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of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 166

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2020

No. 211

## House of Representatives

The House met at 1:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Lord of us all, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

As leaders continue to pursue agreement on omnibus and further coronavirus relief legislation, we ask Your generous gifting of wisdom for all those so engaged. The day-to-day well being of so many Americans depends upon the success of their work.

As vaccines begin to be distributed throughout the country, we thank You again for the wonderful work of medical scientists, and the ongoing heroic work of those who care for the sick, and who will be among the first inoculated. May the vaccines prove to be efficacious, and thus bring hope to our world.

Today, as well, the electoral college will do its work verifying the results of our national election in November. May the genius of our Founders be revealed as the world witnesses the glory of self-government in our electoral system.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 4(a) of House Resolution 967, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, December 10, 2020.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
*The Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 10, 2020, at 2:31 p.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 2315.

That the Senate passed S. 3418.

That the Senate passed S. 3451.

That the Senate passed S. 4996.

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 7105.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON,  
*Clerk.*

### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, December 11, 2020.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
*The Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 11, 2020, at 9:45 a.m.:

That the Senate agrees to House amendment to the bill S. 1342.

That the Senate passed S. 1031.

That the Senate passed S. 1310.

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 1520.

With best wishes, I am,  
Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON,  
*Clerk.*

### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, December 11, 2020.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
*The Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 11, 2020, at 11:48 a.m.:

That the Senate agrees to House amendment to the bill S. 900.

That the Senate passed S. 633.

That the Senate passed S. 2730.

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 1925.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4983.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 7347.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON,  
*Clerk.*

### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, December 11, 2020.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
*The Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 11, 2020, at 2:07 p.m.:

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H7151

That the Senate agrees to the report of the committee to the conference H.R. 6395.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 8900.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON,  
*Clerk.*

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bills were signed by the Speaker on Friday, December 11, 2020:

H.R. 473, to authorize the Every Word We Utter Monument to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes;

H.R. 1830, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor;

H.R. 2246, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 West Cherokee Street in Brookhaven, Mississippi, as the "Deputy Donald William Durr, Corporal Zach Moak, and Patrolman James White Memorial Post Office Building";

H.R. 2454, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 123 East Sharpfish Street in Rosebud, South Dakota, as the "Ben Reifel Post Office Building";

H.R. 2969, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1401 1st Street North in Winter Haven, Florida, as the "Althea Margaret Daily Mills Post Office Building";

H.R. 3005, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 13308 Midland Road in Poway, California, as the "Ray Chavez Post Office Building";

H.R. 3275, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 340 Wetmore Avenue in Grand River, Ohio, as the "Lance Corporal Andy 'Ace' Nowacki Post Office";

H.R. 3680, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 415 North Main Street in Henning, Tennessee, as the "Paula Croom Robinson and Judy Spray Memorial Post Office Building";

H.R. 3847, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 117 West Poythress Street in Hopewell, Virginia, as the "Reverend Curtis West Harris Post Office Building";

H.R. 3870, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 511 West 165th Street in New York, New York, as the "Normandia Maldonado Post Office Building";

H.R. 4034, designates the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 602 Pacific Avenue in Bremerton, Washington, as the "John Henry Turpin Post Office Building";

H.R. 4200, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 321 South 1st Street in Montrose, Colorado, as the "Sergeant David Kinterknecht Post Office";

H.R. 4279, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 445 Main Street in Laceyville, Pennsylvania, as the "Melinda Gene Piccotti Post Office";

H.R. 4672, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 21701 Stevens Creek Boulevard in Cupertino, California, as the "Petty Officer 2nd Class (SEAL) Matthew G. Axelson Post Office Building";

H.R. 4725, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8585 Criterion Drive in Colorado Springs, Colorado, as the "Chaplain (Capt.) Dale Goetz Memorial Post Office Building";

H.R. 4761, to ensure U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers, agents, and other personnel have adequate synthetic opioid detection equipment, that the Department of Homeland Security has a process to update synthetic opioid detection capability, and for other purposes;

H.R. 4785, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1305 U.S. Highway 90 West in Castroville, Texas, as the "Lance Corporal Rhonald Dain Rairdan Post Office";

H.R. 4875, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2201 E. Maple Street in North Canton, Ohio, as the "Lance Cpl. Stacy 'Annie' Dryden Post Office";

H.R. 4971, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15 East Market Street in Leesburg, Virginia, as the "Norman Duncan Post Office Building";

H.R. 4975, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1201 Sycamore Square Drive in Midlothian, Virginia, as the "Dorothy Braden Bruce Post Office Building";

H.R. 5062, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9930 Conroy Windermere Road in Windermere, Florida, as the "Officer Robert German Post Office Building";

H.R. 5307, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 115 Nicol Avenue in Thomasville, Alabama, as the "Postmaster Robert Ingram Post Office";

H.R. 5317, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 315 Addicks Howell Road in Houston, Texas, as the "Deputy Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal Post Office Building";

H.R. 5954, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 108 West Maple Street in Holly, Michigan, as the "Holly Veterans Memorial Post Office";

H.R. 6395, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 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;

H.R. 8900, making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021, and for other purposes;

S. 134, to amend title 18, United States Code, with regard to stalking;

S. 199, to provide for the transfer of certain Federal land in the State of Minnesota for the benefit of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe;

S. 578, to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the five-month waiting period for disability insurance benefits under such title for individuals with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis;

S. 1014, to establish the Route 66 Centennial Commission, and for other purposes;

S. 1153, to explicitly make unauthorized access to Department of Education information technology systems and the misuse of identification devices issued by the Department of Education a criminal act;

S. 2258, to provide anti-retaliation protections for antitrust whistleblowers;

S. 2904, to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support research on the outputs that may be generated by generative adversarial networks, otherwise known as deepfakes, and other comparable techniques that may be developed in the future, and for other purposes;

S. 2981, to reauthorize and amend the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002, and for other purposes;

S. 3703, to amend the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act to improve the prevention of elder abuse and exploitation of individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias;

S. 4902, to designate the United States courthouse located at 351 South West Temple in Salt Lake City, Utah, as the "Orrin G. Hatch United States Courthouse".

#### ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker on Friday, December 11, 2020:

H.R. 473. An act to authorize the Every Word We Utter Monument to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor.

H.R. 2246. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 West Cherokee Street in Brookhaven, Mississippi, as the "Deputy Donald William Durr, Corporal Zach Moak, and Patrolman James White Memorial Post Office Building".

H.R. 2454. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 123 East Sharpfish Street in Rosebud, South Dakota, as the "Ben Reifel Post Office Building".

H.R. 2969. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1401 1st Street North in Winter Haven, Florida, as the "Althea Margaret Daily Mills Post Office Building".

H.R. 3005. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 13308 Midland Road in Poway, California, as the “Ray Chavez Post Office Building”.

H.R. 3275. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 340 Wetmore Avenue in Grand River, Ohio, as the “Lance Corporal Andy ‘Ace’ Nowacki Post Office”.

H.R. 3680. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 415 North Main Street in Henning, Tennessee, as the “Paula Croom Robinson and Judy Spray Memorial Post Office Building”.

H.R. 3847. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 117 West Poythress Street in Hopewell, Virginia, as the “Reverend Curtis West Harris Post Office Building”.

H.R. 3870. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 511 West 165th Street in New York, New York, as the “Normandia Maldonado Post Office Building”.

H.R. 4034. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 602 Pacific Avenue in Bremerton, Washington, as the “John Henry Turpin Post Office Building”.

H.R. 4200. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 321 South 1st Street in Montrose, Colorado, as the “Sergeant David Kinterknecht Post Office”.

H.R. 4279. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 445 Main Street in Laceyville, Pennsylvania, as the “Melinda Gene Piccotti Post Office”.

H.R. 4672. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 21701 Stevens Creek Boulevard in Cupertino, California, as the “Petty Officer 2nd Class (SEAL) Matthew G. Axelson Post Office Building”.

H.R. 4725. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8585 Criterion Drive in Colorado Springs, Colorado, as the “Chaplain (Capt.) Dale Goetz Memorial Post Office Building”.

H.R. 4761. An act to ensure U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers, agents, and other personnel have adequate synthetic opioid detection equipment, that the Department of Homeland Security has a process to update synthetic opioid detection capability, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4785. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1305 U.S. Highway 90 West in Castroville, Texas, as the “Lance Corporal Rhonald Dain Rairdan Post Office”.

H.R. 4875. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2201 E. Maple Street in North Canton, Ohio, as the Lance Cpl. Stacy ‘Annie’ Dryden Post Office”.

H.R. 4971. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15 East Market Street in Leesburg, Virginia, as the “Norman Duncan Post Office Building”.

H.R. 4975. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1201 Sycamore Square Drive in Midlothian, Virginia, as the “Dorothy Braden Bruce Post Office Building”.

H.R. 5062. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9930 Conroy Windermere Road in Windermere, Florida, as the “Officer Robert German Post Office Building”.

H.R. 5307. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 115 Nicol Avenue in Thomasville, Alabama, as the “Postmaster Robert Ingram Post Office”.

H.R. 5317. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located

at 315 Addicks Howell Road in Houston, Texas, as the “Deputy Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal Post Office Building”.

H.R. 5954. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 108 West Maple Street in Holly, Michigan, as the “Holly Veterans Memorial Post Office”.

H.R. 6395. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 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.

H.R. 8900. An act making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021, and for other purposes.

## SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker on Friday, December 11, 2020, announced her signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 134.—An act to amend title 18, United States Code, with regard to stalking.

S. 199.—An act to provide for the transfer of certain Federal land in the State of Minnesota for the benefit of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe.

S. 578.—An act to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the five-month waiting period for disability insurance benefits under such title for individuals with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

S. 1014.—An act to establish the Route 66 Centennial Commission, and for other purposes.

S. 1153.—An act to explicitly make unauthorized access to Department of Education information technology systems and the misuse of identification devices issued by the Department of Education a criminal act.

S. 2258.—An act to provide anti-retaliation protections for antitrust whistleblowers.

S. 2904.—An act to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support research on the outputs that may be generated by generative adversarial networks, otherwise known as deepfakes, and other comparable techniques that may be developed in the future, and for other purposes.

S. 2981.—An act to reauthorize and amend the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002, and for other purposes.

S. 3703.—An act to amend the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act to improve the prevention of elder abuse and exploitation of individuals with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias.

S. 4902.—An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 351 South West Temple in Salt Lake City, Utah, as the “Orrin G. Hatch United States Courthouse”.

## ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 4(b) of House Resolution 967, the House stands adjourned until 3 p.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon (at 1 o’clock and 36 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, December 15, 2020, at 3 p.m.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 244. A bill to maximize land management efficiencies, promote land conservation, generate education funding, and for other purposes (Rept. 116-639). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 4135. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to remove the statue to the memory and in honor of Albert Pike erected near Judiciary Square in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-640). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 4139. A bill to provide for the boundary of the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Park to be adjusted, to authorize the donation of land to the United States for addition to that historic park, and for other purposes (Rept. 116-641). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 4679. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to submit to Congress a report examining efforts by the Regional Fishery Management Councils, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, and the National Marine Fisheries Service to prepare and adapt United States fishery management for the impacts of climate change, and for other purposes (Rept. 116-642). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 5472. A bill to redesignate the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site as the “Jimmy Carter National Historical Park” (Rept. 116-643). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 5852. A bill to redesignate the Weir Farm National Historic Site in the State of Connecticut as the “Weir Farm National Historical Park” (Rept. 116-644). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. NADLER: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 6196. A bill to amend the Trademark Act of 1946 to provide for third-party submission of evidence relating to a trademark application, to establish expungement and ex parte proceedings relating to the validity of marks, to provide for a rebuttal presumption of irreparable harm in certain proceedings, and for other purposes; with amendments (Rept. 116-645). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

## PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mrs. AXNE:

H.R. 8952. A bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to modify the Commodity Futures Trading Commission Customer Protection Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida:

H.R. 8953. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants for graduate medical education partnerships in States with a low ratio of medical residents relative to the general population; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas (for himself, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. BASS, Ms. SANCHEZ, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr.

LEVIN of Michigan, Ms. DeLAURO, and Mr. POCAN):

H.R. 8954. A bill to reform the process by which temporary nonagricultural workers' visas are allocated, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COMER (for himself and Mr. KHANNA):

H.R. 8955. A bill to prohibit the use of reverse auctions for design and construction services procurements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, and Ms. SPEIER):

H.R. 8956. A bill to require reports on regulations issued, and homeland security risks arising, during a presidential transition, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. FINKENAUER (for herself, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. BACON, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Mr. COLE):

H.R. 8957. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to establish a grant program for training wind technicians, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois (for herself, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. LATTA):

H.R. 8958. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to publish guidance for States on strategies for maternal care providers participating in the Medicaid program to reduce maternal mortality and severe morbidity with respect to individuals receiving medical assistance under such program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LEVIN of Michigan (for himself, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. AXNE, and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois):

H.R. 8959. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to require retirement plans to establish Sustainable Investment Policies; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. LEVIN of Michigan (for himself, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. AXNE, and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois):

H.R. 8960. A bill to amend the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 to require large asset managers to establish Sustainable Investment Policies; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. NADLER (for himself, Mr. SEN-SENRENNER, Ms. DELBENE, and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois):

H.R. 8961. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to update the privacy protections for electronic communications information that is stored by third-party service providers in order to protect consumer privacy interests while meeting law enforcement needs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NORMAN (for himself, Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. BUDD, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. BABIN, Mr. LONG, and Mr. PERRY):

H.R. 8962. A bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to prohibit States from registering individuals to vote in elections for Federal office who do not provide documentary proof of United States citizenship, to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require individuals to provide identification as a condition of voting in elections for Federal office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committees on Science, Space, and Technology, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 8963. A bill to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act and the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act to treat the District of Columbia the same as a State for purposes of such Acts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. SCANLON:

H.R. 8964. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the intimidation of election officials and poll workers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SEWELL of Alabama (for herself and Mr. REED):

H.R. 8965. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make certain improvements to the new markets tax credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WENSTRUP (for himself, Mr. KIND, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. KIM, Mr. DUNN, and Mr. SIRES):

H.R. 8966. A bill to provide for a vaccine safety public awareness campaign; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ARRINGTON (for himself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. LAHOOD, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. WOODALL, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. WILLIAMS, and Mr. SMUCKER):

H. Res. 1261. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives on addressing the reckless and unsustainable national debt while committing necessary resources to the COVID-19 pandemic; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mrs. BUSTOS:

H. Res. 1262. A resolution thanking all election officials and workers for the tireless energy and sacrifice they made to ensure that the November 2020 election ran smoothly amidst the COVID-19 pandemic; to the Committee on House Administration.

### CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mrs. AXNE:

H.R. 8952.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida:

H.R. 8953.  
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas:

H.R. 8954.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Constitutional Authority—Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. I, Sec. 8, Clause 18)

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I, SECTION 8: POWERS OF CONGRESS  
CLAUSE 18

The Congress shall have power . . . To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

By Mr. COMER:

H.R. 8955.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article 1—"The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imports and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States."

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 8956.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. FINKENAUER:

H.R. 8957.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois:

H.R. 8958.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. LEVIN of Michigan:

H.R. 8959.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. LEVIN of Michigan:

H.R. 8960.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. NADLER:

H.R. 8961.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clauses 1, 3, and 18 of the Constitution and Fourth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. NORMAN:

H.R. 8962.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 8963.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Ms. SCANLON:

H.R. 8964.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section VIII.

By Ms. SEWELL of Alabama:

H.R. 8965.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. WENSTRUP:

H.R. 8966.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8

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ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 763: Mr. GARAMENDI.  
H.R. 864: Ms. STEVENS.  
H.R. 1517: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.  
H.R. 2491: Ms. PORTER.  
H.R. 3024: Ms. BASS.  
H.R. 3138: Mr. CLYBURN.  
H.R. 3762: Ms. FINKENAUER.  
H.R. 3879: Mr. BLUMENAUER.  
H.R. 4022: Mr. MALINOWSKI.  
H.R. 4052: Mr. WELCH, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. TRONE, Mr. EVANS, and Ms. MOORE.  
H.R. 4211: Ms. STEVENS.  
H.R. 5036: Ms. FINKENAUER.  
H.R. 5563: Ms. NORTON.  
H.R. 5569: Mrs. BEATTY.  
H.R. 5636: Ms. PORTER.  
H.R. 6142: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.  
H.R. 6626: Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 6820: Mr. HALL.  
H.R. 6821: Mr. FULCHER, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. TIMMONS, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 7100: Mr. HALL.  
H.R. 7187: Mr. CROW.  
H.R. 7308: Mr. CÁRDENAS.  
H.R. 7321: Mr. CROW.  
H.R. 7433: Mr. CROW.  
H.R. 7642: Mr. CROW.  
H.R. 7755: Mr. MORELLE, Mrs. DEMINGS, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.  
H.R. 7816: Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. AGUILAR, and Ms. LOFGREN.  
H.R. 7854: Mr. CROW.  
H.R. 7916: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia and Mrs. TRAHAN.  
H.R. 7963: Ms. SLOTKIN.  
H.R. 8178: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.  
H.R. 8192: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.  
H.R. 8242: Mr. LEVIN of California.  
H.R. 8295: Mr. COHEN, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, and Mr. CICILLINE.  
H.R. 8396: Mrs. NAPOLITANO and Mr. LAMB.  
H.R. 8401: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Ms. PORTER.  
H.R. 8485: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 8617: Mr. KHANNA.  
H.R. 8707: Mrs. LOWEY.  
H.R. 8765: Mr. CRENSHAW.  
H.R. 8774: Ms. LEE of California.  
H.R. 8778: Mr. TAKANO.  
H.R. 8801: Ms. TITUS, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, and Mrs. HARTZLER.  
H.R. 8805: Mr. BUCHANAN and Ms. SÁNCHEZ.  
H.R. 8818: Mrs. DEMINGS.  
H.R. 8830: Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. BIGGS, and Mr. NORMAN.  
H.R. 8867: Mr. KELLER.  
H.R. 8893: Mr. GARCIA of California and Mr. JEFFRIES.  
H.R. 8913: Mr. GRIJALVA.  
H.R. 8950: Mr. KELLER.  
H.J. Res. 104: Ms. ESCOBAR and Mr. SARBANES.  
H. Res. 114: Mr. STEUBE, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.  
H. Res. 1223: Mr. SOTO, Mr. EVANS, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mrs. BEATTY.  
H. Res. 1252: Mr. CLINE.  
H. Res. 1259: Mr. SOTO.  
H. Res. 1260: Mr. CÁRDENAS.



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## Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, continue to help us, for the kingdom, the power, and the glory belong to You.

Permit our lawmakers to feel Your power and trust Your sovereignty. May this trust impel them to dare boldly, to venture on wider seas where storms will show Your mastery.

Remind them that You will honor Your promise to never leave or forsake them. Help them also to remember that evil can triumph when good people refuse to act.

Lord, inspire our Senators to strive always to please You.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAWLEY). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask for 1 minute in morning business.

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

### VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I come to the floor to thank the Library of Congress and to talk about something that honors our veterans.

Iowa has a rich history of veterans serving on behalf of our country. Their service ensures that all Americans will live in peace and prosperity for genera-

tions to come. Over the past 2 years, I have delivered 31 personal accounts to be stored at the Library of Congress as part of their program called the Veterans History Project. I thank the Library of Congress for preserving the individual stories as reported in the veteran's own words.

Today, I will submit six more interviews to this collection that we recorded at the Waverly Area Veterans Post last month. I am proud to be a part of the Veterans History Project, preserving the stories of Iowa veterans for future generations.

I yield the floor.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

### CORONAVIRUS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, this past weekend, we saw that the historic nationwide effort to bring this pandemic to heel has begun a critical final chapter. After months of development, the first U.S. doses of COVID-19 vaccine rolled off the assembly line, bound for treatment facilities all across our country.

I am particularly proud that an important waypoint on that journey is my hometown of Louisville, KY. Yesterday alone, Pfizer shipped 2.5 million vaccine doses, and less than an hour after their airlift began, shipments bound for the eastern United States were passing through the UPS Worldport logistics hub at Muhammad Ali International Airport in Louisville. In the days and weeks ahead, the hard work of Kentuckians at UPS's new healthcare command center in Louisville will play a critical role in finishing this fight.

Already they have helped direct tens of thousands of doses to Kentucky hospitals, where they are being adminis-

tered to the Commonwealth's healthcare workers and most at-risk residents.

There is a historic success story being written today along the vaccine supply chain, from Missouri to Massachusetts, to Michigan, to Kentucky, to frontlines all across our country, and it is emblematic of an approach that has been helping our country since the earliest days of the crisis. From the personal precautions that helped save our health system to the bravery of the doctors, nurses, and other healthcare workers who spent sleepless nights tending to victims of the virus, to the ingenuity of entrepreneurs who have spun out masks and sanitizer or kept serving their customers safely, to the patience of parents and school kids who have had to adapt in extraordinary ways, to our economic efforts to blunt the pain of a self-inflicted slowdown without precedent, all along the way, it has been a heroic, resilient American people fighting and winning this battle, with the government providing smart, targeted, and essential support to sustain them.

It is the American people who have brought the light at the end of the tunnel within sight, but Washington has played a key role in creating the conditions for them to do it. That joint effort is how the unanimous, bipartisan CARES Act programs helped to sustain struggling families, prevented millions more layoffs, and gave Main Street a fighting chance. It is how Operation Warp Speed has helped to unleash private enterprise and the genius of researchers on a breakneck campaign for a cure that, just a few months ago, the mainstream media was lecturing President Trump would be impossible.

At every step, the story of this year has been American workers and families digging deep, muscling through, and lending one another a helping hand, with an assist from those of us here in Congress. But there is a problem. The American people's work is not

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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finished. The struggle continues every day. Cases and deaths are mounting. The commerce that sustains small businesses is still depressed. Working families are still trying to grind through, but recently Washington has not held up its end of the bargain.

For months—literally months—both sides in Congress have known roughly what the shape of a compromise rescue package could look like. We know all the areas where we do not even disagree and should be able to make significant law. But, alas, partisan dynamics and political posturing have prevented us from getting more relief out the door, even in areas where nobody even claims to disagree.

I don't want to relitigate the last weeks and months this afternoon. Anyone who wants to dole out blame has a clear record they can analyze.

It is time for this body to collectively recognize that finger-pointing doesn't put food on the table for struggling families. Finger-pointing doesn't help people avoid having to choose between Christmas gifts and making rent. And finger-pointing does not do a darn thing to fund vaccine distribution so we can slam the door on this virus as fast as possible and maximize the number of lives we can save.

That last point is a concern that State health officials across the country have raised repeatedly. Even with vaccines on the way, many are reporting that they don't have the funds to hire enough trained workers or purchase enough PPE to safely administer them as fast as possible. As one health observer put it, "It would be a shame if all the effort on Warp Speed for development isn't warp speed for distribution." That is what we risk if Congress can't get our act together and supply the funds to deliver this literal shot in the arm to our people. This is the support that State and local governments need most urgently—not unfettered slush funds for non-COVID-related needs that predate the pandemic but incredibly urgent, targeted money to get citizens vaccinated right now and finish the fight.

That isn't the only urgent priority that Congress must not leave behind. The same business owners and working families who relied on the Paycheck Protection Program to get them through the bleakest points of the spring and summer are, once again, facing tough choices. Renewed health restrictions and decreased demand mean that some American jobs that have been sustained all this period may not survive the last home stretch.

So we can help. We can provide a second round of job-saving PPP tailored to those who need it most.

And what about Americans who have already lost their jobs in the pandemic through no fault of their own? Several key unemployment programs are set to expire at the end of the month. This is not an outcome that struggling people deserve, least of all during the holiday. So we should act. We should act.

The next several days are going to bring about one of two outcomes. Either 100 Senators will be here shaking our heads, slinging blame, and offering excuses about why we still have not been able to make a law, or we will break for the holidays having sent another huge dose of relief out the door for the people who need it.

So, look, it is up to us. It is up to us. We decide. This is entirely within our control. I can speak for the Republican side: We want to make a law to agree where we can and help people who need it. I hope and believe that my Democratic colleagues will feel the same way. It is about time to get this done.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 933.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Joseph Dawson III, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina.

### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Joseph Dawson III, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina.

Mitch McConnell, James E. Risch, Mike Crapo, Roy Blunt, Shelley Moore Capito, Tom Cotton, John Cornyn, Chuck Grassley, Thom Tillis, Richard Burr, Pat Roberts, Cory Gardner, Lindsey Graham, Todd Young, Marco Rubio, John Boozman, John Barrasso.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 934.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Charles Edward Atchley, Jr., of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee.

### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Charles Edward Atchley, Jr., of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee.

Mitch McConnell, James E. Risch, Mike Crapo, Roy Blunt, Shelley Moore Capito, Tom Cotton, John Cornyn, Chuck Grassley, Thom Tillis, Richard Burr, Pat Roberts, Cory Gardner, Lindsey Graham, Todd Young, Marco Rubio, John Boozman, John Barrasso.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 935.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Zachary N. Somers, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Zachary N. Somers, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

Mitch McConnell, James E. Risch, Mike Crapo, Roy Blunt, Shelley Moore Capito, Tom Cotton, John Cornyn, Chuck Grassley, Thom Tillis, Richard Burr,

Pat Roberts, Cory Gardner, Lindsey Graham, Todd Young, Marco Rubio, John Boozman, John Barrasso.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

#### MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 5014

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk due a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 5014) to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions.

Mr. McCONNELL. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. McCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

#### BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, this week, the Senate returns with precious little time left to finish important matters of business. Last week, both Houses of Congress passed the annual Defense bill with veto-proof majorities. If President Trump takes the rather ridiculous step of vetoing a pay raise for our troops in order to defend the honor of dead Confederate traitors—or whatever other contrived grounds he comes up with—Congress must override that veto.

On Friday, both Chambers of Congress also passed a 1-week continuing resolution, giving us until the end of this week to finish an omnibus appropriations bill to fund the government. As usual, the appropriations bill will include several important pieces of related legislation. One that doesn't get enough attention is a bipartisan energy bill.

Earlier this year, during the debate over the Energy bill, Senate Democrats

insisted that a provision to reduce HFCs—a very harmful greenhouse gas that is driving our climate change problem—must be included in the bill. Unfortunately, we had to hold up the bill until a bipartisan agreement could be reached on this critical provision, which would be the single biggest victory in the fight against climate change to pass this body in a decade.

Today, I am very happy to report that we have made very good progress toward an agreement on HFC reduction. We are about to get it done. That is one of the biggest victories to fight global warming in a very long time.

I want to thank Senators CARPER, KENNEDY, and BARRASSO. They have worked very diligently and very hard to craft a compromise.

Finally, as we all know, it is imperative we pass another round of emergency Federal relief from the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Today, the bipartisan group of Senators who have been diligently working toward an agreement will announce the results of their work: a package of over \$900 billion that includes an agreement on assistance to State and local government. Notably, there is no agreement on corporate immunity. We look forward to reviewing their work. Democrats remain 100 percent committed to getting another round of emergency relief to the American people before the end of the year and in a robust, bold way because America needs it so badly.

#### CORONAVIRUS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now, a year that was full of bad news for the country is coming to an end with some very good news. Over the past 8 to 9 months, American scientists, biochemists, and researchers rushed to produce a safe and effective vaccine to the COVID-19 pandemic—and they have succeeded in extraordinary fashion.

We don't have just one but several candidates for a vaccine, each of which has shown to be 90 percent effective in clinical trials. One of those vaccines has been approved, authorized by the FDA for emergency use. And as we speak, an assembly line of workers in masks, gloves, and face shields are pulling doses out of the freezer, loading them into cold storage palettes, and onto trucks to be shipped to States across the country.

The discovery of a COVID-19 vaccine within the timeframe of a calendar year is a crowning scientific achievement of the 21st century. It should bring not only a feeling of relief to the country—indeed, to the entire world—but also deep admiration and pride for America's scientists and our medical workers.

I remember, in the early days of the pandemic, going to the window of our Brooklyn apartment each night to applaud our frontline workers. The whoops, claps, and metallic clang of pots and pans echoed for miles. Our

medical researchers—as well as thousands of Americans who selflessly volunteered for clinical trials—deserve the same national expression of gratitude.

We can show our gratitude here in Congress by communicating clearly that the COVID-19 vaccine is safe, effective, and that every American should inoculate themselves when it becomes available. Skepticism about vaccines was already too high before the pandemic. Several polls have shown it to be an alarming concern with respect to the COVID-19 vaccine. It is an absolute disgrace that the Republican majority on the Homeland Security Committee has invited a prominent skeptic of the COVID-19 vaccine to deliver testimony in a hearing this week. Public figures at all levels should be building up confidence in a vaccine, not giving a platform to those who undermine it.

At the moment, the vaccine is being distributed to medical personnel, doctors, nurses, frontline workers, and the most vulnerable populations. I myself will take the vaccine as soon as it is appropriate and recommended. I will not skip the line. But make no mistake, we should all lead by example, commit to taking the vaccine, and tell our constituents to take it as well.

The CDC and our States will continue to advise which populations should be inoculated based on availability, and we will follow that guidance.

#### ELECTORAL COLLEGE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now one other note—today, members of the electoral college are gathering in all 50 States and the District of Columbia to formally select Joe Biden as the next President of the United States of America.

Typically, the meeting of the electoral college is merely a formality. The Presidential election took place over a month ago. The result is not in doubt. In almost any other year, both major parties would have fully and publicly accepted the will of the American people by now—the peaceful passing of the torch, a hallmark of our grand democracy. But this year, it seems as if Joe Biden has had to be declared the winner of the Presidential election again and again and again—and still, our Republican colleagues have not fully come to grips with that reality. Just how many times does President Trump have to lose before rank-and-file Republicans—before most Senators—acknowledge that Joe Biden will be the next President of the United States?

Last week, more than 100 Republican Members of the House of Representatives signed their names to a lawsuit that would invalidate the results of the election in four swing States. For any serious person, much less a Member of the U.S. Congress, to sign their name to such an anti-democratic document is beyond shameful.



To my knowledge, the Republican leader of the Senate still has not referred to Joe Biden as President-elect. Will he change his tune now that the electoral college has once again confirmed his victory? Will the rest of my Republican Senate colleagues do the same?

After no evidence of widespread voter fraud was found in the country, after State election officials corroborated the accuracy of the results in every State in the country, after the Trump campaign's legal team racked up an astonishing win-loss record of 1 and 59, after the Supreme Court summarily dismissed two ludicrous efforts by Republicans to invalidate the results in swing States, will the Republican Party in Congress, here in the Senate, finally acknowledge the results of an election that was determined over a month ago?

Just how long are Republicans going to keep up this charade, which has become a national embarrassment? Even now, the Chairman of the Homeland Security Committee is planning to hold a hearing this week about what he calls "election irregularities."

Look, our Republican colleagues don't have to like the results of the election, but they have a solemn responsibility to accept them. They have a duty to confer legitimacy on them. Instead, for the past month, they have given President Trump the space to promote wild conspiracy theories about election fraud and poison Americans' faith in our democracy.

As the electoral college casts the majority of its votes for Joe Biden—the same number of votes that President Trump called a landslide 4 years ago—our Republican colleagues must do now what they should have done a month ago: Accept the legitimacy of Joe Biden's election to the Presidency of the United States.

I yield the floor.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Thomas L. Kirsch II, of Indiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

#### CORONAVIRUS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, as we all know by now, late Friday evening, the world received the news that we have been waiting, hoping, and praying for since March. The first COVID-19 vaccine was approved here in the United States. The vaccine was developed by Pfizer and its German partner BioNtech and was found to be 95 percent effective in preventing COVID-19 during clinical trials—extensive clinical trials.

The leaders of Operation Warp Speed immediately mobilized the distribution plan, and the first doses of the vaccine are arriving at healthcare facilities across the country today. Texas's initial shipment of nearly 225,000 doses will be administered to our healthcare workers this week by our healthcare workers, and we will provide these heroes with the protection they need to continue their fight on our behalf on the frontlines.

This is a turning point in our war against COVID, and the significance of this victory in such an expedited timeframe cannot be overstated. I want to thank the brilliant men and women who made this feat possible. There are the researchers and scientists who developed the lifesaving vaccine, as well as the volunteers who participated in clinical trials. There are the manufacturers that are rapidly producing millions of doses and distributors who are getting those doses to sites across the country as quickly as possible. Of course, there are the hospitals, pharmacies, and our incredible healthcare workers who will lead the vaccine effort. The race to a COVID vaccine will be remembered as one of the greatest human achievements of our generation, and these brave and brilliant individuals helped make it possible.

I want to remind all of us that while this is a huge milestone and one that should absolutely be celebrated, we are not out of the dark yet. The light at the end of the tunnel is getting bigger and brighter, but we still have a ways to go, and each of us has our own part to play in getting us there. For the American people, that means stopping the spread through the same habits that we learned all year—washing your hands, wearing a mask, practicing social distancing, and taking extra care to protect our most vulnerable friends and neighbors. Of course, this holiday season is not a time to forget the habits we built over the last several months but to double down on them.

While this is a development to be celebrated and a day we have been looking for for a long time, Congress has not yet done its job. For months on end, the American people have asked for additional financial support to weather this storm, and so far we have not seen any progress. Our Democratic colleagues blocked bill after bill, saying more of the words of Speaker PELOSI: Nothing is better than something.

Well, our Democratic colleagues stood in the way of investing more in vaccine distribution, extending unemployment insurance benefits, helping our small businesses keep their workers on payroll, and giving our schools the resources they need in order to provide education to our students safely. Our Democratic colleagues didn't block these bills because they disagree with the content of the bills; they simply refuse to engage if we do not concede to their controversial and outrageous demands.

At first, Democrats refused to back off the completely absurd bill passed in the House called the Heroes Act, which includes things like diversity studies for the marijuana industry and tax breaks for millionaires and billionaires. While they eventually realized how unrealistic their position was, they now stand firm in providing a bailout for cities and States that have been—some of which have been grossly mismanaged for decades.

Over the last several months, our Democratic colleagues have repeatedly blocked legislation that would have poured half a trillion dollars more into our fight against COVID-19 because it didn't include their far-fetched, partisan priorities. Our Democratic colleagues have wasted a lot of time in playing games with this pandemic relief, and the clock on this Congress is quickly running out. Congress needs to pass another bill this week, and I encourage our Democratic colleagues to start compromising and quit the grandstanding. They have shown us time and again, when you sit down at the negotiating table with an all-or-nothing attitude, the result is always nothing, and that is all they have to show for their obstruction over the last months since we passed the CARES Act.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. President, on another topic, last Friday, another important thing happened—the Senate passed the National Defense Authorization Act with broad bipartisan support and sent it to the President for his signature. This marks the 60th year in a row that we have completed the defense spending bill, and that is as it should be. Our national security is the No. 1 priority here in Washington, DC, and for our entire Nation.

Texas servicemembers will receive higher salaries and stronger support for their families because of this legislation. That includes assistance for military spouses whose careers involve relicensing, and it includes high-quality childcare on military bases. This legislation will also bring some serious updates and improvements to Texas military bases. Joint Base San Antonio, Joint Bases Fort Worth and Fort Hood, and the Pantex Plant in Amarillo will all receive additional funding for updates and facilities to improve their capabilities and mission readiness.

Given the uncertain state of today's world, preserving our military readiness has never been more important. Russia is growing more aggressive in its efforts to disrupt the global order. North Korea continues to provoke the United States and our allies with its nuclear aspirations. Iran's hostile and unpredictable actions threaten democracies around the world, not just in the Middle East. China has become increasingly powerful and more belligerent than ever. The Defense Authorization Act is how we prepare to counter these growing threats at every corner of the globe and improve our national security across the board. We do that through the time-honored notion of peace through strength. The best way to avoid a war is for America to remain strong.

I am incredibly proud that this legislation includes language from a bill I introduced with Senators WARNER, COTTON, and SCHUMER—a bipartisan bill. The goal of this legislation is straightforward—to bring semiconductor manufacturing back to the United States. Since 2000, the United States has dropped from producing roughly a quarter of the world's semiconductors now down to about 12 percent, and the semiconductors that make up your iPhone or that go into an F-35 are sole-sourced from a Taiwan semiconductor manufacturing company, obviously located overseas.

If we have learned one thing from this virus, it is of the vulnerability of our supply chains, and it doesn't take a lot of imagination to understand, with the threat to our economy and the threat to our national security, that the sole-source supply chain should be disrupted. There are the obvious economic consequences. Why buy these chips from other countries when we could be making them ourselves? We could boost an entire industry, including high-paying jobs right here in the United States. As I said, that is only part of the equation, because semiconductor manufacturing isn't just about the economy and jobs; it is about national security. Chips aren't just in televisions, dishwashers, and consumer electronics; they are a vital part of our cell towers, missile defense systems, and other critical infrastructure.

If you need an example of just how important it is to have a reliable supply of our most crucial devices, just look at the PPE shortage during the COVID-19 crisis. China has long been a supplier of masks, gloves, gowns, and other personal protective equipment used primarily by our healthcare workers. For a long time, that wasn't really a problem, but then COVID-19 showed that it was a problem.

By the time the virus began to move across the United States, China had been battling it for months. So when it came time for American hospitals and clinics and healthcare providers to beef up their supplies of PPE, their supplies had already been depleted. Healthcare workers, you will recall, were reusing

masks throughout an entire shift in order to conserve supplies, and hospitals were pleading with the general public to donate any unused personal protective equipment to help keep healthcare workers safe. We didn't reach that point because of a lack of preparation by hospitals but because of our reliance on vulnerable supply chains—notably, out of China—to produce that gear.

Now imagine a supply chain breakdown happening for every industry that relies on semiconductors. Everything from healthcare, to telecommunications, to agriculture, to manufacturing would be paralyzed by a disruption of that supply chain. So one thing this virus has taught us, among other things, is to eliminate those supply chain vulnerabilities, and it is a clear signal that we need to take action to secure other critical supply chains beyond just semiconductors.

The inclusion of this provision in the NDAA was a strong start. We had a great vote of 96 Senators voting for the inclusion of this provision in the National Defense Authorization Act—strong bipartisan support. This provision in the NDAA will help restore American leadership in semiconductor manufacturing by creating a Federal incentive program through the Department of Commerce to encourage chip manufacturing here. It will stimulate domestic advanced semiconductor manufacturing and boost both our national security and global competitiveness. It will enable us to bring manufacturing jobs back to American soil so we can reduce our reliance on China and other foreign countries and strengthen the supply chains of our most critical industries.

Now comes the hard part—we have to pay for it. On Friday afternoon, I spoke with Secretary Pompeo and Secretary Ross about this legislation from, as I said, both national security and economic perspectives. Last month, the Commerce Department sent a report to the Committee on Appropriations detailing its plans to implement a semiconductor manufacturing incentive program. For everything from the authorities that will be used to establish the program to the coordination with industry leaders, the Commerce Department is ready to hit the ground running. Both the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Commerce agree—Congress must act soon and back these programs with funding.

It is estimated that China will spend \$250 billion on semiconductor manufacturing in the coming years. If left unmatched, it will control 80 percent of the semiconductor manufacturing market. If that happens, the United States will not be able to recover lost ground, which is why it is critical that we act now. Thankfully, with the help of private industry here in the United States, we can do more with less. We can stop the slide of manufacturing power to China if we put even 10 percent of what China is spending toward

this essential element of our national security and our economic competitiveness.

The Senate passed this amendment over the summer with overwhelming support. I hope my colleagues on both sides will join me in continuing to fight to secure funding for this bipartisan priority, which will bring manufacturing jobs back to the United States and close a glaring and dangerous national security gap.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. ERNST). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### BIDEN INVESTIGATION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, for over a year, Senator JOHNSON and I investigated the Biden family's financial dealings. For over a year, the liberal media and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle falsely said that we were peddling Russian disinformation. They ginned up any story they could to falsely portray our investigation in an effort to delegitimize the report's findings. Even my colleague Senator WYDEN, with whom I have worked on many bipartisan investigations, said the following:

This disinformation also became the basis of the Johnson-Grassley investigation. The political nature of this investigation has been clear all along. Bottom line: The Johnson-Grassley investigation is baseless. It is laundering Russian propaganda for circulation in the United States.

It seems the liberal media and Democrats have a very nervous tick. Any time a Republican gets close to the truth and is about to serve justice, the other side yells: "Russian disinformation." Of course, as we see now, that is a load of garbage.

As I have said on this floor several times before, our report was rooted in information from U.S. Government agencies and a left-aligned U.S. lobby shop that represented a corrupt Ukrainian gas company, and by now, the American people know that it is really the Democrats and liberal media that are connected to Russian disinformation. Just think of the Steele dossier. It was infected with Russian disinformation and paid for by the Democratic National Committee and Hillary Clinton's campaign.

The liberal media and those on the other side of the aisle were scared of the facts. They were scared that the American people would see the Biden family's deep and extensive link to foreign governments, including the Communist Chinese Government.

And once Senator JOHNSON and I released publically our findings, those same liberal outlets said the report repackaged old material and that there wasn't really anything new to it.

They went into full Joe Biden protection mode, and they didn't even try to hide it.

One Washington Post columnist said: "Even after accepting disinformation from Russian agents, JOHNSON and GRASSLEY couldn't come up with anything new or interesting on Hunter Biden."

Well, we know today the Post should be ashamed that they said that.

POLITICO ran a story with this headline: "GOP Senators' anti-Biden report repackages old claims."

And National Public Radio said about the New York Post Hunter Biden stories: "We don't want to waste our time on stories that are not really stories, and we don't want to waste the listeners' and readers' time on stories that are just pure distractions," end of the NPR quote.

Now, look at what Twitter and Facebook did to Hunter Biden news. Simply said, they interfered in the election and gave the Biden campaign a multimillion-dollar in-kind donation, courtesy of their blatant and unforgiveable censorship.

So, my fellow Americans, let us never forget what Twitter and Facebook did during the 2020 elections.

Now, let's fast forward to this very day. Now it is confirmed that Hunter Biden is under criminal investigation, reportedly for his taxes and financial dealings—the very fact pattern that we described in the Johnson-Grassley report.

It shouldn't take Hunter Biden to confirm that he is under criminal investigation before the mainstream press gets permission—from whom, I don't know—to report the news. It is a complete outrage the way the liberal media used its power to cover up facts relating to Hunter Biden and the Biden family and, yet, ran story after story with false information about the Russian investigation into Trump and the credibility of the Steele dossier.

The recent news also shows that our report was not "baseless"—that is the word that shows up all the time—and it didn't "repackage old claims." That is another set of words that showed up quite regularly as people were trying to distract the Johnson and Grassley report.

So quite the opposite—our report was well-founded, ahead of the curve, and right on the money, in more ways than one.

Our report teed up the facts, but the mainstream press never stepped up to the plate.

Some of the Nation's supposedly leading press outlets, with teams of investigative reporters, were scooped by the Congress—the Johnson-Grassley report. Now, of course, they are scrambling to chase the story that they for so long ignored.

Now, it didn't have to be this way. We already did much of the heavy lifting before issuing our report. The report made public information that hadn't ever been known before. For ex-

ample, it showed the following: Hunter Biden and his associates and family members were connected to Chinese nationals and Chinese companies linked with the Communist Party and the People's Liberation Army. This includes the CEFC China Energy Company Limited and that company's subsidiaries.

Records show that a company linked to the Communist regime sent Hunter Biden's law firm millions of dollars.

Other records show that Hunter Biden opened a line of credit with a Chinese national linked to the Communist regime and funded it with approximately \$100,000. Then he, James Biden, and Sara Biden went on an extravagant global spending spree.

Still other records show that Hunter Biden, via his law firm, also sent a million dollars to James Biden's consulting firm, the Lion Hall Group. These transfers began less than 1 week after CEFC sent \$5 million to a company called Hudson West III, a company linked to CEFC and Chinese nationals associated with the Communist regime, which then sent money to Hunter Biden's law firm.

When the bank contacted Sara Biden, who was associated with the firm's bank account, she refused to answer their questions and provide any additional documentation. According to the records that we have on file, the bank submitted the account for closure.

Senator JOHNSON and I recently issued a supplemental to our report that showed Hunter Biden's close business associate Rob Walker received \$6 million from a Chinese company linked to the Communist regime.

There is yet another link in the chain from the Biden family and their associates to the Chinese Government.

The report also showed that State Department officials believed that Hunter Biden's Burisma board membership created the perception of a conflict of interest and was "very awkward for all U.S. officials pushing an anticorruption agenda in Ukraine," end of quote from a State Department official.

Secretary of State Kerry publicly denied knowing of Hunter Biden's role on the Burisma board. We acquired evidence that shows that Kerry did, in fact, know about that role.

In December 2015, instead of following U.S. objectives of confronting oligarchs, Vice President Biden's staff advised him to avoid commenting on Burisma's oligarch and instead say: "I am not going to get into naming names or accusing individuals."

Joe Biden was running an anticorruption agenda in Ukraine, and he pulled his punches while his son was on the board of Burisma.

Based on witness testimony, Burisma's owner allegedly paid a \$7 million bribe to officials serving under Ukraine's prosecutor general to shut the case against him. When he allegedly paid that bribe, Hunter Biden was on the Burisma board.

These examples are just a sampling from the report that Senator JOHNSON and I put out and just the tip of the iceberg with respect to the Biden family's troubled ties to governments adverse to U.S. interests.

These associations, and the millions of dollars that passed between and among Hunter Biden, James Biden, and others, create criminal financial, counterintelligence, and extortion concerns. That is why I have written to the Justice Department about the risk that Hunter and James Biden essentially served as agents of the Communist government for purposes of their registering under the Foreign Agents Registration Act.

After Hunter Biden publicly confirmed he was under criminal investigation, liberal news outlets reported on concerns that his financial associations could create criminal financial and counterintelligence problems—something you heard from the Johnson-Grassley report several weeks ago. That is what we said in September 2020, and we were roundly criticized for it.

And just over the weekend, a new email was made public that reportedly says that Joe Biden and his brother were "office mates" with the very same Chinese nationals whom we wrote about in our report. Those same individuals were the ones with links to the Communist regime and that regime's military.

Based on all the facts known to date, Joe Biden has a lot of explaining to do. I have run many oversight operations and investigations during the course of my career. I am interested in the facts, in the evidence, and in the truth. I learned a lesson a long time ago when I first started my oversight focus; that is, no matter how difficult the media or the other side of the aisle makes it to find the facts, never give up. Keep working hard. The American taxpayers deserve nothing less.

That is the attitude and approach that I have had my entire career, and that is what I will take with me as I continue to look into the Biden family matters and as I move to a leadership position on the Senate Judiciary Committee.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

#### EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY OF SANDY HOOK SHOOTING

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, 8 years ago this morning, I was in Bridgeport, CT. I had done an event early that morning with the mayor, and I was due to meet my wife and my two children—then 4 years old and 1—on a train platform in Bridgeport to head down to New York City, to spend the rest of that Friday afternoon with my young kids, their first chance to see the Christmas decorations of the city.

I received a phone call while on the train platform telling me that something had happened in Sandy Hook, CT. Sandy Hook is a section of Newtown, CT.

I debated whether or not to still go down to New York, but as the news started to become more clear, I got in the car and headed up to the firehouse just down a short road from Sandy Hook Elementary School, where an emergency response effort was gathering.

It was there that 20 parents found out what had happened inside that school, as the rest of the world was finding out that same gruesome news.

That was 8 years ago today—mark today—that tragic anniversary of the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

Since that day, I have gotten to know those families—the mothers and the fathers of the children who were killed, the daughters, the siblings of educators who were killed. There were six educators inside Sandy Hook Elementary School who lost their lives that day—heroes all. There were 20 children. I have also gotten to know the community of Sandy Hook even better than I ever had during my 6 years representing them in the House of Representatives.

Sandy Hook was and is a miraculous place. As much as the world saw evil that day, perpetuated by a young man named Adam Lanza, what happened in the hours and days, weeks and months following, in and around Sandy Hook, told us what really sits inside of us, and that is an indescribable goodness, an ability to meet evil with all sorts of generosity that poured on to Sandy Hook from all over the world in big ways and small ways.

Teddy bears were sent in to Sandy Hook by the thousands in the days and weeks afterward. A fund was set up for the families of the victims. Millions of dollars went into that fund to help pay for the college educations of the brothers and sisters who were left behind. The community wrapped its arms around those families, around the first responders. And while Sandy Hook will never ever be the same ever again, I was able to see firsthand what truly lies inside all of us.

Over the last 8 years, we have tried to make good by the memory of those kids. There is no way to fill that hole, but I have watched as communities have been changed through the generosity that has come out of that tragedy. Almost every family established a unique not-for-profit that is doing all sorts of incredible work, all sort of based in many ways off of the loves of those children.

There are charities that are building playgrounds for kids who love to climb and swing. There are charities that are providing access to animals for young kids in need, in memory of the kids who died that day who loved animals. There are charities that are building social-emotional help, trying to make sure that you never ever get in a situation ever again where a young man like Adam Lanza feels so separated from society, his community, his peers, and re-

ality that someone thinks to do what he did. Just on the charitable side of the equation, there is so much over the last 8 years that has happened that has changed people's lives, that has saved lives, because of what those families and what the community of Newtown has done.

There has been policy change as well. We passed the Mental Health Reform Act in the U.S. Senate and in the House, and it was signed into law, one of the last things that President Obama did before he left office.

Of course, we have had an ongoing conversation about the way in which we change our gun laws. Many of us in Connecticut have strong feelings that if Adam Lanza wasn't able to get his hands as easily on a semi-automatic military-style weapon, he may not have ever made the journey to that school that morning. So we continue in our work to try to reset the gun laws of this Nation to try to make sure that no tragedy like that ever happens again simply because of ease of access to a weapon of that power.

About a month after that shooting in Sandy Hook Elementary School, I had the chance to visit a community center in the North End of Hartford. I had just been sworn in as a Senator. The tragedy in Sandy Hook happened after my election to Senate but before I had been sworn in. After I was sworn in to the Senate, I went to a community center in the North End of Hartford where I met with the families of the victims of gun violence from that neighborhood. By the time Sandy Hook had happened in 2012, 20 young men and women had lost their lives to gunfire in Hartford. As for the families that we met that day, their hearts grieved deeper than anyone else for the families in Sandy Hook because they knew what that pain is like. They had lost sons and daughters themselves. But they were also furious that the whole country was waking up to the epidemic of gun violence in this country after Newtown when it had been happening in Hartford and Bridgeport and New Haven and New Orleans and Chicago and Los Angeles and Baltimore for decades without much action and without much attention from the mainstream news media or from those in power.

Many of us had to reconcile the ways in which we had spent our public career in the weeks and months after Sandy Hook. I am embarrassed by the fact that I didn't do more when I was in the House of Representatives, that I didn't do more when I was in the State legislature, to try to address the epidemic of gun violence in this country, wherever it happens. There were many people in this Chamber who stood up in the wake of Sandy Hook and decided that they were going to lead—people like PAT TOOMEY and JOE MANCHIN—in ways that they hadn't led before.

I think we have all had to reassess our priorities. We have all had to think about whether we measured up to this moment that we live in today, where

100 people died from gun violence and a lot of kids who go to school around this country just expect that, at some point in their young lives, they will be met with a mass shooting. So we come here 8 years later, and we try to measure what has happened. Have we made enough change? And we try to recommit ourselves to these ideas moving forward.

I am proud of many of the things we have done. I am proud of all the charitable efforts, and I am proud of the Mental Health Reform Act, and I am proud we have put more money into school safety. I am proud that a lot of private-sector entities have stood up to stop weapons from being carried into public spaces.

But I am also furious. I am also furious that there are easy, popular things that we could be doing to stop the likelihood of another Sandy Hook, to reduce the level of gun violence that happens in our city, and we choose not to take those steps.

Now, universal background checks wouldn't have saved the lives of those kids in Sandy Hook, but those parents came here and lobbied for that legislation in 2013 because they know that, if that legislation was in place, there would be a whole lot of other kids alive throughout this country because the flow of illegal guns would be stunted into our cities and many of our neighborhoods.

Those families in Sandy Hook don't necessarily care how it gets done. They just want to make sure that there are less parents that ever have to go through what they have gone through. And despite the fact that 95 percent of Americans support something like universal background checks, we still haven't done it here—an example of where democracy just doesn't seem to be working.

So we still have lots to do. I am sure I will get the opportunity over the course of 2021 to talk a lot about the path forward on changing our gun laws.

But the final thing that I want to say today, before I yield the floor to Senator BLUMENTHAL, is that for those Americans who haven't had to come face-to-face with a tragedy like that, maybe for those who haven't been around that kind of pain and sorrow, maybe it is a little bit hard to understand perspective. One of the things we have tried to do in the last 8 years is, on this day—the 1-year, the 2-year, the 3-year, the 4-year, and now the 8-year mark—to just ask people on this day to go out and do something nice for a friend, for a relative, for a stranger. Just act in a kind, generous way, and maybe, over the course of the next year, make it a habit to do a little bit more than you would have done otherwise to help people in and around you in the ways that people helped the community of Sandy Hook—the parents, the relatives—in small and big ways in the wake of the tragedy 8 years ago.

When you are around that kind of loss and pain, when you think about what it is like to lose a child, I think it helps to give some perspective as to what is really important in this world.

We have a habit in this business to treat each other unkindly, and I am guilty of that, just like everyone else in this body is. Especially these days, we tend to fall into this trap too easily in which we assume bad motives of folks who just think differently than us. There are some folks out there today who won't go to businesses that are owned by Republicans or won't associate themselves with folks who might have more progressive views than they have. Politics matter. Don't get me wrong. But there are things that matter more than politics. And when we think about what those families are going through today as they are forced to relive the events of that day at Sandy Hook Elementary School, we should be reminded of how lucky we are to still be on this Earth; for those who haven't endured that kind of loss, how lucky we are to still have our children by our side. And we should remember that kindness, treating people respectfully, understanding what is important in the long run—family, friendships, relationships—that is one of the lessons, I hope, of Sandy Hook.

So this is never a fun day to come down to the floor and mark the anniversary of Sandy Hook, but I want to finish by just saying thank you to the parents and the families for letting Senator BLUMENTHAL and I into their lives.

I have these friendships, these bonds with those families today that I never expected but now may be more meaningful to me than any other relationships that I have. And I do have strong words often for my colleagues about our unwillingness to make change in this body, but it is because, when my public service is done, the measure of whether I succeeded or failed, to me, in many ways is in the hands of those families. Whether they think that I have made a difference to honor the memory of their children is probably what will matter to me more than anything else when I hang up my public service spikes a few years from now—5 years from now, 10 years from now.

I thank them for enduring this pain, for reaching out to those of us in positions of leadership to help guide us, and for finding all sorts of ways to lift up the light and the memory of their children, of their parents, of those that fell 8 years ago today in Sandy Hook.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, let me begin where Senator MURPHY so eloquently finished.

One of the great honors of my life has been to know and cherish the friendship of the wonderful parents and loved ones of those 20 beautiful children and sixth grade educator that perished 8 years ago today. And I have been proud

to work with Senator MURPHY, a true champion of stopping gun violence, in our efforts over these last 8 years.

That day began for them as it has begun for all of us as parents—for me as a parent of four, for Senator MURPHY as a dad of two—making breakfast, dropping off kids, heading to work. Among the beautiful holiday ornaments that decorated Newtown and Sandy Hook on that day—it was a normal day, until it wasn't. It was a normal day until those minutes when life changed irreparably for those parents and loved ones and for us.

Yes, I had championed the cause of gun violence prevention for years before that day. As State attorney general, I began lawsuits; I supported the cause of banning the assault weapons in Connecticut and defending that ban in our State courts. But that day changed us forever.

We went to Sandy Hook, and what we saw was unspeakable grief, pain, and anguish that still haunt me. What I saw that afternoon will stay with me not just as a source of grief and pain but also as a cry for action, as an undeniable mandate for action to honor with action those beautiful lives—to honor them not just with words, speeches, rhetoric, but with real action.

For all of us, random acts of kindness are within our reach. Those acts of kindness to commemorate the gentle beauty and grace and dignity, the love and laughter, the futures that were lost—that is not just an expression of pain and grief; it is a moral imperative.

With grief comes trauma and lifelong scars that never fade. But what I saw in those hours after that brutal, unimaginable massacre was also unspeakable goodness—the first responders who came and saw the carnage that brought tears to their eyes, the fire and police service, the community leaders, the men and women of faith. Father Bob Weiss, now monsignor, brought us together that evening in St. Rose of Lima Church when the grief and pain were raw, as raw as the cold of that winter night, and so many came—in fact, so many that they couldn't fit in the church. They heard it by loud speaker outside, and I said: The world is watching.

In fact, the world watched with awe because Sandy Hook came to show the resilience and courage and strength of those families who have championed this cause of preventing gun violence but also launched foundations and philanthropic efforts in the names and memories of their children to do good and to change lives for the better. They are resilient and strong like Newtown is resilient and strong.

This morning, in a vigil done virtually, led by Connecticut Against Gun Violence, we celebrated the lives not only of those 20 beautiful children and sixth grade educators but everyone in Connecticut over the past year who has died from gun violence because no community is immune from it. It strikes

every neighborhood and area of our State and of our country. So honoring with action is something that we must do in this body.

One of the memories that also haunts me is of the day when we came within a few votes of passing a universal background check bill—almost 55 votes but not enough to reach 60, a majority of the Senate but not enough for cloture. And from that Gallery, literally, came the shout: Shame. Indeed, shame—shame on us in the U.S. Senate for being complicit in the continuing deaths of thousands over these past 8 years, thousands that could have been prevented, and thousands that have our culpability. Shame on us for failing to honor with action and to move forward on universal background checks and emergency orders—emergency risk protection orders. Those two steps keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people who would do harm to themselves through suicide, as well as to others in the shootings that take place on our streets and our neighborhoods.

Connecticut has led the way on those measures and others—Ethan's Law for safe storage, a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, ghost gun bans, and other measures that essentially make our neighborhoods and lives safer. But even Connecticut, with the strongest gun measures in the country, is no safer than any State with the weakest because guns have no respect for State boundaries. They cross State lines, and the "crime guns" that come into Connecticut are the source of those shootings that kill our people.

So there are simple, straightforward steps that we can take—commonsense measures, including stopping the nearly complete, unprecedented immunity of gun manufacturers from any legal responsibility and making sure that they bear liability for the deaths that they cause.

Our lives have never been the same since Sandy Hook. But in the wake of that tragedy—as well as Parkland, Las Vegas, Charleston, El Paso, Orlando, and Pittsburgh, and countless others, mass shootings, individual deaths—there has grown a movement, and it is a movement led by young people and by people who care about this cause without partisan politics. It is a new generation of leaders. It is a movement born of that grief and pain and anger—the fury of knowing that democracy is not working, the tenacity born of the injustice of those deaths and injuries and trauma. They are fighting to make sure that what happened at Sandy Hook or any of those other places never happens again. It is a new class of heroes, and their time is now.

Their organizations are diverse: Moms Demand Action, Students Demand Action, March for Our Lives, Giffords, Connecticut Against Gun Violence, Newtown Action Alliance, and Sandy Hook Promise. These are just a few of them, and they are a movement, and they are causing a change in the

consciousness of America so that now more than 90 percent of Americans support universal background checks.

A comparable number support emergency risk protection orders known as red flag statutes. Seventeen States now have them and increased substantially after Parkland, and they are not alone. They are joined by survivors from countless communities—too many communities. They are joined by law enforcement officials, first responders, and emergency room nurses and doctors who have the firsthand education about what gun violence does to a human body and a human mind. They are joined also by advocates and activists and community leaders from every community across the country because this epidemic affects everyone. They are the true leaders of this movement, and I am proud to stand with them today as I do every day.

My hope is that a new Congress will break this complicity and that we will move forward, that a new Congress will break the inaction, and then a new President will change the dynamic, not only in this Congress but in the country, and take advantage of the historic opportunity we have.

With a new administration, we have not only this momentous opportunity but also a moral imperative. We have that opportunity to enact strong, commonsense gun violence prevention measures and, in addition, although no substitute for legislative action, strong Executive action to enhance the effectiveness of background checks, to stop the spread of ghost guns, to take other measures that are within the power of the President alone, and to make sure that we explore and use every possible opportunity.

The States will continue acting alone if the Federal Government fails to join them. States like Connecticut and others around the country who want to protect their citizens will continue to be proactive.

We mark this painful anniversary with renewed resolve—resolve to continue to honor, with positive action, those whose lives were lost at Sandy Hook but also to redouble our efforts to educate and enlist our fellow citizens. It is long past time; 8 years is a long time—much too long for this inaction.

Our hearts still ache. Our anger still burns. Our grief and pain are still there. For those families, they will never go away. But make no mistake, this pandemic is no excuse for inaction. If anything, COVID-19 has raised the number of gun purchases and increased the number of guns posing dangers in our neighborhoods. It has heightened the stress and anxiety of people who might use those guns in incidents of domestic violence. It has expanded the jeopardies of suicide and self-destructive behavior.

We have no excuse for inaction because of the pandemic. We have every reason to feel a greater sense of urgency now, in the midst of this pan-

demic, to stop the epidemic of gun violence.

Let us draw from the strength and fortitude of these brave families and loved ones—not only in Sandy Hook but survivors and loved ones everywhere—and say, finally, boldly, unapologetically, that enough is enough. Enough is enough.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

#### COLLEGIATE ATHLETE AND COMPENSATION RIGHTS ACT

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, those of you who have taken time out to watch college sports this fall—and I know there are many in this Chamber who have, and they know that the games this year have looked very different when you compare them to previous years' games. A lot has changed for these young players, but they are no less popular with their fans and no less important to the success and prominence of the academic institutions they represent.

For a while now, I have been joined by other members of the Commerce Committee as we have tried to resolve the tension that exists between the NCAA and college sports stars over a student athlete's right to earn compensation for the use of their name, image, or likeness. This is called the NIL issue.

Last week, Senator WICKER, who is chairman of the Commerce Committee, introduced the Collegiate Athlete and Compensation Rights Act, which would finally create a uniform national framework to allow student athletes to receive that compensation without the risk of losing their amateur status and without falling into traps set by dishonest outside parties looking to exploit their fame.

Normally, we don't make too much hay over a bill introduction, but just getting everyone to the table is a first step that student athletes have wanted to see happen for a while. And I thank Chairman WICKER and Senator MORAN for backing this legislation.

I do want to point out that the reason the Senate has stepped in is because the NCAA just never could get around to addressing this issue. They kept kicking the can down the road. They kept sending it to one committee and to another committee, and the NCAA has shown very little determination to solve this issue for these young athletes. Because the leadership at the NCAA has proven unable and has shown an inability to address this, we have stepped up to address this issue. Our student athletes deserve more respect than they have been shown by the NCAA.

(Mr. BOOZMAN assumed the Chair.)

#### WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

Now, Mr. President, on another topic, 2020 has been a very difficult year, but there have been a few rays of sunshine this year in spite of the quarantines and the social distancing.

We were still able to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amend-

ment and the suffragists who fought so diligently and consistently for 72 years for passage of the 19th Amendment. Much of this celebration of activism and equal rights focused on Nashville, TN, where the suffragists gathered in the summer of 1920. At the center of that battle for the votes sat the Hermitage Hotel, which served as the headquarters and played host to some of the most important negotiations surrounding the Tennessee Legislature's final vote on the amendment.

This year, the National Park Service honored the Hermitage Hotel and the suffragists who fought those battles by designating the site as a national historic landmark. As a female lawmaker, this designation was especially important to me. This Congress, I had the pleasure of serving here in the Senate alongside a fantastic group of women who were living proof of how far we have come since August 18, 1920.

Unfortunately, this year we were also reminded of how far we yet have to go.

#### JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, even before President Trump officially nominated Judge Amy Coney Barrett to fill Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's seat on the Supreme Court, liberals in the media and many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle unfortunately—well, they took it upon themselves to be the first to question Judge Barrett's fitness. But rather than attacking her record, they launched some truly insulting attacks on her religion, her family, her relationship with her husband, and her choice to balance a stunning career with a large, blended family.

You can count on the left to choose intellectual isolation, and you can count on them to look at a woman on the political right and say: If you are pro-family, pro-religion, pro-business, pro-military, pro-life, we do not want to hear from you.

Those attacks may have made the American people cringe, but they certainly didn't turn public opinion against Judge Barrett's confirmation. That campaign failed miserably. If anything, it provided a much needed reminder that, just like the fight for suffrage in the 1920s, the modern woman's fight for equality in 2020 is about more than succeeding in a single job or engaging in a single civic action; it is about exercising our right to participate in democracy and engage in the public square without having to throw ourselves at the mercy of the left's moving goalpost that they use to arbitrarily define what is and is not an acceptable way of life.

Justice Barrett is now the third Justice President Trump has placed on the Supreme Court. She is in good company because she is part of a class of 229 Federal judges confirmed so far under President Trump, 144 of them during this Congress. And I expect that we will see a few more join the ranks before we adjourn for Christmas, including two Tennesseans who are on this list.



## CORONAVIRUS

Mr. President, I would be remiss if I did not remind my colleagues that we still have a lot to do before we adjourn. This weekend's announcements about the first round of COVID-19 vaccines heading out for delivery were a very welcome addition to the news cycle. We owe a great deal of credit to the doctors and scientists who developed the vaccines; to those working behind the scenes through Operation Warp Speed to get those safe, effective vaccines approved; and to the truck-drivers, the shipping professionals, cold storage developers, and other essential workers pushing through a whole lot of overtime to get these vaccines in the hands of healthcare providers.

This morning, I was fortunate enough to stop by the grand opening of Cold Chain Technologies' Wilson County, TN, facility. The technology they have developed to preserve and transport these vaccines in a thermal container is truly impressive.

But don't forget that all across this country, millions of small business men and women and struggling workers are still waiting for us to agree on and pass another targeted—and I will say targeted—COVID relief legislation.

When I talked to Tennesseans this weekend, they aren't worried about politics or optics or unassociated wish list items. They want to see another round of PPP. They want to see a plus-up in unemployment insurance. They want to see money for vaccines, for testing, and for schools so that people can get back to work and children can get back to school. That is the relief Americans are looking for. And, I will add, the hesitancy from some across the aisle and over in the House Chamber, where they have admitted to playing politics with people's lives, has not set well with Tennesseans as we enter this Christmas season.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

## TRIBUTE TO THOMAS WILSON

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, this evening I want to take just a moment, in front of my colleagues, to recognize the contributions of a member of my staff: Thomas Wilson. Mr. Wilson has spent the last year working in our personal office as part of the Department of Veterans Affairs Congressional Fellowship Program.

As Thomas departs my office and returns to the Department of Veterans Affairs, I want to express my appreciation to him for his hard work and the dedication to serve veterans in Kansas and across the Nation. Thomas has served at the VA for more than 18 years. His selfless approach to service

has helped countless veterans receive the care and support that they have earned. He has surely been an asset to my team as we work to serve Kansans, servicemembers, and veterans.

Before joining our office, Thomas served as the legislative director to Congressman Harold Baker, a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee. He served on the Bush transition team after leaving congressional service and then went on to serve in numerous roles at the VA. These included roles as a congressional liaison for the VA and, most recently, in the Veterans Experience Office.

He is a graduate of the National Defense University and has used his experience to benefit those who serve our Nation in uniform.

Thomas is fortunate to have his loving wife Ashley and son Chase by his side. They undoubtedly contribute to Thomas's altruistic nature, and he is blessed to have their support.

Thomas joined my office in January 2019, just as I was assuming the gavel of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. His experience navigating the VA proved immensely helpful to my personal and committee staffs as we set off to advocate for veterans from all walks of life.

He was especially helpful in advocating for women veterans. Thomas led the effort to study the employment rates of post-9/11 female veterans, a cohort of veterans that experiences higher unemployment rates, more than any other demographic.

His efforts will lead to policies to support female veterans and to make certain that they have the tools necessary to succeed after their service to our Nation.

It is sad to see Thomas leave the office, but I know that his return to the Veterans Experience Office next month will produce lasting results for the many veterans who regularly interact with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Thomas is an impressive public servant, and it has been a privilege to work with him. I hold him in the highest regard. He is a significant asset to our veterans and represents some of the best that our Federal Government has to offer.

Once again, thank you, Thomas, for all you have done for Kansans and for American veterans this year in association with us and our work. You have been a model of selfless service and leadership, and I know you will continue to do great things throughout your career and your life of service, wherever that path may lead.

## WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. President, I also ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

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

## CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

## CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Thomas L. Kirsch II, of Indiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.

Mitch McConnell, James E. Risch, Mike Crapo, Roy Blunt, Shelley Moore Capito, Tom Cotton, John Cornyn, Chuck Grassley, Thom Tillis, Richard Burr, Pat Roberts, Cory Gardner, Lindsey Graham, Todd Young, Marco Rubio, John Boozman, John Barrasso.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on nomination of Thomas L. Kirsch II, of Indiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 265 Leg.]

## YEAS—51

Alexander	Ernst	Murkowski
Barrasso	Fischer	Paul
Blackburn	Gardner	Portman
Blunt	Graham	Risch
Boozman	Grassley	Roberts
Braun	Hawley	Romney
Burr	Hoeven	Rounds
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Collins	Johnson	Shelby
Cornyn	Kelly	Sinema
Cotton	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cramer	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	Manchin	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Enzi	Moran	Young

## NAYS—42

Baldwin	Hassan	Rosen
Bennet	Hirono	Sanders
Blumenthal	Jones	Schatz
Booker	Kaine	Schumer
Brown	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Udall
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murphy	Warner
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Feinstein	Peters	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Reed	Wyden

## NOT VOTING—7

Cardin	Loeffler	Sasse
Harris	Perdue	
Heinrich	Rubio	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 42.

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). The majority leader.

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consideration of Executive Calendar No. 907; that the nomination be confirmed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The nomination considered and confirmed is as follows:

## IN THE COAST GUARD

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Coast Guard to the grade indicated under title 14 U.S.C., section 2121(e):

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

Capt. Michael H. Day  
Capt. Mary M. Dean  
Capt. Charles E. Fosse  
Capt. Chad L. Jacoby  
Capt. Carola J.G. List  
Capt. Michael W. Raymond  
Capt. Edward M. St. Pierre

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Executive Calendar Nos. 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, and all nominations on the Secretary's Desk in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Space Force; that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are, as follows:

## IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

*To be major general*

Brig. Gen. Austin E. Renforth

## IN THE ARMY

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Guy M. Jones

## IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position

of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Lt. Gen. Michael T. Plehn

## IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be vice admiral*

Rear Adm. Jeffrey W. Hughes

## IN THE AIR FORCE

The following Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

*To be major general*

Brig. Gen. Patrick J. Cobb  
Brig. Gen. Nicholas A. Gentile, Jr.  
Brig. Gen. Michael T. Gerock  
Brig. Gen. Duke A. Pirak  
Brig. Gen. Darrin E. Slaten

The following Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

*To be major general*

Brig. Gen. Matthew D. Dinmore  
Brig. Gen. Gene W. Hughes, Jr.  
Brig. Gen. Toni M. Lord  
Brig. Gen. Peter Nezamis  
Brig. Gen. Gregg A. Perez  
Brig. Gen. Thomas M. Suelzer  
Brig. Gen. Mark A. Weber

The following Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

*To be major general*

Brig. Gen. Sandra L. Best  
Brig. Gen. Charles G. Jeffries  
Brig. Gen. James C. McEachen  
Brig. Gen. Shanna M. Woyak  
Brig. Gen. Brett A. Wyrick

The following Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

*To be major general*

Brig. Gen. James R. Camp  
Brig. Gen. Thomas F. Grabowski  
Brig. Gen. Paul E. Knapp  
Brig. Gen. Richard R. Neely  
Brig. Gen. Torrence W. Saxe

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

*To be major general*

Brig. Gen. Barry A. Blanchard

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Tara B. McKennie

The following Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Matthew A. Barker  
Col. Matthew A. Bourassa

Col. Michael J. Bruno  
Col. Michael O. Cadle  
Col. John J. Campo  
Col. David J. Ciesielski  
Col. Alice A. Clark  
Col. David V. Cochran  
Col. Lynn E. Cole  
Col. John M. Cosgrove  
Col. Kurt R. Davis  
Col. Jason D. Dickinson  
Col. Leon J. Dodroe  
Col. Daniel M. Fesler  
Col. Emil J. Filkorn  
Col. Robert T. Gregory  
Col. David B. Johnson  
Col. Michele L. Kilgore  
Col. Bradford U. Larson  
Col. Victor R. Macias  
Col. Dean B. Martin, Jr.  
Col. Daniel R. McDonough  
Col. Allison C. Miller  
Col. Mark W. Mitchum  
Col. Michelle R. Mulberry  
Col. Billy F. Murphy, Jr.  
Col. John R. O'Connor  
Col. David A. Preisman  
Col. Jori A. Robinson  
Col. Shannon D. Smith  
Col. Bryony A. Terrell

The following Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Jeffrey R. Alexander  
Col. Mark A. Goodwill  
Col. Mark A. Muckey  
Col. Rick L. Mutchler

The following Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. John H. Bondhus  
Col. Jeffrey D. Coats  
Col. Sean F. Conroy  
Col. Michael L. Cornell  
Col. Edward H. Evans, Jr.  
Col. Christopher K. Faurot  
Col. Lawrence P. Hager  
Col. David M. Houghland  
Col. Catherine M. Jumper  
Col. Julio R. Lairet  
Col. William M. Leahy  
Col. James R. Parry  
Col. Lyle D. Shidla  
Col. Todd R. Starbuck  
Col. Melinda L. Sutton  
Col. Michael T. Venerdi  
Col. Peter L. Zalewski

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Denise M. Donnell

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Anthony D. Stratton

## NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

## IN THE AIR FORCE

PN2282 AIR FORCE nomination of Michael G. King, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 20, 2020.

PN2305 AIR FORCE nominations (554) beginning JEFFREY DONALD ADLING, and

ending CHRISTOPHER D. ZAREMSKI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2020.

PN2306 AIR FORCE nominations (197) beginning CHIKAODI H. AKALAOONU, and ending TABATHA R. ZELLHART, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2020.

PN2307 AIR FORCE nominations (170) beginning BRIAN C. ADKINS, and ending SCOTT C. ZETTERSTROM, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2020.

PN2308 AIR FORCE nominations (197) beginning JASON W. ABSHIRE, and ending BRIAN P. YODER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2020.

PN2309 AIR FORCE nominations (33) beginning PRISCILLA M. ADAMS, and ending ISAAC C. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2020.

PN2310 AIR FORCE nomination of Miriam A. Krieger, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2020.

PN2311 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning JEAN P. PELTIER, and ending TARA L. VILLENA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2020.

#### IN THE ARMY

PN2283 ARMY nomination of John M. Tokish, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 20, 2020.

PN2284 ARMY nomination of Mark Y. Lee, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 20, 2020.

PN2312 ARMY nomination of Andrew C. Sinelli, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2020.

PN2313 ARMY nomination of Phillip J. Armstrong, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2020.

PN2314 ARMY nomination of Tony D. Nguyen, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2020.

PN2315 ARMY nomination of Matthew B. Harrison, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2020.

PN2316 ARMY nomination of Michael S. Scioletti, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2020.

PN2345 ARMY nomination of Brandon M. Crisp, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2020.

#### IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN2290 MARINE CORPS nomination of William J. Warkentin, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 20, 2020.

PN2291 MARINE CORPS nomination of Jared L. Reddinger, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 20, 2020.

#### IN THE NAVY

PN2285 NAVY nominations (98) beginning RAUL T. ACEVEDO, and ending SHEU O. YUSUF, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 20, 2020.

PN2286 NAVY nominations (145) beginning BRANDEN J. ALBRECHT, and ending

BRANDY L. ZEHR, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 20, 2020.

PN2287 NAVY nominations (25) beginning MARK E. BEAUDET, and ending ZACHARY B. ZUMWALT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 20, 2020.

PN2288 NAVY nominations (66) beginning CHRISTOPHER L. ADCOCK, and ending MICHAEL J. YOSHIHARA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 20, 2020.

PN2289 NAVY nominations (3) beginning JASON E. HAYES, and ending CHRISTOPHER S. WALTON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 20, 2020.

PN2295 NAVY nominations (206) beginning JEFFREY B. ADAY, and ending JESSICA L. ZIMMERMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 26, 2020.

PN2296 NAVY nominations (71) beginning JOHN A. O. ABORDO, and ending TRUE XIONG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 26, 2020.

PN2297 NAVY nominations (90) beginning JOSHUA M. ADAMS, and ending KENT J. D. WONG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 26, 2020.

PN2298 NAVY nominations (40) beginning CASSANDRA E. ABBOTT, and ending JAMES J. YOON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 26, 2020.

PN2299 NAVY nominations (49) beginning EZINDU U. ANANTI, and ending ERIC C. WRIGHT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 26, 2020.

PN2317 NAVY nominations (104) beginning MICHAEL A. AJAO, and ending BRYAN E. WOOLDRIDGE, JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2020.

PN2318 NAVY nominations (28) beginning NATALIE R. BAKAN, and ending CHRISTOPHER E. VERZOSA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2020.

PN2319 NAVY nominations (36) beginning JAMES P. ADWELL, and ending JESSICA N. WOODY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2020.

PN2320 NAVY nominations (25) beginning BRYAN C. BARLETTO, and ending DAVID W. WARNING, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2020.

PN2321 NAVY nominations (24) beginning COLLEEN L. ABUZEID, and ending ROBYN V. WHITE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2020.

PN2322 NAVY nomination of Brian B. Toupin, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2020.

PN2323 NAVY nomination of Jennifer L. Rhinehart, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2020.

PN2324 NAVY nomination of Brandon E. Clark, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2020.

PN2325 NAVY nominations (99) beginning CHRISTOPHER L. ALLEN, and ending EDWARD P. WINDAS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2020.

PN2326 NAVY nominations (16) beginning RAYNARD ALLEN, and ending MARLIN

WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2020.

PN2327 NAVY nominations (51) beginning JAMES G. ANGERMAN, and ending JOSEPH M. ZUKOWSKY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2020.

PN2346 NAVY nominations (76) beginning MATTHEW B. ALEXANDER, and ending ANGELINA R. WOODBURN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2020.

PN2347 NAVY nominations (5) beginning DEREK S. BERNSEN, and ending WILLIAM J. REIMER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2020.

PN2348 NAVY nominations (63) beginning DEENA R. ABT, and ending TODD W. WISH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2020.

PN2349 NAVY nominations (52) beginning PATRICK R. ADAMS, and ending DAVID M. YOST, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2020.

PN2350 NAVY nominations (50) beginning JOSHUA D. ALLEN, and ending SHAWN F. ZENTNER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2020.

PN2351 NAVY nominations (1037) beginning OLUWASEUN O. O. ABEGUNDE, and ending PETER J. ZOLLWEG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2020.

PN2352 NAVY nominations (37) beginning BEKIM F. AUSTIN, and ending HENRY A. VILLATORO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2020.

PN2353 NAVY nominations (57) beginning ROBERT T. AUGUSTINE, and ending ALEXANDER J. WUNDERLICH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2020.

PN2354 NAVY nominations (5) beginning GAVIN L. KUREY, and ending ANTHONY J. WICH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2020.

PN2355 NAVY nominations (20) beginning CHRISTOPHER S. FIFE, II, and ending WAYNE M. ZANNI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2020.

PN2356 NAVY nominations (16) beginning JAMES F. ADAMS, and ending MARY C. WALSH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2020.

PN2357 NAVY nominations (20) beginning DAVID F. BORING, and ending JACQUELINE ZIMNY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2020.

PN2358 NAVY nominations (26) beginning NEHA U. ATHAVALE, and ending ERIC T. WILMER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2020.

PN2359 NAVY nominations (80) beginning MALIKUL A. AZIZ, and ending SCOTT H. ZINN, II, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2020.

PN2360 NAVY nominations (42) beginning LUIS E. BANCHS, and ending MATTHEW K. WITTKOPP, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2020.

PN2361 NAVY nominations (23) beginning GEORGE W. ACFALLE, and ending EMMA

S. YEARBY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 18, 2020.

#### IN THE SPACE FORCE

PN2328 SPACE FORCE nominations (58) beginning ISRAEL ABENSUR, and ending DEVIN LEE ZUFELT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 12, 2020.

### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

#### ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2019, the Secretary of the Senate, on December 11, 2020, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 6395. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 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.

H.R. 8900. An act making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2019, the enrolled bills were signed on December 11, 2020, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Ms. MURKOWSKI).

### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 5014. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions.

#### ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on December 11, 2020, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 134. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, with regard to stalking.

S. 199. An act to provide for the transfer of certain Federal land in the State of Minnesota for the benefit of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe.

S. 578. An act to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the five-month waiting period for disability insur-

ance benefits under such title for individuals with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

S. 1014. An act to establish the Route 66 Centennial Commission, and for other purposes.

S. 1153. An act to explicitly make unauthorized access to Department of Education information technology systems and the misuse of identification devices issued by the Department of Education a criminal act.

S. 2258. An act to provide anti-retaliation protections for antitrust whistleblowers.

S. 2904. An act to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support research on the outputs that may be generated by generative adversarial networks, otherwise known as deepfakes, and other comparable techniques that may be developed in the future, and for other purposes.

S. 2981. An act to reauthorize and amend the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002, and for other purposes.

S. 3703. An act to amend the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act to improve the prevention of elder abuse and exploitation of individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

S. 4902. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 351 South West Temple in Salt Lake City, Utah, as the "Orrin G. Hatch United States Courthouse".

### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

S. 92. A bill to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted into law (Rept. No. 116-311).

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2162. A bill to require the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to annually hire at least 600 new Border Patrol agents, to report quarterly to Congress on the status of the Border Patrol workforce, and to conduct a comprehensive staffing analysis (Rept. No. 116-312).

S. 2722. A bill to prohibit agencies from using Federal funds for publicity or propaganda purposes, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-313).

S. 2967. A bill to establish the Commission on Intergovernmental Relations of the United States to facilitate the fullest cooperation, coordination, and mutual accountability among all levels of government, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-314).

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

S. 3038. A bill to promote innovative acquisition techniques and procurement strategies, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-315).

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 3658. A bill to establish an Office of Equal Rights and Community Inclusion at the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-316).

S. 3997. A bill to strengthen the security and integrity of the United States scientific and research enterprise (Rept. No. 116-317).

S. 4153. A bill to require the Federal Emergency Management Agency to evaluate the National Response Framework based on les-

sons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-318).

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with amendments and an amendment to the title:

S. 4158. A bill to examine the extent of the reliance of the United States on foreign producers for personal protective equipment during the COVID-19 pandemic and produce recommendations to secure the supply chain of personal protective equipment (Rept. No. 116-319).

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment:

S. 4165. A bill to repeal section 692 of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 (Rept. No. 116-320).

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 4210. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the transfer of certain equipment during a public health emergency, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-321).

S. 4224. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to assess technology needs along the Southern border and develop a strategy for bridging such gaps (Rept. No. 116-322).

H.R. 1313. An act to amend the Implementing Recommendations of the 9 11 Commission Act of 2007 to clarify certain allowable uses of funds for public transportation security assistance grants and establish periods of performance for such grants, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-323).

### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. Con. Res. 52. A concurrent resolution to correct the enrollment of S. 3312; considered and agreed to.

### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 2561

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2561, a bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to clarify provisions enacted by the Captive Wildlife Safety Act, to further the conservation of certain wildlife species, and for other purposes.

S. 3020

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3020, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts with States or to award grants to States to promote health and wellness, prevent suicide, and improve outreach to veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 3072

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3072, a bill to amend the Federal

Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to prohibit the approval of new abortion drugs, to prohibit investigational use exemptions for abortion drugs, and to impose additional regulatory requirements with respect to previously approved abortion drugs, and for other purposes.

S. 3189

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3189, a bill to use proceeds from spectrum auctions to support supply chain innovation and multilateral security.

S. 3418

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3418, a bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to allow the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide capitalization grants to States to establish revolving funds to provide hazard mitigation assistance to reduce risks from disasters and natural hazards, and other related environmental harm.

S. 3612

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 3612, a bill to clarify for purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that receipt of coronavirus assistance does not affect the tax treatment of ordinary business expenses.

S. 4730

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4730, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue quarter dollars in commemoration of the Nineteenth Amendment, and for other purposes.

S. 4860

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4860, a bill to exempt payments made from the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Account from sequestration under the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

S. 4927

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4927, a bill to exclude EIDL advance amounts from the calculation of loan forgiveness under the paycheck protection program, and for other purposes.

S. 4935

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4935, a bill to provide continued assistance to unemployed workers.

S. 4966

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr.

GRASSLEY) and the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) were added as cosponsors of S. 4966, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a 5-year extension of the carbon oxide sequestration credit, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 774

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 774, a resolution honoring the United Nations World Food Programme on the occasion of being awarded the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize.

## AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2705. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. THUNE) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2597, to require the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to make certain operational models available to the public, and for other purposes.

SA 2706. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. WICKER) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 4704, to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support multidisciplinary research on the science of suicide, and to advance the knowledge and understanding of issues that may be associated with several aspects of suicide including intrinsic and extrinsic factors related to areas such as wellbeing, resilience, and vulnerability.

SA 2707. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. ALEXANDER) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1636, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the scope of new chemical exclusivity.

## TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2705. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. THUNE) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2597, to require the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to make certain operational models available to the public, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Learning Excellence and Good Examples from New Developers Act of 2020” or the “LEGEND Act of 2020”.

### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATION.—The term “Administration” means the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(3) EARTH PREDICTION INNOVATION CENTER.—The term “Earth Prediction Innovation Center” means the community global weather research modeling system described in paragraph (5)(E) of section 102(b) of the Weather Research Forecasting and Innovation Act of 2017 (15 U.S.C. 8512(b)), as redesignated by section 4(g).

(4) MODEL.—The term “model” means any vetted numerical model and associated data assimilation of the Earth’s system or its components—

(A) developed, in whole or in part, by scientists and engineers employed by the Administration; or

(B) otherwise developed using Federal funds.

(5) OPERATIONAL MODEL.—The term “operational model” means any model that has an output used by the Administration for operational functions.

(6) SUITABLE MODEL.—The term “suitable model” means a model that meets the requirements described in paragraph (5)(E)(ii) of section 102(b) of the Weather Research Forecasting and Innovation Act of 2017 (15 U.S.C. 8512(b)), as redesignated by section 4(g), as determined by the Administrator.

### SEC. 3. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to support innovation in modeling by allowing interested stakeholders to have easy and complete access to the models used by the Administration, as the Administrator determines appropriate; and

(2) to use vetted innovations arising from access described in paragraph (1) to improve modeling by the Administration.

### SEC. 4. PLAN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PLAN TO MAKE CERTAIN MODELS AND DATA AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall develop and implement a plan to make available to the public the following:

(1) Operational models developed by the Administration.

(2) Models that are not operational models, including experimental and developmental models, as the Administrator determines appropriate.

(3) Applicable information and documentation for models described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

(4) Subject to section 7, all data owned by the Federal Government and data that the Administrator has the legal right to redistribute that are associated with models made available to the public pursuant to the plan and used in operational forecasting by the Administration, including—

(A) relevant metadata;

(B) data used for operational models used by the Administration as of the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(C) a description of intended model outputs.

(b) ACCOMMODATIONS.—In developing and implementing the plan under subsection (a), the Administrator may make such accommodations as the Administrator considers appropriate to ensure that the public release of any model, information, documentation, or data pursuant to the plan under subsection (a) does not jeopardize—

(1) national security;

(2) intellectual property or redistribution rights, including under titles 17 and 35, United States Code;

(3) any trade secret or commercial or financial information subject to section 552(b)(4) of title 5, United States Code;

(4) any models or data that are otherwise restricted by contract or other written agreement; or

(5) the mission of the Administration to protect lives and property.

(c) PRIORITY.—In developing and implementing the plan under subsection (a), the Administrator shall prioritize making available to the public the models described in subsection (a)(1).

(d) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN MODELS.—In developing and implementing the plan under subsection (a), the Administrator may exclude models that the Administrator determines will be retired or superseded in fewer than 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(e) PLATFORMS.—In carrying out subsections (a) and (b), the Administrator may

use government servers, contracts or agreements with a private vendor, or any other platform consistent with the purpose of this Act.

(f) **SUPPORT PROGRAM.**—The Administrator shall plan for and establish a program to support infrastructure, including telecommunications and technology infrastructure of the Administration and the platforms described in subsection (e), relevant to making operational models and data available to the public pursuant to the plan under subsection (a).

(g) **TECHNICAL CORRECTION.**—Section 102(b) of the Weather Research Forecasting and Innovation Act of 2017 (15 U.S.C. 8512(b)) is amended by redesignating the second paragraph (4) (as added by section 4(a) of the National Integrated Drought Information System Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-423; 132 Stat. 5456)) as paragraph (5).

## **SEC. 5. REQUIREMENT TO REVIEW MODELS AND LEVERAGE INNOVATIONS.**

The Administrator shall—

(1) consistent with the mission of the Earth Prediction Innovation Center, periodically review innovations and improvements made by persons outside the Administration to the operational models made available to the public pursuant to the plan under section 4(a) in order to improve the accuracy and timeliness of forecasts of the Administration; and

(2) if the Administrator identifies an innovation for a suitable model, develop and implement a plan to use the innovation to improve the model.

## **SEC. 6. REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the implementation of this Act that includes a description of—

(1) the implementation of the plan required by section 4;

(2) the process of the Administration under section 5—

(A) for engaging with interested stakeholders to learn what innovations those stakeholders have found;

(B) for reviewing those innovations; and

(C) for operationalizing innovations to improve suitable models.

(b) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

## **SEC. 7. PROTECTION OF NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, as appropriate, may withhold any model or data if the Administrator determines doing so to be necessary to protect the national security interests of the United States.

(b) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to supersede any other provision of law governing the protection of the national security interests of the United States.

**SA 2706.** Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. WICKER) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 4704, to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support multidisciplinary research on the science of suicide, and to advance the knowledge and understanding of

issues that may be associated with several aspects of suicide including intrinsic and extrinsic factors related to areas such as wellbeing, resilience, and vulnerability; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

### **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Advancing Research to Prevent Suicide Act”.

### **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

Congress finds the following:

(1) The rate of Americans dying by suicide is on the rise, increasing 10.7 to 14.0 deaths per 100,000 people from 2001 to 2017.

(2) Suicide is the tenth-leading cause of death among people in the United States and the second-leading cause of death for young people between the ages of 15 and 34.

(3) The National Science Foundation funds research that is improving our basic understanding of factors with potential relevance to suicide, including potential relevance to prevention and treatment.

(4) Despite progress in mental health research, current gaps exist in scientific understanding and basic knowledge of human neural, genetic, cognitive, perceptual, behavioral, social, and environmental factors with potential relevance to suicide.

### **SEC. 3. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION RESEARCH.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director of the National Science Foundation, in consultation with the Director of the National Institutes of Health and the Director of the National Institute of Mental Health and taking into consideration prioritized research agendas or strategic plans, as appropriate, shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, award grants on a competitive, merit-reviewed basis to institutions of higher education (or consortia of such institutions) to support multidisciplinary, fundamental research with potential relevance to suicide, including potential relevance to prevention and treatment, including, but not limited to—

(1) basic understanding of human social behavior;

(2) the neural basis of human cognition;

(3) basic understanding of cognitive, linguistic, social, cultural, and biological processes related to human development across the lifespan;

(4) basic understanding of perceptual, motor, and cognitive processes, and their interaction, in typical human behavior; and

(5) basic understanding of the relevance of drug and alcohol abuse.

(b) **ENCOURAGING APPLICATIONS FROM EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS.**—To promote the development of early career researchers, in awarding funds under subsection (a), the Director of the National Science Foundation shall encourage applications submitted by early career researchers, including doctoral students or postdoctoral researchers.

**SA 2707.** Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. ALEXANDER) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1636, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the scope of new chemical exclusivity; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

### **SECTION 1. CLARIFYING THE MEANING OF NEW CHEMICAL ENTITY.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter V of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act is amended—

(1) in section 505 (21 U.S.C. 355)—

(A) in subsection (c)(3)(E), by striking “active ingredient (including any ester or salt of the active ingredient)” each place it appears and inserting “active moiety (as defined by

the Secretary in section 314.3 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations))”;

(B) in subsection (j)(5)(F), by striking “active ingredient (including any ester or salt of the active ingredient)” each place it appears and inserting “active moiety (as defined by the Secretary in section 314.3 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations))”;

(C) in subsection (1)(2)(A)—

(i) by amending clause (i) to read as follows:

“(i) not later than 30 days after the date of approval of such applications—

“(I) for a drug, no active moiety (as defined by the Secretary in section 314.3 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations)) of which has been approved in any other application under this section; or

“(II) for a biological product, no active ingredient of which has been approved in any other application under section 351 of the Public Health Service Act; and”;

(ii) in clause (ii), by inserting “or biological product” before the period;

(D) by amending subsection (s) to read as follows:

“(s) **REFERRAL TO ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**—The Secretary shall—

“(1) refer a drug or biological product to a Food and Drug Administration advisory committee for review at a meeting of such advisory committee prior to the approval of such drug or biological if it is—

“(A) a drug, no active moiety (as defined by the Secretary in section 314.3 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations)) of which has been approved in any other application under this section; or

“(B) a biological product, no active ingredient of which has been approved in any other application under section 351 of the Public Health Service Act; or

“(2) if the Secretary does not refer a drug or biological product described in paragraph (1) to a Food and Drug Administration advisory committee prior to such approval, provide in the action letter on the application for the drug or biological product a summary of the reasons why the Secretary did not refer the drug or biological product to an advisory committee prior to approval.”; and

(E) in subsection (u)(1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking “active ingredient (including any ester or salt of the active ingredient)” and inserting “active moiety (as defined by the Secretary in section 314.3 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations))”; and

(ii) by striking “same active ingredient” and inserting “same active moiety”;

(2) in section 512(c)(2)(F) (21 U.S.C. 360b(c)(2)(F)), by striking “active ingredient (including any ester or salt of the active ingredient)” each place it appears and inserting “active moiety (as defined by the Secretary in section 314.3 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations))”;

(3) in section 524(a)(4) (21 U.S.C. 360n(a)(4)), by amending subparagraph (C) to read as follows:

“(C) is for—

“(i) a human drug, no active moiety (as defined by the Secretary in section 314.3 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations)) of which has been approved in any other application under section 505(b)(1); or

“(ii) a biological product, no active ingredient of which has been approved in any other application under section 351 of the Public Health Service Act.”;



(4) in section 529(a)(4) (21 U.S.C. 21 U.S.C. 360ff(a)(4)), by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

“(A) is for a drug or biological product that is for the prevention or treatment of a rare pediatric disease;

“(B)(i) is for such a drug—

“(I) that contains no active moiety (as defined by the Secretary in section 314.3 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations)) that has been previously approved in any other application under subsection (b)(1), (b)(2), or (j) of section 505; and

“(II) that is the subject of an application submitted under section 505(b)(1); or

“(ii) is for such a biological product—

“(I) that contains no active ingredient that has been previously approved in any other application under section 351(a) or 351(k) of the Public Health Service Act; and

“(II) that is the subject of an application submitted under section 351(a) of the Public Health Service Act;”;

(5) in section 565A(a)(4) (21 U.S.C. 360bbb-4a(a)(4)), by amending subparagraph (D) to read as follows:

“(D) is for—

“(i) a human drug, no active moiety (as defined by the Secretary in section 314.3 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations)) of which has been approved in any other application under section 505(b)(1); or

“(ii) a biological product, no active ingredient of which has been approved in any other application under section 351 of the Public Health Service Act.”

(b) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.—Chapter V of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 351 et seq) is amended—

(1) in section 505 (21 U.S.C. 355)—

(A) in subsection (c)(3)(E), by repealing clause (i); and

(B) in subsection (j)(5)(F), by repealing clause (i); and

(2) in section 505A(c)(1)(A)(i)(II) (21 U.S.C. 355a(c)(1)(A)(i)(II)), by striking “(c)(3)(D)” and inserting “(c)(3)(E)”.

## LEARNING EXCELLENCE AND GOOD EXAMPLES FROM NEW DEVELOPERS ACT OF 2019

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 514, S. 2597.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read, as follows:

A bill (S. 2597) to require the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to make certain operational models available to the public, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation with an amendment, as follows:

(The part of the bill intended to be stricken is shown in boldface brackets and the part of the bill intended to be inserted is shown in italics.)

S. 2597

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

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Learning Excellence and Good Examples from New Developers Act of 2019” or the “LEGEND Act of 2019”.

### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATION.—The term “Administration” means the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(3) MODEL.—The term “model” means any numerical model of the Earth’s system or its components produced by scientists employed by the Administration.

(4) OPERATIONAL MODEL.—The term “operational model” means any model that has an output used by the Administration for operational or public service functions.

(5) OPEN SOURCE CODE.—The term “open source code” means computer code or programming language that is available for public use or modification.

### SEC. 3. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to support innovation in modeling by allowing interested stakeholders to have easy and complete access to the models used by the Administration; and

(2) to use vetted innovations arising from access provided under paragraph (1) to improve modeling by the Administration.

### SEC. 4. REQUIREMENT TO MAKE CERTAIN OPERATIONAL MODELS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall make available to the public the following:

(1) Current and future operational models developed by the Administration, in the form of open source code for a period consistent with applicable records retention requirements.

(2) All Government-owned data, subject to redistribution rights, associated with such models and used in operational forecasting by the Administration, including—

(A) relevant metadata;

(B) data used for current operational forecasts; and

(C) a description of intended model outputs.

(b) DISCRETION TO MAKE EXPERIMENTAL OR DEVELOPMENT MODELS AVAILABLE.—The Administrator may make experimental or developmental models associated with development projects funded by the Administration available to the public as open source code.

(c) PLATFORM.—In carrying out subsections (a) and (b), the Administrator may use government servers, contracts or agreements with a private vendor, or any other platform consistent with the purpose of this Act.

(d) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 102(b) of the Weather Research Forecasting and Innovation Act of 2017 (15 U.S.C. 8512(b)) is amended by redesignating the second paragraph (4) (as added by section 4(a) of the National Integrated Drought Information System Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-423)) as paragraph (5).

(e) PHASED IMPLEMENTATION.—

(1) IMMEDIATE EFFECT FOR CERTAIN MODELS.—For operational models that, as of the date of the enactment of this Act, meet the requirements described in paragraph (5)(E)(ii) of section 102(b) of the Weather Research Forecasting and Innovation Act of 2017 (15 U.S.C. 8512(b)), as redesignated by subsection (d), the Administrator shall implement the requirements of subsection (a) as soon as practicable after such date of enactment.

(2) NEW MODELS.—For operational models that meet the requirements described in paragraph (1) and are created or substantially updated after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall implement the requirements of subsection

(a) not later than 1 year after such date of enactment.

### SEC. 5. REQUIREMENT TO REVIEW MODELS AND LEVERAGE INNOVATIONS.

The Administrator shall—

(1) consistent with the mission of the Earth Prediction Innovation Center, periodically review innovations and improvements made by persons outside the Administration to the operational models made available to the public under section 4 in order to improve the accuracy and timeliness of forecasts of the Administration; and

(2) if the Administrator identifies an innovation for such a model the Administrator considers suitable, develop and implement a plan to use the innovation to improve the model.

### SEC. 6. REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the implementation of this Act that includes a description of—

(1) how operational models have been made publicly available as required by section 4(a); and

(2) the process of the Administration under section 5—

(A) for engaging with interested stakeholders to learn what innovations those stakeholders have found;

(B) for reviewing those innovations; and

(C) for operationalizing innovations the Administrator considers suitable.

(b) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

### SEC. 7. PROTECTION OF NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Administrator may withhold models or data used in operational weather forecasting if the Administrator determines doing so to be necessary to protect the national security interests of the United States.

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to supersede any other provision of law governing the protection of the national security interests of the United States.

### [SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.]

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Administration for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2026 such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act.]

### SEC. 8. FUNDING.

*The Administrator shall carry out this Act using amounts available to the Administrator for fiscal years 2021 through 2026.*

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment be withdrawn; that the Thune substitute amendment at the desk be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The committee-reported amendment was withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 2705), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Learning Excellence and Good Examples from New Developers Act of 2020” or the “LEGEND Act of 2020”.

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **ADMINISTRATION.**—The term “Administration” means the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(2) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term “Administrator” means the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(3) **EARTH PREDICTION INNOVATION CENTER.**—The term “Earth Prediction Innovation Center” means the community global weather research modeling system described in paragraph (5)(E) of section 102(b) of the Weather Research Forecasting and Innovation Act of 2017 (15 U.S.C. 8512(b)), as redesignated by section 4(g).

(4) **MODEL.**—The term “model” means any vetted numerical model and associated data assimilation of the Earth’s system or its components—

(A) developed, in whole or in part, by scientists and engineers employed by the Administration; or

(B) otherwise developed using Federal funds.

(5) **OPERATIONAL MODEL.**—The term “operational model” means any model that has an output used by the Administration for operational functions.

(6) **SUITABLE MODEL.**—The term “suitable model” means a model that meets the requirements described in paragraph (5)(E)(ii) of section 102(b) of the Weather Research Forecasting and Innovation Act of 2017 (15 U.S.C. 8512(b)), as redesignated by section 4(g), as determined by the Administrator.

#### SEC. 3. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to support innovation in modeling by allowing interested stakeholders to have easy and complete access to the models used by the Administration, as the Administrator determines appropriate; and

(2) to use vetted innovations arising from access described in paragraph (1) to improve modeling by the Administration.

#### SEC. 4. PLAN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PLAN TO MAKE CERTAIN MODELS AND DATA AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator shall develop and implement a plan to make available to the public the following:

(1) Operational models developed by the Administration.

(2) Models that are not operational models, including experimental and developmental models, as the Administrator determines appropriate.

(3) Applicable information and documentation for models described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

(4) Subject to section 7, all data owned by the Federal Government and data that the Administrator has the legal right to redistribute that are associated with models made available to the public pursuant to the plan and used in operational forecasting by the Administration, including—

(A) relevant metadata;

(B) data used for operational models used by the Administration as of the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(C) a description of intended model outputs.

(b) **ACCOMMODATIONS.**—In developing and implementing the plan under subsection (a), the Administrator may make such accom-

modations as the Administrator considers appropriate to ensure that the public release of any model, information, documentation, or data pursuant to the plan does not jeopardize—

(1) national security;

(2) intellectual property or redistribution rights, including under titles 17 and 35, United States Code;

(3) any trade secret or commercial or financial information subject to section 552(b)(4) of title 5, United States Code;

(4) any models or data that are otherwise restricted by contract or other written agreement; or

(5) the mission of the Administration to protect lives and property.

(c) **PRIORITY.**—In developing and implementing the plan under subsection (a), the Administrator shall prioritize making available to the public the models described in subsection (a)(1).

(d) **EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN MODELS.**—In developing and implementing the plan under subsection (a), the Administrator may exclude models that the Administrator determines will be retired or superseded in fewer than 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(e) **PLATFORMS.**—In carrying out subsections (a) and (b), the Administrator may use government servers, contracts or agreements with a private vendor, or any other platform consistent with the purpose of this Act.

(f) **SUPPORT PROGRAM.**—The Administrator shall plan for and establish a program to support infrastructure, including telecommunications and technology infrastructure of the Administration and the platforms described in subsection (e), relevant to making operational models and data available to the public pursuant to the plan under subsection (a).

(g) **TECHNICAL CORRECTION.**—Section 102(b) of the Weather Research Forecasting and Innovation Act of 2017 (15 U.S.C. 8512(b)) is amended by redesignating the second paragraph (4) (as added by section 4(a) of the National Integrated Drought Information System Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-423; 132 Stat. 5456)) as paragraph (5).

#### SEC. 5. REQUIREMENT TO REVIEW MODELS AND LEVERAGE INNOVATIONS.

The Administrator shall—

(1) consistent with the mission of the Earth Prediction Innovation Center, periodically review innovations and improvements made by persons outside the Administration to the operational models made available to the public pursuant to the plan under section 4(a) in order to improve the accuracy and timeliness of forecasts of the Administration; and

(2) if the Administrator identifies an innovation for a suitable model, develop and implement a plan to use the innovation to improve the model.

#### SEC. 6. REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the implementation of this Act that includes a description of—

(1) the implementation of the plan required by section 4;

(2) the process of the Administration under section 5—

(A) for engaging with interested stakeholders to learn what innovations those stakeholders have found;

(B) for reviewing those innovations; and

(C) for operationalizing innovations to improve suitable models.

(b) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.**—In this section, the term

“appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

#### SEC. 7. PROTECTION OF NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, as appropriate, may withhold any model or data if the Administrator determines doing so to be necessary to protect the national security interests of the United States.

(b) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to supersede any other provision of law governing the protection of the national security interests of the United States.

The bill (S. 2597), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

#### ADVANCING RESEARCH TO PREVENT SUICIDE ACT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4704 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4704) to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support multidisciplinary research on the science of suicide, and to advance the knowledge and understanding of issues that may be associated with several aspects of suicide including intrinsic and extrinsic factors related to areas such as wellbeing, resilience, and vulnerability.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Wicker amendment at the desk be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 2706), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Advancing Research to Prevent Suicide Act”.

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The rate of Americans dying by suicide is on the rise, increasing 10.7 to 14.0 deaths per 100,000 people from 2001 to 2017.

(2) Suicide is the tenth-leading cause of death among people in the United States and the second-leading cause of death for young people between the ages of 15 and 34.

(3) The National Science Foundation funds research that is improving our basic understanding of factors with potential relevance to suicide, including potential relevance to prevention and treatment.

(4) Despite progress in mental health research, current gaps exist in scientific understanding and basic knowledge of human neural, genetic, cognitive, perceptual, behavioral, social, and environmental factors with potential relevance to suicide.

### SEC. 3. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION RESEARCH.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National Science Foundation, in consultation with the Director of the National Institutes of Health and the Director of the National Institute of Mental Health and taking into consideration prioritized research agendas or strategic plans, as appropriate, shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, award grants on a competitive, merit-reviewed basis to institutions of higher education (or consortia of such institutions) to support multidisciplinary, fundamental research with potential relevance to suicide, including potential relevance to prevention and treatment, including, but not limited to—

(1) basic understanding of human social behavior;

(2) the neural basis of human cognition;

(3) basic understanding of cognitive, linguistic, social, cultural, and biological processes related to human development across the lifespan;

(4) basic understanding of perceptual, motor, and cognitive processes, and their interaction, in typical human behavior; and

(5) basic understanding of the relevance of drug and alcohol abuse.

(b) ENCOURAGING APPLICATIONS FROM EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS.—To promote the development of early career researchers, in awarding funds under subsection (a), the Director of the National Science Foundation shall encourage applications submitted by early career researchers, including doctoral students or postdoctoral researchers.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 4704), as amended, was passed.

### ENSURING INNOVATION ACT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of S. 1636 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1636) to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the scope of new chemical exclusivity.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Alexander amendment at the desk be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 2707), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

### SECTION 1. CLARIFYING THE MEANING OF NEW CHEMICAL ENTITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter V of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act is amended—

(1) in section 505 (21 U.S.C. 355)—

(A) in subsection (c)(3)(E), by striking “active ingredient (including any ester or salt of the active ingredient)” each place it appears and inserting “active moiety (as defined by the Secretary in section 314.3 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations))”;

(B) in subsection (j)(5)(F), by striking “active ingredient (including any ester or salt of the active ingredient)” each place it appears and inserting “active moiety (as defined by the Secretary in section 314.3 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations))”;

(C) in subsection (l)(2)(A)—

(i) by amending clause (i) to read as follows:

“(i) not later than 30 days after the date of approval of such applications—

“(I) for a drug, no active moiety (as defined by the Secretary in section 314.3 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations)) of which has been approved in any other application under this section; or

“(II) for a biological product, no active ingredient of which has been approved in any other application under section 351 of the Public Health Service Act; and”; and

(ii) in clause (ii), by inserting “or biological product” before the period;

(D) by amending subsection (s) to read as follows:

“(s) REFERRAL TO ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The Secretary shall—

“(1) refer a drug or biological product to a Food and Drug Administration advisory committee for review at a meeting of such advisory committee prior to the approval of such drug or biological if it is—

“(A) a drug, no active moiety (as defined by the Secretary in section 314.3 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations)) of which has been approved in any other application under this section; or

“(B) a biological product, no active ingredient of which has been approved in any other application under section 351 of the Public Health Service Act; or

“(2) if the Secretary does not refer a drug or biological product described in paragraph (1) to a Food and Drug Administration advisory committee prior to such approval, provide in the action letter on the application for the drug or biological product a summary of the reasons why the Secretary did not refer the drug or biological product to an advisory committee prior to approval.”; and

(E) in subsection (u)(1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking “active ingredient (including any ester or salt of the active ingredient)” and inserting “active moiety (as defined by the Secretary in section 314.3 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations))”; and

(ii) by striking “same active ingredient” and inserting “same active moiety”;

(2) in section 512(c)(2)(F) (21 U.S.C. 360b(c)(2)(F)), by striking “active ingredient (including any ester or salt of the active ingredient)” each place it appears and inserting “active moiety (as defined by the Secretary in section 314.3 of title 21, Code of

Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations))”;

(3) in section 524(a)(4) (21 U.S.C. 360n(a)(4)), by amending subparagraph (C) to read as follows:

“(C) is for—

“(i) a human drug, no active moiety (as defined by the Secretary in section 314.3 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations)) of which has been approved in any other application under section 505(b)(1); or

“(ii) a biological product, no active ingredient of which has been approved in any other application under section 351 of the Public Health Service Act.”;

(4) in section 529(a)(4) (21 U.S.C. 360ff(a)(4)), by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

“(A) is for a drug or biological product that is for the prevention or treatment of a rare pediatric disease;

“(B)(i) is for such a drug—

“(I) that contains no active moiety (as defined by the Secretary in section 314.3 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations)) that has been previously approved in any other application under subsection (b)(1), (b)(2), or (j) of section 505; and

“(II) that is the subject of an application submitted under section 505(b)(1); or

“(ii) is for such a biological product—

“(I) that contains no active ingredient that has been previously approved in any other application under section 351(a) or 351(k) of the Public Health Service Act; and

“(II) that is the subject of an application submitted under section 351(a) of the Public Health Service Act.”; and

(5) in section 565A(a)(4) (21 U.S.C. 360bbb-4a(a)(4)), by amending subparagraph (D) to read as follows:

“(D) is for—

“(i) a human drug, no active moiety (as defined by the Secretary in section 314.3 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations)) of which has been approved in any other application under section 505(b)(1); or

“(ii) a biological product, no active ingredient of which has been approved in any other application under section 351 of the Public Health Service Act.”;

(b) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.—Chapter V of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 351 et seq) is amended—

(1) in section 505 (21 U.S.C. 355)—

(A) in subsection (c)(3)(E), by repealing clause (i); and

(B) in subsection (j)(5)(F), by repealing clause (i); and

(2) in section 505A(c)(1)(A)(i)(II) (21 U.S.C. 355a(c)(1)(A)(i)(II)), by striking “(c)(3)(D)” and inserting “(c)(3)(E)”.

The bill (S. 1636), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

### CORRECTING THE ENROLLMENT OF S. 3312

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 52.

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

The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 52) to correct the enrollment of S. 3312.

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

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent 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. 52) was agreed to.

(The concurrent resolution is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

## ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2020

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, December 15; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Kirsch nomination; further, that the Senate recess at 12:30 until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings; finally, that all time during recess, adjournment, leader remarks, and morning business count postcloture on the Kirsch nomination.

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

## ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:10 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, December 15, 2020, at 10 a.m.

## CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate December 14, 2020:

### IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14 U.S.C., SECTION 2121(E):

#### To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. MICHAEL H. DAY  
CAPT. MARY M. DEAN  
CAPT. CHARLES E. FOSSE  
CAPT. CHAD L. JACOBY  
CAPT. CAROLA J. G. LIST  
CAPT. MICHAEL W. RAYMOND  
CAPT. EDWARD M. ST. PIERRE

### IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

#### To be major general

BRIG. GEN. AUSTIN E. RENFORTH  
IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

### To be brigadier general

COL. GUY M. JONES

### IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

#### To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. MICHAEL T. PLEHN

### IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

#### To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. JEFFREY W. HUGHES

### IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

#### To be major general

BRIG. GEN. PATRICK J. COBB  
BRIG. GEN. NICHOLAS A. GENTILE, JR.  
BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL T. GEROCK  
BRIG. GEN. DUKE A. PIRAK  
BRIG. GEN. DARRIN E. SLATEN

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

#### To be major general

BRIG. GEN. MATTHEW D. DINMORE  
BRIG. GEN. GENE W. HUGHES, JR.  
BRIG. GEN. TONI M. LORD  
BRIG. GEN. PETER NEZAMIS  
BRIG. GEN. GREGG A. PEREZ  
BRIG. GEN. THOMAS M. SUEZLER  
BRIG. GEN. MARK A. WEBER

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

#### To be major general

BRIG. GEN. SANDRA L. BEST  
BRIG. GEN. CHARLES G. JEFFRIES  
BRIG. GEN. JAMES C. MCEACHEN  
BRIG. GEN. SHANNA M. WOYAK  
BRIG. GEN. BRETT A. WYRICK

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

#### To be major general

BRIG. GEN. JAMES R. CAMP  
BRIG. GEN. THOMAS F. GRABOWSKI  
BRIG. GEN. PAUL E. KNAPP  
BRIG. GEN. RICHARD R. NEELY  
BRIG. GEN. TORRENCE W. SAXE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

#### To be major general

BRIG. GEN. BARRY A. BLANCHARD

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

#### To be brigadier general

COL. TARA D. MCKENNIE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

#### To be brigadier general

COL. MATTHEW A. BARKER  
COL. MATTHEW A. BOURASSA  
COL. MICHAEL J. BRUNO  
COL. MICHAEL O. CADLE  
COL. JOHN J. CAMPO  
COL. DAVID J. CIESIELSKI  
COL. ALICE A. CLARK  
COL. DAVID V. COCHRAN  
COL. LYNN E. COLE  
COL. JOHN M. COSGROVE  
COL. KURT R. DAVIS  
COL. JASON D. DICKINSON  
COL. LEON J. DODROE  
COL. DANIEL M. FESLER  
COL. EMIL J. FILKORN  
COL. ROBERT T. GREGORY  
COL. DAVID B. JOHNSON  
COL. MICHELE L. KILGORE  
COL. BRADFORD U. LARSON  
COL. VICTOR R. MACIAS  
COL. DEAN B. MARTIN, JR.

COL. DANIEL R. MCDONOUGH  
COL. ALLISON C. MILLER  
COL. MARK W. MITCHUM  
COL. MICHELLE R. MULBERRY  
COL. BILLY F. MURPHY, JR.  
COL. JOHN R. O'CONNOR  
COL. DAVID A. PREISMAN  
COL. JORI A. ROBINSON  
COL. SHANNON D. SMITH  
COL. BRYONY A. TERRELL

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

#### To be brigadier general

COL. JEFFREY R. ALEXANDER  
COL. MARK A. GOODWILL  
COL. MARK A. MUCKEY  
COL. RICK L. MUTCHLER

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

#### To be brigadier general

COL. JOHN H. BONDHUS  
COL. JEFFREY D. COATS  
COL. SEAN F. CONROY  
COL. MICHAEL L. CORNELL  
COL. EDWARD H. EVANS, JR.  
COL. CHRISTOPHER K. FAUROT  
COL. LAWRENCE P. HAGER  
COL. DAVID M. HOUGHLAND  
COL. CATHERINE M. JUMPER  
COL. JULIO R. LAIRET  
COL. WILLIAM M. LEAHY  
COL. JAMES R. PARRY  
COL. LYLE D. SHIDLA  
COL. TODD R. STARBUCK  
COL. MELINDA L. SUTTON  
COL. MICHAEL T. VENERDI  
COL. PETER L. ZALEWSKI

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

#### To be brigadier general

COL. DENISE M. DONNELL

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

#### To be brigadier general

COL. ANTHONY D. STRATTON

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF MICHAEL G. KING, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JEFFREY DONALD ADLING AND ENDING WITH CHRISTOPHER D. ZAREMSKI, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 12, 2020.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHIKAODI H. AKALAONU AND ENDING WITH TABATHA R. ZELHART, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 12, 2020.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRIAN C. ADKINS AND ENDING WITH SCOTT C. ZETTERSTROM, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 12, 2020.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JASON W. ABSHIRE AND ENDING WITH BRIAN P. YODER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 12, 2020.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH PRISCILLA M. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH ISAAC C. WILLIAMS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 12, 2020.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF MIRIAM A. KRIEGER, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JEAN P. PELTIER AND ENDING WITH TARA L. VILLENA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 12, 2020.

### IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATION OF JOHN M. TOKISH, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MARK Y. LEE, TO BE COLONEL.  
ARMY NOMINATION OF ANDREW C. SINELLI, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF PHILLIP J. ARMSTRONG, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF TONY D. NGUYEN, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MATTHEW B. HARRISON, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MICHAEL S. SCIOLETTI, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF BRANDON M. CRISP, TO BE SECOND LIEUTENANT.

### IN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF WILLIAM J. WARKENTIN, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF JARED L. REDDINGER, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

## IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RAUL T. ACEVEDO AND ENDING WITH SHEU O. YUSUF, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 20, 2020.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRANDEN J. ALBRECHT AND ENDING WITH BRANDY L. ZEHR, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 20, 2020.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MARK E. BEAUDET AND ENDING WITH ZACHARY B. ZUMWALT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 20, 2020.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHRISTOPHER L. ADCOCK AND ENDING WITH MICHAEL J. YOSHIHARA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 20, 2020.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JASON E. HAYES AND ENDING WITH CHRISTOPHER S. WALTON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 20, 2020.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JEFFREY B. ADAY AND ENDING WITH JESSICA L. ZIMMERMAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 26, 2020.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOHN A. O. ABORDO AND ENDING WITH TRUE XIONG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 26, 2020.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOSHUA M. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH KENT J. D. WONG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 26, 2020.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CASSANDRA E. ABBOTT AND ENDING WITH JAMES J. YOON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 26, 2020.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH EZINDU U. ANANTI AND ENDING WITH ERIC C. WRIGHT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 26, 2020.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHAEL A. AJAO AND ENDING WITH BRYAN E. WOOLDRIDGE, JR., WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 12, 2020.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH NATALIE R. BAKAN AND ENDING WITH CHRISTOPHER E. VERZOSA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 12, 2020.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JAMES P. ADWELL AND ENDING WITH JESSICA N. WOODY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 12, 2020.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRYAN C. BARLETT AND ENDING WITH DAVID W. WARNING, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 12, 2020.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH COLLEEN L. ABUZEID AND ENDING WITH ROBYN V. WHITE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 12, 2020.

NAVY NOMINATION OF BRIAN B. TOUPIN, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF JENNIFER L. RHINEHART, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF BRANDON E. CLARK, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHRISTOPHER L. ALLEN AND ENDING WITH EDWARD P. WINDAS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 12, 2020.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RAYNARD ALLEN AND ENDING WITH MARLIN WILLIAMS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 12, 2020.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JAMES G. ANGERMAN AND ENDING WITH JOSEPH M. ZUKOWSKY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 12, 2020.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MATTHEW B. ALEXANDER AND ENDING WITH ANGELINA R. WOODBURN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 18, 2020.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DEREK S. BERNSEN AND ENDING WITH WILLIAM J. REIMER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 18, 2020.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DEENA R. ABT AND ENDING WITH TODD W. WISH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 18, 2020.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH PATRICK R. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH DAVID M. YOST, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 18, 2020.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOSHUA D. ALLEN AND ENDING WITH SHAWN F. ZENTNER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 18, 2020.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH OLUWASEUN O. O. ABEGUNDE AND ENDING WITH PETER J. ZOLLWEG,

WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 18, 2020.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BEKIM F. AUSTIN AND ENDING WITH HENRY A. VILLATORO, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 18, 2020.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ROBERT T. AUGUSTINE AND ENDING WITH ALEXANDER J. WUNDERLICH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 18, 2020.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH GAVIN L. KUREY AND ENDING WITH ANTHONY J. WICH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 18, 2020.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHRISTOPHER S. FIFE II AND ENDING WITH WAYNE M. ZANNI, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 18, 2020.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JAMES F. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH MARY C. WALSH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 18, 2020.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DAVID F. BORING AND ENDING WITH JACQUELINE ZIMNY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 18, 2020.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH NEHA U. ATHAVALE AND ENDING WITH ERIC T. WILMER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 18, 2020.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MALIKUL A. AZIZ AND ENDING WITH SCOTT H. ZINN II, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 18, 2020.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH LUIS E. BANCHS AND ENDING WITH MATTHEW K. WITTKOPP, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 18, 2020.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH GEORGE W. ACFALLE AND ENDING WITH EMMA S. YEARBY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 18, 2020.

## SPACE FORCE

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ISRAEL ABENSUR AND ENDING WITH DEVIN LEE ZUFELT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 12, 2020.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING KATELYN  
SEELEY, NATALIE PARA, AND  
VICTORIA CHROSTOWSKI

**HON. DEBBIE LESKO**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 14, 2020*

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Katelyn Seeley, Natalie Para, and Victoria Chrostowski on winning the 2020 Congressional App Challenge for Arizona's 8th Congressional District. Their app, *How Are You*, asks users key questions about their emotional and physical well-being. Users can receive personalized responses based on their answers to specific questions that include tips and different forms of encouragement. The app also provides resources and guidance for individuals who may require further professional assistance.

They were inspired to create their app in order to mitigate the increasing issue of mental health, especially among those in their age group.

Katelyn, Natalie, and Victoria are all seniors at Xavier Preparatory High School in Phoenix, Arizona.

I am so honored to represent these bright young students in Congress.

IN HONOR OF DEIRDRE MARTIN

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 14, 2020*

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Deirdre Martin as she departs from the Pacifica City Council where she served for four years, the last year as mayor. Serving as mayor of a small town is never an easy task, but it's particularly challenging during a pandemic not seen in a century. Deirdre took her responsibility to keep the residents of Pacifica safe very seriously and did a remarkable job keeping them informed with regular updates, FAQs and informational videos.

Running for city council takes true dedication to public service. Council members are paid a token amount of \$400 a month and put in long hours of meetings, calls, events, and research, often while holding a full-time job. That is true in Deirdre's case who is a senior IT project manager with the Pasha Group, a transportation and logistics management company based in Marin County. Additionally, she is raising two young children. How she found time to volunteer and serve on the council is a wonder and a testament to her passion to help others.

During her time on the council, Deirdre has accomplished much, and much of it has been informed by her environmental and social activism. She was instrumental in making Pacifica the first city in the county to ban single use plastic and in officially recognizing it

as a "Tree City USA" under the Arbor Day Foundation. Her efforts helped Pacifica receive a grant to make the new Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan a reality. Deirdre served for two years each on the Peninsula Clean Energy Board of Directors, the Open Space and Parkland Advisory Committee, the C/CAG Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee and the Emergency Preparation Committee. She also worked closely with her colleagues and the community on the Local Coastal Plan and the General Plan of the city. A strong opponent of offshore drilling, she helped implement language that divests the city from the fossil fuel industry.

While working on environmental issues on the council, Deirdre still found time to continue her long membership in the Pacific Beach Coalition and she maintained her role as the site captain for Sharp Park Beach. I truly admire her commitment to clean air, clean water and our fight against climate change. I imagine that the last thing she ever imagined doing is to close down beaches during the COVID-19 pandemic to keep residents and visitors safe.

Deirdre is an avid advocate for government transparency, justice and equity. She has stood up for the rights of minority populations and immigrants. Motivated by the Black Lives Matter marches in protest of the killing of George Floyd this summer, she signed on to the Obama Foundation "My Brother's Keeper" Mayoral Pledge and has collaborated closely with the Pacifica Police Department and community members to create a non-biased, non-racist environment.

Pacifica, a beautiful beach town of about 40,000, has faced fiscal challenges. The Great Recession of 2007, a series of El Nino storms in 2016 and the current COVID-19 pandemic have taken a toll on the city budget. Deirdre, along with her colleagues, have worked hard to bring new revenue to the city. A short-term rental tax and a sales tax for marijuana is estimated to increase city revenue by more than \$850,000.

Madam Speaker, as Deirdre Martin is retiring from the Pacifica City Council, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking her for her service to the residents of Pacifica and San Mateo County. She will now have fewer Zoom calls to attend and will be able to spend more time with her husband Kai Martin and their two daughters Nova and Astra. However, I am certain she will remain active and engaged in pursuit of social and environmental justice for all. It has been my honor to serve with her.

HONORING MICHAEL MILLER, SR.

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 14, 2020*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and service of Michael Miller, Sr.

Michael Miller leaves behind a significant legacy of advocacy for his community of

Rodeo, California and on behalf of his brothers and sisters in labor, with Phillips 66 United Steel Workers (USW) Local 326. Mr. Miller's passion for community involvement and activism within Contra Costa County will leave a lasting impact.

Mr. Miller worked for 30 years at the Phillips 66 San Francisco Refinery in Maintenance, Oil Movements and Bulk Utilities, as well as on the Renewable Diesel project. A natural born leader, Mr. Miller served as president of USW 326 for more than 10 years, advocating at the state and federal level for 250 workers who serve as the backbone of American industry and fighting to protect wages and jobs. Mr. Miller was a strong supporter of the Phillips 66: Rodeo Renewed Project, which will continue to provide livable wage careers for the next generation of steelworkers.

Mr. Miller's dedication to his community extended beyond his work on labor rights advocacy. For over a decade, Miller donned a red suit and white beard and played Santa Claus, bringing holiday cheer at many Contra Costa County events. He also donated his time to uplift those struggling families and neighbors in his community through his work with the New Horizons Career Development Center and his community engagement work with the Bayo Vista community.

Madam Speaker, Michael Miller was the type of dedicated community member and leader we should all strive to be. His legacy leaves an opportunity for us all to become more involved in our communities and uphold the American dream. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

REFLECTIONS ON THE PROCESS  
ESTABLISHED BY THE FRAMERS  
FOR THE ELECTION OF THE  
PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT  
OF THE UNITED STATES

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 14, 2020*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise to offer a few brief thoughts on the process established by the Framers for the election of the President and Vice-President of the United States and the certain outcome of that process that will be known later today and ratified on in a Joint Meeting of Congress on January 6, 2021.

The impeached and electorally defeated incumbent has amassed a 98 percent failure record (1/50) in his legal challenges to the certification of electors.

Not to be outdone, the Texas Attorney General, joined by 17 Republican Attorneys General and 126 sitting Republican Members of Congress, filed a shameful, desperate Hail Mary action requesting the U.S. Supreme Court to disenfranchise 10 million voters in Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin because they claim somehow by the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



local decision made by those sovereign states to protect their citizens from a lethal pandemic by permitting voting by mail.

The Supreme Court summarily rejected this latest lawsuit, finding that petitioners lacked standing to bring their specious arguments.

Madam Speaker, it defies belief that persons claiming to revere the 10th Amendment and federalism would have taken this action that makes a mockery of their core beliefs and is so inconsistent with the bedrock principle that in America, it is "We, the People" who choose our leaders; leaders do not choose their voters.

The principle behind this most frivolous of lawsuits would allow the absurd result of California suing Texas for not expanding Medicaid, New York suing Mississippi for the way it runs its penal system, Illinois suing North Carolina for gerrymandering election districts, and Minnesota suing Alabama over its school funding mechanism.

This latest Republican led and Trump-inspired law suit, like the preceding 50, was not grounded in reality so it is useful to describe what the Constitution and the law prescribe regarding the process for electing a president.

First, it must be emphasized that while November 3 was Election Day throughout the nation, it was not a national election but a series of discreet and separate elections held in each state and District of Columbia to choose the persons who under the 12th Amendment are to meet six weeks later to cast the votes to elect the President and Vice-President.

The result of those elections was that Joe Biden was the leading vote-getter in more states with more people by larger margins than Donald Trump.

In fact, the latest tally of all votes cast shows Joe Biden has received more votes, 81.2 million, than anyone in history, outdistancing his vanquished rival by an astounding 7 million votes.

Second, the next important date in the electoral process is today, December 14, which is the first Monday after the second Wednesday and the date set by federal law, when the men and women chosen by the voters of their respective states gather in the several state capitals to cast their votes for President and Vice-President.

While there are a number of events yet to take place that are required by the Constitution and our laws, it is beyond any reasonable dispute what the culmination of these events will yield: an announcement on January 6, 2021 at a Joint Meeting of the Congress in the House of Representatives, by the President of the Senate, MIKE PENCE, to the nation and the world that Joseph R. Biden is elected as the 46th President and that KAMALA D. HARRIS is elected the 49th Vice-President of the United States.

While this meeting is popularly known as the Electoral College, it should be noted that this particular term is nowhere mentioned in the Constitution itself.

Instead, the Electoral College should properly be understood as a process, not a place, for electing the President and the Vice-President.

In every state, this process begins with the nomination by the state's political parties of candidates for the position of presidential elector.

Next, is the ascertainment of which slate of candidates were selected to be the electors,

which in every state is determined by the outcome of the presidential election held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in the preceding November.

After the electors have been ascertained, they are provided a writ of election by the state governor directing them to assemble in the state capital at a time specified on the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December to cast their votes for separately President and Vice-President.

Any judicial disputes regarding the appointment of electors that are decided in accordance with state laws in place before the election at least six days in advance of the meeting are conclusive as to the validity of the appointment.

Thirty-one states and the District of Columbia by law require electors to cast their votes for the candidate of the political party that nominated them and most of the rest require the elector to sign a pledge committing him or her to do so, but again, since electors are typically faithful members or workers of the political party that nominated them, such pledges merely state the obvious.

As I speak, all 50 states and the District of Columbia have certified the results of the presidential election, and since this was done at least six days before the meeting of electors, under Section 5 of the Electoral College Act, 3 U.S.C. 1 et seq., it is conclusive on the issue of whether the electors in those states were "lawfully certified."

The Certificates of Ascertainment appointing the electors transmitted to the National Archivist and the President of the Senate will document that enough candidates nominated by his party were elected to cast at minimum 306 electoral votes for Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS to be elected President and Vice-President of the United States, which is 36 more than the needed 270 vote majority.

Put another way, Joe Biden is slated to receive the exact number of electoral votes that were deemed to constitute a landslide, blow-out, historic triumph by the current President just four short years ago.

Third and finally, after the electors meet in the various state capitals next Monday, they will transmit their Certificates of Vote to the National Archivist where they will remain until opened on January 6, 2021 by Vice-President PENCE and counted in public before a Joint Meeting of the Congress.

When all the votes are tabulated, the Vice-President will then announce and make official what we all know right to be true: Joe Biden has been elected the 46th President of the United States and KAMALA HARRIS has been elected the 49th Vice-President and President of the Senate.

Two weeks later on January 20, at noon, on the steps of the West Front of the U.S. Capitol, Joe Biden will be inaugurated and will enter office after taking the oath in which he will solemnly affirm that he "will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

This outcome is not in doubt and no amount of suspending disbelief will make it so.

It is all over but the shouting—and the public counting of the electoral ballots in the Joint Meeting of the Congress on January 6, 2021.

The center holds and the system is working as the Framers envisioned it.

We can all celebrate that.

#### REMEMBERING ERVIN JULIAN

#### HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 14, 2020*

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Evie Nguyen of Glendale, Arizona, on winning the 2020 Congressional Art Competition for Arizona's 8th Congressional District.

Evie's artwork, completed in charcoal and titled "Mutual," highlights the close relationship between humans and nature by showcasing herself with a Cactus Wren, Arizona's state bird.

Evie was a senior at Deer Valley High School when the artwork was completed. Her art is currently being displayed in the U.S. Capitol along with the other Congressional Art Competition winners from around the country.

Each spring, I am proud to host the Congressional Art Competition to showcase the incredibly talented students across Arizona's 8th Congressional District.

It is an honor to represent these promising young artists in Congress.

#### IN HONOR OF JESS "JAY" BENTON

#### HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 14, 2020*

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jess "Jay" Benton as he departs the Hillsborough Town Council. Jay is deeply committed to serving his country and his community.

During the Vietnam War, Jay served as an officer on the USS *Lowe*, a destroyer escort. He is a graduate of the University of Southern California and is a big Trojans fan. He currently serves on the Board of Leaders at the University of Southern California Marshall School of Business.

He worked for 35 years for ABM Industries and retired as the Chief Operating Officer. In 2003, he was appointed Co-Chairman of the Expert Review Committee for the California Business, Transportation and Housing Agency and in 2004 he was appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger to the California Performance Review Commission. For several years he also served on the Town of Hillsborough's financial advisory board which, as a practical matter, offers the expert advice of global financial investors to the city council.

Prior to public service, his volunteer work included serving on the Board of Directors of the YMCA of San Francisco, as Chairman, and on the boards of Broadway by the Bay and the Hillsborough Schools Foundation. Clearly, Jay Benton is a man who relishes the challenge of responsibility.

His leap into the role of officeholder occurred when he was appointed to the city council in 2008 and solidified when he was elected in 2010. Since then, he's served three terms and as Mayor from December 2012 to December 2014. He's also been Hillsborough's member on the Central County

Fire Board, serving as Chairman in 2010 through 2011.

Jay joined the council with a willingness to learn everything, a determination to probe staff reports and to deliver for the residents of Hillsborough. I have heard how Jay saved the town \$1 million on a computer system purchase by challenging the cost.

Jay became the city's expert on water issues when he was appointed to a local agency charged with serving the interests of Peninsula cities receiving water from San Francisco's Hetch Hetchy system. Hillsborough owns its own water system but is reliant on the Hetch Hetchy system for water. There have been a few droughts and numerous public policy challenges, including an expensive capital improvement program, during Jay's tenure. He is described as having a "passion" for water. He is quick to point out opportunities to operate better and always well prepared for the agency's meetings.

Twice per year, Hillsborough's civic leadership gathers to compare notes and to coordinate. Present are leaders from public and private schools, the town, nonprofits and civic organizations of various types, and interested citizens. The convocation is known as the Hillsborough Community Roundtable and its purpose is to let everyone know about the plans for civic events and government services for the next six months. Jay Benton has presided over this semi-annual meeting and won accolades from all involved because he is both a good listener and, not surprisingly, a good leader.

Jay Benton is the devoted husband of Ann and they have been married since October 7, 1967. They have five children: Bill (Susan), Tom (Jane), Jim (Mari), Jenny, and Andy (Morgan). Jay also has ten grandchildren. On December 13, 2020, the day before he steps down from the city council, Jay will turn 80 years old, yet another example of age not being a liability in public life.

Madam Speaker, Jay Benton will leave with the city's finances strong, its capital stock well maintained, its spirits high despite the challenge of the current pandemic, and the future of the community well charted for many years to come. In Jay, the town has a leader who stood the test of time. His neighbors, friends and constituents wish Jay, in the hopeful language of naval adventurers, fair winds and following seas. It has been my privilege to serve with Jay Benton, a great local leader.

#### HONORING TRENT YACONELLI

#### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 14, 2020*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize Trent Yaconelli, the Executive Director of St. Helena and Calistoga Boys & Girls Club.

Trent Yaconelli was born in La Mesa, California, and grew up in Yreka, California. In 1993, he graduated from Sonoma State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Teacher Education. He has also received a Non-Profit Management Certification from The University of Texas at Austin in 2012. Mr. Yaconelli has used his education to aid his community through times of hardship, serving as the Ex-

ecutive Director of the Boys & Girls Club since 2017. Before serving as Executive Director, Mr. Yaconelli had served on the Club's staff for more than 20 years and as Associate Executive Director for four and half years.

Drawing on his years of community service, Mr. Yaconelli has shown an immense capacity to exercise moral leadership and empathy through natural disasters and on-going adversity. He worked with the Club staff to deliver more than 25,000 meals to the community, day-to-day, during the devastating Glass Fire. Recognizing that many of the people who were affected by the fire had lost their homes and were ineligible to receive disaster relief funds, Mr. Yaconelli worked with the Club to distribute more than \$70,000 in direct gifts to fifteen club families. Particularly, he helped distribute three cars to families that lost their vehicles in the fire, along with an additional \$15,000 in individual grants to help them get back on their feet.

Trent Yaconelli's tireless work over these past fourteen years should not go unnoticed. The support that he has given to the families and children of Calistoga and St. Helena has undoubtedly improved the livelihood of his community. In this spirit, Mr. Yaconelli is currently serving the students of the St. Helena Unified School District while they are participating in distance learning. His encompassing knowledge of his community continues to serve the youth and the families that need him the most.

Madam Speaker, Trent Yaconelli exemplifies strong integrity and leadership through his dedication to public service. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

#### COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF TONY LEE

#### HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 14, 2020*

Ms. JAYAPAL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of longtime Seattle resident Tony Lee, who died on November 12, 2020. Over his more than 30-year career, Tony had a deep and personal impact on our community. He leaves behind a tremendous legacy of dedicated public service.

Tony Lee was a kind-hearted friend, activist and advocate, and a devoted family member. He was humble and wise. Those of us lucky enough to have known him will forever remember his booming, infectious laugh.

Tony joined the Seattle community at a young age, when he immigrated to the United States from China via Brazil with his family. He went on to graduate from Harvard and earn a law degree from the University of Washington. Upon starting his career as a lawyer, Tony quickly found his true calling: civil rights advocacy.

Tony began his career as an attorney for Evergreen Legal Services, representing the needs of indigent clients as well as immigrants and refugees. He later served as the Advocacy Director for Solid Ground, where he led the anti-poverty, anti-racist organization's work to save cash assistance programs for people with disabilities and mental illness, expand Medicaid to cover dental care, and overcome housing discrimination in Washington State

over 21 years. He is widely recognized for his leadership in creating and maintaining critical safety net services for immigrant and refugee communities, making Washington State a shining example for immigrant inclusion nationwide.

Tony's advocacy and activism stretched well beyond his formal work positions, putting him frequently at the forefront of important efforts and movements. Among these, Tony fought for rent control, on peace and social justice issues and for economic justice. He helped found the Statewide Poverty Action Network and create the Food Assistance Program, which promotes expanding public benefits and broadening the safety net for low-income people in Washington State. He served as a leader with the Equity in Education Commission, the King County Chapter of the Asian Pacific Islander Coalition, Seattle Human Services Coalition, Church Council of Greater Seattle, the Washington Association of Churches, and the Catholic Archdiocese.

Even after his semi-retirement in 2014, Tony could still be found advocating in the halls of the Washington State Legislature, where he was, in the words of Representative Frank Chopp, the "conscience of Washington State."

I had the pleasure of working with Tony over the more than decade I spent organizing for immigrant rights, doing lobby days in the state capitol, advocating for poor people and the most vulnerable and fighting for immigrants and refugees, and there was simply no one who knew the subject matter better or was more devoted than Tony Lee.

Tony will be dearly missed, and his tremendous legacy promoting a more just and kind Seattle will continue to grow through the communities and lives he touched. He is survived by his wife, Angela Bartels; former wife, Sharon Lee; his son, Chris; siblings Bernadette, Cecilia, Joe, Marie, and Mary; and many nieces and nephews.

For his years of dedicated and compassionate service. I am proud to express my deep appreciation for Tony Lee and his advocacy for the most vulnerable members of our community. My heart is with his loved ones during this difficult time. May he rest in power.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF JOE SCHUMACHER'S 20 YEARS OF DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVICE TO VIRGINIA'S FIRST CONGRES- SIONAL DISTRICT

#### HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 14, 2020*

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Joe Schumacher in honor of his 20 years of dedicated public service to Virginia's First Congressional District. Joe began his service to Virginia's First District with my predecessor, Congresswoman Jo Ann Davis, and has been with my office for the entirety of my time in Congress as well. I would like to take this time to recognize Joe's milestone of 20 years with Virginia's First District.

Joe is a native Virginian, an Air Force veteran, and a graduate of the University of Virginia. During his time as my District Director, Joe has exemplified the meaning of a "Servant Leader". From overseeing the district staff

to working with constituents, Joe is always thinking about how to make things better and what more we can do to make it happen. He consistently goes above and beyond to serve constituents and support his fellow staff. His work as the Academy Coordinator has impacted countless young applicants as they begin their careers in service to this nation. Joe's leadership is a shining example of what other District Directors should strive to be.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I ask that you rise with me to recognize Joe Schumacher for his selfless dedication to Virginia's First District. Joe is a crucial member of our team, and I am forever grateful for his service to our office and to Virginia's First District.

IN HONOR OF MARK OLBERT

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 14, 2020*

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the outstanding service of Mark Olbert as he departs the San Carlos City Council after nine years as a councilmember, two of them as Mayor. Mark also served 10 years on the local school board. For a man who moved to San Carlos in 1997, he's spent a remarkable 19 of those 23 years in local elected office.

Mark was raised in Dobbs Ferry, New York and obtained his bachelors in cell and molecular biology from the State University of New York at Buffalo, and his MBA from the Amos Tuck School at Dartmouth College. He went to work as a finance executive in the oil and gas industry and then transitioned to the world of biotechnology. After great success at Amgen, Mark moved to San Carlos to grab other brass rings in the world of biotechnology. Ultimately, he was able to retire early to dedicate his life to his family and to public service.

When he and his wife, Barbara McHugh, sought a Bay Area community in which to raise their family they selected San Carlos because of its high-quality schools. Both Mark and Barbara plunged into volunteering to raise money for the schools and were ultimately honored for their leadership by the San Carlos Education Foundation.

In the midst of his career, and while raising Arthur and Caroline, the couple's two children, Mark ran for the school board. He succeeded in his first effort and was reelected. During his 10 years as a trustee, he successfully advocated to reform the district's special education program and grappled with the fragile finances of the district. For decades, civic leaders had opined that, in San Carlos, school parcel taxes and bond measures would fail. As a trustee, Mark had a different opinion. He and a core group led successful efforts to pass several tax or bond measures, thereby stabilizing finances and putting the district on a path to rejuvenate its schools.

While on the school board, it was his work with the city that sparked his interest in the city council. He saw a need for more parks for a growing population, more housing, and greater transparency in local government. He ran for the city council in 2011, came in first, and was later re-elected.

Mark and most of his council colleagues tried but were ultimately unable to obtain more

land to expand city parks. He always maintained, however, that the city council had done its job by providing residents with a choice about their quality of life.

In recent years, he successfully advocated for San Carlos to become a "welcoming city" to send a message of hope as immigrants came under attack. Homeowners have a friend in Mark as the city adopted a proposal to help pay for otherwise expensive sidewalk repairs. Along with his colleagues, he regularly supported thoughtful budgeting that generated surpluses.

Housing is Mark's constant concern. He asks important questions about whether the city has zoned enough land for housing in order to avoid the displacement of vulnerable residents as commercial development accelerates. He is passionate about equal economic opportunity and the need to find affordable housing for teachers, public safety personnel, store clerks, and all others who struggle to pay high rents in San Carlos.

Mark started a blog when he joined the school board and continued as a councilmember. Recent council topics on his site, "Making Your Mark," include: "Reflections: Paranoia, Tribalism, Politics"; and, "Even in the City of Good Living, Racism is Not Patriotism!" His retirement may spare the public from another blog rumored to be in the works: "Quantum Theory and Time Travel: New Adventures in Parenting During A Pandemic." His blog's style is a blend of The New York Times Magazine, Scientific American, and Mad Magazine.

Mark Olbert is honest, thoughtful, and dogged in asking questions and getting answers. He seeks the long-term welfare of the entire community. He is brilliant and has a wonderful sense of humor. While "public servant" is a title that others may view as pedestrian, he treasures it as much as a rare gem. It has been my great honor and privilege to serve with Mark Olbert. He represents the best in public service. I will miss him on the council. Let me invoke an amended phrase from a renowned science fiction philosopher, Yoda: Mark, May the Force of Public Opinion Always Be With You.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GARY J. PALMER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 14, 2020*

Mr. PALMER. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the House and missed votes on 12/20 through 12/4/20 while recovering from COVID-19. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 228; NAY on Roll Call No. 230; NAY on Roll Call No. 231; NAY on Roll Call No. 232; NAY on Roll Call No. 233; YEA on Roll Call No. 234; and NAY on Roll Call No. 235.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PITTMAN-ROBERTSON WILDLIFE RESTORATION ACT AND DINGELL-JOHNSON SPORT FISH RESTORATION ACT DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA EQUALITY ACT

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 14, 2020*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to introduce the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act and Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act District of Columbia Equality Act, which would amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act and the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act to make the District of Columbia eligible for the same federal funding as states under these Acts. The District is treated as a state under federal programs, with a few exceptions, most of them simply oversights or failures to update post-home rule.

The Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act provides funding, derived from excise taxes on sporting equipment, for five distinct purposes: program administration, wildlife restoration, basic hunter education and safety, enhanced hunter education and safety grants and multistate conservation grants. The District does not receive any funding under this Act. The Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act provides funding for sport fish restoration, aquatic education, wetlands restoration and boat-related activities. Under this Act, states receive a minimum of one percent of the total amount apportioned, while the District is capped at one-third of one percent.

This omission and lack of parity under these Acts have serious consequences for the District. The District has roughly 7,800 acres of parkland covering nearly a quarter of the city, which means it has more parkland per capita than any other city in the United States. This bill would define "State" in these Acts to include the District, providing the District with equitable access to valuable financial resources for wildlife conservation in our nation's capital.

I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

ARIZONA VOICE FOR CRIME  
VICTIMS (AVCV)

**HON. DEBBIE LESKO**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 14, 2020*

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, Arizona, a national leader in crime victims' rights, reached a milestone on November 26, 2020—30 years since the enactment of the Victims' Bill of Rights (VBR), as art. II §2.1, of the state constitution. The passage of the VBR was an immense achievement in the face of strong opposition. The movement was led by numerous crime victims, grassroots organizations, and prosecutors throughout the state. Prior to this achievement, there had been two unsuccessful attempts to get a victims' rights amendment referred by the Arizona Legislature. Strong opposition came from defense attorneys and, astonishingly, judicial officers.

After two attempts to get on the ballot through legislative action, in 1990, the people of Arizona rallied to support a ballot initiative drafted by Steve Twist, then the Chief Assistant Attorney General for Arizona. Petitions were circulated and signed by thousands of Arizonans who saw and disapproved of the grave injustices in how victims were treated during the criminal justice process. The effort was truly grassroots. Led by the Victims Bill of Rights Task Force, victim advocates reached out across Arizona. On November 6, 1990, Arizonans voted overwhelmingly to add the new VBR to our constitution. In the year following, implementing statutes were drafted and passed in order to further define, preserve, and protect the constitutional victims' rights amendment.

Beyond providing constitutional rights to victims on paper, Steve Twist and U.S. Senator Jon Kyl had a vision for providing victims a way to enforce their constitutional rights and assure that their voices would be heard during the criminal justice process. In 1996, the future of non-profit victim services was shaped when they founded Arizona Voice for Crime Victims (AVCV), the very first clinic of its kind to provide both legal and social services to crime victims at no cost. The first free legal and social services clinic started in 2001, in partnership with the Arizona State University (ASU) College of Law.

Since its beginnings, with one lawyer and one social worker, AVCV has grown to be one of the most successful victims' rights advocacy organizations in the country and serves as a model for similar programs around the country. AVCV's attorneys, led by Chief Counsel Colleen Clase, represent victims of crime, without limitation on the type of crime, throughout Arizona's state superior courts, in city courts, justice courts, the federal district court, appellate courts up to the Supreme Court of the United States, and in front of Arizona's Board of Executive Clemency. AVCV's social services staff provide victims the emotional support needed to get through the criminal justice process. For nearly 25 years, AVCV has contributed significantly to advancing the enforcement of victim's rights by seeking appellate remedies. AVCV has litigated victims' rights issues of first impression that have resulted in published opinions that define, implement, preserve and protect victim's constitutional and statutory rights.

Just this year, AVCV secured an opinion from the Arizona Supreme Court that required the court to overrule their own precedent, three cases predating Arizona's VBR, and to consider another issue of first impression in order to honor and uphold the constitutional rights of crime victims. In this case, AVCV represents a child-victim who is the older sibling of a 6-year-old murder victim and a witness to the severe child abuse and neglect that led to his murder. Three of the four family members charged in connection with the murder entered into guilty pleas, negotiated by the prosecutors and criminal defendants, containing a cap on the restitution that may be ordered to the child-victim. On behalf of the child-victim, AVCV objected to the restitution cap.

On review, the Arizona Supreme Court agreed with AVCV and overruled three pre-VBR cases that required restitution caps in plea agreements, holding that restitution cannot be capped over the objection of the victim. Additionally, as a matter of first impression here in Arizona and across the country, the Arizona Supreme Court also held that counsel

for a crime victim should be before the bar during proceedings in which victims' rights are at issue.

AVCV continues to work toward changing the culture of the criminal justice system to be more inclusive for victims, both in Arizona and on the national level, through the filing of amicus briefs and through its work to modernize Arizona's court rules by fully integrating victims' rights into Arizona's Rules of Criminal Procedure—another task which has faced great opposition from the defense bar and certain judicial officers. AVCV's staff regularly provides training on victims' rights topics at national conferences including the National Crime Victim Law Conference, the annual National Organization for Victim Assistance Conference, and the annual Parents of Murdered Children National Conference.

One of AVCV's most important partnerships has been with ASU's College of Law. This partnership is one that is essential to training future lawyers by giving law students an opportunity to work alongside AVCV's attorneys and social workers to assist and support crime victims as they navigate the criminal process.

The work AVCV has done over the last 25 years has changed the lives of many crime victims who, without the free legal representation and social services they received, would have been left to navigate an arduous justice system on their own and without recourse when their constitutional rights were violated. AVCV has been able to provide thousands of victims with a sense of hope through understanding and asserting their constitutional rights for meaningful participation in our criminal justice system. AVCV has truly established the standard of "Justice for All—Even the Victim."

#### HONORING SUPERVISOR SHIRLEE ZANE

#### HON. MIKE THOMPSON OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Monday, December 14, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Rep. JARED HUFFMAN, to honor Supervisor Shirlee Zane in celebration of her 12 years of service on the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors.

After graduating from Chico State University, Shirlee Zane earned Master's degrees in Theology from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and in Family Counseling from Sonoma State University. She served as a minister, social worker, and special education professional before being elected to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors in 2008.

Supervisor Zane has drawn upon over 30 years of experience in human services to advocate for increased mental health services in the County of Sonoma. She worked tirelessly to pass Measure O in Sonoma County, which boosts spending on mental health and homelessness services, and expands the behavioral health mobile support team to assist law enforcement on mental health and substance abuse calls. Supervisor Zane is also an avid supporter of strong environmental policies, having served as a director of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and played an important role in establishing Sonoma Clean Power.

Perhaps the best testament to Shirlee Zane's dedication to her community is her ex-

emplary work to assist people experiencing homelessness by providing them with a place to live. She was instrumental in creating Santa Rosa's Veterans Village, which houses fourteen formerly homeless veterans, and securing funding for The Palms Inn, which provides permanent supportive housing for 130 formerly homeless residents.

Supervisor Zane's leadership has not gone unnoticed, having earned the National Alliance on Mental Illness's California Recovery Practitioner Award, the National Union of Healthcare Workers Patient Recovery Award, the Reverend Coffee Human Rights Award and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Community Service Award.

Madam Speaker, Supervisor Shirlee Zane is the kind of citizen we should all strive to be. Sonoma County is certainly better as a result of her dedicated service. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

#### SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, December 15, 2020 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

#### MEETINGS SCHEDULED DECEMBER 16

- 9:30 a.m.  
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs  
Subcommittee on Economic Policy  
To hold hearings to examine the United States and China, focusing on winning the economic competition. WEBEX
- 10 a.m.  
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine irregularities in the 2020 election. SD-342/WEBEX
- Committee on the Judiciary  
To hold hearings to examine pending nominations. SH-216
- 2 p.m.  
Committee on the Judiciary  
Subcommittee on Border Security and Immigration  
To hold hearings to examine Hong Kong's pro-democracy movement through United States refugee policy. SD-G50

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Finance

Subcommittee on Health Care

To hold hearings to examine the Alzheimer's crisis, focusing on testing and

treatment pipelines and fiscal implications.

WEBEX

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S7453–S7472*

**Measures Introduced:** One resolution was introduced, as follows: S. Con. Res. 52. **Page S7465**

**Measures Reported:**

S. 92, to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted into law. (S. Rept. No. 116–311)

S. 2162, to require the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to annually hire at least 600 new Border Patrol agents, to report quarterly to Congress on the status of the Border Patrol workforce, and to conduct a comprehensive staffing analysis, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 116–312)

S. 2722, to prohibit agencies from using Federal funds for publicity or propaganda purposes, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 116–313)

S. 2967, to establish the Commission on Intergovernmental Relations of the United States to facilitate the fullest cooperation, coordination, and mutual accountability among all levels of government, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 116–314)

S. 3038, to promote innovative acquisition techniques and procurement strategies. (S. Rept. No. 116–315)

S. 3658, to establish an Office of Equal Rights and Community Inclusion at the Federal Emergency Management Agency, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 116–316)

S. 3997, to strengthen the security and integrity of the United States scientific and research enterprise, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 116–317)

S. 4153, to require the Federal Emergency Management Agency to evaluate the National Response Framework based on lessons learned from the COVID–19 pandemic, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 116–318)

S. 4158, to examine the extent of the reliance of the United States on foreign producers for personal protective equipment during the COVID–19 pandemic and produce recommendations to secure the supply chain of personal protective equipment, with amendments. (S. Rept. No. 116–319)

S. 4165, to repeal section 692 of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006, with an amendment. (S. Rept. No. 116–320)

S. 4210, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the transfer of certain equipment during a public health emergency, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 116–321)

S. 4224, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to assess technology needs along the Southern border and develop a strategy for bridging such gaps, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 116–322)

H.R. 1313, to amend the Implementing Recommendations of the 9 11 Commission Act of 2007 to clarify certain allowable uses of funds for public transportation security assistance grants and establish periods of performance for such grants, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 116–323) **Page S7465**

**Measures Passed:**

**Legend Act:** Senate passed S. 2597, to require the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to make certain operational models available to the public, after withdrawing the committee amendment, and agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S7468–69**

McConnell (for Thune) Amendment No. 2705, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S7468–69**

**Advancing Research to Prevent Suicide Act:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4704, to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support multidisciplinary research on the science of suicide, and to advance the knowledge and understanding of issues that may be associated with several aspects of suicide including intrinsic and extrinsic factors related to areas such as wellbeing, resilience, and vulnerability, and the bill



was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S7469–70**

McConnell (for Wicker) Amendment No. 2706, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S7469–70**

**Ensuring Innovation Act:** Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of S. 1636, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the scope of new chemical exclusivity, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S7470**

McConnell (for Alexander) Amendment No. 2707, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S7470**

**Enrollment Correction:** Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 52, to correct the enrollment of S. 3312.

**Pages S7470–71**

**Kirsch II Nomination—Agreement:** Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Thomas L. Kirsch II, of Indiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit. **Pages S7456–63**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 51 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. EX. 265), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S7456–63**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 10:00 a.m., on Tuesday, December 15, 2020; and that all time during recess, adjournment, Leader remarks, and morning business count post-cloture on the nomination.

**Page S7471**

**Dawson Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of Joseph Dawson III, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina. **Page S7454**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Katherine A. Crytzer, of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee. **Page S7454**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S7454**

**Atchley Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of Charles Edward Atchley, Jr., of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee.

**Page S7454**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provi-

sions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Joseph Dawson III, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina. **Page S7454**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S7454**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S7454**

**Somers Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of Zachary N. Somers, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years. **Page S7454**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Charles Edward Atchley, Jr., of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee. **Pages S7454–55**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S7454**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S7454**

**Nominations Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nominations:

79 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

1 Army nomination in the rank of general.

7 Coast Guard nominations in the rank of admiral.

1 Marine Corps nomination in the rank of general.

1 Navy nomination in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Space Force. **Pages S7463–65**

**Messages from the House:** **Page S7465**

**Measures Placed on the Calendar:** **Page S7465**

**Enrolled Bills Presented:** **Page S7465**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages S7465–66**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:**

**Additional Statements:**

**Amendments Submitted:** **Pages S7466–68**

**Record Votes:** One record vote was taken today. (Total—265) **Pages S7462–63**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 7:10 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, December 15, 2020. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S7471.)

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

# House of Representatives

## Chamber Action

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 15 public bills, H.R. 8952–8966; and 2 resolutions, H. Res. 1261–1262 were introduced. **Pages H7153–54**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Page H7155**

**Reports Filed:** Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 244, to maximize land management efficiencies, promote land conservation, generate education funding, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–639);

H.R. 4135, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to remove the statue to the memory and in honor of Albert Pike erected near Judiciary Square in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–640);

H.R. 4139, to provide for the boundary of the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Park to be adjusted, to authorize the donation of land to the United States for addition to that historic park, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–641);

H.R. 4679, to require the Comptroller General of the United States to submit to Congress a report examining efforts by the Regional Fishery Management Councils, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, and the National Marine Fisheries Service to prepare and adapt United States fishery management for the impacts of climate change, and for other purposes (Rept. 116–642);

H.R. 5472, to redesignate the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site as the “Jimmy Carter National Historical Park” (H. Rept. 116–643);

H.R. 5852, to redesignate the Weir Farm National Historic Site in the State of Connecticut as the “Weir Farm National Historical Park” (H. Rept. 116–644); and

H.R. 6196, to amend the Trademark Act of 1946 to provide for third-party submission of evidence relating to a trademark application, to establish expungement and ex parte proceedings relating to the validity of marks, to provide for a rebuttal presumption of irreparable harm in certain proceedings, and for other purposes, with amendments (H. Rept. 116–645). **Page H7153**

**Senate Referrals:** S. 2315 was held at the desk. S. 3418 was held at the desk. S. 3451 was held at the desk. S. 4996 was held at the desk. S. 1031 was held at the desk. S. 1310 was held at the desk. S. 633 was held at the desk. S. 2730 was held at the desk. **Page H7151**

**Senate Messages:** Messages received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appear on pages H7151–52.

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** There were no Yea and Nay votes, and there were no Recorded votes. There were no quorum calls.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 1:30 p.m. and adjourned at 1:36 p.m.

## Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

## Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

## NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D1067)

H.R. 8900, making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021. Signed on December 11, 2020. (Public Law 116–215)

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2020

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

### Senate

**Committee on Armed Services:** Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, to receive a closed briefing on Department of Defense cyber operations, 2:30 p.m., SVC–217.

**Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:** Subcommittee on Manufacturing, Trade, and Consumer Protection, to hold hearings to examine the impact of COVID–19 on the live event entertainment industry, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet, to hold hearings to examine expanding American entrepreneurship outside traditional hubs, 2:30 p.m., SR-253.

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on Intellectual Property, to hold hearings to examine the role of private agreements and existing technology in curbing online piracy, 2:30 p.m., SD-106.

### House

No hearings are scheduled.

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## CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of December 15 through December 18,  
2020

### Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Thomas L. Kirsch II, of Indiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit, post-cloture.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

### Senate Committees

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

*Committee on Armed Services:* December 15, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, to receive a closed briefing on Department of Defense cyber operations, 2:30 p.m., SVC-217.

*Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:* December 16, Subcommittee on Economic Policy, to hold

hearings to examine the United States and China, focusing on winning the economic competition, 9:30 a.m., WEBEX.

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* December 15, Subcommittee on Manufacturing, Trade, and Consumer Protection, to hold hearings to examine the impact of COVID-19 on the live event entertainment industry, 10 a.m., SR-253.

December 15, Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet, to hold hearings to examine expanding American entrepreneurship outside traditional hubs, 2:30 p.m., SR-253.

*Committee on Finance:* December 16, Subcommittee on Health Care, to hold hearings to examine the Alzheimer's crisis, focusing on testing and treatment pipelines and fiscal implications, 2:30 p.m., WEBEX.

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* December 16, to hold hearings to examine irregularities in the 2020 election, 10 a.m., SD-342/WEBEX.

*Committee on Judiciary:* December 15, Subcommittee on Intellectual Property, to hold hearings to examine the role of private agreements and existing technology in curbing online piracy, 2:30 p.m., SD-106.

December 16, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine pending nominations, 10 a.m., SH-216.

December 16, Subcommittee on Border Security and Immigration, to hold hearings to examine Hong Kong's pro-democracy movement through United States refugee policy, 2 p.m., SD-G50.

### House Committees

*Committee on Oversight and Reform,* December 17, Full Committee, hearing entitled "The Role of Purdue Pharma and the Sackler Family in the Opioid Epidemic", 9 a.m., Webex.

*Next Meeting of the SENATE*

10 a.m., Tuesday, December 15

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

3 p.m. Tuesday, December 15

## Senate Chamber

**Program for Tuesday:** Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Thomas L. Kirsch II, of Indiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit, post-cloture.

*(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)*

## House Chamber

**Program for Tuesday:** House will meet in Pro Forma session at 3 p.m.

## Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

## HOUSE

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 Tlaib, Rashida, Mich., E1129



# Congressional Record

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