. EDUCATION ALLOWANCE WHILE ON MILITARY LEAVE.**

Section 908 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4088) is amended by inserting “or United States Agency for International Development” after “A Department”.

**SEC. 9604. INCLUSION IN THE PET TRANSPORTATION EXCEPTION TO THE FLY AMERICA ACT.**

Section 6224(a)(1) of the Department of State Authorization Act of 2023 (division F of Public Law 118–31; 22 U.S.C. 4081a) is amended, in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(1) by striking “the Department is” and inserting “the Department and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and other United States Government employees under chief of mission authority are”; and

(2) by striking “Department personnel” and inserting “Department and USAID personnel, and other United States Government employees under chief of mission authority”.

## TITLE VII—OTHER MATTERS

**SEC. 9701. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS TO PROMOTE UNITED STATES CITIZEN EMPLOYMENT AT THE UNITED NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President should direct United States departments and agencies to, in coordination with the Secretary —

(1) fund and recruit Junior Professional Officers for positions at the United Nations and related specialized and technical organizations; and

(2) facilitate secondments, details, and transfers to agencies and specialized and technical bodies of the United Nations.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated an additional \$20,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2025 through 2031 for the Secretary to support Junior Professional Officers, details, transfers, and interns that advance United States interests at multilateral institutions and international organizations, including to recruit, train, and host events related to such positions, and to promote United States citizen candidates for employment and leadership positions at multilateral institutions and international organizations.

(c) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) shall remain available until expended.

(d) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 15 days prior to the obligation of funds authorized to be appropriated under this section, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a notification outlining the amount and proposed use of such funds.

**SEC. 9702. AMENDMENT TO REWARDS FOR JUSTICE PROGRAM.**

Section 36(b) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2708(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (13), by striking “; or” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (14), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(15) the restraining, seizing, forfeiting, or repatriating of stolen assets linked to foreign government corruption and the proceeds of such corruption.”

**SEC. 9703. PASSPORT AUTOMATION MODERNIZATION.**

The Act entitled “An Act to regulate the issue and validity of passports, and for other purposes”, approved July 3, 1926 (44 Stat. 887, 22 U.S.C. 211a), is amended—

(1) by inserting “and through the use of Department of State electronic systems,” after “the insular possessions of the United States,”; and

(2) by striking “person” and inserting “entity”.

**SEC. 9704. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN PAYMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION.**

Section 7(1) of Public Law 106-178 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended, in the undersigned matter following subparagraph (B), by striking “December 31, 2025” and inserting “December 31, 2030”.

**SEC. 9705. SUPPORT FOR CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATIONS.**

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) congressional travel is essential to fostering international relations, understanding global issues first-hand, and jointly advancing United States interests abroad; and

(2) only in close coordination and thanks to the dedication of personnel at United

States embassies, consulates, and other missions abroad can the success of these vital trips be possible.

(b) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall reaffirm to all diplomatic posts the importance of Congressional travel and shall require all such posts to support congressional travel by members and staff of the appropriate congressional committees fully, by making such support available on any day of the week, including Federal and local holidays and, to the extent practical, requiring the direct involvement of mid-level or senior officers.

(c) EXCEPTION FOR SIMULTANEOUS HIGH-LEVEL VISITS.—The requirement under subsection (a) does not apply in the case of a simultaneous visit from the President, the First Lady or First Gentleman, the Vice President, the Secretary of State, or the Secretary of Defense.

(d) TRAINING.—The Secretary shall require all designated control officers to have been trained on supporting congressional travel at posts abroad prior to the assigned congressional visit.

**SEC. 9706. ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION WITH VISA APPLICANTS.**

Section 833(a)(5)(A) of the International Marriage Broker Regulation Act of 2005 (8 U.S.C. 1375a(a)(5)(A)) is amended by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(vi) Mailings under this subsection may be transmitted by electronic means, including electronic mail. The Secretary of State may communicate with visa applicants using personal contact information provided to them or to the Secretary of Homeland Security by the applicant, petitioner, or designated agent or attorney.”

**SEC. 9707. ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION OF VISA INFORMATION.**

Section 222 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1202) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(i) ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of the immigration laws (as such term is defined in section 101(a)(17) of this Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(17)), all requirements in the immigration laws for communications with visa applicants shall be deemed satisfied if electronic communications are sent to the applicant using personal contact information at an address for such communications provided by the applicant, petitioner, or designated agent or attorney. The Secretary of State shall take appropriate actions to allow applicants to update their personal contact information and to ensure that electronic communications can be securely transmitted to applicants.”

**SEC. 9708. INCLUSION OF COST ASSOCIATED WITH PRODUCING REPORTS.**

(a) ESTIMATED COST OF REPORTS.—Beginning on October 1, 2026, and for the next three fiscal years, the Secretary shall require that any report produced for external distribution, including for distribution to Congress, include the total estimated cost of producing such report and the estimated number of personnel hours.

(b) ANNUAL TOTAL COST OF REPORTS.—Not later than 90 days after the end of each fiscal year, beginning with fiscal year 2025, and for the next three fiscal years, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives an annual report listing the reports issued for the prior fiscal year, the frequency of each report, the total estimated cost associated with producing such report, and the estimated number of personnel hours.

**SEC. 9709. EXTENSIONS.**

(a) USAID CIVIL SERVICE ANNUITANT WAIVER.—Section 625(j)(1)(B) of the Foreign As-

sistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2385(j)(1)(B)) shall be applied by striking “October 1, 2010” and inserting “September 30, 2026”.

(b) OVERSEAS PAY COMPARABILITY AND LIMITATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The authority provided under section 1113 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2009 (Public Law 111-32; 123 Stat. 1904) shall remain in effect through September 30, 2026.

(2) LIMITATION.—The authority described in paragraph (1) may not be used to pay an eligible member of the Foreign Service (as defined in section 1113(b) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2009 (Public Law 111-32; 123 Stat. 1904)) a locality-based comparability payment (stated as a percentage) that exceeds two-thirds of the amount of the locality-based comparability payment (stated as a percentage) that would be payable to such member under section 5304 of title 5, United States Code, if such member's official duty station were in the District of Columbia.

(c) INSPECTOR GENERAL ANNUITANT WAIVER.—The authorities provided under section 1015(b) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2010 (Public Law 111-212; 124 Stat. 2332)—

(1) shall remain in effect through September 30, 2026; and

(2) may be used to facilitate the assignment of persons for oversight of programs in Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, Venezuela, and Yemen.

(d) SECURITY REVIEW COMMITTEES.—The authority provided under section 301(a)(3) of the Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act of 1986 (22 U.S.C. 4831(a)(3)) shall remain in effect for facilities in Afghanistan and shall apply to facilities in Ukraine through September 30, 2026, except that the notification and reporting requirements contained in such section shall include the appropriate congressional committees, the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

**RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY**

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions: S. Res. 817, S. Res. 818, S. Res. 819, S. Res. 820, S. Res. 821.

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

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

**ORDERS FOR TUESDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2024**

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, September 17; that following the