

(4) promotes the establishment and expansion of quality mentoring programs across the United States to equip young people with the tools needed to lead healthy and productive lives; and

(5) supports initiatives to close the “mentoring gap” that exists for the many young people in the United States who do not have meaningful connections with adults outside the home.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 25—PROVIDING FOR A CORRECTION IN THE ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 2872

Mrs. MURRAY submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 25

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That, in the enrollment of H.R. 2872, the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall amend the title so as to read: “Making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. BOOKER. Madam President, I have five requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 1:45 p.m., to conduct a classified briefing.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, after Barack Obama selected Joe Biden

to be his Vice President in 2008, one newspaper columnist labeled him “Tehran’s favorite Senator.” Well, Tehran’s favorite Senator has now become Tehran’s favorite President.

Since taking office, Joe Biden has taken every opportunity to enrich and empower Iran and its terrorist proxies. There is, perhaps, no greater single example of this than his obscene coddling of the Iranian-backed Yemeni terrorists known as the Houthis.

These barbarians with rockets have kidnapped, tortured, and murdered American citizens—along with shooting down American aircraft. They have attacked our allies and slaughtered Yemeni civilians. The Houthi motto isn’t subtle: “God is Great, Death to America, Death to Israel, A curse upon the Jews, Victory to Islam.” And in case anyone missed it, they also put it on their flag. Yet in his first days in office, Joe Biden removed the Houthis from the list of foreign terrorist organizations.

The Houthis quickly rewarded this one-sided, unreciprocated generosity by launching a major military offensive against our friends in Saudi Arabia. At that point, Joe Biden could have simply admitted that he had made a mistake and redesignated the Houthis as a foreign terrorist organization. He refused.

In the 2 years since, the Houthis raked in money, expanded their territorial control, and stockpiled Iranian-supplied weapons. Unencumbered by American terrorist designation, they gathered their strength and waited for an opportunity to live out their creed of, again, “Death to America, Death to Israel, A curse upon the Jews.”

After the October 7 atrocities in Israel, they saw that opportunity. Less than 2 weeks after the deadliest day for the Jewish people since the end of the Holocaust, the Houthis began launching missiles at the Jewish State. In November, the Houthis then began hijacking ships and launching missiles and drones at both civilian and U.S. naval vessels—all in an attempt to put pressure on Israel and protect their terrorist brothers in Hamas.

Since November, the Houthis have attacked American and allied forces and international shipping an estimated 45 times, launching an estimated 31 missiles, 94 drones, and 1 drone ship.

Yet, the President and his team of Iran accomplices, appeasers, and accommodators stood by for a month and a half as these terrorists attacked with impunity.

When the administration finally did take action last week, its weak, pinprick airstrikes only took out a small fraction of the Houthis’ offensive capabilities. Even the New York Times acknowledged in a headline that “Much of Houthis’ Offensive Ability Remains Intact After U.S.-Led Airstrikes.”

The least this administration could do is to redesignate the Houthis as a

foreign terrorist organization. Yet Joe Biden refuses even to fix that mistake.

Americans are dead, but Joe Biden’s pride and his ambition for a grand rapprochement with Iran are, apparently, more important to him and his aides than American lives.

Instead, President Biden has opted to label the Houthis a “specially designated global terrorist group.” Well, that sounds like progress, but unlike the previous foreign terrorist organization designation, this designation includes no prohibition on Houthi travel and no sanctions on entities providing materiel support for these terrorists. How convenient for the ayatollahs in Iran. And this designation won’t even take effect for 30 more days, giving the Houthis time to clear out their bank accounts and to sanction-proof their operations.

And most amazing and most unforgivable of all, the administration also announced waivers for even these weak and limited sanctions. These waivers allow the Yemeni terrorists to keep receiving food, medicine, fuel, personal remittances, telecommunications and mail, and to maintain port and airport operations.

Perhaps it makes sense that those in this administration don’t want to punish groups and individuals providing materiel support for the Houthi terrorists. They would have to turn themselves in after 3 years of appeasement and conciliation.

This administration must reverse course in the Middle East, redesignate the Houthis as a foreign terrorist organization, and put real pressure on Iran and its terrorist proxies, not Swiss cheese-like sanctions designed only for a good 1-day headline. Anything less is a betrayal of the American people, their interests, and our allies.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican whip.

PROVIDING FOR A CORRECTION IN THE ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 2872

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 25.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 25) providing for a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 2872.

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

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I further ask that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 25) was agreed to.