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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ALEX PADILLA, a Senator from the State of California.

PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's opening prayer will be offered by our guest chaplain, Robert H. Thune, Pastor of Coram Deo Church, from Omaha, NE.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, every one of us in this Chamber now—whether Senator, staffer, or civilian—is, first of all, a human being made in Your image. And so we pray.

Give us grace to acknowledge our limitations, admit our faults, and to affirm our fellow human beings despite our many differences. Let us always remember that to You and You alone, we must give account. Those who serve in this Chamber have been given a noble and weighty responsibility to seek and serve the common good of these United States. And so, as they attend to the work before them this day, grant them the wisdom of Solomon, the courage of Esther, the patience of Jeremiah, and the humility of Mary. May they be guided by Your providence and strengthened by Your common grace to fulfill Your purposes for this Nation.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer 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.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication

to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 29, 2022.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ALEX PADILLA, a Senator from the State of California, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. PADILLA thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican whip.

WELCOMING THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I would like to just begin by acknowledging and thanking Pastor Bob Thune for his opening prayer this morning.

It should come as no surprise, based on the last name, we are related. He is my nephew. I have been blessed through the years with a rich, spiritual heritage, as has he. His father, my big brother, was the spiritual trailblazer in our family. He went on to pastor churches in the Midwest, on the West Coast for about 50 years. His son Bob, my nephew, is carrying on that great tradition.

Bob pastors a church, as was noted, called Coram Deo Church in Omaha, NE. Coram Deo is Latin for "the presence of God." Bob, on a weekly basis, proclaims the truth of the gospel from the pulpit. But on a daily basis, he and his congregation have, at the center of their daily lives, the presence of God as they seek to have an impact on their community and their region and on this world.

Bob is, in many respects, as it says in the Book of Acts, fulfilling God's purpose for his generation. I am grateful for the spiritual heritage that we share, for the way that he continues that today. I want to encourage him in

his work and just acknowledge how grateful we are that he was able to join us here in the U.S. Senate and offer that opening prayer which, on a daily basis, is offered by our Chaplain, Barry Black, who has been a great inspiration to me on so many levels and leads us in a weekly Bible study here on Capitol Hill for Senators.

I always try and do an advertisement to get more Senators to come to that Bible study. It is a rich time where we can have an opportunity to reflect on the important work that we do and the way that our faith applies to it on a daily basis.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Nani A. Coloretti, of California, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

BUDGET PROPOSAL

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now, yesterday, President Biden released the

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



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second budget of his administration, a strong, forward-looking, and optimistic vision of our country's potential. It is a budget calling for greater investments in the things that make the biggest difference in the lives of middle-class families and in those working to get to the middle class: more support for our schools, increased funding for childcare and healthcare services, strong investments in clean energy and climate change mitigation, support for our farmers and small businesses, as well as relief for our strained supply chains.

The Republican leader asserted yesterday that the President's budget is "fundamentally disconnected" from what America needs right now. This begs the question: Just how does the Republican leader think the recovery of the past 12 months came to pass?

We have seen the greatest jobs recovery in history, the strongest economic surge in 40 years, and a steady return to normal after the worst health crisis of modern times. Does he think it happened by magic? Of course not. These were the results of the right leadership pursuing the right policies at the right moment in our country: robust investments in vaccines, aid for families trying to feed their kids through a crisis, help for businesses and local communities struggling to stay open.

And as our recovery continues under President Biden, Republicans seem to think the right answer is to short-change the American people and cut off vital resources that help our country grow.

Republicans can't stand the thought of asking the ultrarich to pay their fair share, and as a result, efforts to strengthen the middle class, which would be paid for by taxes on those at the very top, are anathema to them. Keeping the wealthy wealthy is more important for Republicans than strengthening the middle class.

Republicans, indeed, seem to think it is "fundamentally disconnected" to increase investments in things like public education, Pell grants, title 1, which helps kids most at need. Republicans believe it is somehow wasteful or far left to dare help families afford childcare and pre-K, which never have been pricier than they are today.

And beholden as they are to corporate polluters, Republicans seem to think it is radical for the Federal Government to dedicate resources to a clean energy future: more renewables, more clean cars right here from America, and a more prosperous planet for our kids and our grandkids.

But, of course, Republicans think it is perfectly fine to try and rip away healthcare for millions of Americans and push trillion-dollar tax cuts that overwhelmingly benefit the wealthy, but helping the middle class with childcare and education and healthcare is a bridge too far for our Republican friends—sad.

For all these reasons, the contrast between President Biden's budget and

the vision we are seeing coming from Republicans is stark and glaring. One budget, ours, is for the working and middle class; the other, the Republican budget, is an offering entirely for the ultrawealthy.

NOMINATION OF LISA DENELL COOK

Mr. President, now on the Cook nomination, today the Senate will continue its work of advancing President Biden's well-qualified nominees. Last night, I filed cloture on five additional nominees, and this morning the Senate will vote on a motion to discharge Ms. Lisa Cook from the Banking Committee. As a reminder, a motion to discharge is necessary in this Congress whenever a nominee receives a deadlocked vote in committee, so the steps we are taking later today are exceedingly important, but, frankly, it is unfortunate that they are necessary at all.

Not very long ago, a nominee of Ms. Cook's qualifications would have sailed toward final confirmation with bipartisan support. She serves on the advisory board of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and is a professor of Economics at Michigan State. Coming from humble beginnings in rural Georgia, where her family fought back against racial segregation, she would be the first Black woman ever to sit on the Federal Reserve Board of Governors. She is truly historic, in addition to being deeply qualified.

For as much as Republicans talk about inflation, it is bewildering and totally discrediting for them to reflexively oppose a qualified nominee like Ms. Cook, precisely tasked with helping the Fed hold down costs and maintain strong employment. Nevertheless, we will move forward with her nomination today with a motion to discharge. The bottom line is this: The Fed is not a political institution. Ms. Cook's position is not a political role. And for Republicans to obstruct her nomination purely for political purposes is deeply troubling and hurts our efforts to lower costs for American families.

AMERICA COMPETES ACT OF 2022

Mr. President, and now on the competitiveness legislation, last night, with a strong bipartisan vote of 68 to 28, the Senate passed an amended version of the House jobs and competitiveness legislation. It was amended and passed, to be clear, with the same language the Senate approved last summer when we approved USICA, the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act.

This bill now heads to the House, and I am optimistic that the House will be able to act on a motion requesting a conference committee very soon. It remains our goal to initiate a conference committee by the end of this work period.

Once again, I want to thank all of my colleagues for their good-faith work on this bill. This is the culmination of years of work on both sides of the aisle. Senator YOUNG and I began work on the Endless Frontier Act in 2019. There is more work to be done, but we, never-

theless, took an important step last night toward our goal of enacting this legislation into law.

And in doing so, I believe that this bill will go down as one of the most important steps Congress can take toward creating more jobs, fixing our supply chains, and refueling another generation of American ingenuity that will strengthen our economy for a long, long time.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. President, on COVID, I am continuing to hold negotiations with my Republican colleagues on much needed COVID public health response funding. Even though cases and deaths and hospitalizations are, thankfully, down and falling across the board, it is still necessary and a matter of great urgency that we replenish funding for more vaccines, more therapeutics, more testing, and for new vaccines to meet the challenge of any new variant. The sooner we have these in place when, God forbid, a new variant hits, the healthier we will stay, the more life will stay normal. To deny it now, and then 3 months from now or 6 months from now, or whenever, be unprepared and let it spread unchecked until the COVID variant's tentacles are too deep in our society, makes no sense whatsoever.

But to pass more COVID public health response funding, we need bipartisan cooperation. It is a responsibility of both Republicans and Democrats to make sure we have the tools and resources in place that will keep the virus down, keep our schools, keep our communities open.

We are not there yet on reaching an agreement, but we are going to keep working in good faith to get there. I hope we can reach an agreement with our Republican colleagues very soon because nobody wants to find themselves in a situation where cases suddenly start rising again, and we aren't ready to respond quickly.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

INFLATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, Democrats' massive inflation is an inescapable, painful, daily reality for working families. These policy failures have hammered my home State of Kentucky. Last year, even as many Kentuckians earned raises, prices skyrocketed faster. Used car prices shot up 40 percent in the Commonwealth last year. In Louisville, the gas to drive those cars costs more than a dollar more per gallon today than a year ago.

In typical Bluegrass fashion, neighbors are helping one another as best they can. According to the owner of Parkette Drive-In in Lexington, even as prices for ingredients like chicken have nearly doubled, he has chosen to cut back as much as possible on his end to avoid raising prices for customers.

But as hard as Kentuckians try, Democrats' reckless policies are coming home to roost. As one father of four who lost his job following the devastating Mayfield tornado in December put it, "there's no stretching money at this point."

An outright majority of Americans say inflation is not at all under control. Seven in 10 say our economy is in bad shape, and by all accounts, they know exactly whom to blame for a year of painful challenges.

Sixty-three percent of Americans, nearly two-thirds, say they disapprove of how President Biden is handling the economy, and that number just keeps rising.

But Washington Democrats do not appear to have gotten the message. The Biden administration's new budget proposal leans even further into the policies that got us here in the first place.

Even as President Biden has already presided over soaring prices for gas and home heating fuels, he wants massive new tax hikes on American-made fossil fuels. He wants to skyrocket discretionary domestic spending on a whole catalog of liberal wish-list items, and he wants to compound the pain on our economy by slapping the biggest tax hikes in American history right on top of all of it.

So the past year has taught us how painful Washington Democrats' policies can be for hard-working Americans. The administration needs to stop trying to dig this hole any deeper.

FOREIGN POLICY

Mr. President, now, on another matter, runaway inflation and historic tax hikes aren't the only signs that President Biden's budget was crafted in fantasyland. And, amazingly, yesterday, even as the Biden administration was proposing the biggest tax hikes in American history, that wasn't even the biggest problem of the day.

Most of President Biden's press conference yesterday focused on seemingly major inconsistencies between his public remarks on foreign policy and the actual policy of his administration. A few days ago, President Biden seemed to dramatically change American policy toward Putin's regime during a major international speech before White House staff walked back his comment. Yesterday, the President suggested he was just sharing his personal moral view, not speaking in his policymaking capacity.

We are talking about the Commander in Chief here.

Another time recently, the President seemed to suggest that if Russia violated international law and used chemical weapons in Ukraine, the United States would respond "in kind." Again,

his staff had to quickly explain what the administration actually meant.

The United States does not maintain a chemical weapons stockpile for use. To the contrary, we are working hard to safely dispose of many decades-old munitions.

I know a lot about that. Throughout my career in Washington, I have worked to ensure the stockpile of chemical munitions at the Blue Grass Army Depot in my State are safely but surely disposed of.

But the head-scratching gaffes don't stop there. After spending weeks gratuitously listing all the things America would not do, such as deploy troops into Ukraine, President Biden in Poland seemed to tell American troops they would soon be seeing the bravery of Ukraine's resistance firsthand in person. Again, the White House claimed the President was not actually changing policy.

The troubling inconsistencies go beyond isolated gaffes. The confusion appears to run deeper. For months, White House officials repeatedly insisted the President and his administration were focused on deterring Russian escalation against Ukraine. They repeatedly stressed how the threat of sanctions would serve as a deterrent against further invasion.

But last week, with the world watching, President Biden shockingly claimed he never thought or intended that sanctions would actually deter Putin. This leaves unanswered the question of what he thought they would achieve.

The wild swings between the administration's overly cautious, almost skittish official posture and the President's emotional freelancing is becoming dizzying.

As NATO allies scrambled to help Ukraine fight back, the President refused to authorize a transfer of fighter jets. The administration strangely and unjustifiably felt if we merely facilitated—facilitated—such a transfer, it could be too provocative. But we are supposed to brush it off when the same President seems to actually call for regime change in Russia? Facilitating the transfer of some old fighter jets is too provocative, but remarks like that are just speaking from the heart?

Sadly, mixed messages and confusion have been one of the only consistent threads running through this administration's foreign policy from the very start. The White House chafed against clear warnings from its own military advisers about how quickly Afghanistan could fall after U.S. withdrawal. They stood by the President's assertion that "there's going to be no circumstance where you see people being lifted off the roof of an embassy of the United States," until that exact scene happened in Kabul.

With respect to both the Taliban and Putin, the administration has said repeatedly they think that the fear of becoming international pariahs will actually constrain their actions—as if these regimes cared a lick about global PR.

At the risk of repeating what I and many others have said for years, despots can't be shamed into conforming to polite international society. You can't check lawless violence with finger wagging.

We know what deters aggression: American strength and American clarity. That is what deters aggression.

I have just explained how American clarity has been in too-short supply. But, unfortunately, the Biden administration also seems unwilling to plan and invest in long-term American strength.

Even under the administration's wildly—wildly—optimistic projections about inflation, their budget proposal would only flat-fund our Armed Forces. In the best case scenario, they want American defense to just tread water, nowhere near the robust real growth that bipartisan experts say we need to modernize and keep pace with both Russia and China.

And in the more likely event that Democrats don't magically have inflation plummeting in just a few months, then President Biden's policy would amount to an actual cut—cut—to our defense spending, ramping down American military funding while China ramps theirs up.

China is building for the battlefield of the future. Iran continues funding terrorists and plowing forward with nuclear development. Russian aggression is actively challenging our capacity to keep ourselves and our partners armed.

And the Biden administration sees this as a moment to ease off the gas?

That could not be more mistaken.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Republican whip.

NOMINATION OF KETANJI BROWN JACKSON

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, last week's Judiciary Committee hearing gave Senators the opportunity to hear directly from President Biden's nominee to the Supreme Court, Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, to help them decide whether she is an appropriate candidate for the Nation's highest Court.

My approach to deciding whether or not to vote for a Supreme Court nominee or any judicial nominee is pretty simple. I look at the character and qualifications, and most of all, I look at the question of whether the nominee understands the limited role of the judiciary and the separation of powers.

Our Federal Government, of course, has three distinct branches: the legislative branch, which makes the laws; the executive branch—the President and executive Departments—which executes the laws; and the judiciary,

which interprets the laws. Pretty simple, right? Civics 101. Too often, however, our colleagues on the left look to the judiciary to usurp the role of the legislative branch. They look for activist judges who will not just interpret the law but who will go beyond the law to deliver the policy outcomes that liberals are interested in, whether that is an aggressive abortion agenda, restraint of the free exercise of religion, or liberals' preferred approach to immigration.

President Biden, for example, specifically noted that he would only appoint judges who could be relied on to rule in favor of *Roe v. Wade* and a right to abortion. Well, that is a big problem because delivering specific political outcomes is not the job of the judicial branch. In our system of government, policy decisions are vested in the legislative branch and are made there by the people's democratically elected representatives. Judges have discretion in applying the laws, but their discretion is to be guided by the plain text of the law and by the intention of the people's representatives in drafting the statute. Otherwise, we end up not with government of the people but with government by an unelected, unaccountable group of judges.

President Biden has unfortunately placed himself squarely in the camp of those who would like to see the judiciary take an active role in making policy. "The people that I would appoint to the Court," President Biden said during his campaign for President, "are people who have a view of the Constitution as a living document, not as a staid document."

Well, let me just talk about that for a minute. What is a Constitution if not a staid document? If there is no fixed meaning to the Constitution, if it can be stretched and adjusted and expanded by judges at their discretion, then why have a Constitution? The whole point of the Constitution—of written law in general, I would argue—is that it is fixed, "staid," to quote the President. The rule of law, equal justice under the law—these concepts rely on the idea that the law has a fixed meaning, that there is one law that applies equally to everyone.

If the Constitution does not have a fixed meaning, it cannot be the supreme law of the land. It cannot be a guide to which we can all appeal. A living Constitution is a meaningless one. Of course that doesn't mean that the Constitution will always stay exactly the same. There is a process, as we all know, for amending the Constitution so that needed changes can be made. But these changes have to be made through the amendment process, with the concurrence of three-fourths of the States.

That is not what the President is talking about. When the President talks about a living Constitution, he is not talking about periodically amending the Constitution via the process laid out within the Constitution itself;

what he is talking about is nominating judges who will take it upon themselves to amend the Constitution through their rulings by finding new rights and authorities as needed to advance a particular political agenda. That is deeply concerning, particularly when we are talking about a lifetime appointment to the highest Court in the land.

Unfortunately, after watching last week's Judiciary Committee hearing and examining Judge Jackson's record, I am concerned that her jurisprudence reflects President Biden's belief in an activist judiciary.

As has become clear, Judge Jackson has a strong point of view when it comes to sentencing guidelines in certain cases. That is not in and of itself a problem, of course. Judges can and do have strong opinions about any number of issues that come up in the law. What is a problem is it seems that Judge Jackson has allowed her personal opinions to shape her judicial decisions.

For example, as a Federal trial judge, she repeatedly chose to reject sentencing guidelines and the recommendations of prosecutors in favor of lenient sentences for those who possess and distribute child pornography. It appears that she had a record of advocating for leniency with respect to these types of crimes during her time at the U.S. Sentencing Commission and that she then applied those opinions to her sentencing practices when she became a Federal judge.

For this reason and more, I am deeply concerned that her record suggests that she would allow her personal opinions on issues like sentencing to shape her decisions on the Supreme Court. A Supreme Court Justice's allegiance must be to the plain words of the law and the Constitution, not to any personal political opinion, and I am not convinced that Judge Jackson meets that standard.

My concern has only been heightened by Judge Jackson's inability or refusal to define her judicial philosophy. It should not be difficult for a nominee to the Supreme Court to lay out her theory of constitutional interpretation. Given how often her strong personal opinions have appeared to influence her decisions as a judge and absent a clearly expressed judicial philosophy that rejects personal opinion in favor of the plain meaning of the law and the Constitution, I am concerned that her judicial approach would follow the "living Constitution" model that President Biden embraces.

Finally, I was deeply concerned by Judge Jackson's refusal to reject Court packing. Court packing, of course, is a long-discredited idea that has been revived by members of the far left and increasingly embraced by the Democratic Party. The idea behind it is simple. If the Supreme Court isn't delivering the decisions you want, expand the number of Justices until you can be pretty sure you will get your preferred outcomes.

The problems with this approach are obvious, starting with the question, where does it end? It is easy to envision a Democrat-led Congress packing the Court with additional Democrat-selected Justices and then a Republican-led Congress coming in and matching those new Justices with additional Republican-appointed Justices and on and on and on. Pretty soon, the size of the Supreme Court would be approaching the size of the U.S. Senate. I can think of no approach more guaranteed to bring about a complete delegitimization of the Supreme Court.

Do Democrats seriously think that there is any—any—American who would regard the Supreme Court as a nonpartisan institution after it had been packed full of Democrat Justices or, if it were Republicans who were advancing this Court-packing plan, with Republican Justices? Court packing would instantly turn the Supreme Court into nothing more than a partisan extension of the legislative branch, which is why it is so concerning that Judge Jackson has repeatedly—repeatedly—declined to oppose it.

Both Justice Ginsburg and Justice Breyer spoke out against Court packing during their time on the Supreme Court, so this is a subject on which Judge Jackson can and should have felt free to speak. That she did not do so only underscored my concern that she is too open to allowing politics to shape the judiciary.

I enjoyed meeting with Judge Jackson, and I respect her achievements, but I cannot in good conscience vote for a Supreme Court Justice whose record indicates that she will allow her personal political opinions to shape her judicial decisions.

The rule of law depends upon having Justices who decide cases based on the plain meaning of the law and the Constitution, not on personal beliefs or political considerations.

I can only vote to confirm a Justice who I believe will respect the separation of powers and the limited role of a Justice and refuse to allow her personal opinions to influence her decisions on the Bench.

For these reasons, I cannot support Judge Jackson's confirmation to the Supreme Court.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNOCK). Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF LISA DENELL COOK

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on the nomination of Professor Lisa Cook to serve as a Governor of the Federal Reserve Board.

At stake with Professor Cook's nomination is really how the Fed will respond to one of the most pressing challenges facing Pennsylvania and the Nation.

Earlier this month, we learned that inflation hit a four-decade high of almost 8 percent. Prices are skyrocketing for just about everything: gasoline, food, rent. The amount of money Americans have to pay for basic goods and services that they need every week are going up, and they are going up much faster than their wages. That means working Americans are falling further and further behind.

Under the guise of fighting this inflation, my colleagues across the aisle on the Senate Banking Committee have urged the swift confirmation of President Biden's slate of nominees to the Federal Reserve Board. The chairman of the committee said that President Biden's nominees are "ready to get to work fighting inflation." And yet we could have confirmed nominees many weeks ago.

We still haven't voted on two of the nominees who have unanimous Republican support and near-unanimous Democratic support, which makes you wonder about our colleagues' commitment to this urgency. Maybe it is because our Democratic colleagues know that even if we don't confirm these nominees, the Fed has 9 out of 12 voting members on the FOMC in place. That is more than enough to raise rates if they decide they should raise rates to fight inflation.

How do we know for sure that that is more than enough? Well, at their last meeting just 2 weeks ago, the Fed did, in fact, raise interest rates. So it was never the case that the Fed is somehow unable to fight inflation until the nominees are confirmed.

What we really should be asking ourselves is, Are these nominees going to be the inflation fighters that we need that the White House claims they are? In my view, one of these nominees in particular, Professor Lisa Cook, dramatically fails this test.

First of all, Professor Cook has nearly zero experience in monetary policy. Now, she does have a Ph.D. in economics, but not a single one of her publications concerns monetary economics.

The White House cites as her main qualification on U.S. monetary policy her appointment as a Chicago Fed director. That appointment was made in January of this year, 2 weeks before President Biden announced Professor Cook's nomination to be a Fed Governor.

And Professor Cook made very clear in her conversation with me that she had not participated in any policy or decisionmaking so far in her term at the Chicago Fed. In fact, she described her role as limited to "filling out paperwork"—that is her quote—for her new position, which is understandable. She had been there for 2 weeks before she was nominated to the Fed governorship. So that appointment to the re-

gional Fed certainly doesn't count as a qualification to serve as a main Fed Governor.

Professor Cook herself has acknowledged that her academic work on monetary issues is, let's say, sparse. When asked to list her top few works on monetary policy for the Banking Committee, she provided only one, and that was a book chapter about Nigerian bank reforms in 2005.

What is even more troubling is that in addition to having no monetary policy experience, Professor Cook also appears to have no opinion at all on how the Fed should address inflation.

Professor Cook repeatedly refused to endorse the Fed's decision to pull back its ultraeasy monetary policy and only did begrudgingly say that she agreed with the "Fed's path right now as we are speaking"—that is a quote—at her nomination hearing in February. Prior to that, she couldn't bring herself to acknowledge that maybe it was time for the Fed to change the policy that had contributed to the worst inflation that we have seen in 40 years.

Professor Cook's answers to basic questions about what tools the Fed should use and how should the Fed consider using them in order to get inflation under control, her answer was nothing more than an incomprehensible word salad.

Professor Cook has continued to insist that she would need to be confirmed to the Fed before she can have a view on inflation because, in her own words, "We don't have access to all the data that the Fed has," and also, "We don't have access to . . . the deliberations at the time they are being made."

These statements are bewildering coming from someone who has been nominated to address the most pressing inflationary threat in nearly two generations. To be clear, the Fed has no secret data, as Professor Cook seems to believe. In fact, monetary policy, including the recent 41-percent increase in the money supply, is extremely transparent. And if Professor Cook is counting on Fed economists to guide her in making a prediction about inflation, then, first of all, they have been wrong on inflation consistently, very wrong; and, secondly, what is she going to do on the Fed and what is her role there if all she is going to do is take instruction from the Fed staff?

Look, just about every economist in the country has an opinion about inflation right now because the data is all readily apparent and extremely disturbing. Every other nominee to the Federal Reserve has an opinion about inflation, and certainly, every Pennsylvanian I talk to has strongly held views about inflation.

Professor Cook's claim made at her nomination hearing just last month that "We have to be patient with the data"—and the data she was referring to was rising consumer prices—that certainly suggests, what is to me, an unacceptable toleration for the infla-

tion that is ravaging American consumers.

That brings me to my second point, and that is Professor Cook's history of extreme leftwing political advocacy and hostility to opposing viewpoints, the combination which I think makes her unfit to serve on the Fed. As I have said many times, it is extremely important that we keep politics out of the money supply. The Fed is supposed to be independent. The Fed is supposed to be apolitical so that it can focus on its job. But unfortunately, we have seen the encroachment of politics at the historically independent Federal Reserve, and we have seen that the Fed is not doing such a great job.

There are people on the left, including in the Biden administration, who openly advocate that the Fed use its regulatory powers to address complex political issues, including things like what to do about global warming, social justice, even education policy. Look, these are all very, very important issues—very important issues—but they are completely unrelated to the Fed's limited statutory mandate and expertise.

Professor Cook's record indicates that these are the topics that interest her the most, and she is likely to inject further political bias into the Fed's work at a time, exactly the time, when we need the Fed to be hyperfocused on getting inflation back under control.

We discovered that Professor Cook sent out, in recent years, over 30,000 public tweets and retweets—30,000. Included among them, she supports race-based reparations; she has promoted conspiracies about Georgia voting laws; she sought to cancel those who disagree with her views, such as she publicly called for a colleague of hers to be fired because he dared to tweet that he was opposed to defunding the police of Chicago.

After Banking Committee Republican staff highlighted these tweets and brought them to public attention, Professor Cook blocked the Banking Committee Republican Twitter account 1 day before her nomination hearing.

Apparently, Professor Cook not only realizes how inflammatory her own tweets are but also has pretty little regard for the Senate's constitutional responsibility to vet her public statements.

See, the Fed is already suffering from a credibility problem because of its involvement in politics, its departure from its statutorily prescribed limited role, and, frankly, the not-very-good job it has done in keeping inflation under control.

I am concerned that Professor Cook will further politicize an institution that must get back to being apolitical, so I urge my colleagues to vote against the motion to discharge Professor Cook.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that prior to the

vote at 11:45, I be permitted to speak for 15 minutes and Senator SHERROD BROWN be permitted to speak for 2 minutes.

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

NOMINATION OF KETANJI BROWN JACKSON

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last week, the Senate Judiciary Committee was busy. We met for over 30 hours to consider the nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to fill a vacancy on the Supreme Court.

During the meeting of the committee, hundreds of questions were posed to Judge Jackson. She spoke thoughtfully and at length about her years in public service, and, most importantly, she really imparted to the committee—and to America that has watched—what she thought about this great Nation, her pride in being an American, the opportunities which were given to her, and opportunities which she used to make this a better place for many.

I was one of the millions who came away from last week's hearing deeply impressed with Judge Jackson. It proved to me during the course of her testimony that the words over the steps of the Supreme Court, "Equal Justice Under Law," are a personal challenge and an invitation to a person just like Judge Jackson.

But it appears some of our Republican colleagues are more reluctant to support her at this moment. She is still making the rounds. Over 50 Senators have received personal visits, and even more will during the course of this week. They have reservations, and I have spoken to some of them and listened to their statements. They say that they don't have any question about her qualifications or experience. Well, thank goodness. She has a stellar resume. Anyone who is a lawyer in this Nation would look at her with envy to think what she has achieved against the odds in her life.

Unfortunately, some of the members of the committee misrepresented her record on several issues. I would like to try to set it straight at this moment.

There seems to be this passion amongst some Republicans to get this nominee to state in a word or two her judicial philosophy. I find that interesting. If a person came up to one of my colleagues and said, "What is your political philosophy?" there are a number of things a person might say. They might say, for example, "I am a fiscal conservative."

You might then ask, "Well, then why did you vote for the Trump tax cuts that gave tax breaks to the wealthiest Americans and added almost \$2 trillion to the national debt? And if you are a fiscal conservative, why is it that you only preach for a balanced budget amendment when there is a Democrat in the White House and never when there is a Republican?"

Basically what you are saying is, "I can hear you and your declaration, but I want to know what you have done."

When it comes to Judge Jackson, those who seek her judicial philosophy and want a simple label one way or the other just haven't done their homework. She has almost 600 published opinions. This woman, this jurist, has not held back in explaining, in case after case, how she views the law. It is there for the reading. Every Member of the Senate and the public has access to that information to get the true measure of a judicial philosophy.

What she said over and over again at the hearing was, I believe in judicial restraint. I think that is exactly what we need in a judge, personally. That is exactly what you will find when you review the hundreds of opinions she has written to date.

Then there is this litmus test question that meant so much to Senator MCCONNELL, the Republican leader in the Senate, that he led off his opposition to Judge Jackson on the issue. And the issue, quite simply, is whether or not Judge Jackson is willing to say what her position is on increasing the number of Justices serving on the Supreme Court—interesting question.

Most Americans think it has been nine for all time, but that is not true. I believe it was in 1869 that that number was established. Before then, it was a fewer number of Justices. It hasn't been changed since. There is speculation among some political quarters that people are thinking about changing it in the future.

So when it came to Senator MCCONNELL's opposition to Judge Jackson because she said it is a policy matter to be decided by Congress, not to be decided by the Court, as to the composition and number on the Supreme Court, Senator MCCONNELL went on to say that that disqualified her; that was the leading disqualification.

Well, you might ask Senator MCCONNELL: How did the previous nominee, Amy Coney Barrett—you went to great lengths in maintaining a vacancy on the Court so that a Republican judge could fill the vacancy—how did she answer this probing threshold question when it came to the future composition of the Supreme Court?

She said virtually exactly what Judge Jackson said: It is a matter for Congress to decide, not for the courts. That was an acceptable answer with Amy Coney Barrett, but for Senator MCCONNELL, it is an unacceptable answer when it comes to Judge Jackson.

The other questions that were raised were about her legal representation. Those of us who have practiced law understand that you don't necessarily agree with the legal position of every client who walks in the office, and sometimes you have no choice. If the court appoints you as a defender or as an attorney to represent someone who is an indigent client, you often have a client before you—not necessarily a savory character—who might have some questionable background. Your job is to be a zealous advocate for that client but never to lie to the court, stick with

the truth, do your best, and represent them in the course of litigation.

That is what Judge Jackson has done in her private practice and her years working for the Federal public defender. Most attorneys get it. Most of them understand that the client you are representing is not necessarily espousing your point of view, nor, really, boasting a lifestyle that you admire, but you have a professional obligation to do your best as a lawyer to represent them before the court of law.

Some of them were opposed to Judge Jackson because she represented detainees at Guantanamo Bay. That is curious because these same lawmakers once claimed that judicial nominees should not be held accountable for the views and actions of their clients.

It was the junior Senator from Missouri who not that long ago argued that litigators "do not necessarily share the views of the people [they represent]" but must "represent them effectively and fairly." He was right then, and he ought to remember it now.

Consider the words of the junior Senator from Texas, who told us in September of 2019:

Saying that the views of your clients or the positions of your clients are necessarily your own personal views is no more accurate than saying a criminal defense lawyer who represents capital defendants is advancing the cause of murder.

That is the quote from the junior Senator from Texas.

Finally, some of our Republican colleagues have accused Judge Jackson of being soft on crime. We had an interesting panel the last day when we considered the judge, and on that panel was a gentleman who is the president of the Black law enforcement organization known as NOBLE.

I asked him point blank: We know the Fraternal Order of Police has endorsed Judge Jackson's aspiration to the Court. We know that the International Association of Chiefs of Police also endorsed her. You, NOBLE, representing Black law enforcement agents across the Nation, have endorsed her. Would you or any of these organizations have even considered the endorsement if you thought she was soft on crime or wanted to defund the police? He was unequivocal. No, he wouldn't have considered her. But her critics ignore that reality.

I want to make it clear that any Senator considering her nomination has the right to make their own choice in this process. They can also look beyond the fact that she comes from a law enforcement family to her actual decisionmaking and sentencing. But to claim, as a few have—only a few—that somehow Judge Jackson was soft when it came to child predators or endangering children is just inaccurate and, frankly, insulting.

Look at the facts. Judge Jackson is well within the judicial mainstream of 70 to 80 percent of sentences by Federal judges when it comes to child pornography offenders—not out of the mainstream, in it—and she has put many

behind bars for decades. Her approach to these cases is comparable to that of many of President Trump's nominees on the bench today.

Independent fact checkers have exposed these baseless attacks for what they are. I can't say it any better than the conservative Federal prosecutor who wrote in a conservative magazine, the *National Review*, that this line of attack against Judge Jackson is "meritless to the point of demagoguery."

Let's be clear. None—absolutely none—of the attacks that have been leveled against Judge Jackson stand up to scrutiny. I assume that is why only a few of my Republican colleagues have spoken out in support of them.

So I want to thank the majority of Republican Judiciary Committee members who treated last week's hearing with dignity and respect. They posed challenging, probing questions to Judge Jackson, and that was their responsibility to do so. Judge Jackson's forthright responses showed the American public why she deserves this historic opportunity.

She is a brilliant jurist, evenhanded, with a model temperament. There were so many moments—for those who followed the hearing, they know what I am speaking of—when I looked up and saw her sitting at the table, thinking that she could stand up at this very moment and say "Enough. My family and I are leaving." But she didn't. She had the strength and the grace and the dignity and determination to weather even that political firestorm.

I am honored to support Judge Jackson. I look forward to our Judiciary Committee vote on her nomination next Monday.

(The remarks of Mr. DURBIN pertaining to the introduction of S. 3950 are printed in today's *RECORD* under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. DURBIN. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

NOMINATION OF LISA DENELL COOK

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I rise to urge my colleagues to join me in confirming Lisa Cook to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

Dr. Cook hails from the Presiding Officer's home State of Georgia. She grew up in Milledgeville, GA, where my mother's college roommate—during World War II, before she moved to Washington to be part of the war effort—was a roommate of my mother who is from Mansfield, GA, as the Presiding Officer knows. She roomed with someone from Milledgeville, GA.

Lisa Cook has good smalltown values, good southern values. She now teaches at a great Midwestern State university with good midwestern values.

She is unquestionably qualified, an economist with many years of experience. She is a graduate of Spelman. She was a Truman Scholar in England, something that very few Americans

qualify for. It is a very small, elite, important program. She then got her Ph.D. at Berkeley.

She brings a breadth of research and international experience on monetary policy, on banking, and on financial crises. In fact, she is one of the country's leading researchers on international economic growth and innovation economics.

Dr. Cook currently serves as a dual-tenured professor of economics and international relations at Michigan State. She previously taught at the Kennedy School of Government. She served on the Council of Economic Advisers during the eurozone crisis and at the Department of Treasury.

She is a historic nominee. If confirmed, she would be the first Black woman ever in the more than 100-year history of the Fed. Think about that. In 1913, the Federal Reserve began, created by this body and the House of Representatives, signed by President Wilson. So in 109 years, seven Governors on the Fed—most stay no more than 5 or 6 or 7 years—and she will be the first Black woman to ever serve on the Federal Reserve.

I am thrilled about this nomination. I am thrilled because of the diversity of gender and race but also—maybe especially—the diversity of experience. She knows, in her recognition, that workers should be at the center of our economy. She knows that workers drive our economic growth. She knows how important local communities are. She spent her formative years in the South and a significant portion of her career in the industrial Midwest. She has seen how the economy works and sometimes doesn't work so well for all different kinds of people in different parts of the country.

She arrived on campus in East Lansing, MI, a few years before the financial crisis. She saw its impact on the students, the professors, the entire community. She takes that with her—that experience, that knowledge, that insight—to the Federal Reserve.

That is an unusual thing for a Fed Governor. She has made it clear she is dedicated to Fed independence. She will uphold the Fed's dual mandate of maximum employment and price stability.

Her nomination represents another example of the Biden administration's serious effort to make the economy work for everyone, not just those at the top. That is what especially makes her an outstanding nominee.

It is a critical time for the Fed. We need Dr. Cook and other qualified nominees on the job immediately to fight inflation. Dr. Cook is unquestionably qualified. She possesses bipartisan support from top economists, former Fed Governors, bankers, civil rights organizations.

Yet despite her broad support, a small but loud minority have wrongly claimed that she doesn't meet the standards for this position, standards that only seem to apply for certain nominees.

Still, she has met and she has exceeded those high bars. She is a Ph.D. economist and a tenured professor. She is sought by organizations around the world for her input, for her knowledge, for her wisdom, for her perspective. She will bring a critical voice to the Fed, one that has been missing for far too long.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting Dr. Lisa Cook's nomination and getting her on the Board right away to help with our economic recovery.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON MOTION TO DISCHARGE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question occurs on agreeing to the motion to discharge the Cook nomination.

The yeas and nays were previously ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY).

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

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 110 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Rosen
Blumenthal	Kaine	Sanders
Booker	Kelly	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Sinema
Carper	Lujan	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Coons	Markey	Tester
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Feinstein	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden
Heinrich	Peters	

NAYS—49

Barrasso	Graham	Risch
Blackburn	Grassley	Romney
Blunt	Hagerty	Rounds
Boozman	Hawley	Rubio
Braun	Hoeben	Sasse
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Capito	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Johnson	Shelby
Collins	Lankford	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lee	Thune
Cotton	Lummis	Tillis
Cramer	Marshall	Toomey
Crapo	McConnell	Tuberville
Cruz	Moran	Wicker
Daines	Murkowski	Young
Ernst	Paul	
Fischer	Portman	

NOT VOTING—1

Kennedy

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to S. Res. 27 and the motion to discharge having been agreed to, the nomination will be placed on the Executive Calendar.

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 senior assistant 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 Executive Calendar No. 725, Nani A. Coloretti, of California, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Charles E. Schumer, Tina Smith, Brian Schatz, Angus S. King, Jr., Jon Ossoff, Tim Kaine, Chris Van Hollen, Catherine Cortez Masto, Raphael G. Warnock, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jack Reed, Tammy Baldwin, Ron Wyden, Gary C. Peters, Mazie Hirono, Christopher Murphy.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Nani A. Coloretti, of California, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 56, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 111 Ex.]

YEAS—56

Baldwin	Hassan	Padilla
Bennet	Heinrich	Peters
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Reed
Booker	Hirono	Rosen
Brown	Kaine	Sanders
Cantwell	Kelly	Schatz
Cardin	Kennedy	Schumer
Carper	King	Shaheen
Casey	Klobuchar	Sinema
Collins	Leahy	Smith
Coons	Lujan	Stabenow
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Tester
Cramer	Markey	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Menendez	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warnock
Feinstein	Murkowski	Warren
Gillibrand	Murphy	Whitehouse
Graham	Murray	Wyden
Grassley	Ossoff	

NAYS—43

Barrasso	Hawley	Rounds
Blackburn	Hoeben	Rubio
Blunt	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Boozman	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Braun	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Burr	Lankford	Shelby
Capito	Lee	Sullivan
Cassidy	Lummis	Thune
Cornyn	Marshall	Tillis
Cotton	McConnell	Toomey
Crapo	Moran	Tuberville
Cruz	Paul	Wicker
Daines	Portman	Young
Ernst	Risch	
Fischer	Romney	

NOT VOTING—1

Hagerty

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SINEMA). On this vote, the yeas are 56, the nays are 43.

The motion is agreed to.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:17 p.m. recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. SINEMA).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

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 senior assistant 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 Executive Calendar No. 791, C.S. Eliot Kang, of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Security and Non-Proliferation).

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Brian Schatz, Martin Heinrich, Alex Padilla, Jacky Rosen, Margaret Wood Hassan, Dianne Feinstein, Benjamin L. Cardin, Richard Blumenthal, Angus S. King, Jr., Bernard Sanders, Christopher Murphy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Sherrod Brown, Michael F. Bennet, Christopher A. Coons.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of C.S. Eliot Kang, of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Security and Non-Proliferation), shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 112 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Romney
Blumenthal	Kaine	Rosen
Booker	Kelly	Sanders
Brown	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Leahy	Shaheen
Carper	Lujan	Sinema
Casey	Manchin	Smith
Collins	Markey	Stabenow
Coons	Menendez	Tester
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Feinstein	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Wyden
Hassan	Padilla	
Heinrich	Peters	

NAYS—47

Barrasso	Cramer	Hoeben
Blackburn	Crapo	Hyde-Smith
Blunt	Cruz	Inhofe
Boozman	Daines	Johnson
Braun	Ernst	Kennedy
Burr	Fischer	Lankford
Capito	Graham	Lee
Cassidy	Grassley	Lummis
Cornyn	Hagerty	Marshall
Cotton	Hawley	McConnell

Moran
Paul
Portman
Risch
Rounds
Rubio

Sasse
Scott (FL)
Scott (SC)
Shelby
Sullivan
Thune

Tillis
Toomey
Tuberville
Wicker
Young

NOT VOTING—1

Whitehouse

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 47.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of C.S. Eliot Kang, of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Security and Non-Proliferation).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I rise to talk about one of the Senate's foremost constitutional duties, the advice and consent of executive nominations.

The most senior nominees, like Cabinet Secretaries, go through a floor process that normally takes about 4 days, if you run through all the procedural steps by the book. Other nominees, typically people with highly specialized expertise, go through a rigorous committee process and are often confirmed by unanimous consent.

Any Senator can object; that is the right of the Senator. If they feel that even one of hundreds of lower-level nominees should take up nearly a full week of the U.S. Senate's time, they can insist upon that.

I think Presidents are due an appropriate level of discretion in picking their teams, and I believe this is true whether or not the President is one I support or oppose. I believe in having the executive branch staffed with qualified professionals. I do draw the line at three areas: if a nominee is totally unqualified for the job, if there is a well-justified reason to question a nominee's ethics or honesty or impartiality, and, finally, if a nominee is so outside the mainstream in ways that go beyond normal good-faith disagreement on matters of policy.

I opposed a number of President Trump's nominees who met one or multiple of these criteria, but I also supported a larger percentage of President Trump's nominees. Even though these were not people I expected to agree with on policy, they did not fall afoul of the three criteria that I look at in a primary way.

I am here today because of several nominees within the jurisdiction of multiple committees I sit on; they are being blockaded, and I would like to focus on one just now.

Amy Loyd is nominated to be the Assistant Secretary of Education for Career, Technical, and Adult Education.

Ms. Loyd designed and led programs across the United States in her prior role at the education think tank Jobs for the Future and the Native American educational advocacy group the Cook Inlet Tribal Council.

She had a distinguished academic career, attending community college first in Santa Fe, prior to a doctorate in education leadership from Harvard Graduate School of Education. She is a lifelong professional in the field of career and technical education, and she brings personal life experience in the field, having begun her career at community college. I believe she is an outstanding point person for President Biden when it comes to matters of career and technical education.

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions advanced her nomination by a voice vote, with no recorded opposition. I sit on the HELP Committee. I am the chairman of the bipartisan Senate Career and Technical Education Caucus. I was proud to support her.

Although I do not know Ms. Loyd personally, I do have a personal connection to her nomination. My dad ran a welding and ironworking shop. I grew up working in that shop with my two brothers and my mother. I saw the power of career and technical education and the artistry of the ironworkers who worked in my dad's business.

When I was in the middle of law school, I took a year off to go be a missionary in Honduras, and I ran a school that taught kids to be carpenters and welders, again seeing the power of career and technical education. And I think that there is a bipartisan understanding in this body and the House—really, in society at large—that we may have undervalued career and technical education in recent generations; and as we are contemplating things like an infrastructure bill or other important priorities to grow the economy, we need to put more stress, not less, on the value of career and technical education.

So, as a Senator, I am proud to have made this one of my central policy fields: working on CTE bills with many, many colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

There is a hold on Amy Loyd's nomination, and that is the right of those who would hold her. But I am here specifically because I would like to know why.

I would ask my colleagues under which of the three buckets does Ms. Loyd's nomination fall short? Is there a perception that she is not qualified? Is there a perception that she is not ethical? Is there a perception that her views on career and technical education are outside the mainstream?

You don't have to support President Biden's nominees. If she is confirmed, part of her job will be answering tough questions from colleagues.

But I would ask my colleagues, if you are voting against nominees of any

President from the other party not because of flaws of the kinds that I have described, what does that get us?

The American people put Democrats for a period of time in charge of both the executive and the legislative branches. The American public often vote for divided government. Does that mean that any time the White House and the Senate are controlled by different parties, the parties just won't have anybody in their administration? What does that get our country? I think we know the answer: dysfunction.

Clearly, Madam President, as I conclude, there are nominees who engender significant controversy, either because of the peculiar nature of the post to which they have been nominated or because of aspects of their background or character. I know of no such controversy with this nominee, either about the position or about the individual herself. And I think if we are to succeed in the necessary project of elevating the importance of career and technical education, we need to have Ms. Loyd confirmed in her position.

For that reason, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nomination; Calendar No. 669, Amy Loyd, to be Assistant Secretary for Career, Technical, and Adult Education, Department of Education; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; and that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Madam President, reserving the right to object.

I do think it is significant that the party that is now in the majority that was previously in the minority took a different position when it was not in the minority—when it was not in the majority and when a President of their political party was not in power. There was elaborate and, I believe, an excessive delay in the confirmation of a lot of nominees, even more so than what we are seeing now.

I do have concerns that are particular as to this particular nominee and not generalized. They are not concerns that could be dismissed simply as a result of basic partisan disagreements, but based on views that are considerably outside the mainstream and that are radical and harmful.

Let me explain. As vice president of the think tank Jobs for the Future, Ms. Loyd was responsible for overseeing that organization's workforce development efforts through the lens of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

It is of great concern to me that this body of work produced reports that promulgated ideas aimed at furthering the divisive agenda of critical race theory and ESG scores. One of the most alarming of these reports is one that

was published on September 8, 2020, which asserted that due to "unconscious or implicit bias toward minorities," managers are limiting the advancement or promotion of minorities in the workforce.

These divisive, inflammatory assumptions are dangerous to the civil fabric of our society. Elevating individuals who espouse this dangerous and divisive ideology to key leadership positions within the Federal Government will only further divide Americans, pitting them one against another.

We should instead seek to elevate into positions of leadership those who aim to unify the American people and emphasize the importance of making sure that people are evaluated on the basis of the character of their heart, not the color of their skin. Her work has done the opposite of that.

In good conscience, I cannot and will not support the nomination of Ms. Loyd; and on that basis, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

ENERGY

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I come to the floor today to speak about unleashing American energy. Earlier this month, we saw the highest price ever for a gallon of gasoline in the United States. Inflation is over a high of 40 years. Energy costs are driving the cost of everything else, and there appears to be no end in sight. Joe Biden cannot hide from the fact that he is the President of high prices.

Meanwhile, in Europe, Vladimir Putin continues his onslaught. The Russian killing machine continues its assault on innocent people. Thousands of civilians have been killed. This includes hundreds of children.

Vladimir Putin's war crimes are all paid for with Russian energy. Energy accounts for nearly half of Putin's budget. Energy is the only successful industry in the Russian economy. If you want to defund Vladimir Putin, you have to drain his tank. You have to defund him on energy.

So what have we seen from the President of the United States? Well, Joe Biden spent all last year acting like Vladimir Putin was his "Secretary of Energy." Joe Biden played right along. Putin wanted it; Biden did it, followed the "Secretary of Energy."

Biden decided against sanctions on Putin's Nord Stream 2 Pipeline. People in this body, on both sides of the aisle, said: Mr. President, sanction the pipeline; don't allow it.

Putin said: I want it.

Biden gave it.

Actually, Joe Biden actually lobbied this body, the U.S. Senate, to not do what we knew was the right thing to do in terms of sanctioning Vladimir Putin and the pipeline. Biden caved to Putin.

Biden also caved to Putin by extending our nuclear arms reduction treaty without any conditions. He essentially gave Vladimir Putin exactly what he wanted: a permission slip to build up the military. Even after the invasion, 2 weeks in, Joe Biden was still fine with buying Russian oil. It took bipartisan Members of the House and the Senate to stop it.

He didn't ban Russian oil because of the war; it was because of this bipartisan effort in Congress. We finally forced his hand. Democrats in Congress were willing to stand up to the President of the United States and say they were willing to join the Republicans in overriding the President on this very matter. Joe Biden dragged his feet, so a bipartisan group in Congress had to drag Joe Biden.

Every Member of this body should remember what President Zelenskyy had to say to us. He said: If there had been sanctions, meaning in January, there would not have been a war. In January, I came to this floor, and I said history would not be kind to those who ran interference for Vladimir Putin. It is even more true today. History will not be kind to those who stood by as Vladimir Putin planned, prepared, and paid for the invasion.

At every step in this crisis, Congress has had to take the lead, and the President had to be pulled along. Congress had to drag Joe Biden into banning seven Russian banks from the SWIFT payment system. Congress had to drag Joe Biden into revoking Russia's trade status.

Congress had to drag Joe Biden into sending lethal aid to Ukraine. Two-thirds of this aid still hasn't been delivered. Congress signed a check for \$3 billion in weapons. So far, it looks like Joe Biden has provided to Ukraine about \$800 million.

So where are the weapons? Where are the weapons right now? There is no time to waste. Innocent people are being murdered. In so much of this, Joe Biden has been not just a day late but billions of dollars short, and he is leading from far, far behind.

But Joe Biden seems to be proud of himself. He went to Europe last week, bragged about the sanctions on Russia. Well, there is still a lot of work to do.

I am here on the Senate floor to tell you that we have more work to do in terms of dragging Joe Biden along. On Friday, Joe Biden announced an energy agreement with the European Union. The White House listed 14 things that they would do. Well, what was missing from that list? Well, I will tell you: the one thing that would actually work.

Missing from the list of 14 was the thing that would actually work, which is increasing the production of American oil and gas. Under the agreement, Europe will buy an additional 15 billion

cubic meters of natural gas each year. Now, that is about 10 percent of what they currently buy from Russia. So where is it going to come from? It is a legitimate question. They don't know. On Friday, a Biden official said this. He said: We can't speak to exactly where the natural gas is coming from.

The White House also said that the United States will "maintain its regulatory environment." In other words, no change to current policy. The war on American energy will continue.

And if you took a look at the budget that came out yesterday, there are 36 new taxes proposed, 11 of which are going to drive up the cost of American energy. At a time of the highest gas prices ever, 40 percent inflation, the Biden budget says we need to put more tax on the production of energy in this country.

We need to produce more energy. We need it. We will use it. Europe needs it. We have promised it to them. Joe Biden's regulators want to keep it in the ground.

Now, Secretary Granholm waited until last week to approve two pending applications for liquefied natural gas exports. She could have approved them last year; didn't. Waited until 2 weeks after Russia invaded Ukraine to finally approve two of six permits. It took weeks of bloodshed. There are still four more applications waiting on her desk. Oh, they have been sitting there for well over a year.

Time to wake up and approve the applications. Europe has woken up. They are wide awake from their addiction and reliance on their enemies for their energy. Joe Biden is still sleepwalking.

Now, Russia is still exporting energy all around the world. We put sanctions in place, but this is what the Washington Post had to say. They called the energy exports continuing today from Russia "the loophole that's keeping Russia's economy alive."

China is stocking up on Russian oil at a discount. None of Joe Biden's sanctions do a thing to stop China—not a one. China can continue to prop up the Russian war machine.

As Senator TOOMEY has said, we need secondary sanctions to stop the flow of cash to the Kremlin. Joe Biden's banking sanctions explicitly avoid hitting Russian energy. It is the key to this funding: \$5 to \$7 billion a week to the killing machine from exporting Russian energy.

The banking sanctions don't even go into effect until June 24. It is still March. April, May—June 24. The war may be over by then, but in the meantime, thousands of people could die.

Oh, and the President's sanctions do not include Russian uranium. They should, but they don't. As a result, our Nation, America, remains dependent on Vladimir Putin for one of the most important elements on Earth. You want to defund Putin's invasion, it is time to finish the job with banning of imports from Russia to the United States, and we must ban uranium. We need to do it now.

Now, earlier this month, I have introduced legislation to do just that. Now, I am grateful that Senator LUMMIS and Senator MARSHALL and Senator CRAMER have added their strong support. Here in America, we have vast uranium supplies, and it is especially true in my home State of Wyoming. There is no reason at all that America should be buying uranium from Vladimir Putin and Russia.

Now, Joe Biden is also helping sell Russian uranium in other countries because, right now, Joe Biden is pushing our Nation into a deal with Iran that was negotiated by Russia. Yes, you heard me right: negotiated by Russia—not negotiated by the Americans, not negotiated by—no. We let Vladimir Putin negotiate with Iran on a nuclear deal.

A deal with Iran would mean billions of dollars for Russia. You don't believe it? It is true. A Russia state-controlled nuclear energy company would get about \$10 billion out of the deal. More bullets, more bombs, more bloodshed paid for by Joe Biden's uranium deal.

When it comes to Iran and Russia, no deal is a good deal. Whether it is uranium, whether it is natural gas, the solution for Russian energy is American energy. We have it. We have it in abundance. This administration will not let us get it out of the ground.

Today, we are still producing 1.3 million fewer barrels of oil than we were prior to the pandemic. The administration is still sitting on 4,600 drilling permits. Joe Biden still hasn't had a single lease sale on Federal lands for oil and gas.

Just yesterday, Joe Biden proposed a \$43 billion tax increase on American energy. Who pays these taxes? Clearly, the hard-working families of this country in the form of higher prices. This is the last thing the country needs now at a time of 40-year high inflation and the highest gas prices ever.

Energy security is worth a lot more than climate zealotry. Our friends in Europe who are held hostage by Vladimir Putin will tell you that today. We are much better off as a nation selling energy to our friends than being forced to buy it from our enemies.

What President Biden and the Democrats don't seem to understand is this: Energy security is national security. For ourselves, for our allies, we need more American energy, and we need it now.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MURPHY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Iowa.

BIDEN FAMILY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Yesterday, Senator JOHNSON and I discussed a joint investigation into the Biden family's foreign financial entanglements. We reviewed much of our earlier work and provided a brief preview of the new material.

Today, we will give our second speech on our Biden investigation series. Once again, we are going to make public and we are going to describe new financial records relating to Hunter Biden and his connections to the communist Chinese Government. Most of that focus will be on his connections to the CEFC, a company that is effectively an arm of the Chinese Government.

But first we must go back to 2015. At that time, Hunter Biden served on the board of Burisma and was paid tens of thousands of dollars each month. Its owner was a corrupt Russian-aligned Ukrainian oligarch. But that is not all that Hunter Biden was up to.

In that year, CEFC International announced an agreement with Northern International Capital Holdings. Northern International is incorporated in China, and it is very much involved in the energy sector.

One of Ye Jianming's companies was a majority shareholder of CEFC International. Northern International purchased 123 million dollars' worth of CEFC's shares, binding the two companies together.

We must also mention Hudson West III and its financial connection to CEFC. Hunter Biden was an investor and a manager of Hudson West III. He was tasked with advancing its interests. Hudson West III also involved Chinese nationals connected to the communist regime, such as Gongwen Dong, whom I talked about yesterday.

Now let's look at this first poster.

I should note that Senator JOHNSON and I will make these documents public in full. We are providing snapshots for our presentation here on the floor of the U.S. Senate.

Here we have one portion of an LLC agreement from a bank. It shows the companies that have bound themselves together: Hudson West V, Hudson West III, and Owasco. Owasco is Hunter Biden's firm.

Now let's turn to the second poster.

The paragraph at the top shows the purpose for which the LLC agreement exists.

So what this tells us is that Hunter Biden and James Biden linked up with companies connected to the communist regime to assist them with finding projects for global and domestic infrastructure and energy.

As we know from my and Senator JOHNSON's report from last August, some energy project explorations between the Biden family and China were here in the United States. One example is a multimillion-dollar natural gas project in Louisiana.

Now let's move to the next paragraph at the bottom of this same poster, which defines the word "affiliate" in the agreement.

For the avoidance of doubt, CEFC China Energy Company Limited or any of its Affiliates shall be deemed as an Affiliate of Hudson.

Accordingly, this agreement between Hunter Biden's firm and Hudson West III and Hudson West V directly connects Hunter Biden to CEFC.

So was this agreement executed?

Let's look at this third poster, which contains a signature block executing the agreement.

Here we see Hunter Biden's signature with Gongwen Dong. As previously noted, Gongwen was an associate of Ye Jianming. Both men were connected to the communist regime, including its military elements.

Notably, Hunter Biden worked for Ye Jianming to get him involved in the natural gas project in Louisiana. That project eventually fell through.

Now let's bring up a fourth poster labeled a "Joinder Agreement" relating to the LLC agreement.

Again, Hunter Biden is signing with Gongwen Dong with respect to the LLC agreement. Accordingly, we can now conclude the following: Hunter Biden was financially connected to CEFC, a company that was an arm of the communist Chinese regime, for the purpose of advancing its energy interests.

This agreement also shows two additional findings: first, Hunter Biden's responsibility to advance Hudson West III's interests as of August 2, 2017; second, Hunter Biden's close association with Hudson West III, CEFC, and its affiliates as of August 2, 2017. That date is important as I will show you soon.

Let's turn to a fifth poster. On this fifth poster, look at the top.

This is a bank record showing an August 8, 2017, wire transfer from Northern International Capital to Hudson West III for \$5 million. This is \$5 million from a company that is connected to Ye Jianming and CEFC and its affiliates, which are essentially arms of the communist Chinese regime, and that transfer took place after Hunter Biden became closely associated with Hudson West III as the LLC agreement shows.

So what was the money for?

As noted, Hunter Biden was working with Chinese nationals linked to the communist regime to help them explore energy projects.

Now look at the bottom of this poster.

This is a paragraph from the LLC agreement. It shows that Hunter Biden was paid \$100,000 per month; that James Biden was paid \$65,000 per month; and that Hunter Biden will be paid a onetime retainer fee of \$500,000.

Again, this is money connected to Hudson West III, a company connected to CEFC and Gongwen Dong. Both are connected, in turn, to the communist Chinese regime.

We can now conclude this with respect to James Biden: James Biden was financially connected to CEFC, a company that was an arm of the communist Chinese regime, for the purpose of advancing energy interests.

After the LLC agreement was signed, money flowed from CEFC and its shareholders into the bank account of Hudson West III, including the \$5 million from Northern International. This LLC agreement was the trigger point for high-dollar financial transactions involving Hunter and James Biden.

Now let's turn to poster six and view the top.

This is a Hudson West III bank record that shows a wire transfer on August 31, 2017, for \$165,000. Notably, this is the same month as the \$5 million wire from Northern International. It is also the same month that Hunter Biden signed the August 2, 2017, LLC agreement. The wire is to Wells Fargo Clearing Services.

Now look at the bottom of this poster.

Senator JOHNSON and I have acquired more than just the bank statement; we have acquired underlying wire data.

So look at the fourth line at the bottom. It says:

Further credit to Owasco PC.

The underlying wire data shows that it went to Owasco, Hunter Biden's firm.

Senator JOHNSON and I have years of bank records that show multiple \$165,000 wire transfers from Hudson West III to Owasco. There were also wire transfers for other amounts—some for more, some for less. Most likely, some of those payments were for expenses under the LLC agreement.

So you have an August 2, 2017, LLC agreement with Hudson West III and Owasco noting \$100,000 a month to Hunter Biden and \$65,000 to James Biden. Then you have an August 8, 2017, wire transfer of \$5 million from Northern International to Hudson West III. After that August 8 wire, you see years of wire transfers from Hudson West III to Hunter Biden's company. The majority of these is for \$165,000—the exact amount due under the LLC agreement.

Based on the timing of the transactions, Hunter Biden's and James Biden's payments under the LLC agreement came from that \$5 million wire—a wire, mind you, that came from a company connected to Ye Jianming and CEFC, which is an arm of the Chinese Government.

These years of records show that Hunter Biden and James Biden were more connected to the communist regime's elements than had been previously known. These records place them at the center of Hudson West III, Gongwen Dong, and CEFC.

This is a finding that Senator JOHNSON and I made public in our Biden reports last Congress. These are the same reports that Members of the other political party in this body and the liberal press found fault with; that, somehow, it was Russian disinformation.

So I say this to the liberal media and our Democratic colleagues who tried to smear our work all of these years and accuse us of peddling Russian disinformation: You have seen all of

these documents that we have presented. Are these official bank records Russian disinformation?

To our Democratic colleagues and the liberal media, we deserve an answer because you made several efforts to smear our reputations as we were starting this investigation 2 or 3 years ago.

Now I am going to turn it over to Senator JOHNSON to discuss a name that I gave you yesterday, Patrick Ho, and related records to Patrick Ho that we have acquired.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, as my colleague, the senior Senator from Iowa, has shown, Hunter Biden and James Biden received millions of dollars from companies connected to the communist Chinese regime. Frankly, it is worse than that. These companies were effectively an arm of the Chinese Government.

This isn't Russian disinformation; these are hard facts backed up by bank records of actual financial records and transactions that prove just how connected the Bidens were and how compromised President Biden probably is.

I use this next series of transactions to prove my point.

The first chart here shows a bank record showing a \$1 million wire transfer into the account of Hudson West III from CEFC Limited on November 2, 2017. As Senator GRASSLEY and I have already established, CEFC is effectively an arm of the communist Chinese regime. It is also important to note that at the time of this transfer, in November 2017, Hunter Biden was already invested in and providing management for Hudson West III. So a company that was effectively an arm of the Chinese Government transferred \$1 million in November 2017 to a company that Hunter Biden is managing and is invested in.

I also bring up the second record. Focus on the \$1 million wired out on March 22, 2018. Again, this is a record from Hudson West III's bank account. Like the previous record, this is showing the transfer of \$1 million, but this time the money is being transferred out of Hudson West III to OWASCO, another one of Hunter Biden's firms. This transfer took place on March 22, 2018, a little less than 5 months after the \$1 million transfer from CEFC to Hudson West III.

Hunter is transferring \$1 million between two firms he manages and has ownership in. So what is the purpose of these two \$1 million transfers? This next record seems to answer that question. This record shows OWASCO's receipt of the March 22, 2018, \$1 million transfer. It also shows what the transfer is for on the OBI line. "OBI" is an abbreviation for "originating beneficiary information." It is like the memo line on your personal check; it tells you really what that check was about. In this case, the OBI indicates the transfer is being made for "Dr. Patrick Ho Chi Ping representation."

So, to recap, on November 2, 2017, Patrick Ho's company, CEFC, wired \$1 million to Hunter Biden's company, Hudson West III. On March 22, 2018, Hudson West III wired \$1 million to OWASCO, another Hunter Biden company. The bank record clearly states that the \$1 million payment was being made for the purpose of representing Patrick Ho.

Represent him for what? Here is where things get interesting. We know that Patrick Ho was arrested by U.S. authorities in November 2017 for international bribery and money laundering charges. Keep in mind that this arrest occurred in the same month that Patrick Ho's company, CEFC, is wiring \$1 million to Hunter Biden's company, Hudson West III. According to the Department of Justice, "Ho orchestrated and executed two bribery schemes to pay top officials of Chad and Uganda in exchange for business advantages for CEFC China, a Shanghai-based multi-billion dollar conglomerate that operates in multiple sectors, including oil, gas, and banking." These are crimes for which Patrick Ho is eventually convicted and sent to Federal prison for committing.

So the company that Patrick Ho was making bribes for sends \$1 million to a company Hunter Biden manages and is invested in. That company, in turn, transfers a million dollars to another Hunter Biden company for the purposes of representing Patrick Ho, who is eventually convicted of international bribery and money laundering.

Guess what Patrick Ho did around the same time he was arrested by the FBI for corruption and bribery. He contacted James Biden, President Biden's brother. Patrick Ho's decision to call the Biden family around the same time he got arrested is revealing, particularly in light of the fact that the same month, a million dollars just happened to be transferred to Hunter Biden's company.

Now, Hunter Biden isn't a criminal defense attorney. Patrick Ho was charged and convicted for bribery and related Federal offenses and crimes. So what kind of representation was Patrick Ho's company paying Hunter Biden's firm to provide? Were they paying for his firm's legal expertise or for Hunter's political connections?

In March 2021, Senator GRASSLEY and I asked the Justice Department about Patrick Ho. Why? Because there is a Federal court filing that says the Department has FISA records on Patrick Ho. We requested these records. In response, the Department would not confirm whether they even had his records. Unfortunately, the Attorney General refuses to clarify that outrageous contradiction for Congress.

Oh, and one more tidbit. In a recently uncovered audio extracted from his laptop, Hunter Biden referred to Patrick Ho as the "[expletive deleted] spy chief of China." Let that sink in a minute. Hunter Biden referred to Patrick Ho in an audio as the "[expletive

deleted] spy chief of China." This quote alone tells you that Hunter Biden knew exactly who he was dealing with. He knew exactly who he was dealing with. He was dealing with the "[expletive deleted] spy chief of China." Now, that fact should alert the media and our Democrat colleagues to seriously consider the implications the Biden's family vast web of foreign financial entanglements have in the conduct of this administration's foreign policy and our national security, but I am not holding my breath.

In October 2020, Senator GRASSLEY and I requested to interview Hunter and James Biden about their financial dealings. If they had nothing to hide, they could have volunteered to come in and sit for an interview. If there was an innocent explanation for these foreign financial transactions, they could have used that interview to clarify what those transactions were about. Unfortunately, rather than being transparent, honest, and forthcoming, they declined to speak to us. Their silence speaks volumes.

Fortunately, facts are stubborn things. As the Bidens, our Democrat colleagues, and the media are learning, it is difficult to keep them hidden forever. Senator GRASSLEY and I will continue to investigate the Biden family's foreign financial entanglements and provide the American people with the truth to the best of our ability.

Our challenge is that the deep state does not give up its secrets easily. New evidence of Biden family influence peddling is surfacing on a regular basis, often coming from records from Hunter Biden's laptop—the same laptop, by the way, that the media and deep state foreign intelligence agency officials inferred—strongly inferred—was, you guessed it, Russian disinformation. And their guile worked.

Prior to the election, people bought the fact that that laptop was probably Russian disinformation. It wasn't. As the New York Times just admitted about a year too late—more than a year too late—that laptop is authentic, and the evidence it is producing is real. But, of course, that laptop wasn't Russian disinformation, nor is any of the information we presented in our reports and here on the floor of the Senate.

We may never know all the details of the Biden family foreign entanglements or the full extent to which those entanglements compromise our current President, but I am pretty confident I know who does know—intelligence operatives in Russia, China, Iran, and North Korea. Elements within our U.S. intelligence agencies probably also know; they are just not going to tell us or you, the American people.

Senator GRASSLEY and I will return for our third speeches in this series on the Biden family's foreign financial entanglements.

Until then, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

UKRAINE

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, it has been more than a month since Russia launched an unprovoked and unwarranted attack against the people of Ukraine. In the interim, the world has marveled at the strength, the resiliency, and the courage of Ukrainian forces, as well as their leadership in President Zelenskyy.

Ukraine has a real shot at defeating this Russian aggression, but that can only happen if it has the weapons and resources it desperately needs.

I recently traveled to Poland and Germany with a bipartisan group of Senate colleagues to learn more about what Ukraine needs and the challenges our NATO allies are up against.

Over the course of 3 days, we met with American military leaders and diplomats, as well as members of the 82nd Airborne. We spoke with our NATO partners, who are supporting both the military and humanitarian needs of Ukraine, and we had the opportunity to talk to some of the Ukrainian refugees themselves. The primary message we heard, consistent message that we heard was, we need more and we need it faster—more Stingers, more Javelins, more air defenses, more lethal aid—and they reiterated their need for aircraft like the Poland MiGs.

Statements of support are important, but they do nothing to help Ukrainian forces defeat this Russian aggression.

It was an incredibly powerful and enlightening experience to hear directly from the incredible men and women on the ground, and I want to thank our friend, Senator ERNST from Iowa, for leading this bipartisan congressional delegation. I think it also sent a very strong message to our friends and allies in the region that 10 Senators—one-tenth of the United States Senate—were willing to make this trip on a bipartisan basis. I think we all came back with a deeper understanding of Ukraine's needs and a renewed sense of urgency to do everything in our power to make it happen.

Over the last 4 weeks, Russia has bombed Ukrainian hospitals, schools, apartment buildings, humanitarian refugee corridors even, and even civilians waiting in a bread line. It is pretty clear that we need to use every tool available to bolster Ukraine's defense and weaken the aggression of the Russian forces. It is not a matter of one or the other; we need to do both.

To support Ukraine, we need to answer the call for more defensive weapons. Whether intentionally or not, the administration has given Ukraine the bare minimum—just enough to keep it from being completely overrun by the Russians but not enough to help it win the war. In other words, the Biden administration is propping up Ukraine to keep taking further hits rather than giving it the full forces it needs to win the fight.

We need to help Ukraine vanquish Russian forces from its territory en-

tirely, not just to extend the length of this war. Actually, by not giving Ukraine everything it needs in order to repulse Russian aggression, we are playing into Putin's hands, because Putin has clearly changed his tactics. From the initial reports of trying to encircle Kyiv and perhaps assassinate President Zelenskyy and install a puppet government, clearly, Putin has bitten off more than he can chew when it comes to invading Ukraine and executing on that original mission.

But now, he is engaged in a war of attrition, flattening Ukrainian cities, killing innocent civilians from outside of Ukrainian airspace because he is worried about the anti-aircraft capabilities of the Ukrainians using things like MANPADS and Stinger missiles.

Well, time is on Putin's side, and we need to level the playing field and actually give the Ukrainians what they need in order to stop this war as soon as possible, before further loss of life and further damage to their country is done.

Now, the most effective way to do this—since Ukraine is not a member of NATO, we are not going to send troops there, as President Biden has said, appropriately so; but we need to ensure that the Ukrainians have everything they need in order to do the job themselves. As President Zelenskyy has said:

Ukraine can't shoot down Russian missiles with shotguns and machine guns.

Unfortunately, there are a lot of roadblocks standing in the way, and unfortunately, one of those is the reluctance of the Biden administration to quickly and expeditiously get the Ukrainians what they need.

For example, Poland offered to transfer its entire fleet of MiG-29 fighters to the United States for delivery to Ukraine. Ukrainian forces already know how to fly these Russian aircraft, and President Zelenskyy assured us that they are desperately needed. But the Biden administration rejected the offer after, first, Secretary Blinken seemed to give it the green light. The administration changed its mind out of fear that they might provoke Putin—once again, playing right into his hand. All Putin has to do is rattle his saber to deter the United States and its allies from helping Ukraine to the maximum of our capability.

Another big obstacle that the Ukrainians are finding is the redtape associated with anything that the Federal Government seems to do. Ukraine has provided a detailed list of the resources it needs: fighters, anti-aircraft missile systems, more Stingers, more Javelins. It is not a list of items they will need next month or the next; it is what they need right now in order to survive. The process of getting defense articles into Ukrainian soldiers' hands includes some big bureaucratic hurdles that not only make it harder to act quickly but make it more difficult to send Ukraine the resources they desperately need.

Fortunately, there is strong precedent from World War II that we could follow to help expedite the process. During World War II, when Britain was hanging on by a thread and the United States was a noncombatant in that worldwide war at the time, President Roosevelt vowed to transform the United States into the "arsenal of democracy," as he called it; and he worked with Congress to pass the Lend-Lease Act.

This legislation allowed the United States to use its industrial might to supply Britain and our other allies with the resources they needed at a critical time in World War II and without lengthy delays.

Borrowing inspiration from President Roosevelt, I introduced bipartisan legislation with colleagues called the Ukraine Democracy Defense Lend-Lease Act, which will expedite getting Ukrainian forces the resources they need to win the fight without any unnecessary delays.

I also think that, in addition to the actions by the administration, I think it sends a strong bipartisan message of support from this body and gives encouragement to our friends in Ukraine, who are fighting for their very existence. This legislation authorizes the President to enter lend-lease agreements directly with Ukraine and provide Ukrainian forces with lethal weapons needed to defend their sovereignty.

But I think, rather than the piecemeal approach being used by the administration, this would open this arsenal of democracy known as the American industrial base to provide Ukraine what it needs and give them the assurance that, whether they need it today or tomorrow or they need it replenished next week, it will be there for them as long as they need it.

I am proud to have worked with a number of colleagues on this bipartisan bill, including Senators CARDIN, WICKER, SHAHEEN, and many others. So far, more than 20 Senators have cosponsored this legislation, and I hope we can pass it without any further delay. This is obviously an urgent crisis.

Putin thought this was going to be like the Taliban taking Afghanistan after the United States and NATO's withdrawal. He thought he could take Ukraine without firing a bullet—well, so much for Putin's plans, his arrogance, and his underestimation of the willingness of the Ukrainian people to fight for their own country.

But we need to pass this legislation and ensure Ukrainian forces that they will have what they need when they need it. As I said, we have a moral obligation—maybe not a treaty obligation under NATO, but I believe we have a moral obligation to support people fighting for their very freedom and their very lives in a democratically run country like Ukraine.

The United States and our allies have imposed crippling sanctions on Russian businesses, banks, and oligarchs, which

have sent the country's economy into a tailspin. But in typical Russian fashion, they planned for some of these sanctions, and they have found loopholes in the current sanction regime. It has taken a page out of Venezuela's book by using the purchase and sale of gold to bring in cash with which to run their economy. The Russian Federation is buying gold to offset the devaluation of the ruble, its currency, and then selling that gold in international markets in exchange for high-value currency.

In short, Russia is laundering money through the gold market, and we need to put a stop to it. I, along with other colleagues, introduced the Stop Russian GOLD Act that would bring an end to this practice. We talked to Secretary Yellen, and she agreed that this would be supplemental to what the administration has already done unilaterally.

This legislation would apply sanctions to parties who help Russia finance their war by buying or selling this blood gold. That means anyone who buys or transports gold from Russia's central bank would be the target of sanctions. This would be a huge deterrent to anyone considering doing business with Russia and helping them evade sanctions. In short, we need to take every possible step to cut the financing for Putin's war machine, and this is one additional way to do so. Along with the lend-lease bill I mentioned a moment ago, I hope we can pass this legislation without further delay.

There is more we can do to support Ukraine and hit Russia where it hurts and to raise the costs associated with its unprovoked and unwarranted invasion of Ukraine, but it is past time to continue to ramp up the pressure to the maximum ability that we can.

At this juncture, principled leadership and decisive action are absolutely critical. As Leader MCCONNELL put it, President Biden has generally done the right thing, but never soon enough. For example, last year, the President ignored the immense pressure to sanction the Nord Stream 2 Pipeline. He finally, after resisting, imposed those sanctions last month.

As Russian troops mounted on Ukraine's borders late last year, the administration withheld millions of dollars in aid for weeks before finally releasing it. President Biden disregarded bipartisan calls to impose paralyzing sanctions on Russia before the invasion in order to try to deter it. Instead, he waited until after the invasion happened to try to impose costs on Russia. President Biden ignored calls to stop Russian oil imports until it became clear that Congress would pass legislation to do just that. Once the handwriting was on the wall, the President announced an import ban to try to get ahead of congressional action.

President Biden has been so preoccupied with how Putin might react that Putin has been deterring the ad-

ministration from acting with the sort of expediency and dispatch that are absolutely necessary and called for. Waiting until the court of public opinion is not the kind of leadership that this emergency requires. Mr. President, Ukraine is being bludgeoned by Russia every day. We need to act with all deliberate speed to get them the additional resources they need, which means we need to do it now so they can fight and ultimately prevail.

The United States may be an ocean away from this conflict, but democracy itself is on the front lines. We know President Putin is motivated by a vision of restoration of the Russian Empire, after having called the fall of the Soviet Union one of the greatest geopolitical tragedies in history.

So we don't know when Putin will stop or if he will stop, which gives us the only option of doing everything we can to assist our Ukrainian friends from stopping him themselves. We stand in solidarity with our partners in Europe, and we are committed to supporting Ukraine as it defends its sovereignty.

So, in the coming days—hopefully in the coming hours—I hope the Senate will take action on these bipartisan bills and impose greater costs on Russia in the interest of peace and Ukrainian sovereignty.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF NANI A. COLORETTI

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise in support of Nani Coloretti's nomination to be the Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Ms. Coloretti is a dedicated public servant and a proven leader who is well qualified to serve as OMB Deputy Director. She has over 20 years of experience at the Federal, State, and local level executing complex government programs, improving service delivery, and managing large organizations.

Ms. Coloretti served with distinction in the Obama administration as the Assistant Secretary for Management at the U.S. Department of the Treasury and then as the Deputy Secretary at the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

It is absolutely critical that we have Senate-confirmed leaders in place at OMB, and I have no doubt that Ms. Coloretti's experience will serve the Agency and the American people well.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting Nani Coloretti's nomination to be OMB Deputy Director.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

NOMINATION OF AMY LOYD

Mr. KAINÉ. Mr. President, I rise to do a couple of things. I am awaiting the arrival of the Senator from Missouri. I am going to make a UC motion to bring up a very important nominee in the Secretary of Defense Department, but before I do, I want to comment on a UC that I made 2 hours ago. I stood here in this spot, and I sought unanimous consent to bring forward the nomination of Amy Loyd, who is the nominee to be Assistant Secretary of Education for Career and Technical Education. She passed out of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee unanimously.

We knew there was a hold on her nomination. We didn't know why. So I sought to bring forward her nomination, and the Senator from Utah, Mr. LEE, appeared, and I asked him why he was objecting to Amy Loyd. The good news was, he answered. He didn't have to, but he gave me an answer, and he said that her work indicated an attachment to critical race theory. That was his response, and he cited an article.

I went up to him after, and I asked him what the article was, and he referred me to an article dated August 2020, titled "Diversifying Apprenticeship: Acknowledging Unconscious Bias to Improve Employee Access." That was the reason he and, he said, on behalf of others were opposing Ms. Loyd's nomination for a really important position focusing on career and technical education in the country.

I went back to my office, and I got the article. The article is seven pages long, August 2020—it is actually six pages long. It is entirely uncontroversial. Listen to this. There is a block that says "What Is Unconscious Bias?" Talk about fair and balanced language:

Unconscious biases are social stereotypes about certain groups of people that individuals form outside their conscious awareness.

Is that controversial? Is that controversial?

There are recommendations for diversifying apprenticeships because, as we know, there are a lot of apprenticeships where there are not many women in apprenticeships. Ms. Loyd is a woman. She wants to diversify apprenticeships. That doesn't seem that unusual.

The recommendations for diversifying apprenticeships in this controversial article where the phrase "critical race theory" is never mentioned are widen the selection pool; seek out workers across skill levels; develop transparent, detailed, and uniform criteria; get multiple perspectives; complement selection processes with program designs that increase access. This is just basic human resources. There is nothing in this document about critical race theory.

When I read it thinking I was going to find some real reason to oppose Ms. Loyd, I found this basic human resources 101—nothing about critical race theory. But then I realized something even more amazing. I looked at

the author of the article. This was being held against Ms. Loyd's confirmation. The author of the article is Jessica Toglia, senior program manager of JFF. Unless this is a *nom de plume*, Amy Loyd had nothing to do with the article that was cited to block her confirmation for this position.

So then I looked further. There are acknowledgements on page 7. Ms. Toglia thanks 10 different people who gave her ideas and thoughts that she put into these six pages. Amy Loyd's name isn't among the 10.

There are then 28 footnotes and references citing articles and other pieces of scholarship that were written. None of them are by Amy Loyd—none.

So in response to my request as the son of a welder that we ought to have somebody at the Department of Education who values career and technical education, this well-qualified individual, who got out of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee by unanimous vote, is now being sort of tarred with the "critical race theory" label based upon an article that she had nothing to do with—nothing to do with.

I knew if I came back and stated this, like, well, who would listen, and who would care? You can assert a reason. But the reason for opposition to her nomination has nothing to do with her.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE
CALENDAR

Mr. President, I am here on another nomination, the nomination of Christopher Lowman to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment.

That position, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment, is the principal assistant and adviser to the Department on logistics and materiel readiness. The Assistant Secretary prescribes the policies and procedures for the conduct of logistics, maintenance, materiel readiness, strategic mobility, sustainment support in the DOD, supply, maintenance, and transportation—extremely important functions to have a military that works.

We are watching the Russian military bog down in Ukraine right now for a lot of reasons, but one of the reasons is that their military has not been sustained and maintained, and a lot of their equipment is bogging down.

Mr. Lowman is the person who would do this important job, and he has been pending before us since November with a vacancy in that position at the Pentagon.

Let me tell you about Mr. Lowman. He spent his entire life serving this country in the military, and I mean entire life. He was born on a military base in Germany because his father was an Army civilian. When he graduated from high school, he went to Monmouth University and then immediately joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 1984.

Since 1984—38 years—Mr. Lowman has worked first as a U.S. marine and then as an Army civil servant, totaling more than 30 years. He most recently

served as the Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff to the G-3/5/7 Directorate, which provides planning and staff management for Agencies under the authority of the Combined Arms Support Command. He served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition Policy and Logistics. He deployed as a Director of Sustainment for the Combined Security Transition Command in Afghanistan from October 2017 to 2018. Prior to that deployment, he served as the Director for Maintenance Policy for the U.S. Army in the Office of the Chief of Staff. He was the Chief, Supply and Maintenance, at headquarters, U.S. Army Europe.

He is a much awarded member of both the military and the military civil service—the Department of the Army Integrated Logistics Support Achievement of the Year Award; three Army Meritorious Civilian Service Awards; the Army Ordnance Corps Samuel Sharpe Award; the Army's Quartermaster Corps Distinguished Order of Saint Martin.

The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment is the principal staff assistant and adviser to the Department on logistics and materiel readiness. This is a most important function.

Mr. Lowman is a Virginian who has served his entire life from his birth in military families, serving this Nation as an Active-Duty marine and then as an Army civil servant.

For that reason, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 777, Christopher Joseph Lowman, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; and that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I thank the Senator from Virginia for accommodating me here and allowing me to come to the floor, and I thank him for his remarks. I only got to hear the second half of his remarks, but I thank him for his remarks and am sure that he is in earnest about this nomination.

Let me tell you why I am here, and I will be brief. I know we have a vote that is about to kick off. But let me tell you what I am in earnest about.

The crisis in Afghanistan—the attack at Abbey Gate this past August that cost 13 American servicemembers, including 1 from my home State, from the State of Missouri, their lives—is a catastrophe unparalleled in our foreign policy in my lifetime. It is my firm conviction and it is also a promise that I made to the family of the fallen marine from my State that we should do—this Senate should perform its oversight functions related to the cata-

strophic withdrawal from Afghanistan and in particular the events leading up to that attack at Abbey Gate that resulted in the deaths of those servicemembers and the deaths of hundreds, I am afraid—hundreds—of civilians and many hundreds of other Americans left behind.

I have come to this floor before many times now to ask the Senate to hold accountable those who planned and led or failed to lead, in some instances, this operation leading to the attack at Abbey Gate, leading to that catastrophic loss of life, and leading, I am afraid, to the disastrous turn in our foreign policy, the effects of which we continue to feel.

So it is my humble but earnest request that the Senate perform its basic oversight functions, and, very briefly, let me mention one.

U.S. Central Command ordered a report of the events leading up to the Abbey Gate attack that we learned of in February. February 8, I believe, we learned that that report had been completed. It is several thousand pages long. I have the barest summary of it here.

My staff and I have been through all of it, the thousands of pages. They had over 169 interviews that U.S. Central Command conducted, again, to try to understand how we got to this crisis point leading up to and including Abbey Gate.

We have not had a single hearing in the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee on this report. Now, I applaud Central Command for carrying out the report, for ordering it, for putting it together, but we should be learning what we can and holding accountable those who need to be held accountable. Who has been fired? No one. Who has been relieved of duty? No one. And if you read the report—and I commend it to my colleagues. If you read the report, you will see individual after individual, commanders on the ground warning that we are not prepared, that the administration was not prepared to get civilians to safety in Kabul; warning that the planning was not adequate; warning that there were dangers.

So, Mr. President, I ask again that the committee do its basic oversight job, perform its basic function, hold a hearing on this report, hold accountable those who failed in that catastrophic withdrawal from Afghanistan. Until that time, I am going to continue to ask that the Senate observe regular order in leadership positions in the Department of Defense.

And for those reasons, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I respect my colleague's right to object, obviously. But I would say that while the Senator from Missouri raises very valid concerns, none of those concern this nominee, Christopher Lowman, and none of his concerns are addressed or

enhanced by leaving the Pentagon without an Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment during a war in Europe where the U.S. military is playing a very important role.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON COLORETTI NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Coloretti nomination?

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas and nays have been requested.

Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON).

The result was announced—yeas 57, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 113 Ex.]

YEAS—57

Baldwin	Hassan	Peters
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Booker	Hirono	Sanders
Brown	Kaine	Schatz
Cantwell	Kelly	Schumer
Cardin	Kennedy	Shaheen
Carper	King	Sinema
Casey	Klobuchar	Smith
Collins	Leahy	Stabenow
Coons	Lujan	Sullivan
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Tester
Cramer	Markey	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murkowski	Warnock
Feinstein	Murphy	Warren
Gillibrand	Murray	Whitehouse
Graham	Ossoff	Wicker
Grassley	Padilla	Wyden

NAYS—41

Barrasso	Hagerty	Risch
Blackburn	Hawley	Romney
Blunt	Hoeben	Rounds
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Braun	Inhofe	Sasse
Burr	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Capito	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Lee	Shelby
Cornyn	Lummis	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Tillis
Cruz	McConnell	Toomey
Daines	Moran	Tuberville
Ernst	Paul	Young
Fischer	Portman	

NOT VOTING—2

Cotton
Menendez

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PETERS). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

NOMINATION OF C.S. ELIOT KANG

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise today to express my support for the nomination of Dr. Eliot Kang to be Assistant Secretary of State for International Security and Non-Proliferation, ISN.

At a time of increasing concern about the potential use of chemical or biological weapons in Ukraine by Rus-

sia, it is vital the United States have a Senate-confirmed official in place to counter these dangers, as well as other nuclear threats. ISN leads the State Department's efforts to halt the spread of weapons of mass destruction—nuclear, chemical, and biological—as well as the means to deliver them. We need a Senate-confirmed expert at the helm to coordinate prevention and response with the Ukrainian Government, our allies, and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Dr. Kang is eminently qualified to do just that. He has the substantive expertise to lead ISN and advance U.S. national security interests. During his 18-year career at the State Department, Dr. Kang has worked on a wide variety of nonproliferation issues. This includes the denuclearization of North Korea, international efforts to halt the spread of chemical weapons, and nuclear safety. He has held senior positions in ISN, where he currently serves as Acting Assistant Secretary, and served as the Department's most senior official for Arms Control and International Security.

But because of Republican delays he has not yet been confirmed, despite the fact that he was first nominated 341 days ago. Think about that—that was nearly a year ago—and he has not yet been confirmed.

The delays and obstacles facing nominees on the Senate floor and in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee are hampering our national security. Each day that goes by without critical national security posts being filled does a disservice to our country and our national security interests. Dr. Kang could have and should have been confirmed long ago.

I strongly support confirming Dr. Kang, and I respectfully urge my colleagues to join me in advancing his nomination, along with all of the foreign affairs nominations pending before this body.

VOTE ON KANG NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Kang nomination?

Mr. DURBIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON).

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 114 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin	Booker	Cardin
Bennet	Brown	Carper
Blumenthal	Cantwell	Casey

Collins	Leahy	Schatz
Coons	Lujan	Schumer
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Shaheen
Duckworth	Markey	Sinema
Durbin	Merkley	Smith
Feinstein	Murkowski	Stabenow
Gillibrand	Murphy	Tester
Hassan	Murray	Van Hollen
Heinrich	Ossoff	Warner
Hickenlooper	Padilla	Warnock
Hirono	Peters	Warren
Kaine	Reed	Whitehouse
Kelly	Romney	Wyden
King	Rosen	
Klobuchar	Sanders	

NAYS—46

Barrasso	Grassley	Risch
Blackburn	Hagerty	Rounds
Blunt	Hawley	Rubio
Boozman	Hoeben	Sasse
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Burr	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Capito	Johnson	Shelby
Cassidy	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lankford	Thune
Cramer	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	Lummis	Toomey
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	Young
Fischer	Paul	
Graham	Portman	

NOT VOTING—2

Cotton
Menendez

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HASSAN). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

FOREIGN POLICY

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, a lot of Americans are tracking day by day what is happening in Russia and Ukraine, as we watch the Russian Army continue to be able to roll its way through Ukraine and, city by city, pummel innocent people—so, literally, to shell homes, apartments, businesses; to level whole cities to the ground for the sake of Russia's aggression.

This Congress and this body in particular, in the Senate, have spoken out often on this issue. I am grateful that the President has engaged to be able to apply sanctions, to be able to cut off purchases with Russia, to be able to slowly open up the weaponry that we are giving to the Ukrainians, as they continue to ask for more. They are looking for help. The Oklahomans whom I talked to want us to provide help.

But it is ironic, and some people may not know, that while we are isolating Russia in every way that we possibly can, right now, this administration is working with the Russian representatives to be our spokesmen to Iran negotiating a revised nuclear deal with Iran. We are not doing face-to-face negotiations with Iran. We are working through the Russian representative to represent our beliefs to the Iranians.

Now, if anyone in this room could say they trust the Russians to represent our values at the table with Iran, please, rise, because we don't and we shouldn't, and it makes absolutely no sense that a revised nuclear deal is

being done with Iran through the Russian negotiations while Russia is currently pummeling Ukraine. I wish I could tell you that is even the worst part of this deal.

Iran has a couple of things that they need to be able to get to a nuclear weapon. The two things they need are time and money. They have the technology. They have the know-how. They have the facilities. They have the advanced centrifuges. They just need time and money. My frustration with the Iranian nuclear deal that was done under the Obama administration was that it gave them both time and money. It set a 10-year window where they couldn't have nuclear material that could be usable for a nuclear weapon, but it allocated \$100 billion in relief of sanctions to the Iranians—\$100 billion to the Iranian regime.

Now, I have no beef with the Iranian people. They are remarkable people, extremely well educated, but they live under the thumb of a horrible regime.

What did the Iranian regime do with the \$100 billion that they were given?

Well, we saw the advance of the war in Yemen that happened as the Iranians were supplying the Houthis to be able to attack the Saudis and the Emiratis. We saw what happened in Lebanon with the support for Hezbollah to be able to attack Israel and to continue to destabilize. We saw what the Iranians did in Syria, supporting Bashar al-Assad and becoming his army in many areas across Syria, and that ruthless dictator is still there today because of Iranian support, because of the \$100 billion that was given to Iran so they could prop up Assad and so he could stay in place. That is what happened with the \$100 billion that Iran was given last time.

Then, the Trump administration came in and took away that and imposed maximum pressure on the Iranians, walked away from the deal, and said: We are not going to give the largest state sponsor of terrorism in the world billions of dollars of access to capital; that seems like a terrible idea.

And I can assure you, the people of Syria understood that was a terrible idea.

But now, what? President Biden has reopened negotiations, as I mentioned before, by using Russia as our proxy to be able to negotiate this. Today, we had negotiators that were brought on by the Biden administration, who are former negotiators under the Obama administration, to renegotiate this deal, who have quit the negotiating team and who have said that this negotiation is going so badly that they will not be a part of it, and they walked away.

We don't know everything that is in this deal, and I would say to you, quite frankly, I am not encouraged by what bit of rumors that I am hearing in this deal. I am hearing that this deal puts us back into the timetable that was done years ago under the Obama administration to give the 10-year win-

dow, that we are back into that same window that allows them to move to a nuclear weapon at an end-time period, that it doesn't challenge their terrorist activities, that it doesn't challenge their missile development.

Literally, they are developing ballistic missiles designed to carry a nuclear warhead, and that is not part of this agreement, apparently, to restrict their development of a missile capable of carrying nuclear material, as long as they don't actually work to develop that nuclear material.

It releases sanctions to them. So, again, they get billions of dollars. And in the negotiations we hear, at this point, it lifts sanctions on the entities in Iran that took away the property and the homes from Iranian Jews in 1979, which we have had sanctions on. We understand it takes the sanctions off of those responsible for the Beirut bombing in 1983 that killed 243 Americans, mostly marines.

We also understand that it changes the status of Iran from being recognized as a state sponsor of terrorism—even though they are—and that there is a negotiation to take the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps off the list of a foreign terrorist organizations.

Are you kidding me?

This is not a good deal for the peace of the region. This does not prevent Iran from becoming a nuclear power. This continues to destabilize our relationships with our allies in the region, as Saudi Arabia and the Emiratis and the Israelis and everyone stare at the Americans and say: Why in the world would you make this deal that would allow Iran to become a nuclear power in the days ahead?

Let me tell you, this is personal for many American families who lost a loved one in the battle in Iraq, when Iran engages the Iranian Revolutionary Guard to provide lethal equipment to the Iraqis so they could kill more Americans. Many Americans died in Iraq because of Iranian actions.

On March 11, 2020, Technical Sergeant Roberts from Owasso, OK, was killed in Iraq when an Iran-backed militia group, equipped by Iranians, supported by the regime, arbitrarily launched rockets at American forces in Iraq, killing Technical Sergeant Roberts.

Listen, this is personal for a lot of families. This is not some theoretical negotiation. This is a problem.

Why we would say to the Russians, "Negotiate on our behalf," while they are slaughtering Ukrainians and we are sanctioning those same Russians. Makes no sense. But a deal that lifts the sanctions on the Iranian Revolutionary Guard, on those that killed Americans in 1983 in Beirut, to give access to missile technology and to look away from their terrorist activities with Hezbollah and Hamas and in Yemen and in multiple other places in the world is not a deal Americans should make.

Mr. President, walk away from this. There is a reason that your own staff is

walking out of the conversation—because you are headed the wrong way.

CHINA

Madam President, this body is also in the process of negotiating issues with China.

I have had quite a few folks from Oklahoma who have caught me and have said: Hey, while the world is focused on Russia and Ukraine, have we taken our eye off the ball in China?

I would pray we have not, and I continue to be able to encourage our Pentagon and officials across our government to not lose focus on Taiwan and to not lose focus on what is happening in trade agreements.

Right now, the Senate is actually negotiating a bill dealing with China, and I have to tell you I didn't support this bill and don't. It is a quarter trillion dollars in new spending—a quarter trillion. It is enormous in size, but the basic philosophy is, the Chinese have a state-controlled system for how they are putting out semiconductors and research; so we should do that in America and invest a quarter trillion to try to keep up with them in the way they are doing it.

Can I tell you? The United States and our free market system have raised up the greatest entrepreneurs the world has ever known in areas of research. There are quite a few areas wherein we have government and private sector cooperation, both in disease research and in technology. There are all kinds of research that have happened that have been very successful in transitioning into marketable products. Yet a quarter trillion dollars is a big number and philosophically shifts us into a very different structure of trying to be able to "keep up with the Chinese."

Now, I do have to grant that the Senate bill is much better than the House bill. The House put together a bill dealing with China that is classic House of Representatives at this point. They sent over a bill to us that they called their China bill, but it actually uses the word "climate" in it more than it uses the word "China" in it. It actually authorizes \$4 billion a year into the U.N. Green Climate Fund, which actually gives grants to Iran, China, and North Korea to help with their green transitions.

The House bill—also, again, their China bill—has a whole section in it on providing access to financial institutions for marijuana. Now, if you are wondering why marijuana banking is ending up in the China bill, so am I. The only thing I can come up with is, if you are nervous about China, smoke some weed, and you will be more relaxed, I guess. I am not sure why that ends up in the China bill—to have a whole marijuana section in the United States on it.

A meaningful China bill would focus in on critical minerals, which neither bill does. All of us see the supply chain issues that are happening with China right now. We all see it, but neither bill actually deals with the serious

issues that we have with critical minerals and rare Earth minerals. As to some of the areas on critical minerals, China has access to 85 percent of them, and we are not responding to that. That is a problem.

The bill itself—the quarter trillion that is spent—actually exposes us even more to Chinese debt. Ironically enough, to be able to pay for this bill, we are going to have to borrow money from China to compete with China. I find that a little ironic.

It doesn't address the Belt and Road Initiative. As China continues to be able to expand around the world by putting in airports, by putting in ports, and to be able to do its expansion through its own system, we are not addressing that nor even trying to focus in on just keeping a list. I even asked for the ability just for us to keep a list of all of the places into which China is actually expanding, and that is actually not included in the bill.

Another area, like internet freedom for the people of Hong Kong, who are living under the oppression of China, is not included.

Countering the Chinese influence in multilateral organizations, like the U.N., the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund, as China moves to put key positions in place so they control these multilateral organizations—there is no push in this bill for this.

There is no push to be able to push the Chinese off our college campuses, as they move Confucius Institutes onto our campuses in order to plant the Chinese influence on those campuses.

It also doesn't deal with something as basic as agriculture. Now, why do I bring up agriculture? Because the Chinese are purchasing land all over the United States, especially in my State, as they snap up private land and start to do activities there wherein they own that land, control that land, and develop it. There are no CFIUS restrictions that deal with Chinese espionage dealing with agriculture at all, and this bill doesn't address that. I see that as a problem.

We need expansive, very engaged issues to be able to deal with China. China is on the move. They are becoming more and more aggressive. They continue to be more and more aggressive as they deal with a multitude of issues—everything from agriculture and all the way through biotech engineering, chemistry, the ownership of intellectual property, the theft of intellectual property. They continue to be able to move across our supply chain to be able to dominate things worldwide. We need to address that. This fails to do those critical things.

Now, does it take some steps? Yes, it does, but we are not even debating the other issues. We are not even discussing them. We are conferencing with a House bill that focuses more on climate than it does on China and that focuses on marijuana banking more than it does on the supply chain. We

have got to get serious on these issues for the sake of our children and our freedom in the days ahead.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

NOMINATION OF ALVARO M. BEDOYA

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I rise this evening to urge my colleagues to oppose the nomination of Alvaro Bedoya to be a Commissioner of the Federal Trade Commission.

Recently, the Commerce Committee deadlocked on this nomination, with all Republican members voting no and all Democratic members voting yes. So it will take a discharge petition here on the Senate floor to move Mr. Bedoya's nomination further. If our Democratic colleagues are successful, Mr. Bedoya will become the fifth tie-breaking Commissioner of the FTC.

Let me just observe, as someone who has been on the Commerce Committee for years and years here in the U.S. Senate, that the Federal Trade Commission, which is where Mr. Bedoya would become a member, has always approached issues and addressed the public in a spirit of bipartisanship.

Unlike with the Federal Communications Commission, the FCC, where we are used to the vote being 2 to 3, in a very partisan manner—that is the FCC for you—we haven't had that, over time, with the Federal Trade Commission. The Federal Trade Commission has had a tradition of bipartisanship. They have had a tradition of issuing policy statements with all five of them participating and issuing statements to the Commerce Committee, before testimony, with the one statement speaking for the entire Federal Trade Commission.

Mr. Bedoya's records show that he would bring that sort of partisanship that we have had at the FCC to the Federal Trade Commission, and I hope we can avoid that. As a matter of fact, Mr. Bedoya has publicly supported eliminating the longstanding bipartisan policy statements, and he has advocated for excluding minority party Commissioners from Agency investigations. This would be a troubling step for a Commission that has been bipartisan.

Mr. Bedoya has a long history of divisive social media statements. For example, he called for the elimination of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency. He has called for the elimination of ICE. That is how extreme and out in left field this nominee, Alvaro Bedoya, is. He has called on local law enforcement agencies not to cooperate with ICE. So, if you are a local police department, just don't cooperate with the Federal Agency in charge of immigration and customs enforcement. He has accused Cabinet-level Departments of committing human rights abuses. He has even demanded that several of our colleagues here in the U.S. Senate resign.

He is a hothead, plainly said—more appropriate for a talk radio host of the

far left rather than the fifth vote on the Federal Trade Commission.

Additionally, as the Judiciary Committee continues to consider a Supreme Court nomination, I think it is instructive to recall that, in the fall of 2020, this nominee, Mr. Bedoya, urged Senate Democrats to boycott the Judiciary Committee's hearings on the nomination of Amy Coney Barrett to serve on the Supreme Court.

Now, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle would be outraged if Republican members of the Judiciary Committee actually refused to attend the committee's hearings which occurred last week. This is exactly what Mr. Bedoya, the FTC nominee, called on the Democrats to do just 18 months ago. Clearly, he is out of the mainstream.

This is not the temperament we need to send to the FTC, particularly at a time when the Agency's current leadership has pursued a more partisan agenda as of late. We need to get away from that trend.

Then, beyond temperament, Mr. Bedoya has demonstrated a lack of experience and a lack of knowledge on the major policy areas that he would be responsible for regulating as an FTC Commissioner. Although the FTC is the Nation's premier regulator of consumer privacy, Mr. Bedoya's experience on the topic of privacy comes from his time on the staff of the Senate Judiciary Committee. There, he largely dealt with issues of government surveillance, which falls outside the FTC's jurisdiction. So even the limited experience Mr. Bedoya has gives him no help in dealing with Federal Trade Commission issues.

Through the Commerce Committee's vetting process, Mr. Bedoya has also shown a limited knowledge of the competition and antitrust issues that are at the heart of today's major policy debates at the FTC.

I don't want the FTC to lack a tie-breaking vote forever—that is not the reason every Republican on the Commerce Committee voted no—but I do want the Agency to be able to tackle these important issues: to rein in Big Tech's dominance of so many marketplaces; to support a 21st century economy that spurs innovation; and to protect consumers from fraud and other unfair and deceptive business practices. I want the FTC to return to its traditional standing as an Agency driven by bipartisanship and as an Agency that can be counted on to use its broad authority with a steady hand and a measured approach.

I do not believe Mr. Bedoya is the right person to do this. I do not believe someone with his temperament and lack of experience and lack of knowledge about the issues will be able to put the Federal Trade Commission back on track.

For those reasons, I urge my colleagues to support any effort to discharge Mr. Bedoya's nomination from the Commerce Committee to the Senate floor.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. 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.

MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2022—Motion to Proceed

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 310, H.R. 4373.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 310, H.R. 4373, a bill making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. 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 bill 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 motion to proceed to Calendar No. 310, H.R. 4373, a bill making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Jack Reed, Robert Menendez, Michael F. Bennet, Tammy Baldwin, Tim Kaine, Angus S. King, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Tina Smith, Gary C. Peters, Tammy Duckworth, Christopher Murphy, Mark Kelly, Alex Padilla, Richard Blumenthal, Patty Murray, Elizabeth Warren.

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call for the cloture motion filed today, March 29, be waived.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session.

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

The motion was agreed to.

MOTION TO DISCHARGE

Mr. SCHUMER. Pursuant to S. Res. 27, the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee being tied on the question of reporting, I move to discharge the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee from further consideration of Alvaro M. Bedoya, of Maryland, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the term of seven years from September 26, 2019.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the provisions of S. Res. 27, there will now be up to 4 hours of debate on the motion, equally divided between the two leaders, or their designees, with no motions, points of order, or amendments in order.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and 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.

NOTICE OF A TIE VOTE UNDER S. RES. 27

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to print the following letter in the RECORD.

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

To the Secretary of the Senate:

PN1028, Mr. Leopoldo Martinez Nucete, of Virginia, to be United States Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank for a term of three years, having been referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee, with a quorum present, has voted on the nomination as follows—

(1.) on the question of reporting the nomination favorably with the recommendation that the nomination be confirmed, 11 yeas to 11 noes; and

(2.) In accordance with section 3, paragraph (1)(A) of S. Res. 27 of the 117th Congress, I hereby give notice that the Committee has not reported the nomination because of a tie vote, and ask that this notice be printed in the Record pursuant to the resolution.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. HAWLEY. Madam President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 789, Mallory A. Stewart, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State.

TRIBUTE TO DR. RIMA KHABBAZ

Mr. WARNOCK. Madam President, I rise today to extend my most sincere gratitude to Rima Khabbaz, MD, the director of the National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases. Dr. Khabbaz is retiring after spending 38 years at NCEZID, where her work focused on fighting the spread of infectious diseases.

For the past 5 years at NCEZID, Dr. Khabbaz has led staff who monitor and work to control dangerous pathogens in the United States and across the world. Her time as NCEZID director concludes three decades of leadership at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which is headquartered in the great State of Georgia, beginning with her role as chief of the Human Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit in CDC's Hantavirus Task Force in 1993 and 1994.

Dr. Khabbaz began her career at CDC as an epidemic intelligence service officer in CDC's Hospital Infections Program from 1980 through 1982. She returned to CDC in 1986 and a year later became a medical epidemiologist in the Retrovirus Diseases Branch. She quickly took up leadership roles in historic outbreak responses, including those for hantavirus pulmonary syndrome, anthrax, SARS, monkeypox, Ebola, Zika, and COVID-19.

Over the past two decades, Dr. Khabbaz has led CDC's infectious disease activities through some turbulent times and at the highest levels. She was CDC's deputy director for infectious diseases and director of the Office of Infectious Diseases from 2010 to 2017, where she also temporarily served in dual roles as interim acting director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases and interim acting director of the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention.

Previously, she has served as director of the National Center for Preparedness, Detection, and Control of Infectious Diseases; director, acting director, and associate director for epidemiologic science in the National Center for Infectious Diseases; and deputy director and associate director for medical science in NCID's Division of Viral and Rickettsial Diseases.

Dr. Khabbaz's departure from NCEZID marks the end of a truly distinguished career. She will be especially missed by her colleagues, who unfailingly describe her as an exceedingly insightful and caring leader. Dr. Khabbaz's contributions to the health of the State of Georgia, the United States, and the world are greatly appreciated. I wish her a restorative and gratifying retirement following her nearly 40 years of government service.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO GABRYELLE PERKINS

• Mr. DAINES. Madam President, today I have the distinct honor of recognizing Gabryelle Perkins of Sweet Grass County as Montanan of the Month for her devotion to the Big Timber community and her passion for educating and supporting young Montanans both in and out of the classroom.

Gabby was born and raised in the great State of Montana and, like myself, is a proud graduate of Montana State University—"Go Cats!" Upon wrapping up her studies at MSU, Gabby earned a degree in English education and a minor in writing. For the past 11 years, Gabby—or as her students know her, Ms. Perkins—has taught English at Sweet Grass County High School.

Her passion for working with students extends far beyond the classroom. Gabby encourages her students to be involved in extracurricular activities that have a positive impact on Big Timber and Sweet Grass County. Every year, she works with her students to put on a play for their community. When Gabby isn't helping her students on the stage or serving as a student council adviser, she leads a volunteer group for Montana students to give back. Gabby's students involved in SAVY, also known as Serving and Volunteering Youth, participate in local coat and food drives, leadership workshops, recycling programs, and fundraising events. The SAVY group also develops resources to help provide clothes or food for students in need.

I have no doubt that Gabby's students and everyone in Big Timber are grateful for her commitment to supporting young Montanans. It is because of teachers like Ms. Perkins that Montana has the best and brightest students in the Nation. It is my honor to recognize Ms. Perkins for her devotion to supporting young Montanans in and out of the classroom. Keep up the great work, Gabby.●

TRIBUTE TO DAVID URE

• Mr. ROMNEY. Madam President, I rise today to recognize a remarkable Utahn who recently announced his retirement after a long and fruitful career for our great State. David Ure will conclude his civil service following his tenure as director of the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration, SITLA.

David's career in public service began with his election to the Utah House of Representatives in 1993. A dairyman and rancher by trade, he successfully balanced his legislative responsibilities with his livelihood, an accomplishment underscored by his Summit County's 1996 Rancher of the Year award. As a legislator, David was instrumental in guiding many pieces of legislation to the Governor's desk, and after spending more than a decade in the statehouse,

he continued his public service on the Summit County Council before joining the SITLA board of trustees.

In 2016, Governor Herbert appointed David to serve as SITLA's director. The independent State agency, created to generate funds for Utah's schoolchildren and other trust beneficiaries, flourished under David's stewardship. In this role, he led the agency's operations and administrative functions, including a myriad of energy initiatives and real estate development projects. During David's tenure as director, SITLA's trust grew by 40 percent and added over a billion dollars to the significant benefit of Utah's public education system, State institutions, and communities in need.

David has also served on a number of important State boards, including the Weber Basin Conservation District, Intermountain Healthcare board of trustees for the Heber Valley Hospital, the Park City Chamber of Commerce, and the National Association of State Trust Lands.

Thank you, Dave, for your outstanding career of public service to Utah. Your accomplishments will continue to yield positive outcomes for individuals, families, and communities across the State, and they will brighten the lives and livelihoods of generations untold.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Swann, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:38 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 3294. An act to obtain and direct the placement in the Capitol or on the Capitol Grounds of a statue to honor Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States Sandra Day O'Connor and a statue to honor Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1621. An act to amend section 3661 of title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the consideration of acquitted conduct at sentencing.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following resolution:

H. Res. 1004. Resolution relative to the death of the Honorable Donald E. Young, a Representative from the State of Alaska.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 1621. An act to amend section 3661 of title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the consideration of acquitted conduct at sentencing.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

EC-3456. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Butoxypolypropylene glycol, et al.; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9574-01-OCSPP) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2022; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3457. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Zinc Stearate; Tolerance Exemption" (FRL No. 9608-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 24, 2022; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3458. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tetraacetylenediamine (TAED) and its metabolite Diacetylenediamine (DAED); Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9348-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 24, 2022; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3459. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Bicyclopyrone; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9472-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 24, 2022; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3460. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3461. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Ronald A. Boxall, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3462. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on

the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13536 with respect to Somalia; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3463. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13848 with respect to the threat of foreign interference in United States elections; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3464. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 14046 with respect to Ethiopia; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3465. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13224 with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3466. A communication from the Senior Legal Advisor for Regulatory Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "State Small Business Credit Initiative; Demographics-Related Reporting Requirements" (RIN1505-AC79) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 22, 2022; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3467. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Applicability of Annual Independent Audits and Reporting Requirements for Fiscal Years Ending in 2021; Correction" (RIN3064-AF77) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 22, 2022; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3468. A communication from the Assistant Inspector General for Audits and Evaluations, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Inspector General, Export-Import Bank of the United States, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2022; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3469. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Maryland; Philadelphia Area Base Year Inventory for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards" (FRL No. 9382-02-R3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 24, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3470. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standards and Practices for All Appropriate Inquiries" (FRL No. 9334-02-OLEM) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 15, 2022; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3471. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Priorities List" (FRL No. 9184-01-OLEM) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 15, 2022; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3472. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Manage-

ment Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Pennsylvania; Allegheny County Area Fine Particulate Matter Clean Data Determination" (FRL No. 9587-02-R3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 15, 2022; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3473. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Delegation of New Source Performance Standards and National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for the States of Arizona and California" (FRL No. 9400-02-R9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3474. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; West Virginia; 2020 Amendments to West Virginia's Ambient Air Quality Standards; Correction" (FRL No. 8931-03-R3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3475. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Delaware; Philadelphia Area Base Year Inventory for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards" (FRL No. 9381-02-R3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3476. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; California; Correcting Amendments" (FRL No. 9598-02-R9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3477. A communication from the Natural Resource Specialist, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Technical Corrections for Four Midwest Mussel Species" (RIN1018-BE37) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 22, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3478. A communication from the Biologist, Branch of Delisting and Foreign Species, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removing San Benito Evening-Primrose (*Camissonia benitensis*) From the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Plants" (RIN1018-BE11) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 15, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3479. A communication from the Biologist, Branch of Delisting and Foreign Species, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Reclassification of Morro Shoulderband Snail From Endangered to Threatened With Section 4(d) Rule" (RIN1018-BD45) received in the Office of the

President of the Senate on March 23, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3480. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.247 Trial, 'Acceptability of Probabilistic Risk Assessment Results for Non-Light Water Reactor Risk-Informed Activities'" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 22, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3481. A communication from the Director of the Regulations and Disclosure Law Division, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Imposition of Import Restrictions on Categories of Archaeological and Ethnological Material of Albania" (RIN1515-AE67) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 24, 2022; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3482. A communication from the Chair, Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "March 2022 Report to Congress on Medicaid and CHIP"; to the Committee on Finance.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. MENENDEZ for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Deborah E. Lipstadt, of Georgia, to be Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism, with the rank of Ambassador.

Nominee: Deborah Esther Lipstadt.

Post: Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism.

Nominated: January 4, 2022.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

Deborah Lipstadt: \$250, 02/12/2018, Lindy Miller Campaign, Georgia; \$38.60, 04/30/2018, ActBlue DCCC; \$38.60, 05/30/2018, ActBlue DCCC; \$38.60, 06/30/2018, ActBlue DCCC; \$38.60, 07/30/2018, ActBlue DCCC; \$35.00, 08/06/2018, ActBlue DCCC; \$36.10, 08/02/2018, ActBlue DCCC; \$38.60, 08/30/2018, ActBlue DCCC; \$27.50, 09/02/2018, ActBlue DCCC; \$38.60, 09/30/2018, ActBlue DCCC; \$27.50, 10/02/2018, ActBlue DCCC; \$38.60, 10/07/2018, ActBlue DCCC; \$27.50, 10/07/2018, ActBlue DCCC; \$37.10, 10/08/2018, ActBlue DCCC; \$31.10, 10/09/2018, ActBlue DCCC; \$42.20, 10/09/2018, ActBlue DCCC; \$42.20, 10/09/2018, ActBlue DCCC; \$36.00, 10/16/2018, ActBlue DCCC; \$27.50, 10/16/2018, ActBlue DCCC; \$55.00, 10/20/2018, ActBlue DCCC/Claire McCaskell; \$100.00, 10/24/2018, ActBlue DCCC; \$37.10, 10/27/2018, ActBlue DCCC; \$37.10, 11/03/2018, ActBlue DCCC; \$37.10, 11/03/2018, ActBlue DCCC; \$36.00, 11/08/2018, ActBlue DCCC; \$37.10, 08/11/2020, Biden Victory Campaign; \$200.00, 08/18/2019, AIPAC.

Maria Fabiana Jorge, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Alternate Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank.

Barbara A. Leaf, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Near Eastern Affairs).

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND
JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. SMITH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 3942. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to prohibit the exclusion of individuals from service on a Federal jury on account of disability; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 3943. A bill to establish due process requirements for the investigation of intercollegiate athletics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 3944. A bill to improve the safety of the air supply on aircraft, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HAGERTY (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. TILLIS, and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 3945. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to address the solicitation of proxy with respect to securities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 3946. A bill to reauthorize the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2017, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 3947. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to permit different tick sizes for emerging growth companies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. DAINES:

S. 3948. A bill to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to prohibit limitations on closed-end companies investing in private funds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 3949. A bill to reauthorize the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. KING, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. COONS):

S. 3950. A bill to establish the Baltic Security and Economic Enhancement Initiative for the purpose of increasing security and economic ties with the Baltic countries and to establish the Baltic Security Initiative for the purpose of deepening security cooperation with the Baltic countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. HAWLEY (for himself, Mr. LEE, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 3951. A bill to establish appropriate penalties for possession of child pornography, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND
SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. Res. 559. A resolution expressing gratitude on behalf of the people of the United States to the journalists and news staff who are risking injury and death, are subject to grave threat, and have sacrificed their lives, to chronicle and report on the ongoing war in Ukraine resulting from the Russian Federation's invasion; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. Res. 560. A resolution recognizing the significance of endometriosis as an unmet chronic disease for women and designating March 2022 as "Endometriosis Awareness Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. CARPER):

S. Res. 561. A resolution designating the first week of April 2022 as "National Asbestos Awareness Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. FISCHER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. LUMMIS, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. WARREN, Ms. SINEMA, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. THUNE, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. MORAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. TESTER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. KING, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. KELLY, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. PETERS, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. CANTWELL, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. Res. 562. A resolution designating March 24, 2022, as "National Women in Agriculture Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 563. A resolution honoring the life and legacy of Charles Isham Taylor on the 100th anniversary of his passing; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 564. A resolution honoring the life and legacy of James Frederick "Jimmy" Hanley; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN,

Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 565. A resolution honoring and celebrating the life and legacy of Representative Don Young; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. Res. 566. A resolution recognizing the 100th anniversary of the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer and the importance of Commission on Cancer-accredited programs in ensuring comprehensive, high-quality, patient-centered cancer care; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 888

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 888, a bill to prohibit discrimination based on an individual's texture or style of hair.

S. 1408

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1408, a bill to posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Glen Doherty, Tyrone Woods, J. Christopher Stevens, and Sean Smith, in recognition of their contributions to the Nation.

S. 2236

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2236, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide an option for first responders age 50 to 64 who are separated from service due to retirement or disability to buy into Medicare.

S. 2344

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2344, a bill to award grants for the creation, recruitment, training and education, retention, and advancement of the direct care workforce and to award grants to support family caregivers.

S. 2512

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota

(Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2512, a bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for a code of conduct for justices and judges of the courts of the United States.

S. 2607

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2607, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the former hostages of the Iran Hostage Crisis of 1979–1981, highlighting their resilience throughout the unprecedented ordeal that they lived through and the national unity it produced, marking 4 decades since their 444 days in captivity, and recognizing their sacrifice to the United States.

S. 3091

At the request of Mr. OSSOFF, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3091, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish the advanced solar manufacturing production credit.

S. 3169

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3169, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to prohibit the introduction or delivery for introduction into interstate commerce of food packaging containing intentionally added PFAS, and for other purposes.

S. 3331

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3331, a bill to amend the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 to improve the semiconductor incentive program of the Department of Commerce.

S. 3389

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3389, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to establish a demonstration project to improve outpatient clinical care for individuals with sickle cell disease.

S. 3399

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3399, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide a process to lock and suspend domain names used to facilitate the online sale of drugs illegally, and for other purposes.

S. 3664

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from California

(Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3664, a bill to assist in the conservation of the North Atlantic right whale by supporting and providing financial resources for North Atlantic right whale conservation programs and projects of persons with expertise required for the conservation of North Atlantic right whales, and for other purposes.

S. 3675

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3675, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a system to notify individuals approaching Medicare eligibility.

S. 3700

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 3700, a bill to provide for appropriate cost-sharing for insulin products covered under Medicare part D and private health plans.

S. 3802

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3802, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a windfall profits excise tax on crude oil and to rebate the tax collected back to individual taxpayers, and for other purposes.

S. 3903

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3903, a bill to require the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to establish procedures for conducting maintenance projects at ports of entry at which the Office of Field Operations conducts certain enforcement and facilitation activities.

S. 3908

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3908, a bill to provide that certain policy statements of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission shall have no force or effect unless certain conditions are met, and for other purposes.

S. 3915

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3915, a bill to require the Secretary of Energy to provide technology grants to strengthen domestic mining education, and for other purposes.

S. 3924

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3924, a bill to amend the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Ac-

countability Act to extend the sunset for sanctions with respect to human rights violations.

S.J. RES. 25

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 25, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections.

S.J. RES. 41

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 41, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services relating to "Ensuring Access to Equitable, Affordable, Client-Centered, Quality Family Planning Services".

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. KING, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. COONS):

S. 3950. A bill to establish the Baltic Security and Economic Enhancement Initiative for the purpose of increasing security and economic ties with the Baltic countries and to establish the Baltic Security Initiative for the purpose of deepening security cooperation with the Baltic countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on another matter, Senator ROB PORTMAN of Ohio and I are coauthors of the bipartisan Senate Ukraine Caucus. Tomorrow, we are hosting a meeting for Senators with members of the Ukrainian Parliament. The Parliament there is known as the Rada. They are coming to Washington to discuss how we can help even more in assisting the valiant people of Ukraine defending against this barbaric invasion by Vladimir Putin. I hope our colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join us to send a clear message to Ukraine that we stand united in their efforts.

Putin's unprovoked and unconscionable war on Ukraine has revealed what he is really all about. He is a tyrant seething with resentment, driven by delusions of great mother Russia, willing to slaughter innocent men, women, and children to restore a lost Russian Empire.

We know from his current ravings and his past actions, Putin's ruthless pursuit of Russia's lost empire didn't begin with this war, and if we don't do something about it, it won't end there either.

In 2003, the people of Georgia—another Soviet Republic—waged a Rose Revolution to claim a place among the family of democratic nations. Putin's aggrieved response was to send troops into that country to occupy portions of it—South Ossetia and Abkhazia—to redraw Georgia's national boundaries by force. I traveled to that area in 2012 and saw firsthand what Putin's occupation of that tiny nation meant.

In 2014, the people of Ukraine rose up to demand change as well—the Revolution of Dignity, they called it. They succeeded and threw out the deeply corrupt Russian-backed President. They ousted him from Parliament. When they did, he fled to Moscow, his real home. Putin's revenge months later was to send Russian troops to invade and annex the Crimean peninsula and the Donbas regions of eastern Ukraine by force. They have continued to wage that war.

I have mentioned many times my concern for this region, and I guess it is attached to the fact that my mother was born in Lithuania and came here as a little girl. Her family fled from the oppression of czarist Russia, which then controlled the Baltic States and far beyond.

During World War II, the Baltic States endured brutal Nazi occupation, and after the war, they were held captive behind the Iron Curtain by the USSR.

In August 1989, 2 months before the fall of the Berlin Wall, 2 million people in Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia physically, literally, joined hands in a peaceful protest. They formed a human chain, declared that they wanted to join Europe and be part of the family of democracies.

Two years later, the Baltics threw off Russian occupiers and reclaimed their independence. It was a festive day. I was honored to be a witness to part of it. They worked to achieve the reform fundamental to democracies, to weed out corruption, establish market economies, and encourage the growth of civil society.

In 2004, in a historic moment, a live-or-die moment for the Baltics, they became part of NATO. It was the first time—the very first time that NATO had opened its doors to nations that had been part of the Soviet Union. Over the years, the Baltic States strengthened their militaries to prove they would be assets and not liabilities to the alliance.

Today, the Baltics provide a home to activists and dissidents from Russia and Belarus and are a beacon of democracy. And I say that with personal pride to have any association with these great nations.

In 2008, after Russia had annexed parts of Georgia, the President of Po-

land visited Georgia's capital of Tbilisi and warned of the threat posed by Russia to the entire region. He said:

Today Georgia, tomorrow Ukraine, the day after tomorrow—the Baltic States and, later, perhaps, time will come for [his] country, Poland.

Well, today, Senator GRASSLEY and I are introducing a bill to discourage Russia from extending Putin's war into NATO territory and forcing the alliance to invoke its article 5 collective security commitment.

Our bill is called the Baltic Defense and Deterrence Act. It directs the Department of State and the Department of Defense to establish and implement economic and security initiatives to deepen U.S. ties with the Baltic States. Our bill will strengthen our strong partnership. It will enhance the capability of the region's critical allies in NATO's eastern flank to respond to threats, including Russia's misinformation and disinformation, their cyber warfare, and, in Lithuania's case, growing economic pressure.

Cosponsors come from both sides of the aisle: Senators STABENOW, KING, FEINSTEIN, BLUNT, BLUMENTHAL, BALDWIN, DUCKWORTH, BOOKER, and Senator SCOTT of Florida. Representatives RUBEN GALLEGO and DON BACON are cosponsoring a bipartisan companion bill in the House.

In conclusion, in 1997, Russian President Boris Yeltsin offered the Baltic States unilateral security guarantees if they would give up aspirations to join NATO. They refused. They were determined to become their own sovereign states, their own democracy, and they have succeeded.

Kurt Volker, former U.S. Ambassador to NATO and former U.S. Special Representative to Ukraine, has said that, far from being a burden on NATO, the admission of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia has reinvigorated the alliance. In his words, the Baltic States turned out to be “the best democratic and economic reformers, the ones most committed to build fresh new militaries, and the ones willing to support the U.S. in other fora.”

They have sent troops on costly U.S. missions, and their troops have fought and died alongside NATO forces in Iraq and Afghanistan. By securing America's economic and security partnerships with the Baltics, our bill will help deter Vladimir Putin from extending his barbaric war into NATO territory.

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

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

S. 3950

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 “Baltic Defense and Deterrence Act”.

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) supporting and strengthening the security of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania (referred to in this Act as the “Baltic countries”) is in the national security interests of the United States;

(2) continuing to strengthen and update the United States-Baltics security cooperation roadmap is critical to achieving strategic security priorities as the Baltic countries face ongoing belligerence and threats from the Russian Federation, including amid the Russian Federation's illegal and unprovoked war in Ukraine that began on February 24, 2022;

(3) the United States should encourage advancement of the Three Seas Initiative to strengthen transport, energy, and digital infrastructures among Eastern European countries, including the Baltic countries; and

(4) improved economic ties between the United States and the Baltic countries, including to counter economic pressure by the People's Republic of China, offer an opportunity to strengthen the United States-Baltic strategic partnership.

SEC. 3. BALTIC SECURITY AND ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT INITIATIVE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of State shall establish and implement an initiative, to be known as the “Baltic Security and Economic Enhancement Initiative”, for the purpose of increasing security and economic ties with the Baltic countries.

(b) OBJECTIVES.—The objectives of the Baltic Security and Economic Enhancement Initiative shall be—

(1) to ensure timely delivery of security assistance to the Baltic countries, prioritizing assistance to bolster defenses against hybrid warfare and improve interoperability with the military forces of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization;

(2) to mitigate the impact on the Baltic countries of economic coercion by the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China;

(3) to identify new opportunities for foreign direct investment and United States business ties; and

(4) to bolster United States support for the economic and energy security needs of the Baltic countries, including by convening an annual trade forum with the Baltic countries and the United States International Development Finance Corporation.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated for the Department of State, \$60,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2027 to carry out the initiative authorized under subsection (a).

SEC. 4. BALTIC SECURITY INITIATIVE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Defense shall establish and implement an initiative, to be known as the “Baltic Security Initiative”, for the purpose of deepening security cooperation with the Baltic countries.

(b) OBJECTIVES.—The objectives of the Baltic Security Initiative shall be—

(1) to achieve United States national security objectives, including deterring aggression by the Russian Federation and bolstering the long-term security of North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies;

(2) to enhance regional planning and cooperation among the Baltic countries, particularly with respect to long-term regional capability projects, including—

(A) long-range precision fire systems and capabilities;

(B) integrated air and missile defense;

(C) maritime domain awareness;

(D) land forces development, including stockpiling large caliber ammunition;

(E) command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance;

(F) special operations forces development; and

(G) coordination with and security enhancements for Poland, which is a neighboring North Atlantic Treaty Organization ally; and

(3) to improve the Baltic countries' cyber defenses and resilience to hybrid threats.

(c) STRATEGY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report setting forth the strategy of the Department of Defense to achieve the objectives described in subsection (b).

(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—The strategy required by paragraph (1) shall include a consideration of—

(A) security assistance programs for the Baltic countries managed by the Department of State;

(B) the ongoing security threats to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's eastern flank posed by Russian aggression, including as a result of the Russia Federation's 2022 invasion of Ukraine with support from Belarus; and

(C) rising tensions with, and presence in the Baltic countries of, the People's Republic of China, including economic bullying of the Baltic countries by the People's Republic of China.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense, \$250,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2027 to carry out the initiative authorized under subsection (a).

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 559—EXPRESSING GRATITUDE ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE JOURNALISTS AND NEWS STAFF WHO ARE RISKING INJURY AND DEATH, ARE SUBJECT TO GRAVE THREAT, AND HAVE SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES, TO CHRONICLE AND REPORT ON THE ONGOING WAR IN UKRAINE RESULTING FROM THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S INVASION

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. CASSIDY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 559

Whereas Ukraine declared independence from the Soviet Union on August 24, 1991, and that independence was reaffirmed in a popular referendum on December 1, 1991;

Whereas, on February 24, 2022, the Russian military invaded the sovereign country of Ukraine under the direction of President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin (referred to in this preamble as “Putin”), carrying out attacks on cities with ballistic missiles, heavy artillery, and tanks;

Whereas Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions includes the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts, prohibiting attacks on civilian persons and populations, and defines journalists and war correspondents as civilians;

Whereas the Russian Federation was an original signatory to the Geneva Conventions until Putin removed the Russian Federation from Protocol in October 2019, demonstrating a clear disregard for innocent life;

Whereas, as of March 29, 2022, thousands of civilians, including children, are recorded as

having been killed during the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine;

Whereas journalists and news staff are on the ground in Ukraine, reporting freelance, reporting for global networks and media, and working on documentary efforts to record the ongoing humanitarian crisis and war caused by the Russian Federation's invasion of the sovereign country of Ukraine;

Whereas many of the journalists and news staff covering the war in Ukraine are United States citizens or working for United States news agencies;

Whereas shelling by Russian Federation forces has included the shelling of humanitarian corridors, maternity hospitals, schools, and other primarily civilian locations;

Whereas journalists and news staff are on the ground along Russian-targeted humanitarian corridors and in major cities across Ukraine;

Whereas dozens of members of the free press have been murdered or injured by Russian Federation forces as of March 29, 2022, with more casualties and injuries likely;

Whereas, on February 26, 2022, Danish journalist Stefan Weichert was shot and wounded while reporting near Okhtyrka, Ukraine;

Whereas, on February 26, 2022, Danish journalist Emil Filtenborg was shot and wounded while reporting near Okhtyrka, Ukraine;

Whereas, on February 28, 2022, British Sky News chief correspondent Stuart Ramsay was shot and wounded when his car was ambushed by Russian soldiers in Kyiv, Ukraine;

Whereas, on February 28, 2022, British Sky News camera operator Richie Mockler was shot and wounded when his car was ambushed by Russian soldiers in Kyiv, Ukraine;

Whereas, on March 1, 2022, Ukrainian-based journalist and camera operator Yevhenii Sakun was killed when Russian Federation forces shelled a television tower in Kyiv, Ukraine;

Whereas, on March 6, 2022, Swiss journalist Guillaume Briquet was wounded and robbed by Russia soldiers who shot at his car on the road to Mykolaiv, Ukraine;

Whereas, on March 13, 2022, United States documentarian and film director Brent Renaud was shot in Irpin, Ukraine, and later died of his wounds;

Whereas, on March 13, 2022, United States journalist Juan Arredondo was shot and wounded while reporting in Irpin, Ukraine;

Whereas, on March 15, 2022, Ukrainian Fox News journalist Oleksandra Sasha Kuvshinova was killed in Horenka, Ukraine, when her vehicle was struck by incoming arms fire;

Whereas, on March 15, 2022, Irish Fox News cameraman and photographer Pierre Zakrzewski was killed in Horenka, Ukraine, when his vehicle was struck by incoming arms fire;

Whereas, on March 15, 2022, United States Fox News correspondent Benjamin Hall was wounded when his vehicle was struck by incoming arms fire in Horenka, Ukraine;

Whereas it is possible that additional Ukrainian and foreign press have been or will be injured and killed so long as Russian Federation forces continue their brutal attack on civilians;

Whereas all civilians, including journalists and news staff, should be spared violence by military forces;

Whereas Putin and his cronies have demonstrated complete disregard for innocent life, the sovereignty of Ukraine, the right to free speech, and the rights and value of a free press;

Whereas Putin is engaged in a propaganda war, as well as a military war, and the Russian Federation continues to push a false narrative about Russian military presence in Ukraine;

Whereas the United States supports a free and fair press and rejects any and all propagandist efforts by the Russian Federation to cover up and hide the truth behind the Russian Federation's invasion;

Whereas journalists and news staff on the ground in Ukraine who are reporting the truth to the world, including journalists and news staff from the United States, are instrumental in combating false propaganda pushed by Putin and his cronies; and

Whereas, despite the overwhelming threat and risk to their lives and the sacrifices already made, journalists and news staff continue to report bravely from Ukraine: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) declares its gratitude on behalf of the people of the United States to the journalists and news staff who continue to put themselves in harm's way to report on the humanitarian crisis and ongoing war on the ground in Ukraine following the Russian Federation's invasion;

(2) remembers the journalists and news staff who have lost their lives or have been severely injured reporting from Ukraine and conveys the sympathies and appreciation of the people of the United States to their families for their sacrifice;

(3) condemns President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin, President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksander Lukashenko, and their officials for authorizing and executing attacks on innocent Ukrainian civilians, residential areas, and humanitarian corridors, resulting in the loss of life of civilians, including journalists and news staff; and

(4) honors the contributions of journalists and news staff reporting from the war in Ukraine as essential in the ongoing struggle for the rights of a free press and free speech internationally, pivotal in pushing back against false propaganda by tyrants, and crucial to informing the people of the United States and the world of the horrors being wrought against the Ukrainian people.

SENATE RESOLUTION 560—RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ENDOMETRIOSIS AS AN UNMET CHRONIC DISEASE FOR WOMEN AND DESIGNATING MARCH 2022 AS “ENDOMETRIOSIS AWARENESS MONTH”

Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. BOOKER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 560

Whereas more than 6,500,000 women in the United States are living with endometriosis; Whereas endometriosis is a painful and debilitating chronic disease affecting—

(1) approximately 190,000,000 women throughout the world;

(2) an estimated 1 in 10 women of reproductive age in the United States; and

(3) primarily women in their 30s and 40s, but can affect any woman who menstruates;

Whereas the cause of endometriosis is not known, but risk factors include—

(1) having a mother, sister, or daughter with endometriosis;

(2) menstrual cycles that started at an early age;

(3) menstrual cycles that are short; and

(4) periods that are heavy and last more than 7 days;

Whereas endometriosis occurs when tissue similar to that normally found in the uterus begins to grow outside the uterus;

Whereas the only way currently available to be certain of an endometriosis diagnosis is to have a surgical procedure known as a laparoscopy;

Whereas the primary symptoms of endometriosis include pain and infertility, and many women with endometriosis live with debilitating, chronic pain;

Whereas symptoms of anxiety and depression are common among women with the endometriosis, with reported rates as high as 75 to 90 percent;

Whereas, although endometriosis is one of the most common gynecological disorders in the United States, there is a lack of awareness and prioritization of endometriosis as an important health issue for women;

Whereas women can suffer for up to 10 years before being properly diagnosed;

Whereas approximately 75 percent of women with endometriosis experience a misdiagnosis;

Whereas endometriosis is 1 of the 3 main causes of female infertility, and between 30 and 50 percent of women with endometriosis experience infertility;

Whereas health care providers must focus on managing the symptoms of endometriosis, which may include in vitro fertilization (IVF), low-dose oral contraceptives, intrauterine devices (IUDs), painkillers, including nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), and gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH) agonist therapy;

Whereas endometriosis is associated with increased health care costs and poses a substantial burden to patients in the health care system;

Whereas, in the United States, the estimated average direct health care cost associated with endometriosis per patient is more than \$13,000 per year;

Whereas 40 percent of women with endometriosis report impaired career growth due to endometriosis, and approximately 50 percent of women with endometriosis experience a decreased ability to work;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that the average number of “bed days” for patients with endometriosis was 18 days per year;

Whereas women with endometriosis can lose 11 hours per workweek through lost productivity;

Whereas the physical and psychological impact of endometriosis affects all domains of life, including social life, relationships, and work;

Whereas medical societies and patient groups have expressed the need for greater public attention and updated resources targeted to public education about this unmet health need for women;

Whereas there is a need for more research and updated guidelines to treat endometriosis;

Whereas there is an ongoing need for additional clinical research and treatment options to manage this debilitating disease; and

Whereas there is no known cure for endometriosis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 2022 as “Endometriosis Awareness Month”;

(2) recognizes the importance of endometriosis as a health issue for women that requires far greater attention, public awareness, and education about the disease;

(3) encourages the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs—

(A) to provide information to women, patients, and health care providers with respect to endometriosis, including available screening tools and treatment options, with a goal of improving the quality of life and

health outcomes of women affected by endometriosis;

(B) to conduct additional research on endometriosis and possible clinical options; and

(C) to update information, tools, and studies currently available with respect to helping women live with endometriosis; and

(4) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

SENATE RESOLUTION 561—DESIGNATING THE FIRST WEEK OF APRIL 2022 AS “NATIONAL ASBESTOS AWARENESS WEEK”

Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. CARPER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 561

Whereas dangerous asbestos fibers are invisible and cannot be smelled or tasted;

Whereas the inhalation of airborne asbestos fibers can cause significant damage;

Whereas asbestos fibers can cause cancer, such as mesothelioma, asbestosis, and other health problems;

Whereas symptoms of asbestos-related diseases can take between 10 and 50 years to present themselves;

Whereas the projected life expectancy for an individual diagnosed with mesothelioma is between 6 and 24 months;

Whereas little is known about late-stage treatment of asbestos-related diseases, and there is no cure for those diseases;

Whereas early detection of asbestos-related diseases might give some patients increased treatment options and might improve the prognoses of those patients;

Whereas, although the consumption of asbestos within the United States has been substantially reduced, the United States continues to consume tons of the fibrous mineral each year for use in certain products;

Whereas thousands of people in the United States have died from asbestos-related diseases, and thousands more die every year from those diseases;

Whereas, although individuals continue to be exposed to asbestos, safety measures relating to, and the prevention of, asbestos exposure have significantly reduced the incidence of asbestos-related diseases and can further reduce the incidence of those diseases;

Whereas thousands of workers in the United States face significant asbestos exposure, which has been a cause of occupational cancer;

Whereas a significant percentage of victims of asbestos-related diseases were exposed to asbestos on naval ships and in shipyards;

Whereas asbestos was used in the construction of a significant number of office buildings and public facilities built before 1975;

Whereas people in the small community of Libby, Montana, suffer from asbestos-related diseases, including mesothelioma, at a significantly higher rate than people in the United States as a whole; and

Whereas the designation of a “National Asbestos Awareness Week” will raise public awareness about the prevalence of asbestos-related diseases and the dangers of asbestos exposure: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the first week of April 2022 as “National Asbestos Awareness Week”;

(2) urges the Surgeon General to warn and educate people about the public health issue of asbestos exposure, which may be hazardous to their health; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the Office of the Surgeon General.

SENATE RESOLUTION 562—DESIGNATING MARCH 24, 2022, AS “NATIONAL WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE DAY”

Ms. ERNST (for herself, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. FISCHER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. LUMMIS, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. WARREN, Ms. SINEMA, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. THUNE, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. MORAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. TESTER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. KING, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. KELLY, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. TILLS, Mr. PETERS, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. CANTWELL, and Ms. HIRONO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 562

Whereas the United States proudly recognizes agriculture as one of the most impactful industries of the United States, and acknowledges the countless women who help agriculture prosper both at home and abroad;

Whereas there are more than 1,200,000 female agricultural producers in the United States, making up more than a third of the agricultural producers in the United States;

Whereas, in 2017, farms operated by women in the United States sold \$148,000,000,000 in agricultural products, accounting for 38 percent of the total agriculture sales in the United States for that year;

Whereas, in addition to leading farming operations, women working in agriculture make a difference across the United States in various commodity and industry fields, such as research and development, manufacturing, sales and distribution, agricultural education, agribusiness and advocacy, which extends benefits to individuals across the globe through the international trade of the United States;

Whereas the United States recognizes that women are vital in fostering the next generation of the agricultural workforce by promoting STEM and agricultural education and entrepreneurial and community initiatives and by serving as mentors for 4-H, FFA, the Cooperative Extension System, and numerous postsecondary agricultural science educator programs;

Whereas March is National Women’s History Month; and

Whereas female professionals, instructors, and leaders in the agricultural field should be celebrated for their efforts during National Ag Week, which takes place between March 21 and March 25, 2022: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 24, 2022, as “National Women in Agriculture Day”;

(2) recognizes the important role of women in agriculture as producers, educators, leaders, mentors, and more; and

(3) encourages all citizens to—

(A) recognize women working in agriculture; and

(B) praise the significant positive impact those women have on the food resources and the agricultural workforce of the United States by encouraging and empowering women to—

(i) enter the agricultural field, which is a high-demand field of work;

(ii) cultivate opportunities to lead; and

(iii) feed a hungry world.

SENATE RESOLUTION 563—HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CHARLES ISHAM TAYLOR ON THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS PASSING

Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 563

Whereas Charles Isham Taylor (referred to in this preamble as "Taylor") was born on January 20, 1875, in Anderson, South Carolina;

Whereas Taylor joined the United States Army and served as a private with the Buffalo Soldiers of the Tenth Cavalry Regiment during the Spanish-American War;

Whereas, in 1899, Taylor enrolled at Clark College in Atlanta, Georgia, where he joined the Clark College baseball team as the starting third baseman;

Whereas, in 1904, Taylor started the first Black professional baseball team in Birmingham, Alabama, the Birmingham Giants;

Whereas Taylor moved to Indiana in time for him to assume the leadership of the West Baden Sprudels for the 1910 season;

Whereas, in 1914, Taylor became an owner and team manager of the Indianapolis ABCs, along with Thomas Bowser;

Whereas, under the leadership of Taylor, the West Baden Sprudels and the Indianapolis ABCs had notable success against several Major-Minor League all-star teams;

Whereas Taylor was also co-founder and vice president of the Negro National League;

Whereas Taylor passed away on February 23, 1922, in Indianapolis, Indiana, at the age of 47; and

Whereas the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum awards the C.I. Taylor Legacy Award to the best manager of each Major League Baseball league: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) Charles Isham Taylor was a pioneer who was dedicated to providing African Americans the same opportunities to compete in the sport of baseball as white individuals, especially in the State of Indiana;

(2) Charles Isham Taylor made significant contributions to the sport of baseball and the city of Indianapolis; and

(3) on the 100th anniversary of his passing, Charles Isham Taylor should be commemorated and remembered for the impact and significance his life had on providing opportunities for African Americans in the State of Indiana.

SENATE RESOLUTION 564—HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JAMES FREDERICK "JIMMY" HANLEY

Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 564

Whereas James Frederick "Jimmy" Hanley (referred to in this preamble as "Hanley") was born on February 17, 1892, in Rensselaer, Indiana;

Whereas Hanley was educated at Champion College and the Chicago Musical College;

Whereas, in 1914, Hanley joined the United States Army and served during World War I in the 82d Division;

Whereas, during Hanley's service in the Army, he wrote and produced an Army musical show entitled "Toot Sweet";

Whereas Hanley became part of the Tin Pan Alley music scene in New York;

Whereas, as a vaudeville performer and writer, Hanley wrote the Broadway stage scores for "Jim Jam Jems", "Spice of 1922", "Big Boy", "Honeymoon Lane", "Sidewalks of New York", and dozens of other popular songs;

Whereas Hanley wrote such Broadway hits as "Second Hand Rose" in 1921, performed by Fanny Brice in the Ziegfeld Follies of 1921, and "Zing! Went the Strings of My Heart" in 1934, later popularized by Judy Garland in 1938;

Whereas, in 1917, Hanley co-wrote "(Back Home Again in) Indiana" with Ballard MacDonald, which was a hit and was based on the State song of Indiana, "On the Banks on the Wabash, Far Away" by Paul Dresser; and

Whereas "(Back Home Again in) Indiana" has remained popular and has been performed at every Indianapolis 500 since 1946: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) James Frederick "Jimmy" Hanley (referred to in this resolution as "Hanley") was a talented Hoosier who provided many musical compositions that were significant during the 1920s and 1930s;

(2) Hanley's compositions, especially "Indiana", have continued to be culturally significant in introducing Indiana to individuals throughout the world who have never physically visited the State;

(3) the lyrics of "Indiana" provide vivid imagery of the natural beauty of the State and the wonder of calling Indiana home to both current Hoosiers and those who were raised in Indiana and now live elsewhere; and

(4) Hanley should be commemorated and remembered on the 130th anniversary of his birth for the cultural impact and significance that his compositions and music continue to have throughout the world.

SENATE RESOLUTION 565—HONORING AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF REPRESENTATIVE DON YOUNG

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNETT, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr.

CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 565

Whereas Donald Edwin Young was born on June 9, 1933, to James Young and Nora (Bucy) Young in Meridian, California;

Whereas Don Young earned an associate degree from Yuba Junior College and a bachelor's degree in teaching from Chico State University;

Whereas Don Young began what would be decades of service to the United States when he served in the Army as part of the 41st Tank Battalion from 1955 to 1957;

Whereas Don Young moved to Alaska in 1959 and found his true home in the village of Fort Yukon, which is located 7 miles above the Arctic Circle;

Whereas Don Young met and married the first love of his life, Lula "Lu" Young, in Fort Yukon;

Whereas Don Young and Lu had 2 wonderful daughters, Dawn and Joni, and later 14 grandchildren;

Whereas Don Young taught fifth grade at a school run by the Bureau of Indian Affairs during the winter and worked in construction, mining, fishing, and trapping, and as a tugboat captain in the warmer months;

Whereas Don Young was elected mayor of Fort Yukon in 1964 and served in that role until 1967;

Whereas Don Young was elected to and served in the Alaska House of Representatives from 1967 to 1970 and the Alaska State Senate from 1970 to 1973;

Whereas Don Young was elected to the House of Representatives in 1973 in a special election and served 24 additional and consecutive terms;

Whereas Representative Young served as Chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives from 1995 to 2001, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives from 2001 to 2007;

Whereas Representative Young was a champion for Alaska Native peoples, including as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs of the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives;

Whereas Representative Young fiercely defended Alaska and Alaskans as the sole Representative for the largest State in the

United States and devoted himself to fulfilling the immense promise of his home State;

Whereas Representative Young was a leader in strengthening the role of Alaska in providing for the national defense of the United States through his support for the Coast Guard, the Alaskan Command, and the ballistic missile defense and his steadfast commitment to the leadership of the United States in the Arctic;

Whereas Representative Young sponsored at least 85 bills that were enacted into Federal law and sponsored and cosponsored many more measures that were part of broader legislation;

Whereas legislative achievements by Representative Young span the policy spectrum, from authorizing the construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System to important amendments and the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.);

Whereas Representative Young authored and advocated for generational laws, including the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) in 1975, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Public Law 94-265; 90 Stat. 331) in 1976, the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (Public Law 105-57; 111 Stat. 1252) in 1997, SAFETEA-LU (Public Law 109-59; 119 Stat. 1144) in 2005, Multinational Species Conservation Funds Reauthorization Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-132; 121 Stat. 1360) in 2007, and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58; 135 Stat. 429) in 2021;

Whereas Representative Young formed strong relationships and friendships with members on both sides of the aisle and proudly worked with 10 different presidents;

Whereas Representative Young married his second love, Anne Garland Walton, in 2015, in the United States Capitol;

Whereas, on December 5, 2017, Representative Young became the 45th Dean of the House of Representatives, reflecting his status as its most senior member;

Whereas Representative Young was the longest-serving Republican in the history of Congress; and

Whereas Representative Young ultimately served the 49th State with dedication and distinction for 49 years and 13 days, which is more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of the period in which Alaska has been a State: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) mourns the death of Don Young, congressman for all Alaska and the 45th Dean of the House of Representatives;

(2) honors Representative Young for his lifetime of service to Alaska and the United States, his spirited bipartisanship, and his enduring respect for and devotion to the House of Representatives;

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate—

(A) communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives; and

(B) transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of the Honorable Don Young; and

(4) at the time that the Senate adjourns or recesses today, the Senate stands adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the Honorable Don Young.

SENATE RESOLUTION 566—RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS COMMISSION ON CANCER AND THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMISSION ON CANCER-ACCREDITED PROGRAMS IN ENSURING COMPREHENSIVE, HIGH-QUALITY, PATIENT-CENTERED CANCER CARE

Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. MARSHALL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 566

Whereas the Commission on Cancer was established by the American College of Surgeons in 1922 as a consortium of professional organizations dedicated to improving survival rates and quality of life for cancer patients through standard setting, which promotes cancer prevention, research, education, and monitoring of comprehensive quality care;

Whereas the Commission on Cancer is comprised of individuals and representatives of more than 50 cancer-related organizations;

Whereas the Commission on Cancer establishes standards to ensure quality, multidisciplinary, and comprehensive cancer care delivery in health care settings;

Whereas the Commission on Cancer conducts surveys in health care settings to assess compliance with those standards;

Whereas the Commission on Cancer collects standardized data from Commission on Cancer-accredited health care settings to measure cancer care quality;

Whereas the Commission on Cancer uses data to monitor treatment patterns and outcomes, and enhance cancer control and clinical surveillance activities;

Whereas the Commission on Cancer develops effective educational interventions to improve cancer prevention, early detection, cancer care delivery, and outcomes in health care settings;

Whereas the Commission on Cancer has accredited more than 1,500 cancer programs in the United States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

Whereas accreditation from the American College of Surgeons is a voluntary commitment by a cancer program that ensures patients will have access to the full scope of services required to diagnose, treat, rehabilitate, and support patients with cancer and their families;

Whereas accreditation allows cancer programs to continually evaluate performance and take proactive, corrective actions when necessary;

Whereas continuous evaluation reaffirms the commitment of the cancer program to provide high-quality, patient-centered cancer care;

Whereas accreditation is regarded as important in improving oncologic outcomes through compliance with standards that include continuous quality improvement;

Whereas quality standards required for accreditation ensure that patients receive comprehensive care with a multidisciplinary team approach to coordinate the best available treatment options;

Whereas patients treated by accredited cancer programs receive information about ongoing cancer clinical trials and new treatment options and access to a cancer database that offers lifelong patient follow-up;

Whereas accreditation promotes access to prevention and early detection programs, cancer education, and support services;

Whereas patients treated in accredited cancer programs have access to the full con-

tinuum of patient-centered care, including distress screening, patient navigation, and delivery of survivorship care plans that detail treatments received and provide detailed information on future care needs;

Whereas accreditation requires evaluation of the entire scope, organization, and activity of a cancer program by external peer review from specially trained surveyors who evaluate compliance with stringent standards designed to promote high-quality care;

Whereas the quality reporting tools from the over 30,000,000 cases reported to the Commission on Cancer's National Cancer Database provide feedback needed to initiate quality improvement studies, which ultimately lead to implementation of quality improvements in accredited cancer programs;

Whereas the cancer accreditation programs of the American College of Surgeons use data submitted to such Database to verify and improve quality of care in cancer programs and to further scientific research; and

Whereas the American College of Surgeons accredited cancer programs in the United States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico care for approximately 70 percent of newly diagnosed cancer patients in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes the 100th anniversary of the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer and the importance of Commission on Cancer-accredited programs in ensuring comprehensive, high-quality, patient-centered cancer care.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5016. Mr. LANKFORD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6968, to prohibit the importation of energy products of the Russian Federation, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 5016. Mr. LANKFORD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6968, to prohibit the importation of energy products of the Russian Federation, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 3, strike lines 8 through 11, and insert the following:

(A) has ceased hostilities toward Ukraine and withdrawn all forces from the territory of Ukraine;

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. Kaine. Mr. President, I have eight requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

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

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 29, 2022, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 29, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 29, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 29, 2022, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 29, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 29, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 29, 2022, at 3:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 29, 2022, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions, which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 561, S. Res. 562, S. Res. 563, and S. Res. 564.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

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

HONORING AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF REPRESENTATIVE DON YOUNG

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 565, submitted earlier today.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 565) honoring and celebrating the life and legacy of Representative Don Young.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions 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 resolution (S. Res. 565) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 642, 643, 734, and 789; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the Record; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and the Senate resume legislative session.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the following nominations en bloc: Lisa A. Carty, of Maryland, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during her tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations; Laura S. H. Holgate, of Virginia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the International Atomic Energy Agency, with the rank of Ambassador; Christopher John Williamson, of West Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health; and Mallory A. Stewart, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Verification and Compliance)?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 2022

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Wednesday, March 30; 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; that upon conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Pryor nomination; that the cloture motions filed during Monday's session ripen following disposition of the motion to discharge the Bedoya nomination, and that the Senate vote on the motion to discharge the Bedoya nomination at 11:45 a.m.; further, that if cloture is invoked on the Pryor nomination, all postcloture time be considered expired at 1:30 p.m.; finally, if any nominations are confirmed during Wednesday's session of the Senate, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the provisions of S. Res. 565, following the remarks of Senator CANTWELL.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

NOMINATION OF ALVARO M. BEDOYA

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I thank the leader for mentioning the move to have a vote on Alvaro Bedoya to be Commissioner of the Federal Trade Commission. This is such an important task, and I know that the leader probably knows that Mr. Bedoya hails from New York, but it also must be a very proud moment for him as well.

The FTC is the security guard for America's consumers. If a company is lying to its customers about their products and what they can do or teaming up with competitors to keep prices high, the FTC is the policeman on the beat, saying those things are not allowed here.

Mr. SCHUMER. Would the Senator from Washington yield for a minute?

Ms. CANTWELL. Yes.

Mr. SCHUMER. I want to thank the Senator for her leadership on this issue.

We all know that we have seen prices go way up. We also all suspect that a lot of it is due to different kinds of gouging and manipulation. The FTC is

about the best Agency to look for this, but without Mr. Bedoya on the FTC, the chair and the members would be handicapped in moving that forward. This is a really important motion to discharge.

I hope anyone who cares about inflation and rising prices and collusion and all kinds of manipulation to prevent those prices from coming back down should be voting for this motion to discharge and the nomination.

Once again, the Senator from Washington has led the way on this issue, and I salute her. This is a very, very important motion to discharge.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I thank the majority leader for that concise documentation of what really the FTC is about. It is about getting somebody on there who is going to fight to protect consumers on issues.

We know that we need the FTC now more than ever. We needed their muscle during the COVID pandemic, as opportunistic scammers stole \$5.9 billion out of the pockets of Americans, and that is just the reported amount. That doesn't include people who never knew that they were scammed or were too embarrassed to report what happened.

So Congress, on a bipartisan basis, pumped up the FTC's power, and at the end of 2020, we passed the COVID-19 Consumer Protection Act to help root out promoters of dangerous, fake treatments and cures.

Second, we gave the FTC \$30 million in the American Rescue Plan to promote and protect Americans against scams that targeted their COVID stimulus payments.

Last year, we confirmed the FTC Chair, Lina Khan, with support from 21 Republicans in this body, and today we are talking about the next important step in protecting consumers, and that is moving to confirm Mr. Bedoya to fill the last seat on the Federal Trade Commission.

Mr. Bedoya has the right experience we need to tackle the problems that we are facing right now—some of the most complicated and pressing issues regarding how to protect our privacy and protect children's online privacy. I say that because I heard comments from my colleague about Mr. Bedoya and the fact that he issued various tweets about this or that in his time in the private sector.

I guarantee you that if we voted for people based on what their tweets are, there would be a lot of people who wouldn't be approved at all, including some of the people who have been through this process.

Mr. Bedoya served as the chief counsel of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology, and Law. So I would say that as it relates to the FTC's ability to do some-

thing about reining in some of the bad practices that we see online, I think he is a very qualified person and individual.

Mr. Bedoya graduated summa cum laude from Harvard and holds a law degree from Yale, where he served on the Yale Law Journal and received the Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans.

So I think that Mr. Bedoya is a person who has dug in on a variety of issues and has the experience and leadership in one of the most critical areas—technology—that the FTC is dealing with today.

So I encourage my colleagues to support him. That is why he is supported by the current Republican FTC Commissioners. They also support his nomination. They say they recognize his willingness and expertise and ability to reach across the aisle and find common ground on solutions that work for people.

It is that skill set that we are looking for at the FTC to help hard-working Americans get a fair shake in the marketplace, whether that is at the pharmacy, the gas pump, or online.

And I know that as a proud immigrant, Mr. Bedoya will also use his role to expand the FTC's work in underserved communities.

The FTC needs to be able to protect all Americans, and to accomplish that, we need to have a Commission that is not deadlocked now but has somebody like Mr. Bedoya, who can help us move ahead on these issues.

He has experience working, as I said, in the Judiciary Committee. In 2009, he cofounded the Esperanza Education Fund, an immigration status-blind college scholarship for immigrant students, and has been working on various issues within the community.

Right now, we need an FTC that is going to look at market systems and make sure there is fair competition to make sure that consumers are protected and that there is a level playing field.

I think his experience here on the Hill lets him understand exactly what that is. He has testified before Congress and State legislatures and appeared in numbers of publications about these critical issues on privacy and on the online world in which we need to have more oversight.

So, finally, Mr. Bedoya's experience on, as I said, data privacy specifically, the internet and making it a safe place for children—he exposed racial bias in facial recognition software, helped to protect innocent people from prosecution and companies that have already collected data on millions of Americans. We need that kind of expertise that Mr. Bedoya knows and understands how we are using that today and what we can do to better protect the American consumer.

I hope that my colleagues will join us to approve and move quickly to discharge the committee of Alvaro Bedoya's nomination to be a Commissioner of the FTC and support his nomination as we get this to the Senate floor.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 AM TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, and pursuant to S. Res. 565, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m., Wednesday, March 30, 2022, and does so as a further mark of respect for the late DON YOUNG, former Representative from Alaska.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:59 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, March 30, 2022, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nomination received by the Senate:

PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OVERSIGHT
BOARD

TRAVIS LEBLANC, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OVERSIGHT BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 29, 2023. (REAPPOINTMENT)

DISCHARGED NOMINATION

The Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination pursuant to S. Res. 27 and the nomination was placed on the Executive Calendar:

LISA DENELL COOK, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM FOR THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF FOURTEEN YEARS FROM FEBRUARY 1, 2010.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate March 29, 2022:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

LISA A. CARTY, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS, DURING HER TENURE OF SERVICE AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

LAURA S. H. HOLGATE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

NANI A. COLORETTI, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

CHRISTOPHER JOHN WILLIAMSON, OF WEST VIRGINIA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR FOR MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MALLORY A. STEWART, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (VERIFICATION AND COMPLIANCE).

C.S. ELIOT KANG, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND NON-PROLIFERATION).